

Feedback from Co. Wicklow PPN on the Draft LECP 2023-2029 (Draft document 29/3/23)

We have included the feedback gathered from our PPN Representatives via an online discussion and subsequent submissions made by them. The main focus of our feedback is in relation to:

- Co. Wicklow SCOT Analysis
 - Draft Vision
 - Draft High Level Goals (Objectives and actions)
- The PPN feedback is included in **Red** text.

We have also included General Feedback received on the Draft Plan

Co Wicklow Strengths. Challenges Opportunities and Threats (SCOT) Analysis

Strengths	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant stock of natural resources including beauty, a coastline and mountains and forests, that drive economic activities and offer citizens recreational spaces and a good quality of life; • A young and relatively vibrant population; • High levels of participation in the workforce – particularly in areas that are well connected to Dublin; • Proximity to services, facilities, attractions and amenities – locally and in the Greater Dublin Area; • Above-average disposable income; • Legislative protection of significant natural habitats and resources, including the Wicklow Mountains National Park; • A strong tourism infrastructure – diverse and high-quality natural and cultural products; • Strong creative and film sector with many resident artists and musicians. • An active. wide ranging volunteer sector, 411 volunteer groups registered with the Public Participation Network to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic and resource pressures associated with spill-over effects from the Greater Dublin Area; • Considerable internal diversity and the lack of a central focal point or service centre in the county; • Persistent and inter-generational disadvantage and distance from the labour market in some urban and rural communities; rural isolation particularly amongst the older people • Expensive real estate / family homes; • An over-reliance on economic spill overs from Dublin, rather than on Wicklow-generated opportunities; • Service sector inflation – due to GDA influences; • Retaining visitors – converting day-trippers in to long-stay visitors; lack of hotels and B&Bs • A narrow economic base and structural economic weaknesses in parts of West and South Wicklow; • Dispersed housing with high-levels of car-dependent, out-bound commuting and long commutes; • Poor public transport and unwalkable towns and on rural roads. • Accelerating biodiversity, species and habitat loss requires urgent action, commensurately large funding and the mobilisation of experts and locals • Climate mitigation and flood protection measures will be costly and comprehensive plans need to get underway now.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability/climate change/environment; equality; poverty; health and wellbeing would appear to be interrelated. For example, improving the energy ratings of people's homes by upgrading them will help improve their health and wellbeing. It will also reduce their energy costs. In this way, these priorities are all very interrelated and interconnected. In addition, economic growth and an increase in jobs and opportunities in areas of deprivation will help improve health, poverty and equality indicators. A holistic and integrated approach to all goals and objectives is needed as tackling them individually is likely to lead to sub-optimal outcomes.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local-level awareness of the county's diversity, and agencies' flexibility and responsiveness to sub-county features, needs and potential • Facilitate a broad public conversation about 'Values' using Citizen Juries (e.g local citizen assemblies) As society tries to respond to the Climate Crisis the context changes very quickly. To avoid decisions being constantly 'out of date'; there is a need to adjust the processes - to rely on societal values. 'Values' are created collectively, held in common and arise from regular opportunities for input from citizens. Values endure. • Collaboration with adjoining counties – particularly for West and South Wicklow; • Expansion of the east coast public transport corridor and the development of feeder services; • Networking and collaboration among tourism providers and rural development actors to offer Wicklow packages; • Council owned land and property that could be sustainably developed • Rural economic development in West and South Wicklow – in collaboration with stakeholders in adjoining counties; • Further harnessing of the county's cultural heritage and identity and fostering a greater sense of place, particularly among newcomers; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of finance for new projects, low levels of rates and development levies collected • lack of qualified staff to run projects • Ecological pressures due to resource demands elsewhere, most notably in the GDA (Greater Dublin Area) • Coastal erosion • Upland fires and degradation • traffic congestion from new developments • Oversight of rural considerations and needs, due to urban-generated demands and expectations; • Growing demographic, economic and service provision gaps between the Bray and Greystones MDs and the rest of the county; • Limited opportunities for higher / further education within the county; More partnership needed with CIT TCD, UCD. • External perceptions of the county being affluent leading to under-investment in education and social services; • Single-track rail-line south of Bray; • Limited east-west transport connectivity, especially public transit; and • Lack of preparedness, in some sectors, for the ageing of the population. • Lack of preparedness for climate disruption • Lack of awareness of the importance of protecting the natural environment. Clear Leadership by WCC needs to include multiple and persistent community consultations and involvement, alongside consistent, multi-faceted support for community activists.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harnessing the increase in knowledge and cultural capital associated with in-migration; • Ongoing economic growth and opportunities associated with population growth; • Second campuses from Dublin Universities in North Wicklow might be a solution • Growing awareness of value in low carbon, biodiversity friendly sustainable development and the circular economy. • low carbon economy or wind energy • Leveraging investments under Ireland 2040; • Partner with others (eg Parks and Wildlife Service, Birdwatch Ireland) to apply for central funding and increase investment in Special Areas of Conservation and Biodiversity enhancing projects. • A growing appreciation of the natural world, of good health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sense of urgency, legislation slow to be put in place, a multiplicity of plans, but funding slow to follow, enforcement and the staff to monitor, build awareness and assist being brought onboard too slowly and overburdened with too many duties in their role • The impact on Climate Change and biodiversity loss should be taken into consideration as each decision is reached in the public and the private sectors. • The ramifications of climate change and biodiversity must be brought to the fore in private and public sectors. • Agriculture needs to move towards agroecology rather than follow an industrial model. • Other crises -cost of living, housing, energy- must not divert funding or attention from the longer-term crisis of ecosystem, habitat, and species loss.
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Draft Vision

