

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED DURING THE NON-STATUTORY PUBLIC
CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PREPARATION OF
THE DONARD SETTLEMENT PLAN**

1.1 Introduction

The Donard Settlement Plan is to form part of the Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP) 2010-2016. The plan is to be adopted as a variation to the CDP under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

In advance of the preparation of the Donard Settlement Plan the Planning Authority undertook a non-statutory public consultation in order to get the views and opinions of the public and prescribed bodies on the future development of the area.

The public consultation was carried out over a four-week period from 10th January 2011 to 7th February 2011, during which time written submissions on the preparation of the plan were invited. The consultation also included a public meeting on 26th January 2011 at which members of the public and local stakeholder groups were invited to attend. In order to stimulate debate, an 'Issues Leaflet' was published.

This document includes a summary of the issues that were raised during the public consultation period and includes a brief response to each of these issues. The summary includes the issues raised in written submissions, and the issues raised during the public meeting and at the stakeholder meetings undertaken on 26th January 2011.

2. Issues raised

2.1 Regeneration and redevelopment of the town

Summary of Issues Raised

- There are a number of derelict properties (14) within the town-core.
- There is a proven need in Donard for starter and retirement accommodation and "Living over the shop" options. Developments within the town should be of its time, with links to the past in terms of its design features and each development should be accompanied with landscaping plans.
- New buildings on Malthouse Lane should be of traditional style and should be single storey cottage style developments, which are a predominant feature of the area. An urban style estate on the edge of the town would not be appropriate.

Evaluation

- It is acknowledged that there are quite a number of buildings within the town that are derelict or under-utilised and therefore the draft plan includes the following objectives - DON 8, 20 and 21, which would encourage the redevelopment and regeneration of derelict buildings. Objective DON 21 of the settlement plan makes reference to the reduction of car parking standards for developments that would contribute to the regeneration of derelict buildings in the settlement core.
- In relation to "living over the shop", objective DON 18 specifically encourages this form of living in the primary lands.
- Objectives within the Settlement Plan (DON 11, 12, 20, 27, 28 and 29) encourage residential developments within the plan area especially for underutilised or derelict sites. It is not considered necessary to specifically promote the development of one or two bedroom properties as the market will dictate that type of housing is required based on market demand.

2.2 Heritage and Tourism

Summary of Issues Raised

- It is considered that there should be objectives within the plan that would consolidate the built and natural form of the plan area, which would reinforce its sense of place and identity within the County especially in relation to its unique heritage.
- There are a number of important trees within the plan area. Objectives should be included to protect the existing trees within the area and encourage the development of natural habitats and a number of walking routes within the plan area, which would promote Tourist industry within the plan area.

Evaluation

- It is considered appropriate that there would be objectives contained in the plan that would protect the architectural features of buildings and the rich natural heritage of the plan area. The objectives of the settlement plan (DON 7,12,15,20,32 and 34) reflect the importance of protecting the unique heritage of the plan area.
- On the Heritage Map that forms part of this plan indicative walking routes are identified. There is an objective (DON 31) in the settlement plan that encourages the development of walking routes.
- It is considered appropriate that there would be objectives included in the plan to promote existing and future tourist activities in the town. Tourism makes an important contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the County. It is of particular significance in the diversification of the rural economy and in the regeneration of towns and townlands within the County. The plan has acknowledged that Donard is one of the most historic townlands in County Wicklow. Objectives DON 3, 5 and 7 facilitate and encourage tourist developments within the plan area.

2.3 Community Facilities

Summary of Issues Raised

- A formal space is required to facilitate sports and active recreational uses. Any potential site should have links to existing pedestrian and traffic routes. The local soccer club has a temporary facility adjacent to the local school, however in recent times there has been an outline planning application submitted for a residential development on the subject grounds.
- There is a need for a car park within the plan area, and it would be utilised by hill walkers and tourists alike.
- A recycling facility should be provided within the town boundary.

Evaluation

- Based on the analysis that has been undertaken for this plan (as set out in Appendix A that accompanies this plan), it is considered that there is insufficient outdoor sport areas in Donard. It is considered that there is sufficient land within the plan boundary to accommodate playgrounds/mixed use game areas. Objective DON 4 facilitates the provision of recreational facilities within the plan area.
- Based on the analysis undertaken in Appendix A of this plan and from carrying out a detailed study of the plan area, it is considered at this stage that including a specific objective for the development of a car-park for hill walkers is not considered warranted, however Objective DON 10 allows for the improvement of public services within the plan area.

- It is considered that objective DON 10 would facilitate the provision of utility services, which includes the provision of recycling facilities. It is considered that this objective is sufficient in facilitating the provision of recycling facilities within the plan area.

2.4 Education

Summary of Issues Raised

- With the projected population increases up to 2022 there will be a requirement to provide for one additional primary classroom and 19-post primary school places.

Evaluation

- It is considered based on the analysis that has been undertaken in Appendix A that accompanies this plan that the existing grounds of the primary school can facilitate the necessary projected growth in population up to 2022.

2.5 Infrastructure

Summary of Issues Raised

- It is considered that there should be appropriate traffic calming measures within the plan area to facilitate local vehicular traffic and pedestrian movement. The footpath from Palladius Park to the town needs to be completed and a new footpath from Malthouse Lane to the town should also be constructed.
- There has been a proliferation in the number of electricity and telephone poles and overhead cables in the plan area. It is considered that these should be removed and placed underground.
- The local streams and gullies should be cleaned as the blockages to these contribute to flooding within the town.

Evaluation

- The Council will undertake the maintenance and upgrade of transportation networks in accordance with the infrastructural works programmes for the County. Objective DON 9 promotes the development of a safe and accessible pedestrian and traffic routes within the plan area.
- The provision of electricity and telephone poles are under the control of the various utility service providers, and as such the land-use plan does not have any remit in the control of exiting electricity and telephone lines.
- In accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management”, an assessment of flood risk has been formally taken into account in the preparation of this plan. A copy of the Flood Risk Assessment accompanies this plan. It is outside the remit of the land-use plan to ensure that gullies and local streams are cleaned on a regular basis this is an operation issue, rather than a development plan issue.

Public Submissions on the issues Leaflet to the Donard Settlement Plan(Feb 2011)

ID	Name	Submission prepared by
1.	Minister of Environment, Heritage and Local Government	David Tuohy, Development Applications Units
	Prescribed Bodies	
2.	National Roads Authority	Michael McCormack
3.	Department of Education & Skills	Lorraine Brennan
4.	Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources	Colm O Conaill
5.	Health and Safety Authority	Olivia Walsh
6.	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food	Kevin Galligan
7.	An Bord Pleanala	Bill Coleman
	Public Submissions	
8.	Project Architects	David Lennon
9.	Pauline Flynn	
10.	Chrysalis Centre	Claire Pilling
11.	John & Claire Pilling	
12.	Bob & Morna Lynn	
13.	Donard Tidy Towns Association	Margaret Flynn