

BALTINGLASS & DISTRICT FORUM

Working together for a better Community

Attn of Bernadette Harvey
Forward Planning Wicklow Co.Co.

County Buildings Wicklow

[Submission for items to be included in the Wicklow Co.Co. plan.2021-2027](#)

When asked to make a submission towards the Wicklow Development Plan and what we see as the way forward a discussion on trying to attracting industry here pointed out that this has not proved a feasible solution. Changes in the infrastructure of the town make it apparent that we should concentrate on Tourism and on the natural points of historic and scenic attraction and this approach might stand a better chance of achieving progress towards a viable community.

As the Forum we recognise the unlikelihood of attracting major industry with the benefits that would bring but several areas remain where the area could benefit both for the residents and as an attractive venue for visitors. The following are situations that should be addressed as soon as possible.

One priority need is an increase in Housing and support for the Community.

The opening of the primary health care facility will undoubtedly benefit the community at large.

But this will point up the requirement of improved transport in the area. The very limited transport facilities work against the governments avowed policy of reduction in greenhouse gases in that the major part of the population is totally dependent on private petrol or diesel cars.

We need greater access to our Historic Sites. Properly managed the neolithic ring forts would generate huge interest for visitors both domestic and from abroad.

Development of the town centre with improved parking, seating, pedestrian facilities and a more central park and an accessible river walk available to visitors and residents. This would require land purchase before the town is totally surrounded by developed farmland or housing with the resultant increase in land values.

Roads infrastructure and traffic management.

A solution is required to the problem of the bottleneck caused by the bridge. This is an inadequate route for two-way traffic and will eventually be the scene of a tragic road traffic accident.

CCTV or other methods of policing public areas to counteract the rise of anti-social behaviour and petty crime.



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The building of a Community Centre to facilitate the various sporting groups such as Badminton, Basketball, indoor bowls and others. The inclusion of a stage area would encourage involvement in amateur dramatics and music events.

Improvements to the internet service in the peripheral areas of the town would help communication and allow all residents feel part of the community.

Greater competition in the retail sector by introduction of one of the leading grocery chains would help to keep costs down for shoppers many of whom are living on very low incomes.

A clean-up of the number of derelict buildings in the town including the (a) never occupied apartments and store fronts on Edward Street (b) the corner site on Belan Street (c) the property on Mill street at the entrance to Topline (d) the Dutchman's Pub and (e) the ugly gable-end left at the corner of Chapel Hill. All of these sites are privately owned and there has to be some legislation under which the owners could be influenced to correct their condition.

The fenced area at the junction of the N81 and Shrugan near Eldon Bridge which is home to noxious weeds (ragwort) in season. Surely a simple solution could be found.

All of the above could not be addressed immediately but over a short time there is nothing here that is insurmountable and should be considered as part of the ongoing plan for the town.

On behalf of Baltinglass and District Forum.

Mai Quaid

Mai Quaid, Secretary.

