

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** 06 January 2020 15:18  
**To:** 'Tina Roche'  
**Cc:** Planning - Plan Review  
**Subject:** RE: County Development Plan

A Chara,

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

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Administrative Officer  
Planning Control.

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**From:** Tina Roche [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2020 15:14  
**To:** Planning - Plan Review  
**Subject:** County Development Plan

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 collaborative 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.

**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.
- Focus on building social and affordable housing for all citizens.
- 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
- Prioritise and pilot Eco-housing / Co-housing for sustainable shared resource use and community formation
- Zone for Windfarms / Community Renewable Energy development

**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.

**Training**

- Ensure all county council staff (especially those working on the ground) are trained in sustainability and the issues arising.

**Tina Roche**

