



Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Carmel Shaw
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
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Local Area Plan Submission Carmel Shaw.pdf, 0.02MB

A Cara,

I wish to make a submission to the Greystones, Delgany and Kilcoole LAP.

As you know, Kindlestown Hill sits over Greystones and sweeps down to the new Delgany/Rathdown road, near Lidl, in the Rathdown area.

The top of the hill is laid out in a number of walking trails set among mature woodland and sloping up to a rocky area with a mast, from where there are incredible views along the coast from Dalkey to Wicklow Head, and from where Mount Snowden in Wales can be seen on a clear day.

It is a popular walking spot but, despite it's very close proximity to Greystones, it is difficult to reach from the town without getting in a car and driving about 5 km through the narrow, congested roads of Delgany, or through the equally narrow roads in the other direction, in the Coolegad area.

I propose connecting Kindlestown Woods/Hill to Greystones via a new walking path through the field on the lower slopes of the hill, to the new Delgany/Rathdown road, near Lidl.

Apart from driving there, the only other way to reach the woods at the moment is via the Sugarloaf Way.

This is a long, convoluted route that passes through a number of housing estates and crosses a number of busy roads, also running along the side of another busy road, before reaching the woods.

It is not a suitable route for children or elderly people.

In Greystones there are about 9 schools, most of them in the vicinity of Rathdown.

I would estimate that there are thousands of children in all, attending these schools.

Yet, none of those children have ever been able to enjoy a nature walk with their teachers and fellow students in Kindlestown woods, simply because there is no suitable access to the area from the town.

Much research has proved the importance of green spaces to our mental and physical health.

It is known for instance, that urban areas where there is access to mature parks or woodland, has a lower crime rate than similar areas where no such access exists!

Green spaces are particularly vital for the health and wellbeing of growing children. The distance between Kindlestown woods and the Rathdown area is incredibly short - perhaps less than half a kilometre.

Kindlestown woods is the natural hinterland of Greystones and it is surely ridiculous that the inhabitants of this extensive and ever growing built up area can not access our natural hinterland because of a half kilometre of private land that lies between the two!

Kindlestown Woods is to Greystones what Bray Head is to Bray. Bray Head also is private land, but the people of Bray have had access to it for generations.

Why should we in Greystones be deprived? Now that our much loved and well used Cliff Path walk has been closed for over 2 years, it surely is our right to have access to an alternative walking area nearby?

The proposed walking path could be extended Eastwards via St Crispin's Cell to link up with the Greystones end of the Cliff path.

This could be waymarked to form a circular walk via the harbour, the town and the existing Sugarloaf Way to Kindlestown Woods, which would be popular with walking groups and would bring much needed revenue to the town.

Easy access to the woods would also mean easy access to the extensive Belvue Woods just next to Kindlestown Woods, with its newly restored Octagon and its historic connections to the La Touche family and there are several looped walks in that area which would also attract more walking groups from all over the country and abroad.

Kindlestown Woods itself is of great historic importance.

It was the site of the Saxon Battle of Delgany in the 11th century when the Viking king Sitric of Dublin was defeated.

It was also through this area that the many Viking assaults on Glendalough took place.

Going back further, the hill is likely to be of much archaeological importance as it is on an East facing slope, where the majority of Neolithic monuments are located.

There is much for children and indeed adults to learn about history and biodiversity!

It could also even be possible for many school children to access their schools via this proposed walking path, thus alleviating the traffic problems of the town,

particularly on the Windgates/Bray road and along the Rathdown/Delgany road.

It just takes a little thought and careful planning.

Thank you.
Carmel Shaw

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Greystones,
Co. Wicklow.

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