

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Report

Please complete and return to countywicklowppn@gmail.com within one week after each meeting.

Name of Committee: Planning SPC

Name of Representative: Joan Campbell

Date of Meeting Attended: 20th July 2020 (First Meeting for 2020)

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th November 2019 were agreed and signed off.

2. Forward Planning Update.

Sorcha Walsh gave update on new County Development Plan

There have been workshops for elected members to explain process and strategy

The Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received from the public has been completed and is published online.

The Report includes a Core Strategy that seeks to comply with The National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and Ministerial Guidelines.

Strategy aims to direct where growth should take place. Apart from Bray and Wicklow town no settlement in the county should be targeted for growth in excess of 30% from 2016 population levels.

Some Elected members very unhappy with what they feel is the aim to limit growth in certain locations; for example, feel that places like Greystones growing more than Blessington.

One elected member queried whether conditions in planning permissions would be the right way to effect the changes required to address Climate Change. Robustly rejected by the planner. Planner queried how such conditions might be enforced and said measures to address Climate Change should come from National Policy and Building Regulations. Heat Pumps; Solar Panels etc Sorcha mentioned that Charging Points for electric cars could be provided for in planning.

3 . Development Contribution Scheme

The Contributions and levies charged to people who obtain planning permission to build are used to provide infrastructure, e.g. roads, footpaths and lighting etc

The money collected is not spent in the area where it is collected; for example, hundreds of houses being built in Delgany but the money will not be spent in Delgany and just because planning permission is granted for a house in a rural setting or in a small village does not mean the planning levy will be spent there either.

Agreed it would help if there was something in writing to show where and how the money is spent.

Planner very opposed to reducing the amount of the levy

There are different rates

Government ordered a review/reduction in 2013 in order to encourage building

4 Planning Files and Data Privacy

The Chairman queried how the law on Data Protection affects the ability of an elected member to inspect a planning file. In June 2017 a Protocol was agreed that written permission is required from all relevant planning applicants indicating that representations may be made on their behalf by a named elected member or members and that they can view the personal data (including reports) on the file. (Elected Members cannot view or be advised of progress on files without the written consent of the planning applicants.)

Therefore the driver in this procedure is the applicant.