



Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

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Topic

Compact Growth - Housing - Population Growth

Submission

Currently there is a large amount of development in the areas surrounding Marlton Road, Hawkstown Road and Rockey Road (Ballynerrin). While ideally located the transport links and infrastructure are under developed, poorly designed or in disrepair and not used.

In line with the current rate of housing development in the area (Meadow Hill...etc...) this needs to be improved upon to alleviate traffic congestion and provide viable transport options for residents new and old.

Topic

Economic Opportunity - Tourism - Shops & Services - Community Facilities

Submission

There is a massive shortfall in childcare facilities available in the area.

Currently despite having our now 5 month old baby on a waiting list for several area creches since they were still 8 months out from being born we still have been unable to secure a place for them.

This means that in April 2024 my wife will likely have to quit her job and we will be sacrificing over 60k per year in income, benefits and have less money to spend in local businesses. This also takes away taxes revenue from the exchequer which in turn (as a great many families are experiencing the same thing) will result in reduced public money being made available to Wicklow County Council.

The development of local facilities an amenities is non-existent compared to the ongoing rate of housing development. It's a bad joke.

Topic

Infrastructure - Sustainable Movement - Transportation

Submission

Hawkstown Road in particular is barely used at all, the pedestrian infrastructure is overgrown and is disrepair and the traffic lights in several places (straight road sections) are non-functional meaning you have to walk in some places over 500m in the wrong direction to cross the road.

There are no bus stops along the Hawkstown road (or anywhere bar the main town to Rathnew road in general). It is essential to create additional transport links to support the continued housing development in the area.

It should be made an immediate priority to expand the road infrastructure starting at Rockey road, continuing onto Ashtown lane and onto exit 17 of the M11. Currently this road is poorly constructed with piles of excess concrete along the edges, if you have to drive along the edge you will severely damage your car.

My suggested solution is that the portion of the road that is underdeveloped be expanded into a full size two lane national road with at least 1 side having a footpath installed but ideally two. Cat-eyes

should also be installed for increased safety at night.

I would also like to suggest that CCTV be installed along this road to catch the rampant fly tippers that traverse the area destroying the environment with their lazy, selfish actions.

Furthermore the traffic situation at the junction by the former Grand Hotel and O'Shea's Corner pub is dire.

Specifically the two most popular bus stops in the entire town are located on the Marlton Road side of the junction almost directly opposite each other just through the traffic lights. This piece of road has now double yellow lines and a solid white dividing line. The result is that when a bus comes to either stop all traffic for one side comes to a standstill, if both bus stops have busses at the same time then the road is completely blocked.

This is further compounded by people parking cars all over the road and footpaths further blocking traffic and forcing pedestrians onto the road. This is an extremely dangerous situation.

My proposal for remediation is two fold. Firstly adjacent properties on either side of the road (small carpark on the O'Shea's side, large carpark on the Grand Hotel side) should be the subjects of compulsory purchase orders so that dedicated (recessed from the road) bus stops can be constructed to resolve the bus blocking issues. Secondly the entire road should have double yellow lines added as there is no good reason to require parking on this street.

As a possible third fix, if the large section of overgrown car park and hillside to the rear of the Grand Hotel carpark could be purchased then this could be made into a small public "park and ride" style car park to facilitate use of the newly developed buss stops/lanes/terminus as well as a parking spot for people collection bus passengers.

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