

12<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Local Property Tax Consultation  
c/o Finance Department  
Wicklow County Council  
County Buildings  
Wicklow Town



To Whom it May Concern

Co Wicklow PPN welcomes the opportunity for members to be consulted in relation to setting the local adjustment factor for the Local Property Tax, however at this point in time we don't feel we have enough information about how the Local Property Tax benefits communities to facilitate a consultation with our members and make an informed submission.

The Wicklow County Council website informs us that the Local Property Tax helps to fund council services such as "libraries, public lighting, road maintenance, housing services, fire services, supporting community initiatives, beach management and tourism development initiatives" which are all important community services. However it is not clear what the total expected revenue might be, if the total revenue remains in the county, if there is a local geographical spread of revenue, or what the criteria and process is for allocating the revenue to services.

The Wicklow County Council website goes on to inform us "If the rate (LPT) is reduced and funding is not available to replace this reduction, then a reduced level of income available to the council will limit the range and extent of services and support that can be provided. If the rate is increased, then an increased level of income available to the council will increase the capacity to deliver services and supports". Consultations with member groups tell us that services in the community need to be increased; however, without clear information on any direct benefit to communities we don't think that we can facilitate our members to develop a position one way or the other.

We would however like to highlight that member groups that engage particularly with older and vulnerable members of society have reported their concerns that the Local Property Tax does not consider the homeowners ability to pay increased taxes. Those struggling to maintain their mortgage payments would also find any increase an added hardship.

Co Wicklow PPN would like to facilitate an information meeting at some point in the near future that would help our members understand the different revenue streams available to the local authority, how they are spent, and what the direct benefits are to the communities on the ground. We hope that you might consider supporting us in this and we will be in touch with you about this again soon.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the Secretariat  
Co Wicklow PPN



c/o CEART, Crinion Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow.

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