Our vision is for a vibrant and sustainable County (which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; which values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes sustainable development and the rights of all; building on the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage.)

Suggestion for Vision: Our vision is for a high quality of life and well-being for all; which values socially inclusive urban and rural communities and the rights of all, building on the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage with a vibrant and low carbon County, promoting sustainable development that protects biodiversity.

Comment on Vision Statement: no reference to low carbon society, sustainability can mean a lot of things, would prefer a look at different language to sustainability as can be too vague.

High Level Goals



Would like to see Climate Change at the very centre of the “wheel” rather than as just one prong. If WCC deem it an emergency, it should be informing ALL plans and endeavours, e.g. not contained in its own separate silo.

Given the Climate Change Emergency that the Wicklow declared in 2019, and the need to achieve very ambitious national, EU and international climate change and environmental goals, it is important that these are fully integrated and reflected in the LECP and all high-level goals and actions in it.

Background given for suggested change in focus: These documents attest to the mounting efforts to address the threats posed by climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions

2015 Ireland signed up to the United Nations Sustainability [Goals](#)
2019 Local Area Climate Action Charter
2021 Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act
2022 Wicklow County Development Plan
2023 Climate Action Plan

A new approach that considers climate change is recommended. The role of the LECP has changed as this posting on the CARO website points out:

Embedding Climate Action into the Local Economic & Community Plans

Summary: The **local** authority sectoral strategy for Climate Action – Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 – includes Strategic Goals to mobilise **and** support action in our communities **and** **local** businesses. The LECPs have the potential to be a framework for a transition to low carbon,...

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Goal 1 Enterprise, Innovation and Creativity

consider a focus and target on securing second sites for IDA/Enterprise Ireland businesses in the county?

<i>Draft Objective</i>	<i>Possible Actions</i>
1.1 Match market demand with skills development	1.1.1 Support the work of the County Skills Development Forum and Implement the Skills Audit 1.1.2 Provide remote/local working opportunities to reduce commuting and to enhance quality of life for our citizens 1.1.3 Encourage & foster apprenticeship opportunities
1.2 Sustainable tourism	1.2.1 Establish Co. Wicklow as Ireland's premier outdoor recreation destination 1.2.2 Develop Greenways/Blueways and public parks in strategic locations in the county. Recreation has to be linked to public transport or Greenway. Record more rights of way to facilitate walkers 1.2.3 Build on thematic tourist experiences e.g. film, food, outdoor recreation including food trails 1.2.4 Increase promotion of the 'Visit Wicklow' Tourism brand/ ensuring a holistic county wide promotion in non car dependent locations 1.2.5 Focus on accommodation development including Campervan parks in walkable locations. 1.2.6 Develop a Wicklow Camino. a network of off road walking and cycling routes. <u>Newtown 2050's Mountains to Sea</u> was a great example of this. Connecting towns, servicing needs, ecology and tourism combined. Their study should be examined and used as a Camino idea but also how to get villages and towns to develop interdependence. 1.2.6 Explore the ability to create a Bridal path to connect studs and stables around the county to further enhance tourism offering. 1.3.6 All tourism projects to be validated against biodiversity standards and awarded a Biodiversity CE mark for compliance.

