



Submission to:
The Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

By
County Wicklow Public Participation Network

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Introducing County Wicklow Public Participation Network

County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) was established in July 2014 under the directive of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and in accordance with legislation in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Section 46). Public Participation Networks were established to be an independent structure that would become the main link through which local authorities connect with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in a process to facilitate communities to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system.

Co Wicklow PPN has 377 diverse member groups, some of these groups are networks in their own right. PPN representatives serve as a voice for the community on structures including: the Local Community Development Committee; all of the Wicklow County Council Strategic Policy Committees; Wicklow County Childcare Committee; Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee; Co Wicklow Local Sports & Recreation Partnership; Wicklow County Tourism Board; Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre, County Wicklow Partnership, South East Fisheries & Local Action Group, Ring a Link and Co Wicklow Joint Policing Committee. PPN Representatives strive to ensure that the needs of the community sector are prioritised within local policy processes.

Supporting Engagement with The Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

Towards the end of June 2021 Co Wicklow PPN produced a Guide to support people to access and make a submission to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027 with an accompanying video (see here: [final-guide-document.pdf \(countywicklowppn.ie\)](#) . The video has had 71 views (as at 3 Aug 2021). Immediately following this we produced another video "The Draft Wicklow County Development Plan Consultation Hub Explained" (see here: [The Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 Consultation Hub explained - YouTube](#)) . This video has had 65 views (as at 3 Aug 2021).

Consultation with Communities

This submission is based on our Co Wicklow PPN June Plenary consultation, additional responses through our survey, and our Vision for Community Wellbeing Consultations. To view the full details of the Community Wellbeing Consultations please view the ["What We Heard"](#) documents from each of the Co Wicklow 5 MDs on our website www.countywicklowppn.ie

Please note that there were many cross-cutting issues and suggestions across the Municipal Districts and we have identified where this has happened.

The Secretariat of Co Wicklow is grateful to all those who contributed to this submission.

A County Wicklow PPN Plenary (Members Meeting) took place online using the Zoom platform on the 30th June 2021. During the meeting participants were invited to participate in a poll about accessing and making a submission to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan. This poll was carried on into an online survey and ran until 5pm on Wednesday 7th July. Forty-two responses in total provided the following information

Q: How did you hear about the public consultation on the County Development Plan?	
Through the PPN	60%
Other	8%
On social media	10%
In the Newspaper	8%
I didn't know that there is a public consultation on the County Development Plan	14%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: 7 people reported hearing about the public consultation from multiple sources (all those reporting multiple sources included "through the PPN" as one of the sources. 	

Q: How was your experience in accessing the County Development Plan?	
I haven't tried to access the plan yet, but I will soon	35.6%
I used the PPN guide to access the plan	31.1%
I accessed the plan online easily	17.8%
I accessed the plan online with difficulty	4.4%
I couldn't find the plan online	4.4%
I accessed the plan at the Municipal District Office/County Buildings	2.3%
I have no interest in the County Development Plan	4.4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: 3 people responded with multiple answers 	

Q: Will the current pandemic restrictions make it more difficult to access & engage with the County Development Plan?	
Yes, I think it will	62.4%
I don't know if it will or not	19%
No, I don't think it will	28.6%

Q: Does running the consultation in the summertime make it more difficult to access & engage with the County Development Plan?	
Yes, I think it will	42.9%
I don't know if it will or not	26.2%
No, I don't think it will	31%

Q: Has enough time been allowed for people to access & contribute to the County Development Plan?	
Yes, I think so	38.1%
I don't know	21.4%
No, I think there should be an extension to the consultation	40.5%

*Note: A two-week extension for the public consultation on the Draft County Development Plan was announced three weeks after the Co Wicklow PPN poll closed.

