



Variation No.6

Who are you:	Group
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Submission on Proposed Variation No. 6 – Wicklow County Development Plan 2022–2028

I wish to make a submission in respect of the proposal to vary the Core Strategy and Housing Policy of the adopted Wicklow County Development Plan 2022–2028. We fully recognise the significant housing need in County Wicklow and support the delivery of new housing developments that provide an appropriate mix of private, affordable, and social units. However, it is essential that any increase in housing supply is matched by corresponding investment in critical infrastructure and services.

1. Transport and Connectivity

There is growing concern that existing transport infrastructure in many towns and

villages is not keeping pace with population growth.

Arklow, in particular, requires additional housing, but current congestion levels—particularly when entering and exiting the town—are already at a standstill at peak times. Increasing population without addressing these issues will only worsen mobility and quality of life.

We strongly urge that the following be prioritised:

Measures to reduce M11 gridlock.

Progress on reinstating/advancing the Arklow to Dublin rail line, as current public transport options are inadequate for a growing commuter population.

Delivery of park-and-ride facilities and DART expansion to better integrate Wicklow towns with Dublin.

Provision of a second bridge and a third exit for Arklow to alleviate traffic pressure on existing routes.

2. Education Infrastructure

If housing numbers increase, there must be a parallel increase in school capacity. Additional school places—as well as investment in new or expanded school buildings—will be necessary to support a rising population.

3. Rural and Regional Roads

Investment in rural road networks is essential, particularly:

N81 safety improvements, which remain a long-standing and urgent need.

4. Environmental Considerations

We also ask that all new development be approached with strong regard for environmental protection. Increased construction must be balanced with safeguarding local ecosystems, biodiversity, and overall environmental sustainability.

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