

Lyndsey Blackmore

From: Cllr. Gerry Walsh
Sent: Tuesday 30 January 2024 11:51
To: Planning [REDACTED]
Subject: Greystones/ Delgany/ Kilcoole LAP submission.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The 2022 Census figures show the current population of the Greystones District at 30,352, an increase of 4041 (15%) from 2016.

The overall population of Greystones and District represents 20% of County Wicklow, up from 18%. The new Local Area Plan needs to focus on regeneration and address the evolving needs of communities, whilst prioritising the concept of healthy place making. The creation of employment opportunities using demographic profile projections and population growth with migration patterns , combined with with local education and training provisions ,addressing specific skills gaps , to promote a range of career pathways through traineeships / apprenticeships with local land enablers and supports is key to encouraging new employers to locate in the area, thus reversing the daily commute for many.

The development of the IDA site in Greystones as a media centre is vital to the long term future of the area , with supports being put in place via the County Wicklow Screen Strategy. There is also a requirement to ensure enough land is zoned to meet the projected future educational, community, sports and recreational uses to address to needs of the existing and future population, accommodating the level of envisaged future growth.

The continued improvement of local transport networks through new active travel schemes, Dart + upgrades, BusConnects local link services , are essential to creating a sustainable, quality environment .

The redeployment of Council owned lands adjacent to Greystones South Beach and Mill Road offer a unique opportunity to provide a range of uses that would benefit the community with added recreational an tourist facilities such as a new hotel.

The most recent census figures also indicate that the number of people aged 65 and over continues to grow , increasing by 27% to 23, 661 , with the total County population at 155,851. This demographic needs to be catered for in the Local Area Plan process in terms of the provision of health services / supports, public transport etc making a positive impact on daily lives.

New innovative housing models can enable more compact and adaptable forms of own door accommodation that would cater for a greater range of household types within towns, offering a mixed supply of private, affordable and social housing.

There is an opportunity to choose housing that is centrally located and appropriate to their needs, that can help older citizens to enjoy more active, healthy and socially connected lives, allowing them to age independently and comfortably within our community.

An assessment carried out by Wicklow County Council in November 2021 of Community and Recreational needs of the Greystones District concluded that the district is one of the fastest growing in Ireland with a high youth dependency and a high labour force participation. However it also found that the level of commuting on public transport to be relatively low with a considerable reliance on cars for mobility.

Dart + South, BusConnects Local Link and Park n Ride services are required to address this anomaly.

With the rapid population growth there is a deficit of facilities for teenagers and young adults, with a requirement for more public facilities, freely available and affordable. The ongoing maintenance of existing facilities was also highlighted for improvement. Recommendations from the assessment included the need to increase the number of recreational, sporting facilities and activities relative to the population increase with particular emphasis outside of Greystones with the need to develop a new large public park, whilst optimising the existing natural environment and scenic locations to provide greater outdoor recreational options.

An improvement in the public transport and accessibility options would compliment the overall recreational offering.

Also highlighted was the need to link the provision of services more robustly to planning policy, with community based projects being developed and in turn managed by local communities.

A recipient of a recent international LivCom award in 2021, a most liveable Community award, it is vital that the recent population growth of Greystones is matched by a growth in facilities and infrastructure going forward.

Gerry Walsh Cllr.



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Gerry Walsh Cllr.

Sent from my iPad

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