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**What area does your submission relate to?**

Town and Village Centres & Retail

**Your comments**

I think you have covered a lot of stuff in your report. I can't think of anything to particularly add. People living over shops may help the shop with their rates but then some shops would need to provide access to the flat above so the person doesn't have to go through the shop. I think even in Wicklow Town there are a lot of empty houses that could be refurbished but are being left too long and are now rotting. I was told that those that have moved out of Hillview are to be left for 6 months as then the Council can apply for a grant to do them up. I think they should be filled with people immediately from the list then repair what is necessary-if they are left for 6 months they will be looted and broken up. When I was in Rathnew Development Association-about 2 plans ago we were told that in a proposed zone 10 there was to be a transport hub here in Rathnew behind the railway line from me-not where the houses are but the other side of the Old Arklow Road. It was to have a new station, buses like 02 ,133, Wexford bus I guess and now 183 + all related shops that would service the same-but they said then it was on the long finger-I guess they were right, but the land was zoned at least 2 plans ago. The rest of the stuff is continuing as the plan I was talking about so maybe that is to happen eventually too. I don't know if it would be in a Development Plan but due to my own recent experiences-graveyards???? People will die (unfortunately) How will various communities be dealt with and Cremations and Environmental funerals are becoming the upcoming thing. I know MDC are making plans but maybe elsewhere in the county people should also start thinking? The part round Clermont Convent I know is upsetting people now but at the time that was agreed to be made a full scale college with student accommodation and related shops nearby, also this would create local jobs. It has only been working at part capacity until the rest of the plan catches up. I like the area but the idea of student accommodation, local shops and jobs should perhaps take priority. I think that is how Aldi got their planning permission as part of that. One thing I

have always felt strongly about, but I don't know how to address it -there are some fantastic workshops along Charvey Lane and again on the Murrough Enterprise Park but unless you happen to know the business no one has a clue they are there, even those on South Quay. How can we make them more public-or knowledge of them anyway? Also up near Sanders Lane is another group of workshops but what do they do, also Broomhall-there is even a college up there-no one ever seems to mention it, these places need to be made more public somehow-you may have gone miles to get something to find someone makes it on your doorstep!! People should be more aware of what is happening in their Community and Volunteer-we have been trying with other Groups to find Volunteers for the Hall but of all the thousands in Wicklow/Ashford and Rathnew -we have someone from Kilmac!!!! Where Mum was you can volunteer for just about anything, they work along with the Council planting the Main Square flower beds, pruning trees, all the usual Carer stuff, refurbishing the local park and keeping it updated. Christmas lights is a locally run Charity organisation. The Churches (and they have a lot) all do loads of social stuff and are busy seemingly all the time, running tea/lunch afternoons, training, entertainment-all kinds of social stuff. I think it may happen in Wicklow but you need to be part of it to know it is happening-it is not so immediately obvious, somehow it needs to be promoted. Probably loads of stuff I could have said but can't think of any more for now. I think those Refugees who came could show us a thing or two in the fact it was their friendliness and politeness that has got them being able to join in with things-even in the face of adversity, with people saying we don't want them. Now things have calmed down maybe they could be asked what they think, and what they recommend I had sent this in to Wicklow PPN but they had done their submission and asked me to send my comments directly

**CreatedOn**

2019-12-18