Throughout, 2018, Co Wicklow PPN consulted community groups across the 5 Municipal Districts of Co Wicklow, asking them “What is your vision for community wellbeing for this and future generations?” We asked them to consider this question under the following headings:

- Environment & Sustainability
- Health (physical & mental)
- Work, Economy, & Resources
- Social & Community Development
- Participation, Democracy & Good Governance
- Values, Culture & Meaning



The responses we received were documented and are available to download from our website: www.countywicklowppn.ie (under the representation tab) . We ran 11 workshops, 5 online consultations and accepted 2 submissions in total. The consultations facilitated the development of an overarching vision for each Municipal District along with community visions and high-level goals under each heading. The county vision was developed in the same way.

We include some of the wishes and suggestions that were raised the most in the table below. We have attached these to the chapters of the County Development Plan they primarily relate to, and then we have highlighted the cross cutting links to other chapters .

(We have identified the MDs as follows: A = Arklow, Ba = Baltinglass, Br = Bray, G = Greystones and W = Wicklow).

Chapter	Proposals for Land Use & Development	MD
2 (7)	All development must be inclusive and accessible to all citizens	G, Br
	For Travellers to be included and considered in all aspects of the plan. All developments should be carried out with consultation at every stage of the process, with prospective residents and with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.	W, Br
	Every policy and decision must be environmentally & accessibility proofed	W, Br
	Permanent space for the Bray Travellers Community Development Group to be included in this plan	Br
4 (2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11,)	More schools	G
	Bring people back into the towns & villages to live, work, learn, play and shop locally	W

5 (2)	Towns & villages must be more self-autonomous Placemaking, keep it local, nurturing communities	G, Br A
6 (2)	A holistic housing for life approach must be implemented with more sheltered/supported housing facilities being available to support independent living Establish a Traveller specific tenancy sustainment service The plans for development made under the 2019-2024 Wicklow Traveller Accommodation Programme should be included in the County Development Plans as targets, with suitable land identified	G, A, Br Br, W Br, W
7 (2,4,5, 18)	Community space, buildings, community gardens & allotments	Ba, W, Br
8	Preserve, maintain, and develop our built heritage More centres to promote our heritage	W, A Br
9	More local training and employment hubs needed Attract digital industry & educate young people to feed it. More digital hubs	G A
11 (2,7,9)	Space is needed for shared community areas, buildings, and outside spaces, including youth facilities More hotels are needed to attract foreign and local tourism as well as attracting large corporate events Community Theatre & Arts Centre Community sports centre & general facilities for all groups Outdoor exercise equipment, public parks, & sensory gardens	G, Br G W, A W Ba
12 (2, 3,5,15, 16,)	Increased electric charging points. Better transport links to decrease car dependency) Better public transport, safer roads, lights, speed ramps	G W, Br

	Sustainable transport, public & affordable, as well as increased cycleways Better transport connectivity	A Ba
13	Better water quality	A
15	Keep & increase the capacity of our recycling centres	A, Br
16 (2,3,5,9, 10,12,15 ,17)	More energy efficient towns & villages Local community energy base and more development of green energy Better broadband infrastructure	G W Ba
17 (2,3)	More use of the natural environment to combat Climate Change	A
18 (2,5,6,11)	More green spaces needed within housing developments Conserve & protect what we have e.g. The Murrough & Cliff Walk More community space for communal/access to local food growing including allotments, orchards, city farms and bee hives Good use of natural resources for environmental sustainability, health & wellbeing	G W W, Ba, Br Ba
19 (2, 17)	Provision of sea bins Include marine life/environment within natural heritage and biodiversity actions Support & develop the local fishing industry	G G A

Co Wicklow PPN hopes that this submission is useful to Wicklow County Council in the further development of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

The Sustainable Development Goals

The Global Goals, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are a **universal plan of action for people and planet** to be achieved by the year 2030. These 17 goals aim to end poverty, combat climate change and ensure that we p13leave peaceful, just and equal societies for future generations.

These goals are **universal** in nature, applying to developed and developing countries alike, and place sustainable development at their core.



Connecting the Local to the Global

Working towards realising our community vision for wellbeing has a direct impact on achieving Ireland's targets for the sustainable development goals

