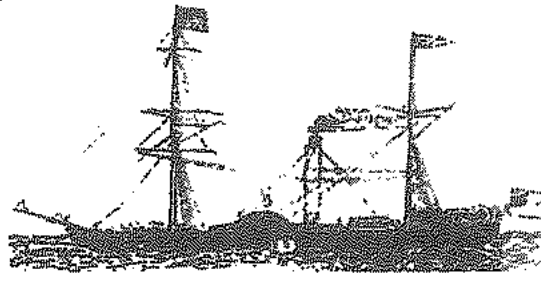


PASSAGE WEST

PS Sirius Passage West - New York 1838



Town Hall,
Passage West,
Co. Cork, Ireland.

Halla na Bhaile,
An Phasáiste,
Co. Chorcaí, Éire.

TOWN COUNCIL

Comhairle Baile an Phasáiste

To Each Local Authority

April 22nd 2008.

Senior Executive Officer
Roads Department

24 APR 2008

South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County Council

23 APR 2008

The following Motion was unanimously passed at the April Monthly Meeting of Passage West Town Council and Members agreed that it be forwarded to each Local Authority for support.

‘A large proportion of motorcycle accidents resulting in serious injury and death are directly related to road conditions and in particular to road repairs. In light of this I would call on this town council and all other councils throughout Ireland to insist that road works be finished to a high standard for all road users, and that in particular the practice of "bedding in" new surfaces be stopped, and adequate warning of roadworks be monitored on a daily basis.’

Cllr Neil O’Sullivan who proposed the Motion outlines the following for your attention:

Fellow Councillors as a motorcyclist I feel strongly that we can reduce the number of bike accidents on our roads by supporting this motion. There is an immature attitude that equates motorcycle accidents to speed, speed does not kill, inappropriate speed kills, road works present a much more serious danger to bikes.

Loose chippings can cause serious injuries to a motorcyclist. By their very nature they are dangerous when thrown up by a vehicle, and while they may chip the paint on a car, the shrapnel can be lethal to an exposed rider. Also when a bike hits loose chippings even at slow speed all traction is lost and the rider has to follow where the road takes him/her, usually into a ditch but sometimes a body slide along the road.

Excessive tar banding can be as dangerous as ice when wet, especially when you consider that a bike has only 75 to 100mm of tyre on the road at any time. Raised access covers bordered by tar banding are a hazard to any motorist but present a lethal combination to a motorcyclist. The poor quality of signage and inadequate temporary lighting only serve to increase the risks.

Between March 2006 and March 2007 there were 286 serious bike accidents resulting in death or serious injury and almost 20% of these were directly related to poor road surface/maintenance. By stopping some of these bad work practices we can reduce accidents, save lives and money. The cost of doing it may be cheaper than not doing it. We can help to reduce the price of motorcycle insurance and encourage more people to use motorcycles, in these days of dwindling fuel reserves, traffic gridlock and high carbon emissions we should be promoting this efficient and green form of transport. To do this we must make it cheaper and safer.

Motorcyclists are the most vulnerable of road users and deserve the roads to be at least their friend not an everyday hazard.

Please advise whether the motion has been supported and ask your local authority to take the necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

Niall O'Keeffe

Niall O'Keeffe
Town Clerk

Correspondence Address:

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