

[REDACTED]

Sent: 10 January 2020 12:08
To: 'Keith Scanlon'
Subject: RE: Submission re. Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP)

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your additional submission regarding the County Development Plan review.

Mise le meas,

[REDACTED]
Planning, Development and Environment.

From: Keith Scanlon [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2020 11:36
To: Planning - Plan Review
Subject: Re: Submission re. Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP)

Dear Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Wicklow County Council,

I would like to add to my previous submission (Email to you on Sat, Jan 4, 2020 at 5:35 PM) with additional proposals on Environment / Heritage and Flood Protection as below.

In addition, I would also like to express my full support for the submissions of Wicklow Planning Alliance and Delgany Community Council which I have read with appreciation of their voluntary dedication and effort. This level of (rare) expertise and active citizenship volunteering is a key characteristic of the Wicklow Community and should be a source of pride, as well as innovation, for WCC and all Wicklow stakeholders.

Best regards,
Keith Scanlon

Environment / Heritage:

- Please strengthen the awareness and protection of the Glen O'the Downs [SAC] Nature Reserve, the jewel in the crown of Wicklow nature.
- Set policy to monitor and manage the largely-forgotten Western section of the Glen nature reserve and re-connect it to the Eastern section via a number of wildlife bridges over the N11 / M11 and underpass tunnels where suitable.
- Please identify, in the County Development Plan, the complete Three Trouts Stream River System as a County Wicklow (Climate and Biodiversity) nature reserve. It is, in effect, an extension of the Glen O'the Downs SAC and a key corridor connecting the Natura 2000 sites of the Sugar Loaf, The Glen O'the Downs and the Wicklow Coastal Natura 2000 sites. Please prioritise it for awareness, protection, environmental monitoring, and restoration / re-wilding as a native riparian wooded (oak) wildlife corridor to the maximum extent possible.
- In Wicklow Branding & Communication (internal and external), please make proper central space, focus and respect for Wicklow's defining characteristics that have shaped all development - its Rivers, Wetlands, Uplands and Coasts / Marine area. The Earth is not flat, 2D, dry, boring and naked, and the Natural Wild

Garden of Ireland certainly is not! This natural Wicklow mindset and identity appears very weak in previous County Development Plans and other Corporate Plans. Always take the opportunity to display Wicklow's Mountains / Uplands, Rivers & Marine area in the background whenever showing any geographic display / map, e.g. even administrative detail such as the 5 geographical Municipal District Areas that make up the WCC administrative area, etc. Please integrate this natural thinking and branding into all WCC communication, planning and discussion, perhaps including preparing a simple Wicklow 3D geographic map template for use by all Departments and Directors of Service.

- In Heritage and Environment, please identify, map & zone all Wicklow River Corridors & Wetlands for Protection (Waterford last 2 County Development Plans provide a good example). Please state Wicklow policy to facilitate restoration of the natural connectivity, flow and condition of the rivers wherever reasonably possible, to include completing the removal of unnecessary obstacles / weirs and encouraging fencing / drinking solutions to keep livestock physically back from poaching the river bank, while also preventing overgrazing by livestock and wild animals and allowing re-wilding / native re-forestation.

- Please state Wicklow policy to work closely with LAWPro, EPA, NPWS and IFI to support local communities, land-owners, River Trusts and Tidy Towns groups to protect rivers and re-connect the community to their local lifelines.

- Please study the creation of a new zone type "Land reserved for Nature including Climate & Biodiversity Natural Solutions" and the zoning of Wicklow Rivers and a corridor 50m each side of each river. This could be piloted on selected rivers such as the Three Trouts Stream and The Swan river in Bray. If successful it could be applied to the zoning of other Uplands as well as the Rivers/Wetlands.

- Please further study the option of purchasing (CPO) of these River Corridors for protection, restoration and re-wilding, and call on the Irish Government and other interested Corporate Stakeholders to provide a "Purchase for Rewilding" Fund, as the New Zealand and Danish Governments have done for their bogs / wetlands.

- Please state Wicklow policy to protect all remaining mature trees and established hedgerows (since they are essential in tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies). Please plan how best to educate Schools and all Stakeholders about the value of trees and the place of trees in our native Celtic and pre-Celtic Culture including the Brehon Laws.

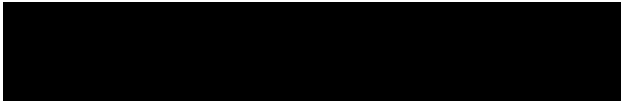
Strengthen the awareness and protection of the ridge of Scotts Pine trees known as Harmon's Brow / The Dancing Trees on the brow of Drummin Hill just South of Delgany Village

- Please plan to work with Delgany and County Wicklow Stakeholders to appropriately commemorate the Millenium anniversary of the Battle of Delgany (1021 / 1022) and re-enact the events. Such a Heritage Festival could be extended to include the celebration of 1,500 years of Delgany Village and 5,000 years of settlement in the Glens and the Valley of the Three Trout Stream (including its Neolithic and Bronze Age Hillforts) and a re-discovering / re-connection of our Brehon Laws with their progressive measures on protecting nature, protecting communities, diversity and inclusion.