<p>1.3 A strong and vibrant creative and screen sector</p>	<p>1.3.1 Maximise the development of the Content Creation Hub</p> <p>1.3.2 Support and develop the film industry in the county by continuing to implement the County Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy 2022-2026</p> <p>1.3.3 Continue to implement the Craft Strategy</p> <p>1.3.4 Utilise the RRDF, URDF Town and Village Schemes LEADER and others to develop creative and cultural spaces in the county.</p> <p>1.3.5 Maximise opportunities presented by the Co. Wicklow Creative Ireland Strategy</p> <p>1.3.6 Set up a scheme to enable the film industry to contribute skills to the task of reducing emissions and promoting biodiversity eg co-opt personnel to work on short term projects.</p>
<p>1.4 Lead in the sustainable expansion of the food & beverage sector</p>	<p>1.4.1 Develop the Co. Wicklow Food Incubation Hub</p> <p>1.4.2 Update and implement Co. Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy</p> <p>1.4.3 Increase focus on food sustainability and the move to a plant based diet</p> <p>1.4.4 Increase networking and training and development opportunities within the sector</p>
<p>1.5 Support the development of the circular economy and community wealth building</p>	<p>1.5.1 Research possibilities for community wealth building programmes in Co. Wicklow</p> <p>1.5.2 Support the development of the circular economy</p> <p>National Waste Action Plan for Circular Economy has some guidance that could be leveraged as actions https://assets.gov.ie/86647/dcf554a4-0fb7-4d9c-9714-0b1fbe7dbc1a.pdf That could be an angle that's used to support businesses become green in</p>
<p>1.6 Capitalise on natural resources such as the maritime economy</p>	<p>1.6.1 Develop the port infrastructure to maximise opportunities from the offshore renewable energy sector to include local businesses and the supply chain</p> <p>Eliminate the removal of kelp from our maritime areas. Natural resources to be enhanced and not damaged by exploitation. Ensure new wind farms do not adversely affect migration patterns of whales and sharks etc. Protect seabed vegetation, erosion of this has led to greater wave strength..</p> <p>Could the renewable energy point be expanded....given Wicklow's prime location close to Dublin (GDA)... could links to third level universities (e.g. UCD, TCD, DCU in collaboration with KWETB) be considered where frontier research could help</p>

	<p>anchor highly paid future-proofed jobs in renewable energy (engineers, technicians, data managers, etc)? Universities are catalysts for economic growth and development through their production of highly skilled human capital and their research work.</p> <p>Eliminate raw sewage dumping at sea.</p> <p>1.6.2 Ensure provision of enterprise space for the mariner sector</p> <p>1.6.3 Ensure provision of sector specific training</p>
<p>1.7 Support the greening of existing and new enterprises, including decarbonisation and energy and resource efficiency</p>	<p>1.7.1 Set new decarbonisation zones within smart village areas. Model Village and towns are needed in rural areas.</p> <p>1.7.2 Empower small businesses to react to the energy crisis. and showcase best practise examples of businesses working towards becoming carbon neutral. Possible examples: Wicklow Wolf, Mc Cebes Coffee, HUB13</p> <p>Roll out educational programmes on the CE and generally increase awareness about energy efficiency & renewable energy - including costs and benefits and increase awareness about available supports and funds at national and EU level while providing standardised guidance and reporting frameworks for businesses.</p> <p>Incentivise green behaviours e.g. re waste management in particular. Also, set-up a carbon credit scheme, where all companies looking to balance their carbon emissions, can buy carbon/rewilding credits where the money is distributed to high nature/biodiversity local projects, ie native tree planting schemes/ bog restoration.</p>

