



## Draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP Submission - Report

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### File

Wicklow -Rathnew Development Plan 2025.pdf, 0.83MB

## **RE: Draft Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025**

I wish to raise a formal objection & strongly oppose to the RN2 – New Residential – Priority 2 SLO4.

I am a resident of Knockrobin and I have first hand witnessed the environmental impact that the residential areas of Tinakilly Park & the housing on Hawkstown road have had on wild life in the area. It would have been common to spot badgers, squirrels, rabbits, foxes, hedgehogs and even deer in the Knockrobin area late at night scurrying across the laneways from field to field, however in the last number of years the sightings have become more and more infrequent. Prior to Tinakilly park development, I never saw a rabbit or a fox in our garden, however, we now often see rabbits & foxes in our garden during the day as their homes are being destroyed and there is less remote fields and wooded areas for them.

Wicklow Town and Rathnew village are now one big town and the infrastructure and services is diabolical. The town is losing its character and becoming solely a commuter town to Dublin with no other services.

There is no big employers in the town meaning a lot of people commute to Dublin everyday. Of my friends and family over 50% travel to Dublin for work. The transport is not sufficient, with buses taking over 1.5 hours to get to city centre. There is no specified Bus lane on the N11 so the buses are caught in rush hour traffic meaning there is zero incentive to take public transport. The report speaks for itself with 64.5% of the town driving for work. There is 6 trains from Wicklow town to Dublin everyday, with carriages full to the brim meaning people are standing for the whole journey. The train tracks are slowly going to be eroded away as the murrugh was never protected efficiently. Not to mention the N11 itself is a carpark every morning and with a cost of living crisis, no jobs in the town, people are in despair. Before more houses are built the transport systems need a major overhaul.

Hundreds upon hundreds of homes are being built and there is nowhere in the town to buy a new mattress for these homes, a new wardrobe? A washing machine? Any electronics? Any bed clothes? baby clothes? You can't buy an underwear in the town!

More facilities need to be provided for the town, for example Arklow town has Dunne Stores, Tesco Extra, TK Maxx, Morgan Doyles, Halpins, Bolands, Big Employers such as Servier, Sigma and Nua. Arklow is of similar population to Wicklow and Rathnew.

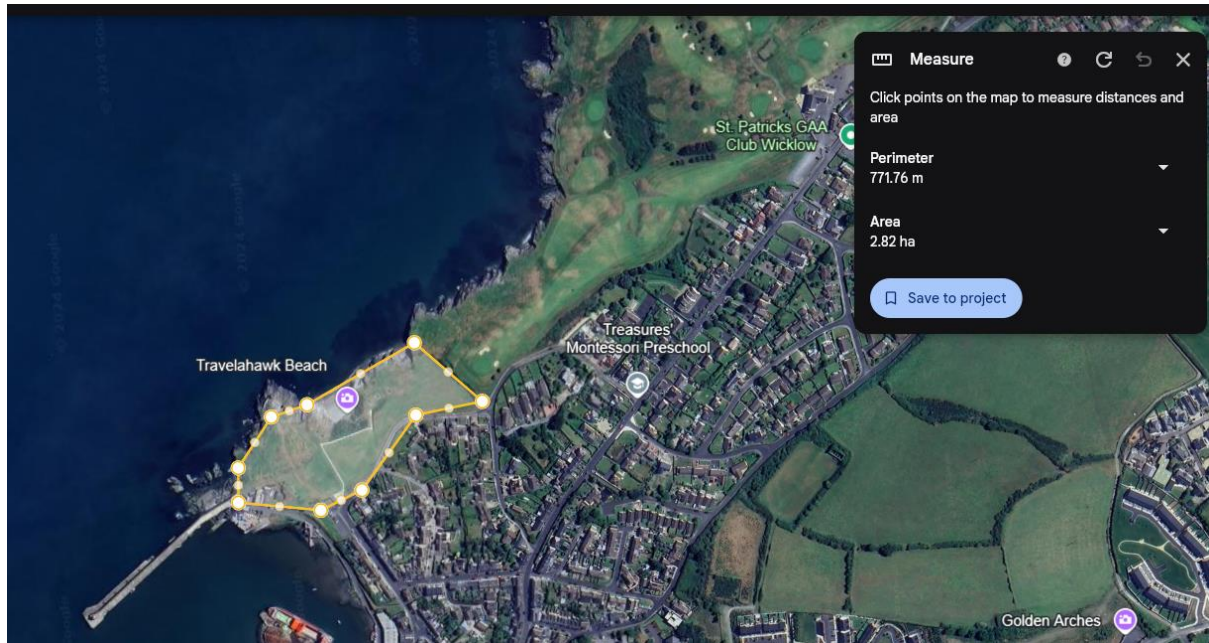
Carlow Town has Dunnes, Tesco Extra, Penneys, Homestore and More, Currys PC world, EZ Living, Woodies, The range

Gorey has Dunnes, Tesco Extra, Redmond Electrical, Dominic Smiths, Chadwicks.

