



## Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	Group
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<b>Reference:</b>	WRLAP-212416
<b>Submission Made</b>	September 26, 2023 9:27 PM

### File

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Wicklow Town Team Brochure 2023.pdf, 6.18MB

## **Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan Submission from Wicklow Town Team**

### **Housing – Population – Compact Growth**

WCC indicate that 1500 new homes are required by 2031. Wicklow Town Team suggests that some of these should be located at Marlton/Ashtown/Hawkstown on Port Access Road.

A green belt must be maintained between Wicklow Town and Rathnew.

Provision must be made to ensure existing services can be extended to cope with increasing population e.g. Sports & Educational facilities, Doctors/Dentists, Water & Sewage.

Following sites should be redeveloped to maximise opportunities – Post Office at the Mall, Courthouse, Vaha Site, Fernhill/former Girl Guide house, empty site where premises demolished recently on Main Street/Fitzwilliam Square ( between former chemist & Vape Shop).

### **Regeneration of Community & Places – Urban Design – Opportunity Sites**

Include a policy for shopfront design.

Provide a permanent one way system on Main Street with proper designed parking & pedestrian areas.

Protect the Murrough from complete destruction by implementing a Coastal Protection Scheme. This great natural amenity is unique to Wicklow used by the whole community.

Enhance the east coast with the proposed Wicklow to Greystones Greenway, this will deliver economic, health & well being benefits for all of wider community.

Develop a modern urban design for town centre ( similar to Westport design by Simon Wall).

Develop multi storey car park at Abbey Street/AIB..provide new car park at Quarantine Hill ( Kanes old yard).

Develop a regeneration plan for South Quay...home to many new businesses.

Provide for a multi purpose community centre...at Assembly Hall.

Revisit 2008 Public Realm Plan and implement findings ....still relevant

### **Economic Opportunity – Tourism – Shops & Services – Community Facilities**

Provide for Hotel on old Vaha site.

Provide basic toilet facilities at the Murrough/Beaches/Black Castle.

Provide for upgrading of visitor experience at Black Castle...virtual reality to show original castle.

Ensure completion of development of Abbey Grounds.

## **Heritage – Biodiversity – Green Infrastructure – Climate Action – Energy**

Increase DART/Train services from Wicklow up to 12/15 times per day to reduce car dependency.

Provide Bus corridor on M11/N11 from Wicklow to Dublin.

Provide Park & Ride at Rathnew or Beehive exits served by small feeder buses.

Stop buses going through town centre.. be the first pedestrianised town.

Iconic courthouse building continuing to fall into disrepair..... currently closed for 13 years with no decision on future use. Engage with Court Services/OPW/Dept. Justice to ensure proper maintenance..get date for recommencement of courts or if not WCC take ownership and develop for alternative uses e.g. gallery, museum, use court rooms for performances.

Old Post Office..another government owned building falling into disrepair since 2018. Should be redeveloped for use by community.

Lots of features with protected status...ensure that they are preserved.

Climate impacts on Murrough must be addressed.

Enhance Bachelors Walk.

Trees in Abbey Grounds, Church Banks, Fernhill and behind Trinity Motors must be preserved.

Provide more green corridors e.g. riverwalk behind old Veba factory.

Ensure adequate drainage with all new developments to prevent flooding e.g. recent incidents of sever flooding in Rathnew....this is a new issue...no flooding here previously.

Murrough Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is in danger of being wiped out, immediate action needed to ensure it survives.

Greenway Wicklow to Greystones ....must be designed to protect SAC .

## **Infrastructure – Sustainable Travel**

Improve Trains/DART/Bus Lanes/Park & Ride/Pedestrianisation.

Review of Local Link Service....very irregular and unreliable since route changed Arklow/Sallins.

Safer cycle lanes...off road.

Footpaths in very poor condition around town...improvements needed.

## **Proposed Projects & Projects in Progress**

Backlighting Historical Sites

East Coast Greenway from Wicklow Town to Greystones

Wicklow Courthouse...Continue lobbying to re-open or make a decision of future use...hand over to WCC for community uses.

