



Draft Wicklow Rathnew Draft LAP Amendment Stage Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Cian O'Faolain
Reference:	DWTRLAP-230700
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Topic

LAP - Proposed Material Amendments No 1 Submission

Submission

Please see submission below

Topic

LAP - Proposed Material Amendments No 26 Submission

Submission

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Objection to SLO-9 – Glebe / Fernhill House Lands in relation to Proposed Material amendment 1 & 26.

I'm writing to object to the proposed development of lands at Glebe (SLO-9), which includes parts zoned for residential use, natural areas, and community/education purposes, including Fernhill House.

Here are my main concerns:

1. Loss of Community Space

These lands were originally set aside for schools or community use — something our growing town and area urgently needs. Local schools are already full, and this land has been identified as a possible site for future educational facilities. Giving it over to housing now would be short-sighted.

2. Unclear Community Benefits

The plan mentions bringing Fernhill House back into community use before housing can be occupied, but there's no clear plan for how this will actually happen. Without a concrete commitment, there's a risk the community will lose out while housing goes ahead.

3. Protecting Fernhill House and Its Natural Surroundings

Fernhill House is a valuable part of the local heritage and could be restored as a community hub — such as a youth centre or arts space. It sits on land that also includes protected trees and important wildlife habitats. Development in this area risks damaging both the character of the site and the natural environment around it. Any future use should respect and protect the house and its setting, rather than prioritizing housing at their expense.

5. Traffic and Safety in Glebemount

Plans to link Friarshill and the R750 with a walking/cycling route could push extra traffic through Glebemount Estate, which isn't designed for that. This would raise safety issues and impact quality of life for residents.

I respectfully request that:

- The land remains fully zoned for community and education use.
- The site continues to be considered for future school needs.
- Any plans for Fernhill House are community-led and clearly defined.
- Glebemount is excluded from pedestrian/cycling link proposals.

This land is one of the few remaining opportunities to deliver real community infrastructure in Wicklow. Once it's gone, we won't get it back.

Yours sincerely,
Cian Ó Faoláin

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