



Who are you:	Group
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Choose one or more categories for your submission. Please also select which settlement you wish to make a submission / observation about.

- Proposed Changes to Volume 1 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028
- Proposed Changes to Volume 2 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028

Local Planning Framework PART A Strategy

- A.3 Factors Influencing Future Development Options

Local Planning Framework PART B Settlement Specific Objectives.

- B.6 Social & Community Development

Maps:

Variation No.5

Arklow LAP

Inclusive Arklow –

Objectives for Designated Walking Trails and Developed Green Spaces

As part of the Inclusive Arklow collective, who comprise of disability advocacy groups, elderly groups and community groups. Our objective is to ensure that the Arklow Local Area Plan (LAP) actively supports the creation of connected, accessible and inclusive outdoor environments that promote health, wellbeing, biodiversity and community participation for people of all ages and abilities.

1. Designated Walking Trails

We propose that the LAP:

- Designate and prioritise a town-wide walking trail network linking Arklow's beaches, riverbank, woodlands, parks and residential areas.
- Establish a continuous trail around the town .
- Integrate universal design principles, ensuring all trails are accessible to people with mobility aids, sensory needs and prams.
- Incorporate rest and sensory points, benches, planting and interpretation features highlighting local biodiversity, heritage and culture.
- Promote safety and accessibility, including lighting where appropriate and clear wayfinding signage throughout the network.

2. Developed Green Spaces

We recommend that the LAP:

- Identify and zone new green areas across the town for social, recreational and community use.
- Develop multi-purpose green parks that can host outdoor fitness areas, sensory gardens, inclusive play zones and club spaces for sports and community activities.
- Support biodiversity-friendly landscaping through native planting, wildflower meadows, pollinator zones .
- Ensure some new green developments are dog-free except for assistance dogs, to maintain safe and inclusive spaces for all users.
- Integrate educational and sensory design elements, supporting intergenerational engagement, outdoor learning and wellbeing programmes.

- Encourage community participation in the design, stewardship and maintenance of green spaces to build ownership and pride of place.

Regards

Deirdre Ryan

Vice chair Arklow Autism Friendly Town

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