

30 AUG. 2021

Town Planning Submission

Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

Formal Submission on behalf of

Ashford Community Group

Ashford Tidy Towns

Rathmore Holiday Village

Fintan Mulligan

(Ashford, County Wicklow)

AUGUST 27TH 2021



27th August 2021

County Development Plan Review,

Planning Department

Wicklow County council

Station Road

Co. Wicklow

SUBMISSION TO: DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

Dear Sirs

As Part of the Public Consultation process in regard to Wicklow County Council Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027, we would like to make a representation for public pathways and public transport, Ashford northbound R772.

There is a requirement for improved pathways and bus stops to accommodate the local community in the area including recent members to our community, those seeking international protection, living locally At Rathmore Holiday Village

Our submission into the Wicklow County Development plan to request greater transport links into the area of Rathmore Holiday Village. Working within the social inclusion sector, Rathmore Holiday Village provides own door accommodation to persons and young families seeking international protection under the guidance of the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth. There is an immediate need for a bus stop at this location with up to 30 vulnerable families living on site, including staff and volunteers (circa 120 people) at Rathmore Holiday Village, with further footfall from locals and their children attending Dublin colleges, as well as employees of local businesses.

This Proposal is in keeping with

- NTA draft transport strategy
- Identified locations support the capacity enhancement and reconfiguration of the M11/N11 from junction 4 (M50) to junction 15 (Ashford)
- Protect Leinster outer orbital route outer corridor
- Wicklow County Development Plan & National Transport Strategy

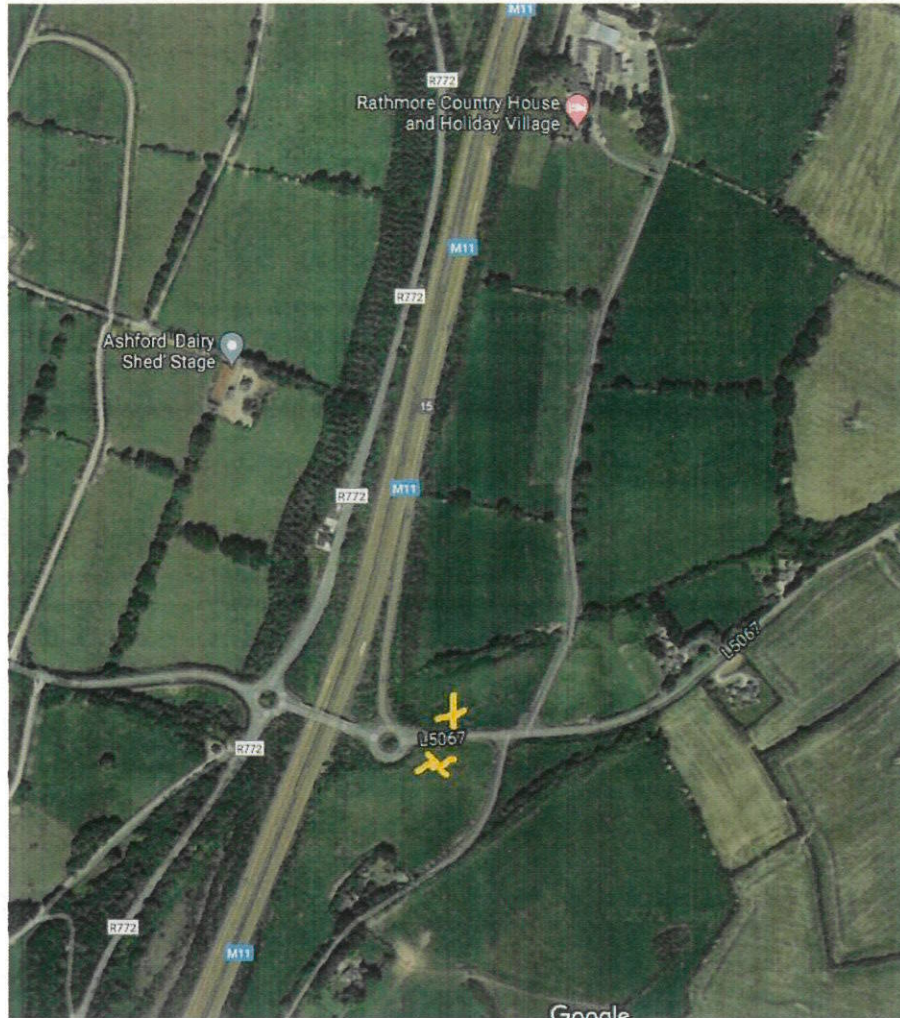
We outline the following critical and imperative matters

