



**Submission to Wicklow County Council:
Arklow Transport Study**

**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 **405** diverse member groups, some of these groups are networks in their own right, **63 of these are registered in the Arklow Municipal District**. 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, Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre, County Wicklow Partnership, South East Fisheries Local Action Group, Ring a Link, Wicklow Heritage Forum, and Co Wicklow Joint Policing Committee. PPN Representatives strive to ensure that the needs of the community sector are prioritised within local policy processes.

Consultation with Communities

Throughout, May 2022, Co Wicklow PPN in collaboration with Wicklow County Council held consultations across the 5 Municipal Districts of Co Wicklow, asking people "What is your vision for your community?" 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 purpose of these consultations was twofold:

- Inform the development of the new Co Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)
- Prepare the new Co Wicklow PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing Statement. This document is used by the PPN to help to monitor and identify actions that can be undertaken by local and national government as well as by communities to work towards our shared vision.

We are currently documenting the responses we have received, To date, we have gathered information from 9 workshops (8 held in person and one held online) and through an online survey.

We received approximately 2,000 inputs (ideas/issues/suggestions) from over 300 people who represented 74 community groups & networks.

This submission is based on what we heard from groups based in the Arklow Municipal District

At the end of this submission, we have included a brief section on connecting Our Vision for Community Wellbeing to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development

Transport was an important topic raised across all the themes we consulted under in the Arklow Municipal District. Discussions identified needs in transport infrastructure e.g. another bridge, cycle tracks, railway services, footpaths, electric charge points and parking.

Challenges in accessing state and community services was a recurring issue with calls for more local transport services highlighted. It was pointed out that this would also reduce the financial burden for people on low incomes.

People recognise the need for reducing carbon emissions but feel that the current transport infrastructure cannot support them to make significant changes in their transport habits. An increase in affordable public transport services was identified as a significant measure to reduce the current reliance on private cars.

Health & safety issues were also raised particularly in regard to electric scooters.

Below, we have listed what people specifically said under each of the consulting themes as this gives a picture of the importance of good transport services and infrastructure in relation to social, economic and community development.

What People Specifically Said:

Values Culture & Meaning

- A new bridge to support local people.
- Cycle Tracks would be very good

Social & Community Development

- Co Council refurbishments consider Wheelchair users and people with disabilities
- Elderly people need to get town bus to go around Arklow but was not supported – now people don't have cars at the moment – give people their independence to prevent isolation – keep visible Accessible walking routes – wheelchairs and buggy's
- Importance of transport – local links
- Climate change demands public transport to Vincents/Loughlinstown hospital
- Local link bus that goes around the town even every other day.
- Need more local transport because cars becoming more expensive to run
- Very little parking in Arklow – free parking until 11am to use services e.g., bank
- Volunteer drivers for cancer support for Arklow only but not for surrounding areas

Environment & Sustainability

- Local link buses - connectivity for communities and positive environment impact. Less car use, less big car use
- Arklow - Transport to bottle bank an issue.
- More electric charge points especially in tourist locations

Economy & Resources

- Rail infrastructure -increase services south of Greystones, have people able to commute to Arklow Shuttle train up and down on rail line Road network north to south, why not east to west also
- The need for motorway access from the Carlow Woodenbridge road
- 2 nd bridge badly needed

Health (Physical & Mental)

- Road works causing havoc with elderly getting buses as they can't walk to new bus stops
- Eye care – need to pay €150 taxi to Dublin for any appointments
- Public transport particularly to hospitals
- More rural links for transport for appointments Town bus should be brought back – estates too far out from town – needs to be subsidised – bus pass should be able to be used Stigma around old people driving for example
- Lack of suitable car parking for elderly & mobility impaired
- Develop mini bike ways – mini greenways for smaller cycle rides
- Re-open closed railway stations Avoca, Woodenbridge & Glenealy
- Local bus service -Avoca to Arklow or move time e.g., 10am to 2pm or 3pm shopping time
- More footpaths for people to walk rather than drive
- Public lighting often out of order & this prevents people from walking at night
- From Knockmore Roundabout to the kisch – path of cycle path – money promised but never happened (€450,000 allocated)
- Cycling on footpath – E scooters too fast – not controlled

Co Wicklow PPN hopes that the Wicklow County Council finds this submission informative and useful and that you will consider the voice of these communities when considering transport infrastructure for the Arklow Municipal District

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