South Quay Connectivity – Funding secured to improve connectivity via Salthouse Lane, Quarantine Hill, Doctor's Steps.

Pilgrim Walk – Working with local representatives/Coillte to develop walk from Wicklow to Glendalough. Route agreed and supported by Wicklow Outdoor Recreational Committee.

Running Track – working with Inbhear Dee AC and Wicklow MD to develop running track.

Pump Bike Track at the Murrough – working with Wicklow MD and local enthusiasts to develop bikd tracj adjacent to skate park.

Façade painting of premises at Upper & Lower Mall – working with Colourtrend paint specialists to develop painting scheme to improve exterior of buildings.

The background of the image shows a scenic view of Wicklow town, Ireland, with a stone bridge over a river and a hillside of houses in the distance. The logo for the Wicklow Town Team is overlaid on the image. The word 'WICKLOW' is written in a large, white, stylized font with a wavy underline. Below it, the words 'TOWN TEAM' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# WICKLOW

TOWN TEAM



**MAKING WICKLOW TOWN A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY**

[wicklowtown.ie](http://wicklowtown.ie)

### **What is Wicklow Town Team:**

Wicklow Town Team was established in 2017 with a mission to make Wicklow Town a better place to Live, Work and Play. The Town Team initiative is to encourage more collaboration, communication and cooperation between the Council, business and the wider community and to develop one voice from one team for each town. To date we have received over €700,000k in grant aid towards projects for Wicklow Town. WTT is a company limited by Guarantee (CLG) and made up of volunteers from the local community.

### **Who are Wicklow Town Team:**

Chairperson – **Dave Shannon**

Secretary – **David Porter**

Financial Officer – **Fiona Doyle**

Tourism & Hospitality – **Pascal Burke**

East Coast Greenway – **Ciarán Lally**

Public Realm & Heritage – **Myra Porter**

Arts & Culture – **Evelyn Murray**

Environment / Sustainable Energy – **Andrew Lawless**

Wicklow Municipal District Cathaoirleach – **Paul O'Brien**

Outgoing Wicklow Municipal District Cathaoirleach – **Gail Dunne**

Wicklow Municipal District Town Manager: **Breda McCarthy**

Wicklow Municipal District Administrator: **Joan Sinnott**

Wicklow County Council Advisor: **Christine Flood**

The above steering committee manages groups of volunteers who work on various projects.

**If you have some spare time and would like to get involved, please sign up today or if you do not have the time but have an idea for a project, please let us know.**

### **Projects Completed:**

**East Coast Greenway from Wicklow Town to Greystones Feasibility Study** – Carried out by Atkins and showed several potential routes.

**Heritage Walk** – created a 24-location historical walk through the town. It covers many historical stories and landmarks, bringing locals and tourists on a journey through time with interactive visual retelling at various stops. Walking tours available every Saturday at 11am from Fitzwilliam Square from late Spring to early Autumn.

**Outdoor Dining in the Market Square** – Awnings, Tables, Lighting and Heating installed.

### **WicklowTown.ie** –

A website highlighting all Wicklow Town has to offer.

**Féile Chill Mhantáin** – A three-day Irish Festival (Music, Dance, Yoga, Literature and more).

**A consumer and retail survey** – Carried out by iReach Insights to improve the retail experience and gain insight into consumer and retailer perceptions.

**Parking and Traffic flow recommendations report** – Sent to Wicklow Municipal District (WMD) with some recommendations agreed and completed such as signage for long term car park and the trialling of a one-way system.

**Abbey Grounds** – Brought previously developed plans by Wicklow Parish for the Abbey Grounds to Wicklow County Council (WCC) and worked to ensure a leasing agreement with the various stakeholders which has resulted in Fáilte Ireland funding this project.

**Feasibility study for a Youth Theatre in Wicklow Town** – this identified the Assembly Hall as a credible site. Discussions ongoing with WMD.

**Bus corridor from Wicklow to Dublin and a Park & Ride** – Proposals were brought to the National Transport Authority (NTA) and it has been agreed and subject to finance, TII, NTA & WCC will proceed with this project. Proposals from WTT for a Park & Ride are also being considered by all stakeholders.

