



Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	
Name:	Greystones Family Resource Centre
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Reference:	GDKLAP-094103
Submission Made	January 31, 2024 9:42 AM

Topic

Regeneration of Communities & Places - Healthy Placemaking - Urban Design - Opportunity Sites in Wicklow Town - Rathnew

Submission

see file attached

Topic

Economic Opportunity - Tourism - Shops & Services - Community Facilities

Submission

see file attached

File

Local Area Plan Submission 2024 from GFRC.pdf, 0.71MB



Submission to the Local Area Plan January 2024

Submission Title: Prioritisation of Community and Youth Facilities in zoning and development

Submitter's Name: Greystones Family Resource Centre

Date of Submission : 30th January 2024

Contact Information : coordinator@greystonesfrc.ie / 087 9176401

Summary :

At this stage of the local area planning process, we are asking for the retention of community spaces and that further community spaces and facilities are not only included but prioritised.

While the NPF recognises the need to provide for more inclusive communities through planning and development plan which means the provision of community facilities that are accessible to all, it is critical for the Greystones, Delgany and Kilcoole areas which have seen extensive residential development, that this does not remain a mere recognition.

The Regional Spatial Strategy directly identifies social infrastructure as an essential element of 'healthy placemaking' and that shared and co-location of facilities which align service provision and community participation are encouraged. The Community Facilities Hierarchy Model as outlined in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, is very clear that for population of 15,000-30,000 - community resource centres, youth centres, multi purposes community spaces are all facilities that are necessary in settlements according to their population range. We now know from Census 2022 that the merged population of Greystones, Delgany and Kilcoole stands at 28,479 which all falls under the Greystones MD area. The number of young people in the under 25 age group has increased by 17.5% in the ten years between 2011 – 2022, compared to overall county increase of 6%. Designated resources and supports for young people cannot be ignored in future planning for the area as the youth population is now 34% of the total population of the entire area.

Where we are conscious of the need for housing and development, as the only frontline service and funded community development organisation in the area, we can see that the increased population is bringing increased diversity which is positive but also brings increased



and diverse needs. If we want to sustain the Greystones, Delgany and Kilcoole communities as places where people want to live and where there is positive social cohesion, it is critical that community spaces are consciously included in planning for the area and that they remain owned by the community as opposed to being privatised.

If we want to ensure that the many new families that have come to live in the area are integrated and feel they are included in the wider community, allocation of community structures needs to be kept high on the agenda. This will be particularly relevant where there are many families with more complex needs and do not have the capacity to engage and participate. As we know from other areas in Ireland where there are higher levels of disadvantage, the inability to participate fully in local community can lead to disenfranchisement and this often leads to anti social activity.

We are inundated with people and local voluntary groups looking for somewhere to meet and also where rent isn't a barrier. As the only funded community development organisation in the area, we are paying huge rent in Charlesland. Our core funder Tusla have supported us in this, it cannot be sustained for much longer. A fit for purpose facility with an anchor tenant that would provide space and opportunities for broad community participation inclusive of a bespoke space for young people is what is needed and the zoning of areas for this and /or the repurposing of existing structures has to be prioritised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aine O'Connor', is written over a horizontal line.

On behalf of Greystones Family Resource Centre