

From: Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore
Sent: 10 January 2020 17:07
To: Planning - Plan Review
Subject: County Development Plan Submission
Attachments: CDP_submission.pdf

Hi,

Please find attached my submission to the CDP.

thanks, Jennifer

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Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore, Chair of Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC
Social Democrats Candidate for Wicklow
Greystones Municipal District



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From: Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore
Sent: 10 January 2020 17:12
To: Planning - Plan Review
Cc: poolforwestwicklow@gmail.com
Subject: Support for Community Pool, West Wicklow

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the proposed community swimming pool for the Blessington/West Wicklow area.

As our populations grow in size, it is important that community facilities such as these become standard across our county. The ability to swim is a life lesson that all children and adults should be able to participate in. I strongly believe that this principle should be recognised in our County Development Plan.

regards, Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore

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Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore, Chair of Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC
Social Democrats Candidate for Wicklow
Greystones Municipal District



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Submission by Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore to the County Development Plan

(10/01/2020)

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments on the 2021-2027 Wicklow County Development Plan. Please find below my initial comments/suggestions

Key principles

- Community Well-Being should be a key aspect of the CDP.
- In order to create strong and resilient communities, I believe it is important that the principles of localism, sustainability and bottom-up community development are encouraged. Small, indigenous enterprise and industry should be promoted, including local food and energy production.
- Nature based solutions should be examined first and foremost when considering how to address any of our problems such as flood relief and flood protection.
- To recognise the inherent value of areas of high environmental importance, and place no economic, tourism or recreational pressures on them Appreciate them purely for the ecological services they provide.
- Our neighbourhoods should be easily and safely accessed on foot or by bicycle but should also be accessible to those with limited mobility or in wheelchairs. Wicklow should be an inclusive county – to be enjoyed by all.
- ‘Community building’ (ie enabling all members of the community – young and old, to mix and interact) should be encouraged through the planning process to a greater extent than it is at the moment. This includes greater inclusion of community space (incl. green, active open and play space) than is currently required under the planning guidelines.
- Infrastructure needs, such as transport, or a commitment from the relevant agencies to fund/ provide should be required, must be met prior to new developments being built. In order to do so, overarching plans, such as transport plans, should be developed as part of the local area planning process.

Community Facilities

- That each local area plan be required to conduct a social audit of villages and towns.
- That there is an increase in the amount of community facilities, including pitches, community centres, community creches, required via the LAP.
- That each town and village have available to it a community centre and youth club.
- That each town and village have a co-working and meeting spaces available for public use.
- Provide community gardens and allotments spaces in each town and village.
- Provide public park areas in each town and village, in recognition of the importance of meeting places to communities.
- Cycle spaces be provided to encourage cycling.
- Community buildings should have solar panels included.
- That all new public buildings be required to solar panels, swift bricks and rooftop gardens (where appropriate).
- All playgrounds should be accessible and inclusive, and be based on the principle of side-by-side play.

Retail

- Paid parking regimes in each of the town areas should be devised to be flexible and primarily used to encourage shoppers into the area, rather than be seen as a revenue-raising mechanism. It is important that we focus on retaining and supporting these central shopping areas (as they are the 'backbone' of our communities) and avoid out-of-town developments/shopping that will drain vitality from them.

Residential developments

- Phasing of developments should ensure that community buildings are provided and available for use prior to the housing.
- When community facilities are required as part of a development, minimum standards should apply (eg in the case of playing pitches, size, quality etc should be set out).
- Original hedgerow retained where possible. In boundary areas where this is not possible, or where there is no existing hedgerow, native hedgerow should be planted to ensure a natural corridor around the entirety of the site.
- Planting across housing developments should be native species, and the developer should be cognisant of the All Ireland pollinator plan recommendations.
- No clustering of social housing should be allowed and all Part V unit should be spread evenly throughout any developments.

- Fast charging points should be provided, particularly near the apartments and duplexes, as there will be no opportunity for those residents to charge from their homes.
- Consideration should be given to the creation of planted rooftops, perhaps in the community facilities.
- Water efficiencies of buildings should be considered as part of any development, including grey water and rainwater usage.

Biodiversity & Climate

- Use the CDP to ensure the protection and enhancement of our natural environment.
- That the Council first examine natural based solutions when considering works required to deal with flood relief and protection.
- That areas of local environmental importance be mapped and protected, in consultation and cooperation with the local community.
- That WCC examine the need for wildlife bridges as part of any large road developments. In addition, wildlife gaps should be provided in medium strips.
- That road infrastructure be recognised as potential wildlife corridors (planted areas running parallel to the road) and that, where possible, these land areas be expanded and allowed to generate wild areas.
- The importance of our riverine corridors be recognised and enhanced.
- That the CDP aims to identify core natural areas and to connect them with wildlife corridors in all our towns, villages and rural areas. This could be as simple as continuous lines of hedgerow.
- That an energy audit of the county be conducted as a first step in the CDP. This can inform our climate action policies.
- That the energy usage of large scale developments, such as data centres, be considered as part of the environmental impact of those developments; and that they must be capable of generating their own energy as part of the permissions.

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to comment on these proposals,

Regards,

Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore