



# Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

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## Topic

Community Development (inc. sports facilities & schools, etc)

## Submission

I have been involved in coaching generations of Wicklow children since I arrived in 1977, in a number of sports, primarily in athletics over recent years. Lack of suitable facilities has had a huge impact resulting in our athletes now resorting to the bicycle paths and the 600m path by the seafront as our main training ground. Local sports clubs have rented their facilities to us over the years but as their numbers grew we had to go elsewhere. There was and is NO open green space except for the much lamented Murrough which is no longer suitable.

We had hopes of a 1k trail by the lakes and fund raised for it but this was denied on environmental grounds - our plan involved the cutting back of gorse and laying a suitable path with minimal disruption to the area, while the council cleared out a section of it entirely to provide dumping ground for rocks !

Tinakilly, which was a designated active leisure area is now history as with no parking and no lighting, it is unsuitable.

The Hawkstown road site is the final opportunity for a greenspace, in the town, to be developed to meet the growing needs for a sport facility in Wicklow. If the entire section from the Carriag Beag housing estate to Ashtown roundabout were developed as a centre for sport, there would be room for a Sport Centre, all weather surface pitch, a running trail, bowling, squash. With proper consultation with locals, the immediate needs of all groups could be met. This is the final opportunity to serve the future generations of Wicklow Children.



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