



Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

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Topic

Regeneration of Communities & Places - Healthy Placemaking - Urban Design - Opportunity Sites in Wicklow Town - Rathnew

Submission

wicklow is the garden of Ireland but you'd think we'd exploit that a bit more, or even emphasise it. The council should employ a parks department with horticulturalists to look after urban horticulture and planting. Clermont could become a cultural centre and a tourist destination, and a horticultural college, teaching horticulture as the botanic gardens do. have you been inside it, some of those rooms in the old house are amazing, far too nice to be turned into offices. more green spaces should be designed into new estates,

Topic

Economic Opportunity - Tourism - Shops & Services - Community Facilities

Submission

Clermont should become an agricultural college, or an arts space. Can the unused courthouse become an arts space or museum space?

Why does Tinahely get all the arts funding? I think what they do there is wonderful but I don't want to have to drive there to get some culture. We need a public space for the arts in Wicklow Town

We have no cinema in Wicklow town.

Topic

Heritage - Biodiversity- Green infrastructure- Climate Action- Energy

Submission

ie the passive park beside the meadows and meadow gate off Marlton Rd was supposed to be a green corridor space for Biodiversity, But in reality it's become a confused space that looks like a dump.

The original design showed a linear passive park, it was going to be left for nature and everybody was very excited about it but the reality was different, the builders went beyond their original design and applied for extra houses and in doing so, encroached into the woodland of the valley, cut more trees than the original plan permitted, built a horrendously ugly retaining wall, backfilled it and plonked 4 story apartments on top of it. The builders dumped top soil on the sides of the valley, the loose topsoil covered the boles of field maples and ash and oak trees killing them others were cut by the builders, it resulted in the destruction of mature woodland slopes with an understory of bluebell and wild garlic, maidenhair fern and opposite leaved saxifrage into nettle, spear thistle, gorse bramble and opportunistic docks choking out the native flora and in removing trees that were favoured by some birds, the jays in particular have left after their tree was destroyed, The bat population is down with the removal of trees. The Kites that nested there have left.

In abandoning the integrity of the original plan, the previously untouched pristine gorge has become a dumping ground, it resulted in becoming an ugly unattractive space, unwelcoming from Marlton Rd and a location for teen drinking and the occasional fire of street furniture or materials dumped there by the builders etc. the giant wall permanently disfigured by graffiti, it looks like a slum from Marlton Rd.

Whats the point in having an SAC if you allow adjacent development which will destroy the hydrology and the biodiversity?

Whats the point in asking how to alleviate flooding yet entertain building on a floodplain?

Whats the point in having an SAC without a management plan and enforcement ?

IE Tinakilly house development and the effect it will have on Broadlough. the new phase is being proposed to be built on a flood plain above a lake which is an SAC. the ground is clay with only surface drainage. New drainage from a concrete clad estate would be directed into broadlough , already a shallow marshy lake, it would silt up the lake and the peats; cats and dogs, Cats from the proposed development would annihilate reed nesting and ground nesting birds of the SAC and the dog poo would change the soil chemistry of the fragile wetlands, causing algal blooms.

Also the proposed relief road is senseless, all it does is provide access for builders, it wouldnt provide any traffic calming and only contribute to traffic chaos at Brunel bridge. What would actually alleviate traffic in Rathnew and effectively make a bypass would be to widen Rockey Road , taking traffic from the Hawkstown road up rocky rd to the roundabout at Ballinabarney to the motorway, it also a far more sensible place to build than on a flood plain beside an SAC.

flood alleviation , concrete paving slabs that are perforated as are used in Austria and Germany should be used more in estates , in driveways to allow for drainage of rainwater.
paving over a garden or installing plastic grass should be banned

There should be exclusion zones, green buffer areas around SACs where development is not permitted. There should be no more development around Tinakilly house or Cleremont convent as those areas are so close to Broadlough and Murrough SACs.

Cutting trees at a time of climate crisis is insanity. Replacing mature carbon absorbing trees with unplanned badly planted saplings (50% of which die) is not balancing the loss of those large trees in the present.

The council is tendering out landscaping jobs in the areas under its remit to contractors who have no sense of ownership or pride or appreciation for the plants or spaces they are cutting , these hacketologists even cut down trees that were planted by residents associations or volunteer groups ! And are cutting trees and shrubs within the nesting/no cutting season! Ignorance on top of ignorance. Bring back the councils own team of gardeners/horticulturalists who actually looked after and beautified municipal plantings . Dont leave it up to tidy town volunteers to plant up municipal spaces. The Murrough, Urgently needs rock armour all the way from Wicklow to Newcastle and even to Greystones. The ridiculous Greenway concept to put a tarmac cycle path along the Murrough should be abandoned, even if protected, the area that remains is too fragile and should probably be fenced off to allow it to regenerate.

Enforce environmental laws on the Murrough . Reinststate a management plan for the fragile environment including cutting the grass at the correct time to stop rye grass seeding, take down the three unplanned houses and the surrounding rubbish and remove multimetals. Dont allow multi story development on the murrough or corporation murrough.

Topic

Infrastructure - Sustainable Movement - Transportation

Submission

widen rocky road and it will make an amazing difference to traffic through Rathnew. effectively making it into a bypass for Rathnew

infrastructure,

there are just not enough schools.

there is no cinema in Wicklow.

there are not enough trains, there are not enough carriages on the trains

File