Flood Management

- Please specify that Natural Flood Management Solutions (for Rivers and Streams) must always be tried as the first priority before hard engineering Flood Management solutions.

Thank you,
Keith Scanlon



Sent: 06 January 2020 08:16
To: 'Keith Scanlon'
Cc: Planning - Plan Review
Subject: RE: Submission re. Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP)

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your submission regarding the County Development Plan review.

Regards
Rosemarie Dennison
Administrative Officer
Planning Control.

From: Keith Scanlon [Redacted]
Sent: 04 January 2020 17:35
To: Planning - Plan Review
Cc: Planning - Admin; Bernadette Harvey; Sorcha Walsh; Deirdre Burns; Breege Kilkenny
Subject: Submission re. Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP)

Submission re. Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP)

To: planreview@wicklowcoco.ie
From: Keith Scanlon, [Redacted]

Dear Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Wicklow County Council,

It is vital that we continue to strengthen our sustainable development planning for our future Wicklow wellbeing, especially in this time of (Wicklow) Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. Please prioritise the following principles in the upcoming plan:

Overall / Governance:

- Change the title of the CDP to the CSDP County Sustainable Development Plan. This simple step increases stakeholder awareness and signals collaborate leadership ambition.
- Set policy that all development must thoroughly assess Climate and Biodiversity impact before being given permission
- Strengthen Forward Planning / Scenario Planning for community and ecosystem resilience and well-being, e.g. 20 year plan and 100 year plan for Wicklow and the wider region
- Include indicators that can facilitate monitoring that measures wellbeing / quality of life across social and environmental dimensions and aligned with UN SDGs. Develop thorough measures of, and set targets for, Wicklow Biodiversity. This should include, as an early example, % land area under native continuous coverage forestry and protected from over-grazing (sheep and deer).

Population / Housing Planning:

- concentrate population growth in the 4 main towns and only very limited growth (10%) in villages with no car dependant isolated sprawling housing in the countryside except where essential for economic need.
- Only zone land for housing where it has access to public transport and do not build commuter housing that is car dependant
- Build estates that are pedestrian friendly with very high quality housing (low energy and low water use). Where car parking spaces are needed, locate these in one shared, separate area, not distributed beside every house.
- ensure high density housing has good access to well designed public open space
- Have more rights of way
- include guidelines for public realm in towns
- acquire (CPO) land on the edge of towns and prepare serviced sites (Co. Limerick may have good practice to study)
- Prioritise and pilot Eco-housing / Co-housing for affordable sustainable shared resource use housing and community formation
- Zone for Windfarms / Community Renewable Energy development

Urban Regeneration:

- Assertively issue & pursue Dereliction Orders and Vacant Site Levies, especially in town centres and historic buildings. Temporarily vacant premises (with good reason) should be given over to community use.

Transport:

- Plan for sustainable Wicklow Public Transport and adopt ambitious targets for increase in public transport usage and reduction in private (especially single-use commuting) transport usage

Environment / Heritage:

- Strengthen the awareness and protection of the Glen O'the Downs Nature Reserve, the jewel in the crown of Wicklow nature. Set policy to re-connect the largely-forgotten Western section of the Glen nature reserve and re-connect it to the Eastern section via a number of green bridges. Please identify the complete Three Trouts Stream River System – the ancient lifeline which created and still flows through the Glen - as a County Wicklow (Climate and Biodiversity) nature reserve and prioritise it for awareness, protection, environmental monitoring, and restoration / re-wilding wherever possible.
- Identify & zone all Wicklow River Corridors & Wetlands for Protection (Waterford last 2 County Development Plans give a good example)
- study the creation a "Land reserved for nature including Climate & Biodiversity Natural Solutions" zone type, and zone other uplands as well as the Rivers/Wetlands
- Make more use of dark sky zones and quiet zones
- Protect rivers, wetlands, trees, hedgerows and ecological networks
- consider sustainable agriculture and zone good quality soils on the edge of towns

Retail:

- There is sufficient large retail infrastructure in Wicklow. Prioritise and encourage local town- and village - centre retail and self-sufficient, resilient communities.

Economic Development:

- Establish & support Green Economy startup, co-working (satellite) and education hubs
- Sponsor CIT Wicklow (Clermont Campus) Hub to become the National Biodiversity Emergency Mitigation and Adaptation Hub and Ireland's Global Networking hub for Climate and Biodiversity Emergency Mobilization.

Yours faithfully,
Keith Scanlon