Goal 2 Climate Action	
<i>Draft Objective</i>	<i>Possible Action</i>
<p>2.1 Lead the Community Climate Action Programme to build capacity and initiate and support community climate action initiatives</p>	<p>2.1.1 implement a Community Climate Action Programme (facilitated by the Wicklow Co Co Climate Action Team)</p> <p>2.1.2 Prioritise engagement with ‘community’ groups and activists with interest in climate change and maintaining Biodiversity most especially. the conduits - the PPN</p>

	<p>Environmental pillar representatives. . and support their projects.</p> <p>2.1.3 Biodiversity Officer, in tandem with others, to run community level courses based on <u>SMART Village principles</u> designed to get local buy-in and improved climate literacy. Give the people agency.</p> <p>2.1.4 Celebrate and publicise the anniversary of the world's first declaration of the Climate & Biodiversity Emergency (by WCC) on 29 April each year by inviting a prominent speaker to speak at a venue in Wicklow and broadcast live as a webinar.</p> <p>2.1.5 Publish the Community Climate Action Plan (Still outstanding)</p> <p>2.1.6 Run an inclusive and accessible Wicklow Citizens Assembly on Climate Change and Biodiversity to distil the values that are important to us.</p> <p>2.1.7 Get the Biodiversity Officer a weekly slot on East Coast Radio. Increase the grade so a free hand is agreed.</p> <p>2.1.8 Address the lack of a proper enforcement system - environmental enforcement has no teeth. Trees and hedgerows being removed at will.</p> <p>2.1.9 Prioritise 'Nature based solutions' eg Promote and enable the restoration of upland peatland to enable it function as a carbon sink.</p> <p>2.1.10 Undertake a full mapping of trees and hedgerows. see https://www.linkedin.com/posts/loughranrobert_weve-just-delivered-an-updated-version-of-activity-7021783498281611264-G1ON/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android</p>
<p>2.2 Support communities and enterprises to deliver on climate change targets</p>	<p>2.2.1 Identify training needs for communities and enterprises and provide access to both training and networking</p> <p>2.2.2 Support the initiation of new Sustainable Energy Communities and those who have already completed a Masterplan</p> <p>2.2.1 Work with others and focus on educating the young of the county. (There is a need to coordinate and facilitate groups and individuals working with young people through schools and in villages)</p> <p>2.2.3 Fund liaison officers with a specific remit to empower groups to access the community climate action funding for local projects and activities</p>

	<p>2.2.2 Actively engage in Community Building as a critical ingredient to change. This can be outsourced eg Neighbourhood Network</p> <p>2.2.3 Continue to work with 2-4 small towns as test beds for innovation and focus attention on them before extending it to the whole county eg https://www.smartrural27.eu/.</p> <p>Especially those experiencing fast growth.</p>
<p>2.3 Protect promoting and enhancing biodiversity</p>	<p>2.3.1 Develop and implement a biodiversity plan for County Wicklow</p> <p>2.3.1 Potential actions remain to be identified To be led by Biodiversity Officer</p> <p>2.3.2 Promote, establish, and enable (energise) local community groups to adopt riparian ways near to them.</p> <p>2.3.4 Support and partner groups like Rewilding Wicklow, and those promoting the provision of land for allotments and strengthen engagement with Tidy Towns.</p> <p>2.3.5 Resource (with funding from other sources) Ecology Teams - 'Wildlife Rangers' to tackle particular field projects eg designing and building Green greenways (eg Kilcoole to Newtownmountkennedy). Schemes like the Student Summer Work Placement. Properly resourced. Offer similar work to refugees and migrants in Direct Provision</p> <p>2.3.6 Change the planning process in WCC to ensure that all planning applications are reviewed by a dedicated environmental/ biodiversity team. Only applications (planning and part 8) that meet specific Climate, Biodiversity & Water standards will be permitted to proceed.</p> <p>2.3.7 Adopt the Irish Fisheries guidelines on Planning for Urban Watercourses as policy</p> <p>2.3.8 Provide Wicklow libraries with science equipment and test kits to help citizen scientists monitor changes in biodiversity (as 10 other counties are already doing). Equipment like DCU Earthwatch Waterblitz test kits</p> <p>2.3.9 Engage with the Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre to ensure that the number of people volunteering to work on Biodiversity projects is doubled by the end of 2024</p> <p>2.3.10 Partner with others to establish and open the DeBuitléir Natural Heritage Institute and Community Centre in Delgany in 2024</p>

