

[REDACTED]

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**Sent:** 13 January 2020 10:22  
**To:** 'Annette Vaucanson Kelly'  
**Cc:** Planning - Plan Review  
**Subject:** RE: Submission on Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-27

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:** Annette Vaucanson Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 January 2020 18:31  
**To:** Planning - Plan Review  
**Subject:** Submission on Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-27

*From: Annette Kelly*  
[REDACTED]

Dear Administrative Officer, Forward Planning, Wicklow County Council,

It is vital that we actively ensure the sustainable development of our county, for the wellbeing of all beings (human and non-human) 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/project must thoroughly assess Climate and Biodiversity impact before being given permission.

The proposed East Coast Greenway comes to mind. Although I'd love to see more greenways in Wicklow to encourage sustainable transport and tourism, they shouldn't come at a cost for our beleaguered wildlife and protected natural areas.

**Population / Housing Planning:**

- concentrate population growth in the 4 main towns and only very limited growth (10%) in villages with no car dependent isolated sprawling housing in the countryside except where essential for economic need. Support compact high density development in towns instead of greenfield urban sprawl.
- Only zone land for housing where it has access to public transport and public amenities (schools, creches, shops, health centres, etc.) and do not build commuter housing that is car dependent.
- Build estates that are pedestrian friendly with very high quality housing (low energy and low water use). Where car parking spaces are needed, locate these in one shared, separate area, not distributed beside every house. The same principle could be applied to refuse management, with shared waste bins rather than one set for every house.
- ensure high density housing has good access to well designed public open space.
- Have more rights of way.
- include guidelines for public realm in towns.
- Prioritise and pilot Eco-housing / Co-housing for sustainable shared resource use and community formation. Prioritise co-housing as a third affordable way (to add to rental and home ownership), to make sure people who have made Wicklow their home are not pushed out of their community by the vagaries of the housing market.

- Zone for Windfarms / Community Renewable Energy development. Every Wicklow community should have their own micro-grid.
- Actively support the retrofitting of the current housing stock through a street by street programme, instead of relying on the current arcane procedures and grant system which most homeowners can't afford. I am involved with the setting up of the Greystones-Delgany SEC, and it is incredibly frustrating that such crucial work relies only on volunteers at this time of Climate & Biodiversity Emergency.

**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. Public transport must be cheap (or free), reliable, comfortable and safe.

**Environment / Heritage:**

- Strengthen the awareness and protection of the Glen O'the Downs Nature Reserve, the jewel in the crown of Wicklow. 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. Please 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.
- 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.
- Dedicate the Wicklow uplands (especially the Wicklow Mountains National Park) to rewilding and native tree afforestation. End sheep overgrazing by paying farmers to plant trees and rewet mountain bogs.
- 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

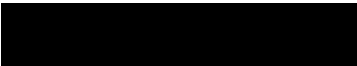
**Retail:**

- There is sufficient large retail infrastructure in Wicklow. Prioritise and encourage local town- and village -centre retail and self-sufficient, resilient communities.

Regards,

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Annette Vaucanson Kelly



Outdoor family blog - Unplug. Get outside. Reconnect /  
 Blog famille nature - Débranchés. Un bol d'air. Connectés.

