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What area does your submission relate to?

General Query

Your comments

Hi, I am writing to request you to prioritize biodiversity and climate considerations in relation to the Wicklow County Development Plan. I'm very concerned at talk of building major roadways, which has been proven in other countries and areas to lead to an increase in traffic rather than a reduction of cars. Ireland is already falling behind its commitments in relation to climate change and facilitating more cars at the expense of nature will only exacerbate this problem. I would urge an improvement in public transport to be a priority rather than building more roads; for example, I live in Newtownmountkennedy and the bus service is unpredictable and limited in the destinations it services. The roadside screen displays notifying arrival times of buses such as the 133 are wildly incorrect and, at times, aren't working at all. If people were able to avail of more frequent and reliable public transport, this would greatly reduce the need for car journeys. Another example: to connect to the Luas line requires taking a bus to Loughlinstown and then walking 15 minutes to Brides Glen. It seems logical that there should be feeder buses connecting towns to the Luas (not least because the Brides Glen stop never offered adequate parking). Other countries subsidise public transport or, in some cases <https://qz.com/1442882/free-public-transit-is-gaining-popularity-in-european-cities/>, offer it for free. If the money planned for construction of new roads was instead put into subsidising, improving and expanding public transport, there would be less traffic, less pollution, less damage to Wicklow's environment and much greater compliance with Ireland's carbon targets. A programme of tree/nature protection and planting would also help the latter requirement. Best regards, Shane

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