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**What area does your submission relate to?**

Town & Village Plans

**Your comments**

Having reviewed the Rathdrum LAP I would like to include the following considerations:

5. Town Centre and Retail One aspect of the development strategy in the Rathdrum LAP is as follows: To reinforce and improve the visual appearance of the central area of the town and encourage development that will enhance the town's vitality and vibrancy. The Market Square needs to be redeveloped as a priority and the recommendations from Appendix D Conservation Area Appraisal document should be followed through on; "Market Square fails to make its full impact through lack of adequate definition in the surface and through its use as an undisciplined parking area. This space could be turned into a great asset to Rathdrum by returning it to an open area, free of parked cars and with well-thought out paving and street furniture". (pge 31)

3.6 Social and Community Development Under 3.6 the LAP notes that 'With respect to education, the Department of Education is satisfied that there is adequate capacity in both the primary and secondary schools in the town to cater for the targeted population expansion"(pge 23 LAP). Currently both the primary and secondary schools would appear to be at maximum capacity, based on their planning application for more school rooms/space, and with the project population growth of 3500 by 2028 a new school plan needs to be revisited with the Department of Education. The current sites are limited in their future scope so a greenfield site should feature in the future plans for Rathdrum. Further education/college/training facilities should also be considered and could be incorporated into a new school campus.

A planned Greenway route linking Rathdrum to other areas e.g Clara Vale/ Avoca/Aughrim should feature in the future plans for Rathdrum.

3.7 Service Infrastructure The LAP refers to Public transport and how Rathdrum has a limited rail service and only 2 bus services per day- this needs to be seriously reviewed to ensure we have a transport service that is fit for purpose. With the project population growth( 3500 by 2028), employment increase (to c1400 by 2028) and the massive investment (8 million +)in Avondale House a substandard public transport system, for residents and tourists, will only hinder the development and enhancement of Rathdrum. The development plan should have clearly defined actions to address this issue.

A seamless traffic management system is required in order to the town to function at it's best and a survey/action plan should be considered as a priority. Rgds Karen

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