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E-Bike Cycle Tourists Rachel and Gary Corbett paid a visit the The Echo Office when traveling through Enniscorthy on their attempt to create a new world E-Bike long distance record in Europe and the UK. Pic: John Walsh

Stop for e-bike record hopefuls

by Pádraig Byrne

WITH IT'S rich history and beautiful scenery, Enniscorthy is no stranger to tourists from all over the world. However, not all of the tourists that visit Enniscorthy are stopping off on a mammoth cycle across the whole of Europe.

That's just what Rachel and Gary Corbett were doing when they took a quick breather in the Cathedral town. The husband and wife team from Australia are aiming to create a new world record for the longest distance covered on e-bikes by travelling right across Europe, the UK and Ireland.

The Corbetts describe themselves as "ordinary Australians who refuse to live ordinary lives" and while travelling Europe by bike, they've certainly

encountered a tale or two.

They first set off on their epic journey on April 23 and have thus far managed to travel 9,700km on their trusty e-bikes. After a quick service from a Dublin dealership, they set off down the east coast and were in great form as the rolled into Enniscorthy.

"The first thing that struck us about Ireland apart from the amazing hospitality we have received, has been the extraordinary light which seems to add intensity to everything, making greens greener and whites whiter," said Rachel. "Such is the clarity of the air on a fine day that it is possible to see as far as it is possible to see, a fact we've commented on time and again."

While the pair said that the Irish weather was not as bad as they had anticipated or been warned about,

Gary says that Ireland's cycling infrastructure has a bit of a way to go.

"It is at best basic and there are no designated cycling routes," he said. "It's an ideal cycling destination once you've worked out a suitable traffic free route - a near impossible situation. Unfortunately our experience so far has been that regular regional roads are narrow and congested and that average speeds are high ... not a good mix when you are trying to enjoy the scenery. Despite that, we are really enjoying the experience of touring Ireland and can't wait to see more of this beautiful scenery." The pair departed Enniscorthy en route to Fethard where they would travel on to Dungarvan, down into Cork and over to the West as they put pedal to the metal in their world record bid.



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