

[REDACTED]

Sent: 09 January 2020 16:50
To: 'Deirdre Burke'
Subject: RE: County submission

A Chara,

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

Mise le meas,

[REDACTED]
Planning, Development and Environment.

From: Deirdre Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2020 16:39
To: Planning - Plan Review
Subject: County submission

Submission for County Wicklow development plan/ Arklow Area.

Submission made by.....DEIRDRE BURKE. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

.....

Date.....8 DEC 2020.....

To wicklow co. council

List of contents

1. Preservation of natural heritage
2. Preservation of built heritage
- 3.council land mapped
- 4.rights of way protected.
5. Heritage and planning laws enforced

Preservation of our natural heritage.

Arklow south beach.

Reintroduce dune protection , which has been broken over the last few years , which has worked and proven to be effective.

Develop the grass area as a natural playground and plant trees along its boarder.

Monitor activity around roadstone, when and where they are placing boulders, paths and walkways along the coastline and onto beaches! , obtain planning when needed for these activities, also monitor their run off water and where it goes to?

Sand dunes on Arklow golf links.

All sand dunes have a protection status throughout Ireland and Europe, dunes which are on coastal links clubs must come under the same governance. The links is home to many species of wildlife, including the protected hare. Wild orchids grow here along with many wildflower species and bats, owls meadow pipit, redpolls, goldfinch, and hawks call this ever decreasing space their home.

Ancient pine trees at Kynochs lodge should also have a preservation order placed on it, an important and biggest rookery in the town , also the land below leading out to the sea would benefit a protection status and could become a wildlife reserve, again boosting tourism.

Brittas bay beach . have an environmental protection order placed on it..

Arklow Marsh.

Arklow marsh should be a NHS (natural heritage site) as opposed to a PNHS "proposed", it is home to a very rare cotton weed.

Research done on the marsh to see exactly what wildlife live there.

Look into enlarging Arklow marsh / natural flood relief.

Once it has protection status, it can then be developed by professional conservationists to ensure the least amount of damage.

Wildlife corridors

Urban forest could be considered here running from Servier (which could possibly fund such a project) right out to wooden bridge. Hundreds of trees have been felled along the railway line which is in turn along the path of the avoca, more trees must be planted to create a natural flood defence, also the site behind churchview could be a small urban forest and playpark with bike paths through it and natural play areas through it also, this again would in turn help greatly with the rivers of water which now end up at the bottom of the town with new estates and paved gardens popping up in the last 20 years. This piece of land is the last sump tank left between the top and bottom of arklow.

Encourage farmers in the area to maintain and improve their hedgerows, and encourage hedgerows where fences are, it's not just good for wildlife but a bonus in the long run for the farmer. Districts all through out the county could connect corridors and walkways which would bring a financial benefit and bring tourists.

THE AVOCA RIVER

Cleaning up the avoca river of mine waste and sewage is now underway, at the bridge in Arklow, the island should be made larger which is part of the marsh and should be protected from any building activity, this is the most picturesque piece of land in the whole town and should be cherished as a home for the wildlife on the river.

Small business will thrive once the treatment plant is done, and it is imperative that no large scale wall prevents the town from accessing it. The river will be the main attraction of our town and we must be able to enjoy and use it. apart from activities like sailing and kyaking, birdwatching and angling could give our town a huge financial boost. There are 15,000 members in birdwatch ireland alone and they travel the length of the country to spot and sight birds and fowl.

Upper river management should be considered and an incentive to landowners to do their part where there is water through their land, clearing of scrub and waste during the quiet winter months could help greatly in the amount of debris running down and getting caught at the bridge. It has been proven that concrete structures and traps do a huge amount of damage and have the opposite effect.

Discussions with property owners and fishermen about quayside development should take place with a seat for everyone at the table, making decisions in offices that have a huge effect on incomes should be a thing of the past, public information and participation is key to getting things right rather than cause confusion and tension. (as has been shown by flood relief plans)

OUR URBAN HEDGEROWS

The laws surrounding hedgecutting are from the 1st of march through to the 31st august. We see hills burning throughout the summer months and

hedges being torn down. Wicklow coco must themselves set an example and adhere to the law and must enforce it when broken.

Sending reminders through social media and local papers and radio stations to remind not just farmers but homeowners, football clubs golf links and courses, hotels that they must have their gardening done by these dates or fines will be issued. Try to prevent something before it happens not only preserves our wildlife but our air quality and our very important heritage.

balloons , Fireworks and Lanterns should be banned by wicklow coco. Every one of these are hazardous to wildlife, if not a county ban certainly a ban by civic offices and festivals.

Wicklow coco has declared a climate crisis !

PRESERVATION OF BUILT HERITAGE

Arklow area.

What's left?

The slipway, Arklow once the second largest ship builders in the country and the only remaining structure is the slipway. It could be used in the future again for boating activities.

Toms house on Arklow golf links, half of this was knocked by the golf club, and what's left should be protected, this building has been associated with being the offices of the Parnell mines, regardless of that it is probably the last remaining vernacular stone building in the town and an important one.

Stone walls throughout the town, the navy bridge comes to mind. Excessive damage was done by IW and not repaired, fines should be imposed on bad labour practices, especially where heritage is concerned.

All red stone buildings should be preserved and if possible become spaces for much needed groups. ie: mens shed, art centers,

The old railway unused building would be ideal for such a group .

The coastguard houses are also have importance as part of our maritime heritage.

Kynochs lodge is probably the most important piece of built heritage left standing and still in use. Old footpaths made from shingle should not be replaced with shoddy cement paths, (if there are any left).

RIGHTS OF WAY.

Rights of way must be preserved for future generations of the town, these are all well trodden paths by past generations and present, councils must ensure to preserve access to halt any practice of closure on these pathways.

MAPPING OUR TOWN.

All public land should be mapped for future planning. Land which has not been used should also be considered.

The alps site could have a cpo placed on as while it is still available, and turned into a natural eco village with shops , cafes art center and theatre, using non invasive building. This would encourage business back to the town and bring in needed visitors to the town.

TRANSPORT

As a commuter town we have little or no public service, it is within the remit of the council to lobby for more rail and bus services, which in turn takes people off roads, which in turn leads to less congestion and better air quality. Upgrading of railway lines are needed badly, if every council from dublin to wexford chipped in maybe IR would invest, until we have a proper public transport system it is useless building homes for people to sit in traffic for hours every day.

To combat people leaving our town , we need to invest in the town itself to create a vibrant cultural area to live, this will not be achieved by culling trees and building walls, inclusion of nature and generation of business can go together, and enhance each other. A slip road which was part of the bypass onto the vale road must be implemented. The one bridge in the town simply cannot cope with the volume of traffic at the moment, and adding new homes which will all house two cars is only adding to the dismay . most of the day it can take up to 25-40 minutes to cross the bridge which is unacceptable.

The port road to the m11 should be finalised and take heavy roadstone trucks away from lower main street and the quay , these trucks cause a huge amount of damage to roads and dwellings along the routes they take.

This has been promised and should be implemented .

