

GAP (Greystones Area Planning) Community

Greystones Area Planning Community
30.08.21

Re: GAP Community Submission on Chapter 12 Sustainable Transport into Draft County Wicklow Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

We are a group of residents from Greystones and Delgany who have come together following the recent, significant developments that have taken place over the past number of years. We believe that these developments are unsustainable due to lack of investment in all other aspects associated with granting planning permission such as public services (schooling, medical, dental) transport infrastructure (traffic congestion), recreational facilities (lack of), residential issues resulting in an adverse impact into the biodiversity of the area.

Several these developments (Glenheron) have been approved under the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) process. We are also aware of the Carmelite development in Delgany which is under a Judicial Review and an upcoming SHD at Coolagad. We believe strongly that the SHD process is completely undemocratic as they bypass residents' rights to object to planning proposals in the normal manner – making representations to elected councillors and the county council. It has been reported by architect and surveyor bodies that SHD's have led to high density badly designed residential developments that tend to override democratically devised Local Area Plans (LAP) especially on density levels.

Greystones Area Planning Community welcomes this opportunity to input into the Wicklow County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 to try and ensure that planning of developments going forward is sustainable.

Our input is as follows;

CHAPTER 12 Sustainable Transport

We would like to see an assessment of transport options carried out for the Greystones/Delgany area given the high proportion of residents who commute to the greater Dublin area for employment and education. Expanding the N11 will be a costly undertaking (both in construction costs and the costs to climate). This area should be prioritised for a quality bus commuter route & appropriate sites need to be identified for park and ride facilities on the N11.

We believe a key focus of sustainable travel needs to be that people are encouraged NOT to use their cars for local trips and to use public transport. For local travel (Bray, Greystones, Delgany, Kilcoole, Newtownmountkennedy loop or similar), review and revamp of bicycle lane infrastructure in addition to local public transport options – small electric multi-passenger environmentally friendly vehicles as opposed to the diesel buses we have (polluting, inefficient vehicles). Consideration for elderly and incapacitated passengers too. The dart system today is over capacity, not efficient and more frequency is needed, probably delivered by an increase in the number of lines from 1 to 2.

We would like to see the NTA traffic study completed in Greystones as a matter of urgency and that no other planning applications will be considered until this has been completed.

The feedback and input in this submission is designed to improve / strengthen the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 even further.

Yours Sincerely,
Greystones Area Planning Committee.