



# Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	Private Individual
<b>Name:</b>	Danny Alvey
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Reference:</b>	WRLAP-112352
<b>Submission Made</b>	September 27, 2023 11:26 AM

## File

Danny Alvey Submission to Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan 2024  
Draft.docx \_1\_.pdf, 0.04MB

# Submission to Wicklow Town and Rathnew Local Area Plan 2024

Danny Alvey

- **Roads:** To facilitate development along the Hawkstown Road, the Ashtown Lane and Rockey Road (L5099), connecting from the Hawkstown Road to Junction 17 of the N11 needs to be upgraded urgently to a full two lane, 6m carriageway, preferably with cycle lanes and at least one footpath. This will ease traffic through Junction 16 and Rathnew and make accessing schools along the Hawkstown Road easier for those coming from outside of Wicklow Town.
- **Sport and Community Facilities:** The town currently does not have a large, central community centre (just two smaller ones with limited parking at the Assembly Hall and the Parochial Hall). The growing population of the town also needs another playground and more pitches and running tracks for sports. A central location along the Hawkstown Road should be zoned for such a significant all-in-one community centre with ample parking that could accommodate as many local sports as possible, community group meeting rooms and a theatre.
- **Shopping:** The amount of land outside of the main street zoned for shopping should be restricted to a minimum, otherwise the long-term viability of the main town centre as a shopping destination will be further undermined. Instead energy should be invested into concentrating shopping facilities here, enhancing this as a destination for visitors and considering more opportunities for pedestrianization.
- **Main street facades:** Some of the shops along the main street have beautiful, old-styled facades, when clustered in a row together, creates a great effect and attraction for the town. Some shops have gone in different design directions with their facades and when they are not consistent, this takes from the effect. A plan should be made with the Wicklow Chamber of Commerce for a preferred, historic design and as each shop is renovated in the future, grant aid should be given to those willing to use this uniform style. Over time this would make the main street look much more consistent and would help develop the town centre further as an attraction for residents and visitors.
- **Parking:** To facilitate the town centre as a car-free shopping destination, locations need to be identified and purchased for suitable multi-story car parking close to the main street.
- **Accessibility:** An accessibility assessment should be done in the town centre, residential areas and around the schools for people with a disability, wheelchair or young children in a pram. There has been a considerable increase in the vehicle traffic around some of the older parts of the town without a matched increase in safe pedestrian crossings.

- Harbour and Quays: This area is one of the most unique and scenic in the town. More zoning and support should be given to retail, hospitality and sport clubs to develop in this area, alongside the current port activities.
- Biodiversity: Urban landscapes do not naturally lend themselves to large habitat areas for wildlife but they can provide smaller habitats and, crucially, corridors linking areas around and throughout the town. Emphasis should be put on planting native hedgerows along all ring roads and on the boundaries of all new developments. This would significantly benefit local invertebrates, birds and smaller mammals. Areas of significant natural beauty and biodiversity benefit, such as the Leitrim River, the Murrough and the Black Castle should have a local Biodiversity Action Plan drawn up with a list of actions that can be taken to further improve these habitats, such as additional native tree planting, wildflower meadows and ponds.
- The Leitrim River: The trees on the steep bank of the west side of the Leitrim River between the Parnell Bridge and the Iron Bridge are a significant local biodiversity hotspot, with little egret and kingfisher spotted here, and should be protected from any future removal or development.
- Vaha Factory Site: This has been identified as an 'Opportunity Area' since I was a child. This should be considered as a location for a hotel and apartments complex as the town desperately needs more accommodation and a place to host community events. Or alternatively this could be purchased by the Council and used as a location to develop the aforementioned community centre, theatre and sports pitches.
- The Murrough: In addition to planned protection works in the form of rock armour continuing along the coast, consideration should be given to designated trails with damaged areas being netted off and restricted to the public to allow vegetation naturally regenerate and hold the remaining areas of coastal bank together.