

GAP (Greystones Area Planning) Community

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30.08.21

Re: GAP Community Submission on Chapter 8 Built Heritage 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 8 Built Heritage

8.3.1 Protected Structures:

We believe that Delgany has a unique heritage, both in terms of its landscape and the built environment. A full audit of its buildings should be carried out to determine whether there are buildings that should be added to the RPS and to determine whether the current level of protection is sufficient to retain the unique character of the village.

Delgany would benefit from a community heritage centre which could showcase our heritage.

Protected Structures: The County Development Plan should outline clearly what steps will be taken to ensure that protected structures are actually protected. Delgany has already lost Stylebawn House and Kindlestown House has fallen into disrepair. Designating a building as a Protected Structure is not sufficient as it stands. Protected Structures need to be monitored so that they are not damaged or destroyed by anti-social behaviour.

8.3.3. Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)

We welcome the fact that Delgany village centre is recognised as an ACA, and we hope that Wicklow County Council will ensure the preservation and protection of the unique heritage character of the village which has stood the test of time.

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.