- The status of Ashford becoming that of a "self-sustaining growth town", with accommodation and jobs circa Ashford Village within 2.5km (northbound towards Kiloughter).
- Footpaths and cycle path required to and from Rathmore Accommodation Centre (Holiday Village) Kiloughter fly-over interchange, footpaths to connect to Ashford Village.

- As part of Wicklow County Councils efforts to support persons of social inclusion and international protection residing within the county, we see these footpaths and cycle lanes as a priority.
- Many locals and residents use this roadway along R772 to access the local amenity of Kiloughter Beach without a footpath, even more so recently due to COVID. As well as Rathmore Country House & Holiday Village residents (persons seeking international protection), Film Studios, Apple Green Services Station and Burger king, as well as local equestrian amenities. It is essential that we create safe Paths and Cycle ways for our community of Ashford and those of the surrounding areas along with the Vulnerable residents living in the immediate vicinity. This would also encourage the wider community to use sustainable means reducing the need for cars, resulting in additional benefits such as safety and wellbeing, health, social, better air quality, economic/tourism.
- Investment in public transport is required in this area, close to the Kiloughter interchange along the R772 (the 133 bus route) Currently the majority of students and working people living in Rathmore and surrounding areas are commuting to the greater Dublin area, Wicklow & Arklow.
- We have identified a suitable location for two additional bus stops for the current Bus Eireann 133 route, to be located on the R772 old Cullenmore Road, at A67KH76 one on either side of the road, below the Gate Lodge at Ballyhenry Ashford on R772 heading to M11 junction 15. Consent has been given by the landowner, Joe O'Connell.



- Consideration should be given for these additional bus stops, to be located on the R772 old Cullenmore Road, at A67 KH76, one on either side of the road, beside the Gate Lodge at Ashford on R772 heading to M11 junction 15, or at the Council lands off junction 15 is also another option



- There is an immediate need for these bus stops, with up to 30 families living in Rathmore Holiday Village, as well as employees at surrounding rural businesses such as Film Studios and Applegreen.
- Families at Rathmore require bus services to get them to clinic ,doctor, hospital appointments, Kwetb, Wicklow family services, shopping, college, visit friends and attend appointments.

Through providing these additional bus stops along the Bus Eireann 133, local link, Wexford route, this will improve the transport links north of Ashford Village, supporting these families as well as other residents in the area. This will also improve the efficiency of the existing transport network, reduce the dependency on private transport for the catchment area and compliment key strategic priorities of the national Development Plan including; improved public transport in rural areas, support the climate action objective, reduce the dependency on private transport for the catchment

area as well as compliment key strategic priorities of the national Development Plan including improved public transport in rural areas and supporting the climate action objective.

The Eastern & Midlands Regional Plan has identified Ashford as a secondary growth town and the Wicklow County Development Plan outlines a desire to consolidate the existing built pattern of Ashford, to create better connectivity for the town of Ashford serving both its immediate and wider hinterland population. The service users of Rathmore Holiday Village are members of the hinterland community of Ashford and as such should be supported by greater public transport links to enable them to attend appointments, shopping, education and work.

Located along Corridor F and Recognising the importance of the County Development Plan for this corridor the provision of additional bus stops will alleviate the immediate problem of congestion on the rural road down to Ashford bus stop, will improve efficiency on existing public transport network as well as providing a simple and quick solution in the immediate term while waiting for the longer term development of the rail network and regional stops .

We trust that the planning authority will have regard to our submission in adopting a bus service at Kiloughter interchange within the adoption of the County Development Plan 2021 to 2027.

Ashford Community Group has given its consent and agreement to signing/submitting this Proposal.



Chairperson

Ashford Tidy Towns has given its consent and agreement to signing/submitting this Proposal.



Chairperson

Rathmore Holiday Village has given its consent and agreement to signing/submitting this Proposal



Belinda Cullen

Managing Director



Fintan Mulligan