

	Proposed Variation No. 7 to the Wicklow County Development Plan Submission Report
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Submission Details

Ref	VAR7-220846
Who Are You?	Private Individual
Name:	Rob O'Connor
Submitted Time:	September 16, 2026 10:30 PM

Proposed Variation Parts

Topic	Part 1: Proposed Variation to town / settlement zoning maps and, where relevant, proposed new or amended site specific policy objectives.
Submission	1. Level 4: Newtownmountkennedy

Topic	Part 2
Submission	Changes consequent to Chapter 3 (Core Strategy) of the County Development Plan

Topic	Part 3
Submission	2. C. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Write your observations here:

Newtownmountkennedy continues to experience significant residential growth without the corresponding investment in essential infrastructure and amenities. Despite extensive zoning and ongoing housing development, the town has been left behind in terms of public services and community facilities.

- Transport: There is no Local Link bus service, and the main Bus Éireann service is unreliable, leaving residents with poor public transport connectivity.
- Education: The primary school is still awaiting a new building, while the new Educate Together school remains in temporary prefabs. There is no secondary school planned for the area, even though land has been zoned. Instead, capacity is being increased at Coláiste Chraobh Abhann (CCA) rather than providing a dedicated school in Newtown.
- Community Facilities: The town lacks a public library and a full-time Garda station. Main Street is not fit for purpose and requires major improvement to support the growing population and local businesses.
- Childcare: Two crèches built within the Wicklow Hills development remain idle and unfit for use, representing wasted potential for much-needed childcare provision.
- Development Standards: The Wicklow Hills estate, now around ten years old, is still unfinished to a high standard. Tower Homes were permitted excessive compromises by the council, resulting in poor overall quality and incomplete amenities.

A major review is urgently needed to understand why Newtownmountkennedy has been consistently overlooked in funding, infrastructure, and amenity provision. Sustainable development must be matched by investment in transport, education, public services, and community facilities to ensure the town's growth benefits residents rather than burdens them.

