

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** 08 January 2020 09:18  
**To:** 'Sinead Wallace'  
**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

[REDACTED]  
Administrative Officer  
Planning Control.

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**From:** Sinead Wallace [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 January 2020 09:00  
**To:** Planning - Plan Review  
**Subject:** Submission re: Wicklow County Development Plan (CDP)

From: *Sinead Wallace*, [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 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 rather than solely on economic growth model.

**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. All estates on the edges of towns should have a shuttle bus serving local transport links if none currently exist.
- Build estates that are pedestrian friendly with very high quality housing (low energy and low water use). Ensure open access for wildlife between gardens by adopting a more European model - no concrete dividing walls, instead biodiversity friendly hedging and open fencing.
- ensure high density housing has good access to well designed public open space with allotment space for each residential unit. Require all residential developments to have allotments so that we can reduce the carbon footprint by growing what we eat rather than importing 83% of what we buy in the supermarket. Currently, Irish farmers do not produce what Irish consumers are buying in the supermarket.
- Have more rights of way protected as nature corridors.
- include guidelines for public realm in towns
- Prioritise and pilot Eco-housing / Co-housing for sustainable shared resource use and community formation
- Zone for off shore 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.
- Create transport links to Luas via park and rides in Wicklow County.

**Environment / Heritage:**

- Strengthen the awareness and protection of the Glen O'the Downs Nature Reserve. 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.
- 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.
- Protect all native trees throughout the county. Enforce all bans on hedge cutting during nesting season. Current laws do nothing as there are no resources to enforce them.
- 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
- Adopt and enforce a no-spray policy at council level and promote in on a County level

As part of the County Development plan there must be a consideration of the impacts of Climate Change on our coastlines and upland areas. We are facing future flooding on the coasts, and drought in summer due a lack of facility to capture our seasonal rains. This needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

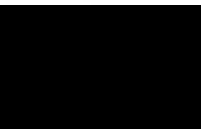
Having been involved in the public consultation for the Climate Adaptation Strategy I am alarmed to not that there is very much a 'business as usual' mindset around the actions and policies of both local and national government.

No amount of investment in jobs and housing will mitigate the effects of climate change. All planning must now have the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency at the centre of policy making and implementation. Now is the time to act, before we feel strongly the effects of climate change locally and nationally.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the CDP, I hope that Wicklow can become an example nationally of how to deal with the emergency we are facing in a real and immediate way.

Kind Regards,

Sinéad Wallace



**\*\*Please do not reply using postal address, an email is the best and least impactful way to contact me.\*\***