**Codling Wind Park** – Worked closely with Codling Wind Park to show the benefits of Wicklow Port as a base. Codling have announced that Wicklow Port is their preferred location for an Operation and Maintenance base.

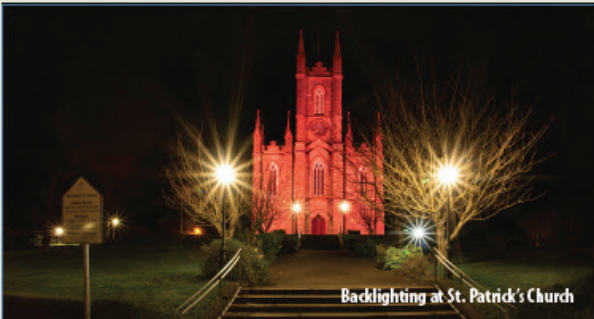




Opening of The Heritage Walk by Minister Humphreys



Outdoor Dining in the Market Square



Backlighting at St. Patrick's Church



Proposed Greenway between Wicklow Town and Greystones

### Projects in Progress:

Backlighting Historical Sites – Funding secured for the backlighting of the historical sites in 2018 and works are underway.

### East Coast Greenway from Wicklow Town to Greystones

– Continue lobbying for funding for this project with the various Government and local representatives which helped WCC in securing substantial funding for an Environmental Impact Study. (Report due Autumn 2023)

### Wicklow Courthouse

– Lobbying for the reopening of the Wicklow Courthouse or a decision on its future. This has been ongoing with various Government departments and our public representatives for 18 months. Some exterior cleaning and painting have been completed by the OPW.

### South Quay Connectivity

– Secured substantial funding for connectivity between the Main Street and South Quays (Dr Steps / Salt house Lane, Quarantine Hill). Work to commence in Spring 2023.

### Pilgrim Walk

– Working with Councillor Mary Kavanagh and Cormac McGrane on a pilgrim walk from Wicklow to Glendalough. Details of the route have been presented to WCC and County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee (WORC). Work has commenced with WORC on finalising plans for the walk.

### Murrough Running Track

– Continue working with WMD for a running track on the Murrough at the request of Indhear Dee Athletics Club. This can be used as a lakeside walk by the general public. Using the natural terrain with no construction work required.

**HELP MAKE WICKLOW TOWN  
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK & PLAY  
JOIN US TODAY**



## Upcoming Projects:

**New Members** – A concerted drive to recruit new members to ensure a broad cross community representation. We are looking for Team Leaders and Team Members of all ages and backgrounds.

**Pump Bike Track on the Murrough** – Project approved in principle and awaiting pending licence and planning.

**East Coast Greenway** – Continue to support WCC in the provision of a Greenway from Wicklow to Greystones. Once EIS is completed and if signed off by TII, this project should be brought to planning stage.

**Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy** – A submission has been presented to WCC, Minister Harris and KWETB to develop a centre of excellence for sustainable energy and also an opportunity for Marine Based Training.

**Street Painting Scheme** – Several years ago a palette was created for the main street through Wicklow District & Chamber of Commerce but due to lack of funding at the time the project did not progress. This project is at a very early stage, if approved, funding streams will then be explored by WTT.

**Town Gateways (Entrances to the town)** - Improve the Gateways into the town e.g., Flowerbeds, artistic installations etc.

**St. Patrick** – Develop St Patricks association with Wicklow Town. Work has started on this proposal by the tourism and hospitality group. It has the potential to be a strong visitor attraction for the town.

**Irish Coast Guard Rocket Cart** – Currently housed at Wire Ropes, it is a priority for WTT and Councillor Paul O'Brien to secure funding to find a suitable home for the Rocket Cart so it can go on public display.

*The Town Team could not carry out the work outlined without the support of WMD and WCC for which we are indebted and grateful. We would also wish to acknowledge the funding streams at national and local level, Wicklow Partnership (LEADER), Department of Rural and Community Development (Town & Village Renewal) and Fáilte Ireland.*



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