

From: Peter Stapleton
Sent: Monday 14 July 2025 20:11
To: Planning - Group
Cc: minister@housing.gov.ie; info@opr.ie
Subject: Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP Submission on Draft Ministerial Direction

Administrative Officer,
Planning Section,
Wicklow County Council,
Station Road,
Wicklow Town,
A67 FW96

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

Date: 14 July 2025

RE: Formal objection to the proposed 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.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As an elected member of Wicklow County Council, I confirm my full support for retaining Employment (E) zoning, under Material Amendment 41, on 1.0 hectare at Murrough North in the Rathnew Local Area Plan. Material Amendment 41 was approved by Council Members on 10 February 2025 and 12 May 2025, and adopted on 23 June 2025 as part of the 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031'.

This 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 vital and strategic role in national housing delivery, its significant contribution to the local and national economy, and its crucial role in supporting Wicklow Port. The site's 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) negate any proposed rezoning argument. Restricting 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.

Moreover, terminating 2.8 hectares of employment zoned land in the plan, would reduce town already limited employment zoned land available.

I formally request that Wicklow County Council appropriately 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, recommends that the Minister retains this vital employment zoning.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Peter Stapleton