	<p>2.3.11 A Diploma and MBA in Climate & Biodiversity Community Leadership. Work with SETU, KWETB & DCU to launch this Co Wicklow based course.</p> <p>2.3.12 Apply for funding of the Wicklow Forestry Plan.</p> <p>Set up a structure to help & educate small scale landowners to understand the value of biodiversity and how to create or save small areas of native habitat.</p> <p>Continue to support the development of NeighbourWood amenity woodland schemes.</p> <p>Turn all of Wicklow’s way marked trails into biodiversity corridors.</p> <p>The council must support and monitor Coillte, the county’s largest landowner to achieve its target of 25% of its estate devoted to biodiversity.</p> <p>To create a biodiversity, feature out of the “string of pearls” that is the county’s unique network of small but hugely significant native woodlands.</p> <p>Expand the area of the national park and consider regenerating more areas of the National Park and Coillte lands by facilitating the return of natural processes by using re-wilding techniques where feasible.</p> <p>Create riparian corridors along all the waterways emerging from the Wicklow uplands helping to create a clean water system for human and nature consumption.</p>
<p>2.4 Support the development of renewable energy opportunities.</p> <p>Key Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embed climate change and the circular economy in implementation of all local economic development strategies and Local Economic and Community Plans. 2. Promote the development of a thriving green economy in which enterprises are supported to take advantage of emerging green business opportunities. 	<p>2.4.1 Supporting achievement of the government target of generating 5 gigowatts of energy from offshore wind by 2030</p> <p>2.4.2 Maximise opportunities for investment, jobs, supply chain and skills development from offshore renewable energy</p> <p>2.4.3 Support the sharing of information on micro-energy generation and provision of information on relevant funding schemes</p> <p>2.4.2 Co-opt expertise from the ranks of the energy firms to help develop an integrated countywide plan. This will go beyond the Climate Action Plan that is being prepared now.</p> <p>2.4.3 Fund support workers to facilitate Wicklow SECs to implement their Energy Master Plans</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Promote climate action and green skills in training and education in partnership with Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs). 4. Undertake a circular economy strategy, based on analysis of the local priority sectors, material flows and waste streams, e.g. municipal and industrial material flows, waste generation and explore the options for circular procurement. 5. Support the growth and development of lower carbon enterprises through supplier development programmes that align with green procurement strategies. 6. Utilise best practice in promoting economic opportunities that arise from climate action with local enterprise. 	<p>2.4.4 Promote community activists with an interest e.g sponsor and encourage visits to sample villages in Europe</p>
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Goal 3 Wicklow a Connected County	
<i>Draft Objective</i>	<i>Possible actions</i>
<p>3.1 Improve transport infrastructure in the county</p>	<p>3.1.1 Ongoing advocacy for the improvement of transport infrastructure in the county</p> <p>3.1.1 Ongoing advocacy for the improvement of transport infrastructure in the county including internal bus routes for all towns over 10K population</p> <p>3.1.2 Commission the design of a 'green' (off road or low traffic) network of cycle and walkways that promote inter-village connection and registers and connects to Eurovelo Route 1</p>

	<p>3.1.2 Promote a Trans Wicklow Special. A return rail and bus journey along the coast to Rathdrum and on to Glendalough</p>
<p>3.2 Support the development of sustainable transport infrastructure throughout the county</p>	<p>3.2.1 Support roll out of the Active travel Programme including cycle lanes and safe routes to schools</p> <p>improving the “bus link” offering to reduce further the dependence on car usage and to help connect the more isolated areas of the county.</p> <p>Encourage cycling by the provision of Bike lanes segregated where at all possible both within urban towns as well as in small rural villages.</p> <p>3.2.2 Promote the decarbonisation of transport including travel, public transport, electric vehicles, remote working hubs (include actions in all rural and urban regeneration programmes)</p>
<p>3.3 Support the roll out of quality broadband throughout the county</p>	<p>3.3.1 Support hubs to act as nodal points and community centres.</p> <p>3.3.2 Promote the counties BCPs & encourage community use</p>
<p>3.4 Increase and improve facilities for remote working and co-working</p>	<p>3.4.1 Develop a network of remote working hubs and hot desk facilities in suitable locations in the county, including the BCP programme.</p> <p>3.4.2 Develop a marketing plan for remote working in the county</p>
<p>3.5 Improve access to and capacity for connectivity to services</p>	<p>3.5.1 Ensure that programmes are in place to enhance the digital skills of citizens in the county</p> <p>3.5.2 Support and develop the Smart Village Programme</p> <p>3.5.3 Ensure space is available to access digital connectivity to services especially in the remote areas of the county</p> <p>3.5.3 Ensure there are alternative methods for accessing information for those that do not choose to use digital applications e.g. newsletters, notice boards</p>

