

[REDACTED]

Sent: 10 January 2020 09:41
To: 'Nicola Kenny'
Subject: RE: County Development Plan

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: Nicola Kenny [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2020 00:25
To: Planning - Plan Review
Subject: County Development Plan

To whom it may concern

Please find attached my submission for the County Development Plan.

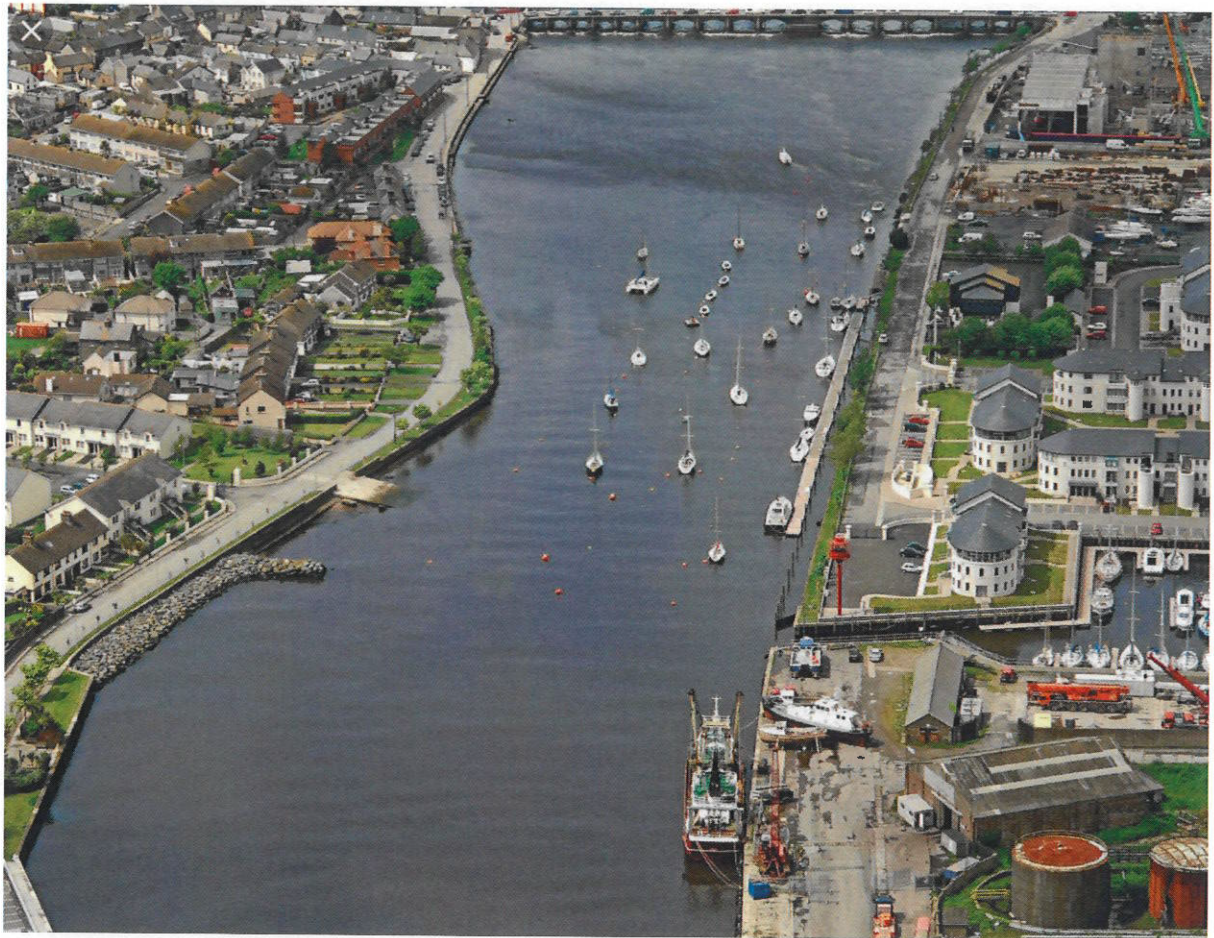
Kind regards
Nicola Kenny

Submission for County Wicklow Development Plan/ Arklow Area

Submission made by: Nicola Kenny, [REDACTED]

