



# Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	G Kennedy
Reference:	DWTRLAP-152438
Submission Made	November 20, 2024 3:34 PM

## Topic

Rathnew Village Centre Strategy

## Submission

Submission to Object to Draft Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan: SLO4 Section

To Administration Officer - Rathnew Local Area Plan SL04 Section

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the designation of land under the SLO4 section of the draft Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan as suitable for residential development. This area is home to vital wildlife, including bats and other species, and borders the Broad Lough Nature Reserve, a protected habitat of significant ecological importance.

### Key Concerns:

**Impact on Biodiversity and Natural Habitats** The proposed development site provides a habitat for a range of wildlife, including bats, a species protected under EU law (Habitats Directive). This area also supports other flora and fauna that contribute to the local biodiversity. Development here would irreversibly damage these habitats, disrupt ecosystems, and threaten the survival of these species. Its proximity to Broad Lough amplifies the ecological risk, as the area functions as a natural buffer to the reserve.

### Increase in Surface Water Runoff

The introduction of impermeable surfaces, such as roads and buildings, will significantly increase surface water runoff. This not only heightens the risk of flooding but could also lead to the contamination of Broad Lough and surrounding water bodies. This is particularly concerning given the reserve's ecological sensitivity and the role it plays in maintaining water quality and biodiversity.

### Breakage of the Existing Green Belt

The proposed development would fragment an existing green belt that provides a natural corridor for wildlife and helps maintain the ecological balance of the region. Green belts are essential for reducing urban sprawl, preserving natural landscapes, and providing green spaces for local communities. Their loss would degrade the environment and diminish the area's overall sustainability.

### Alternative Solutions

I urge the council to reconsider the designation of this land for residential development. Instead, it should be preserved as a protected area to support wildlife and ensure the integrity of Broad Lough Nature Reserve. Priority should be given to identifying more suitable locations for development that do not have such significant environmental and ecological consequences.

## Conclusion

Development of the SLO4 area would have devastating environmental impacts, jeopardizing biodiversity, exacerbating water runoff issues, and fragmenting the green belt. I strongly urge the council to prioritize environmental conservation and reconsider this proposal to ensure a sustainable future for Wicklow Town and Rathnew.

Thank you for considering this submission.

G Kennedy  
Bellevue House  
Knockrobin  
Rathnew, Wicklow A67 C2Y7

## File

Rathnew Local Area Plan - SL04.docx, 0.01MB

Administrative Officer  
Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP (SL04)  
Planning Dept Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings, Station Road  
Wicklow town A67 FW96

Bellevue House  
Knockrobin  
Rathnew  
Wicklow A67 C2Y7  
19/11/2024

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