



Submission to Wicklow County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 Stage 1 – Issues Paper Public Consultation, January 2020

Roundwood area is a vibrant community. The Roundwood and District Council attempts to cover issues in from Calary in the north to Annamoe and Moneystown southward and westward to Sallygap. Thus these comments cover the district and hinterland of Roundwood village.

The population of Roundwood village has increased in recent years. There has also been a population increase in the surrounding townlands and hinterland. The village itself has become a gateway to the Wicklow mountains due to its proximity to Dublin both for Dubliners and international tourists. Recreational facilities for visitors are mainly walking and cycling.

How would you like Roundwood to develop in the future?

- Maintain the great sense of community. There are over 50 different community clubs and groups. Many of these are intergenerational that foster even more pride in the area. However there is also a lack of youth facilities for those not sport orientated.
- Maintain the village main streets as far as possible as they are, so not altering the main architecture of the village further. The view from the Main St (R755) to the reservoir is such an enviable and unusual feature for a village.
- Develop more accommodation for tourists.... Possibly a hotel, but even lateral thinking - occasional use (as required) bedrooms in private houses within the village using cafes/restaurants for breakfast as done elsewhere.
- A secondary school
- Business hub for remote working with high speed broadband (100 GB) that would reduce need for commuting. Thus reducing carbon emissions. Currently broadband speeds have improved but are still restrictive.
- Mobile phone coverage is poor and erratic in areas.
- Develop a renewable energy microgrid using solar PV and/or water power thus reducing carbon emissions.
- Ensure all new developments are carbon neutral.
- A park and ride hub where there is improved public transport links.

What do you think are the main issues facing Roundwood and how should these be addressed in the development plan?

Parking: A major problem in Roundwood village is a lack of parking. On weekdays this is seen particularly as parents leave or collect children from school. The catchment area for the school is large, limited school buses result in numerous cars delivering the pupils. Parking on the R755 or outside the school on the Lough Dan road can cause traffic constriction despite all the safety measures in place.

This is exacerbated at weekends when walking groups park on the main streets and head off for day hikes. Available parking for locals going shopping or for visitors to go for a meal is dramatically restricted. As the R755 is the main route to Glendalough, there are

times when there is only one lane, obviously not appreciated by the tour buses.

Schools: The primary school in the village serves the younger children. There is no secondary school. Secondary students have to travel to local towns. Some are able to get buses but otherwise it is a parental commute.

How do you think the village's economic potential can be harnessed having regard to the town's proximity to the reservoir, amenity routes and the Wicklow Mountains?

- Increase parking area close to the amenities, ideally monitored with CCTV.
- Increase tourist accommodation
- More off-road cycle tracks, also suitable for racing cyclists. Could be possible almost instantly on R759 to Sallygap with minimum disturbance as space beside the road.
- Theft from hire cars could be reduced if no hire company identifiers.

Is there opportunity to improve visitor management especially during peak tourist times?

One way system at least at weekends, to maintain traffic flow, using the reservoir as a roundabout.

Turning at the north end of the village at Synnotts corner from the R755, following the road round reservoir and returning at south end, to the R755 at the Church with the left option to Glendalough and the right to the Main Street. This would improve visitor experience in the village as calmer rural atmosphere would reign.

(Precedent - use of Trinity College, Dublin as a roundabout originally laughed at but has been used successfully for about 50 years!)