



# Variation No.6

Who are you:	Group
Name:	Enniskerry GAA Club
Reference:	VAR6-112200
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## **Submission on Proposed Variation No. 6 – Enniskerry GAA Club**

Enniskerry GAA Club welcomes the opportunity to make a submission on Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022–2028.

The Club notes that the proposed Variation revises the Core Strategy and associated housing targets in order to align with the National Planning Framework Housing Growth Requirements Guidelines (July 2025). While the Variation does not propose new zoning or settlement boundary extensions, it nonetheless has important implications for community infrastructure providers, including sporting organisations.

Enniskerry GAA is the principal provider of organised field sports in the Enniskerry area and serves not only the settlement itself but also a substantial surrounding rural hinterland. Any increase in housing targets or population projections for Enniskerry, even if modest in absolute terms, has a direct and cumulative impact on participation levels, particularly at juvenile level.

### **1. Population growth and participation demand**

Revised housing targets imply increased demand for sporting facilities. GAA participation is closely correlated with population growth, and increased residential development will place additional pressure on existing pitches and facilities.

### **2. Absence of parallel infrastructure provision**

While Proposed Variation No. 6 revises housing targets, it does not provide for corresponding assessment or delivery of sporting and recreational infrastructure. This creates a risk that population growth will outpace the capacity of existing community facilities.

### **3. Need for plan-led recognition of future capacity requirements**

It is important that the Development Plan framework explicitly recognises the need to protect, expand, or future-proof GAA facilities in settlements experiencing growth. Without such recognition at Core Strategy level, opportunities to plan for future pitch provision or facility expansion may be constrained.

Accordingly, Enniskerry GAA requests that Wicklow County Council:

- Acknowledge the role of local sports clubs as essential community infrastructure supporting revised housing targets;
- Ensure that population growth assumptions for Enniskerry are accompanied by policy support for the future expansion or enhancement of sporting facilities; and
- Confirm that community and recreational infrastructure needs will be addressed in parallel with revised housing targets through implementation, funding, and development contribution mechanisms.

This submission is made in a constructive spirit, with the objective of ensuring that population growth in Enniskerry is sustainable and supported by adequate community infrastructure.