Date: 10th January 2020

To: planreview@wicklowcoco.ie



List of contents:

- Flood Risk
- Preservation of natural heritage
- Green Infrastructure
- Open Space/Recreation
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- Rights of way protected
- Traffic & Transport
- Economic Development & Employment
- Cultural/Craft Centre

Flood Risk

- A priority must be given to green infrastructure that respects nature. The County Development Plan should work with nature and not battle against it.
- No development in flood risk areas should be permitted.
- The whole of Arklow Bay requires review. The trend for rock armour has been a short term solution. A solution that works with the sea, not against it is required (i.e. breakwaters at sea). This in turn will help return our beaches to the once beautiful areas they were.
- Discussions with property owners and fishermen about quayside development should take place. Public information and participation is vital to getting things right rather than cause confusion and tension (as has been shown by the recent proposed flood relief plans). Everyone should be considered a stakeholder, not just big companies.

Preservation of natural heritage.

- South beach, Arklow.
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 border.
- Arklow marsh should be a NHS (natural heritage site) as opposed to a PNHS (proposed). Research should be 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.
- Cleaning up the Avoca river of mine waste and sewage is now underway. Small business will thrive once the treatment plant is constructed, and it is imperative that a large scale wall does not prevent the town from accessing the river. 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 kayaking, bird watching and angling could give our town a huge financial boost.
- 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 Nineteen Arches. It has been proven that concrete structures and traps do a huge amount of damage and have the opposite effect.

Green Infrastructure

- The County Development Plan refers to a network of green spaces that help to conserve natural ecosystems & provide benefits to people. But the CDP does not indicate where these green and blue infrastructural elements are to be found. They should be drawn on & linked together.

Open Space/Recreation

- According to the CDP the delivery of new sports and other outdoor community facilities and spaces is dependent on adequate “open space” being reserved and developed. This will not happen if the council and developers continue to build on suitable “open space”.
- When a housing development is being planned it must include more open spaces and infrastructure to benefit our children’s future.

Preservation of built heritage

- The slipway in Arklow. This was once the second largest ship builders in the country. The only remaining structure of this is the slipway. It could be used in the future again for boating activities.
- The coastguard houses are also have importance as part of our maritime heritage.

Rights of way protected

- Rights of way must be preserved for future generations of the town. These are all well trodden paths by past generations and present. The council must ensure to preserve access and halt any practice of closure on these pathways. This is vital especially around our coastal areas. The pathway at the caravan park/Porter’s Rock being the perfect example.

Traffic & 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. This leads to less congestion

and better air quality. Not to mention better mental health for people as they're not sitting in traffic for hours each day.

- Upgrading of railway lines are needed badly.
- A slip road which was part of the bypass onto the vale road must be implemented as soon as possible. The one bridge in the town simply cannot cope with the volume of traffic at the moment. With the proposed construction of Arklow's waste water treatment plant this year along with the proposed development at Kilbride, it is imperative that this slip road is constructed as soon as possible.
- The port road to the m11 should be finalised and take heavy Roadstone trucks away from lower main street and South Quay. Large Roadstone trucks & other haulage vehicles use the town centre road system creating danger, noise dust & vibrations which in turn causes structural damage to properties.
- The town centre roads in Arklow serve neither existing industry nor population adequately.
- Castlepark carpark should be developed into a multi-story carpark. The revenue from this could be used to fund local projects.

Economic Development & Employment

- A task force should be created to market Arklow. With the proposed new Data centre due to commence construction in the near future Arklow can provide a very competitive offering to a variety of Tech business in the greater Dublin area.

Cultural/ Craft Centre

- Arklow is in dire need of a Theatre/craft centre /rehearsal space for clubs.
- Arklow has one of the longest running Musical Festivals in the country. Each year the Festival committee have to hire out space from schools and hotels. In the coming years it would be fantastic to provide a much needed Theatre for all the wonderful artists who travel countrywide to partake in the festival.
- The Alps site could be purchased while it is still available. It could be used for cafes, art centre and theatre. This would encourage business back to the town and bring in much needed visitors. The theatre in particular would help other businesses in town. Restaurants, pubs and cafes for example would benefit from people attending the theatre.