Goal 4 Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity and Just Transition

<i>Potential Objectives</i>	<i>Indicative Actions</i>
4.1 Support the diversity of groups in our society, including integration of minority groups	<p>4.1.1 Enact the Co. Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy</p> <p>4.1.2 Support resettlement and reunification programmes</p> <p>4.1.3 Support the Local Development Companies in integration programmes.</p> <p>4.1.4 Implement Public Sector Duty through LECP</p>
4.2 Implement community development principles of inclusion, equality and meaningful engagement of marginalised groups	<p>4.2.1 Establish a new Social Inclusion Measures Group under the LCDC</p> <p>4.2.2 Raise awareness of the A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement (DRCD) and Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five-Year Strategy to Support the Community & Voluntary Sector 2019 – 2024 (DRCD)</p> <p>4.2.4 Work with Wicklow County Council Access Office, the Wicklow Disability Inclusion Steering Committee and local disability groups to ensure accessibility to community facilities.</p> <p>4.2.3 Replicate and promote the An Tearmann Community Initiative in Baltinglass</p>
4.3 Implement a fair and inclusive approach to climate action through just transition model	<p>4.3 .1 Identify and focus on communities affected by climate impacts or those vulnerable to costs of mitigation and map supports available</p> <p>4.3.1 Task one officer to advocate for people with disabilities who will campaign for rural transport initiatives be accessible to.</p>

Goal 5 Health, Resilience and Well-being

<i>Potential Objectives</i>	<i>Indicative Actions</i>
5.1 Drive the environmental, economic and social regeneration of County Wicklow towns and villages and their hinterlands	<p>5.1.1 Implement Town Centre First Policy and Our rural Future Policy at local level</p> <p>5.1.2 Maximise opportunities for urban and rural regeneration and development Work with Town Teams and communities to build capacity to develop plans and projects for their areas.</p> <p>5.1.3 Address the decline in services in rural areas focusing on the West and South West Wicklow</p> <p>5.1.4 Address the specific impacts of commuting on communities in North Wicklow.</p> <p>5.1.5 Stick firmly to the National Planning Framework. Resist the powerful forces pushing to allow development outside the growth centres of</p>

	<p>Bray and Wicklow. Such development is simply not sustainable. It is not in the public good and adds to the climate and biodiversity crisis.</p> <p>Work towards a sustainable housing model for all, that addresses the specific needs & requirements of our diverse communities. Including exploring alternative methods e.g. community led housing</p>
<p>5.2 Provide community sport & recreational infrastructure for communities.</p>	<p>5.2.1 Maximise funding opportunities to develop community sport & recreational infrastructure – having regard to the Audits of Community Sport & Recreational Facilities</p> <p>Implement a green infrastructure programme of pocket parks and larger public parks</p> <p>5.2.2 Ensure provision of Third Places - the informal public gathering places critical for a functioning civil society</p> <p>5.2.3 Conduct annual funding workshop and capacity building sessions with communities</p> <p>5.2.4 Work with Planning Section to plan appropriate community infrastructure inc cycleways and connection to <u>Euroveloroute 1</u></p> <p>5.2.5 Identify space for parks and community gardens/ wellbeing spaces and allotments in each main population centre and head up the application for funding their creation</p> <p>5.2.6 Include Cycleways as critical infrastructure. Bring under remit of TII and include in all road upgrades, planting and cycle lane provision.</p>
<p>5.3 Improve the health and quality of life of all especially those most vulnerable</p>	<p>5.3.1 Support the actions of the Healthy Wicklow Plan focusing on physical and mental health and food poverty</p> <p>5.3.2 Engage with Wicklow's General Practitioners</p>
<p>5.4 Strengthen and sustain a strong civil society with actively engaged and connected communities</p>	<p>5.4.1 Continue to support participation and a strong civil society by supporting PPN, Comhairle na nóg and Older Persons Network</p> <p>5.4.2 Enhance the capacity building and support for community activity/groups/volunteers through the LEADER programme and SICAP programme, KWETB Community Education Programme, Smart Village programme, community grants and awards</p> <p>5.4.3 Build on Community Capital evident during COVID-19 pandemic response</p>