The towns sporting facilities is also at breaking point. Sports is at the heart of most towns in Ireland and it is a great way to build community and integrate people into the area. Wicklow town as the county town has 1 full sized GAA pitch, with thousands of potential members this is not good enough. More thought and development should be put into sporting facilities so that there is sufficient space provided. Even the area at SLO4 could be used as ground for sporting facility as it is in the middle of Wicklow and Rathnew.

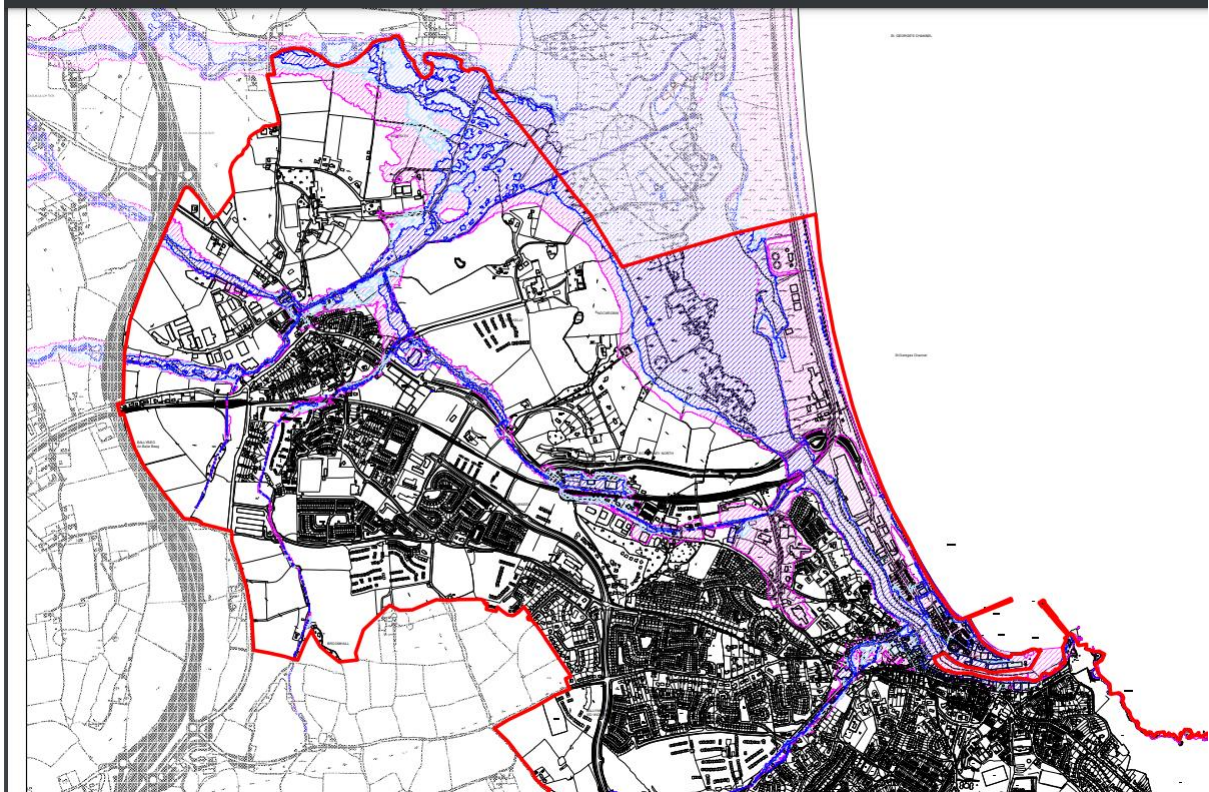
Inbhear Dee Athletic club has been advocating for a Sports facility for decades, they are running in car parks and on roads. As mentioned, some of the SLO areas should be reconsidered for sporting areas.

Wicklow Town and Rathnew is also lacking in open green areas for families. The murrrough was once a great area for families but unfortunately has been eroded away due to lack of foresight or ignorance to climate change. A park of substantial size should be developed to allow families space to be outdoors. Crokagh Park in Clondalkin is a great example of a specified built park to accommodate the surrounding residential areas. Crokagh Park is 296 Acres/ 120 Hectares. This is the appropriate size given the amount of housing that has been built and is going to be built in Wicklow. Opposed to the 2.82 hectare of Public open green space in the Town currently.



Not to mention the climate crisis, the 2019 flood risk assessment showed that the potential for flooding will be at the foot of SLO4, as shown with the murrrough erosion, flooding and storms are bigger, stronger and more frequent than ever and flooding is a major risk. The fields in SLO4 are subject to marshy soft land and is often flooded after big spouts of rain. The Below flood map shows that there is a potential for flooding to completely consume the murrrough area which would mean that the sea would be washing up to the doors of new residential area.

What is the point of building houses in an area with this risk as it will cause major difficulty for future residents and result in major costs.



I think the Wicklow and Rathnew area is a beautiful place to live, however I think more appropriate plans need to be taken to develop the town into its own hub with shops and employment and not relying on other areas such as Dublin for this. There is a huge workforce in Wicklow and Rathnew aswell as surrounding areas such as Glenealy, Ashford and Rathdrum which would all benefit from larger employers in the town.

Thank you for taking time to read my submission.

Melissa