



# Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	Group
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## File

Blessington LAP - Ballymore Eustace CDA Submission.pdf, 0.1MB



### **Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association CLG**

Ballymore Eustace Community Development Association (BME CDA) is submitting concerns regarding the Blessington Local Area Plan (LAP). While we acknowledge the need for an up to date Blessington LAP, we urge against complacency regarding Blessington's growth potential. Blessington, due to its current infrastructure and location, is unsuitable for significant growth. The town's proximity to sensitive areas like the Blessington Lakes Special Protection Area (SPA) and its inadequate infrastructure need to be improved.

There is a disconnect between various authorities, including Kildare County Council (KCC), Wicklow County Council (WCC), Uisce Éireann (UÉ), ESB, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in managing Blessington's development. For instance:

- KCC's Blessington Environs Plan includes new residential zoning close to the overburdened Blessington WasteWater Treatment Plant (WWTP), posing environmental risks.
- WCC's facilitation of WWTP capacity expansion without EPA consent highlights regulatory shortcomings.
- Existing development plans conflict with WCC's own guidelines.
- UÉ's disregard for EPA limits and WWTP expansion exacerbates environmental concerns.

Regarding housing, BME CDA stresses the WWTP's regulatory overcapacity and inability to support further development legally and sustainably. Economic development plans should consider environmental impacts and prioritise infrastructure maintenance.

The LAP must address concerns about infrastructure, heritage preservation, and environmental assessments comprehensively. BME CDA emphasizes the importance of independent assessments and accountability.

In terms of wastewater discharge authorisation, BME CDA raises questions about infrastructure capacity, stormwater management, and pollution risks to Poulaphouca Reservoir. BME CDA highlights the need for misconnection assessments and condition surveys on ageing infrastructure.

Considering UÉ's projection of reduced Liffey water availability by 2050, BME CDA questions the sustainability of increased discharges into the Liffey catchment.. The association calls for a holistic approach to development, considering environmental impacts and the protection of Poulaphouca Reservoir.

BME CDA urges authorities to reconsider Blessington's growth given its environmental constraints and potential risks to water resources. BME CDA emphasizes the need for balanced development that prioritises environmental sustainability and community well-being.

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