	5.4.4 Implement the Local Authority actions in the: A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement (DRCD) the National Volunteering Strategy and Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five Year Strategy to Support the Community & Voluntary Sector 2019 – 2024 (DRCD)
5.5 Support the wellbeing of our children and young people	<p>5.5.1 Continue to support the work of Co. Wicklow CYPSC</p> <p>5.5.2 Engage with the county's General Practitioners. (Ironically, they have not been consulted in formation of the Healthy Wicklow Plan.)</p> <p>5.5.3 Host a countywide conference on 'The Health and Wellbeing of Wicklow's Children' in 2024. (wicklowhealth@gmail.com)</p>
5.6 Drive health equity by addressing the social determinants of health impacting on at risk communities	<p>5.6.1 Support the delivery of the Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme</p> <p>5.6.2 Maximise funding opportunities to deliver projects and programmes</p> <p>5.6.3 maximise efforts to engage communities and stakeholders</p> <p>5.6.4 for the LCDC to put health and wellbeing at the heart of all activities</p>

General Feedback received on the Draft LECP 2023-2029

The UN SDGs are absent in this draft of the plan.

Would it be possible to include cross references to CDP and other important plans?

An economic plan for jobs with targets for Arklow, and parts of Bray and other towns would also help to lift communities from poverty, deprivation and ill-health could be a win-win on a number of objectives (e.g. health, education, community, wellbeing, etc). Targeted active labour market policies and plans.

The social determinants of health (e.g. the great work done by Sir Michael Marmot), are also tightly linked to economic development and job opportunity. The areas where health and deprivation are a significant issue are also areas where economic opportunities are most challenging. Strong economic and job plans, education/training and childcare supports are

particularly needed in areas of poverty. Early intervention and support are also hugely important in these areas.

Socio-Economic Profile: The socio-economic profile represents over a third of the report which seems quite large amount of the report (would it be possible to move some of it to the appendix?).

Housing figures: We should insert homeless figures here too, along with details of vacancy and dereliction and social housing completions

Number or % of homes availing of the SEI Better Energy Homes and the Warmer Homes Schemes for disadvantaged households

Number of houses completed to Passive House Standard or A3 minimum BER rating

The profile contains no environmental or resource data. Recommend the inclusion of a section on environmental data. eg carbon emissions, maps identifying good quality soil, forestry, urban trees and other pockets of green infrastructure, crops grown, marine resources of fish etc,

Compliance to the Water Framework Directive in terms of water supply quality and waste water treatment

Number of community renewable energy projects

Number of farms in the Bord Bia Origin Green Programme

Number of certified organic farms/growers

Area under biodiversity designation

Plus:

Number of new business start-ups

High speed broadband coverage

It has been suggested that there needs to be more baseline data in order to measure achievement. eg. current carbon emissions in various sectors, acres of green open space or km of walkable routes, etc etc.

This lack of joined-up-thinking vis-à-vis the Council, Coillte and Parks' relationship and areas of responsibility won't help efforts to increase native tree cover and or enhance the county's biodiversity. Coillte don't "look after the forests" – they are a state company/major land-owner tasked with the commercial production of spruce trees - which are not conducive to biodiversity enhancement. It's not Coillte's fault, it's their remit. However, we must encourage WCC (probably via the new biodiversity officer) to engage more with Coillte and Parks to develop joint policies and strategies in relation to managing and enhancing the county's natural environment, biodiversity and carbon capture potential for everyone's sake and all levels (business, health, etc.)

Policy Context suggestions received:

the climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021, the Local Authority Climate Action Charter 2019 and the Tree Management Plan also be included here.

Evaluate the impact of the LECP on a number of parallel priorities, including sustainability and biodiversity loss; climate change; equality; poverty; health and wellbeing

Also Refer to notes from Environmental Pillar Consultation held in May 2022.