

# CLLR. STEPHEN STOKES

**An Independent Voice for the Greystones Municipal District**

**Chairperson - Transport, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services  
Strategic Policy Committee, Wicklow County Council**

**Peace Commissioner**



15/07/2025

Planning Section,  
Wicklow County Council,  
A67 FW96

CC: Minister James Browne TD (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage)  
& Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

**RE: Objection to the rezoning of Employment (E) zoned land at Murrough North to OS2 - Natural Areas under the Draft Ministerial Direction on the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.**

**A Chara,**

I wish to confirm my support for retaining Employment (E) zoning, under Material Amendment 41, on 1.0 hectare at Murrough North. Material Amendment 41 was approved by Wicklow County Council members on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 & May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. It was then adopted on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 as part of the 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031'.

My submission opposes the Draft Ministerial Direction's proposal to rezone this land to OS2-Natural Areas. The council members' democratic decision to approve Material Amendment 41 reflects the site's strategic role in national housing delivery, its significant contribution to the local and national economy, and its crucial role in supporting Wicklow Port. I have been advised that the site has a flood free history, low impact use without adverse ecological effects, and the 1.8-hectare OS2-Natural Areas buffer zone (which the landowner has already provided as part of the LAP process). Suffocating this facility and its ability to meet the needs of the market will result in delays to new home construction and increased procurement costs for timber products nationally.

It does not seem to make sense to terminate 2.8 hectares of employment zoned land in a town which has extremely limited employment zoned land available. Rezoning this 1.0-hectare site seems unjust, particularly given the 1.8-hectare sacrifice already made.

I request that Wicklow County Council records my support for retention of Employment (E) zoning in the Section 31(8) Chief Executive Report. I also request that the Chief Executive Report, should represent the opinion of elected members, and recommend that the Minister retains this vital employment zoning.

**Yours sincerely,**

***Cllr Stephen Stokes***

**Serving Charlesland, Delgany, Greystones, Kilcoole, Killadreenan & Newcastle**

**Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District 2023-24  
Mayor of Greystones 2013-14**

 **C/O Greystones Municipal District Office, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow**  
 **stephenstokes101@gmail.com**