Variation No.6

Who are you:	Private Individual
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Reference:	VAR6-205905
Submission Made	January 15, 2026 9:08 PM

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- Chapter 1 – Proposed Variation No. 6

Write your observations here:

To the Chief Executive and Members of Wicklow County Council,

I wish to make a formal submission in relation to Proposed Variation No. 6 to the Wicklow County Development Plan.

This submission relates specifically to the village of Enniskerry and the urgent need to ensure that future planning policy protects its unique landscape setting, heritage value and community character for generations ahead.

Enniskerry is not a standard growth settlement. It is a historic estate village, located within a valley landscape of exceptional scenic quality, framed by the Powerscourt Demesne, the Wicklow Mountains and multiple designated natural heritage areas. Its physical form, scale and identity are fundamental to its value as a place to live, to visit and to invest in sustainably.

While the stated intent of Proposed Variation No. 6 is to align housing targets with

national guidance, it is essential that this process does not place indirect pressure on villages such as Enniskerry to absorb growth that would irreversibly damage their character and long term viability.

I respectfully request that Wicklow County Council use the opportunity presented by this variation to explicitly recognise Enniskerry as a place requiring enhanced protection rather than intensified development.

In this context, I propose that the Council commit to the following actions.

First, that Enniskerry be formally recognised and protected under the principles of the European Landscape Convention. The village and its setting meet the core objectives of the Convention, including the protection of landscapes shaped by the interaction of people and nature over time. Adoption of this framework would ensure that future planning decisions are landscape led and place focused, rather than solely driven by numerical housing targets.

Second, that Wicklow County Council support and pursue Fáilte Ireland Destination Town status for Enniskerry, formally recognising it as a heritage village. Enniskerry already functions as a tourism destination, a film location and a gateway to the Wicklow Mountains, yet it remains underfunded, under managed and vulnerable to piecemeal change. Destination Town designation would allow for proper visitor management, public realm investment and sustainable economic development that strengthens the local community rather than displacing it.

Third, that the Council initiate an expansion of the Record of Protected Structures within Enniskerry, including the consideration of additional buildings, boundary treatments, stone walls, historic approaches and key townscape features. This would reflect the true extent of the village's architectural and cultural heritage and provide clarity and certainty for both residents and developers.

Finally, I request a comprehensive review of the Enniskerry Local Area Plan, rewritten around the principle of place protection. Any future plan should prioritise village scale, design quality, heritage conservation, landscape sensitivity and community cohesion. Growth, where appropriate, should be modest, carefully located and of a standard that enhances rather than erodes the character of the

village.

Enniskerry has the potential to remain a beautiful, living village that supports its community, contributes to the county's tourism offering and protects its natural and built heritage. Without a clear policy shift towards protection and stewardship, that potential is at serious risk.

I ask that these matters be fully considered as part of Proposed Variation No. 6 and that Wicklow County Council take a proactive leadership role in safeguarding Enniskerry for future generations.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Mayne
Enniskerry Village

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