



Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

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Topic

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

Submission

Allotments.

the field above hawkstown road where sports feilds are planned, please leave the entire feild for ameniety, and please consider allotments!,

As an ex secretary of Wicklow community gardens, there was a lot of interest in a suitable place for a community garden, we were hosted by the dominican nuns for a while but there was too much vandalisim in that space, Currently , there are no allotments in wicklow town and there is huge interest among people to get an allotment. Back gardens in new build estates are small and often overshadowed ,and the soil left by builders is often down to boulderclay with poor drainage. Landlords are often very reluctant to allow a tenant to grow fruit trees or plant vegetables and prefer to pave the back garden, and apartments obviously have nothing .

Ideally one should be able to walk to an allotment, the hawkstown site is close to many housing estates. There is a lot of literature on the social benefit and both physical and mental health benefits of alotments, Digging in the soil releases feel good hormones, Digging and gardening are slow burn excercise . Families of young children but also older people benefit hugely from allotments, single parents and people who have immigrated or moved from their place of origin. so its great to bring isolated or new people together and build community.

Topic

Social Infrastructure Audit

Submission

There isnt much social infra structure, The library tries hard and does a great job, but we are a growing town and we have no cinema or theatre.

Topic

Heritage / Biodiversity / Heritage Maps

Submission

far too many trees have been felled within wicklow town in the past 10 years, When i first moved here 15 years

ago driving into wicklow was almost like driving into a forest, now most of those mature trees are gone. No one is looking out for the local environment.

Thee municipal say they have no budget to look after even graphitti on walls, all imporvements are left to voluntary groups like tidt towns and residents associations.

There is an attempt to make a linear park alongside a stream which runs alongside the borders of The Meadows and Meadow Gate estates. but its original design has been badly affected by revisions and extensions to original plans for the estate. the local planning advisorys have been somewhat ignored, amenity land has been reduced, extra houses and an apartment block were added the retaining wall of which when viewed from marlton road looks ugly and sad like a tenement, with graphitti on the massive retaining walls and dead trees (killed by teh soil movement and dumping).

The plan to make a linear park for biodiversity is theoretically is a great idea however it is failing as there is currently no managment plan for the park andas the area being continually reduced by revisions to the builders plans, and due to the continuous noise and presence of building still going on, the biodiversity of the area is suffering. The municipal council wont take it on as they say they have no budget. meanwhile valuable mature trees and biodiversity habitat is being lost,

Aslo due to the park not being finished it has become a focus for anti social behaviour including but not restricted to drug selling, resulting in the builders are currently blocking the fisishing of the linear park due to the anti social behaviour it is attracting, which its attracting due to the linear park being unfinished.

There nedds to be an active biodiversity plan for areas which are to be left to 'rewild'

Topic

[Green Infrastructure / GI map](#)

Submission

linear parks with managment plans , restrictions on builders seeking to top up their plans by adding a few extra houses her and there

File