



Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Wicklow County Development Plan Submission Report

Submission Details

Ref	VAR7-193725
Who Are You?	Group
Name:	Enniskerry Football Club
Submitted Time:	September 23, 2026 7:48 PM

Proposed Variation Parts

Topic	Part 1: Proposed Variation to town / settlement zoning maps and, where relevant, proposed new or amended site specific policy objectives.
Submission	1. Level 4: Enniskerry

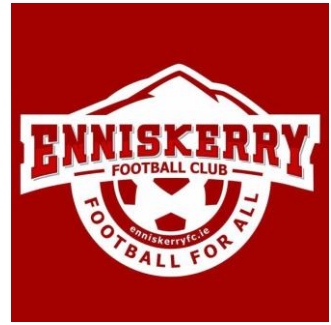
Write your observations here:

Please see the uploaded letter from Enniskerry Football Club in relation to the Enniskerry EK 2 Monastery, Scalp Road proposal.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Upload a File (optional)

EFC Submission on Enniskerry Variation No 7 EK 2 (23.09.2026).pdf, 0.09MB



Enniskerry Football Club

Date: 13/09/2026

To: 'Variation No. 7',
Administrative Officer,
Planning Department,
Wicklow County Council,
County Buildings,
Station Road,
Wicklow Town,
A67 FW96

Re: Submission on Variation No. 7 EK 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan — Scalp (Ballyman) / Proposed Rezoning and Active Open Space

Dear Sir/Madam,

Introduction and club background

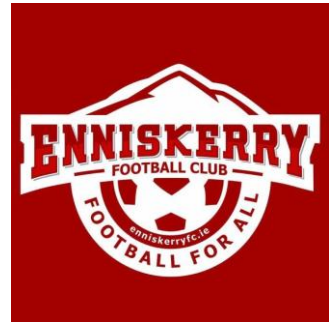
Enniskerry Football Club (EFC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Variation No. 7 to the Wicklow County Development Plan as the proposal would potentially remove a playing pitch that the club relies upon heavily. EFC is a community sports club established in the 1970s with approximately 450 members, the majority of whom are under 18, with 22 teams and multiple visiting teams playing in Enniskerry on a weekly basis. We are particularly proud that around 40% of our membership is female, reflecting strong and sustained female participation in our club.

Acknowledgement of the Maguire family

The site has been used as a football pitch since the 1980s. EFC wishes to place on record our deep gratitude to the Maguire family, who have generously provided the Ballyman pitch to the club, for almost 25 years, since the 2002. Their long-standing support has been instrumental in enabling the club to operate and to grow. Without access to the Ballyman pitch the club would have struggled to function and would not have been able to accommodate the significant increase in membership over recent years. We respectfully request that the Council note and recognise this contribution in any public-facing documentation or consultation materials where appropriate.

Current facility pressures and impacts

For a number of years the club has had to rent alternative facilities to meet training and match needs. This places a significant financial burden on the club and creates logistical challenges for players, coaches and families who must travel to training and matches. Securing suitable facilities is increasingly difficult and, in some cases, requires us to use venues outside County Wicklow.



Enniskerry Football Club

This year the situation has been exacerbated by the withdrawal of access to the Stepside facility by Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council due to the club being located in Wicklow. That arrangement had been in place since 1st September 2013, with 13 years continuous use its loss has increased pressure on the club to find alternative provision.

Concerns about rezoning and the importance of Active Open Space

We note Wicklow County Council's proposal to rezone the land that contains the Ballyman pitch. Losing access to this facility would be a significant blow to EFC and to the local community and could force the club to scale back activities, particularly given the difficulty of securing alternative facilities.

We are, however, encouraged to see that the proposed rezoning includes provision for Active Open Space. If the Active Open Space designation remains in the final variation, this could provide a viable solution to the loss of the current pitch should residential development proceed. We therefore strongly welcome the inclusion of community sports facilities within the rezoning proposals.

Request for sequencing and delivery of community sports facilities

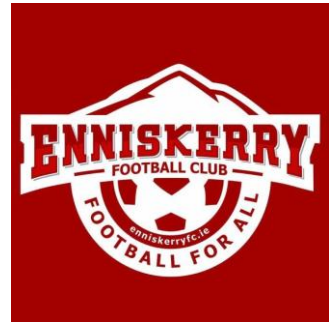
Given the vital role the existing pitch plays for the club and the wider community, we request that the Variation (and any associated Site Location Objective or planning provisions) be updated to ensure that community sports facilities are delivered as an early phase of any development that would remove the existing pitch. Specifically:

- Any residential development that would result in the loss of the existing Ballyman pitch should be conditional on not just "concurrent development", as currently stated, but replacement community sports facilities on the Active Open Space should precede residential development as an initial phase.
- The planning provisions should require that the agreed community sports facilities are constructed and available for use prior to the permanent loss of the existing pitch, or that a robust temporary provision is put in place that meets the needs of the club and its members.
- The design and specification of replacement facilities should be developed in consultation with EFC and other local sports groups to ensure they meet the needs of youth teams, female teams, and community users.

Willingness to engage and suggested delivery mechanism

EFC would welcome the opportunity to engage with Wicklow County Council on the potential uses, design and management of the proposed Active Open Space. We are willing to work collaboratively with the Council to help develop a plan for the site so that it best serves the sporting and recreational needs of the entire community.

As an active participant in the Bog Meadow Management CLG, we are familiar with lease and licence arrangements that enable community groups to manage and operate facilities on public or privately



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owned land. We would be interested in discussing whether a lease or licence agreement (or similar community management mechanism) could be appropriate for the Active Open Space at Ballyman to secure long-term community access and to provide certainty for the club and other users.

Support for SLO requirement but request for stronger sequencing

We welcome the SLO provision that residential development proposals must include proposals for concurrent development of community sports facilities. To protect the club and minimise disruption to members, we request that this clause be strengthened to require that community sports facilities be delivered as a first phase or otherwise guaranteed before the loss of the existing pitch occurs.

Conclusion

While the proposed rezoning is understandably a cause of concern for Enniskerry Football Club, we are taking a positive and proactive approach and see the longer term opportunity to further develop community facilities for the entire area. We welcome the considered approach taken by Wicklow County Council in including community sports facilities in the proposed rezoning and look forward to working collaboratively with the Council as this process progresses.

Please accept this submission on behalf of Enniskerry Football Club. At the appropriate time we would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with Council officers to discuss the proposals and to contribute to the planning, design and operation of any replacement Active Open Space and sports facilities.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jonathan Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jonathan Bennett

Chairperson, Enniskerry Football Club, for and on behalf of the Club Committee

Enniskerry Football Club
Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

