

We wish to make the following submission to the National Planning Framework- Ireland 2040. Our submission relates to County Wicklow and planning issues affecting it. There are a number of infrastructural projects that need to be included and fast tracked to allow Wicklow grown, both in terms of economically and population. The population targets for Wicklow in the National Spatial Strategy are 136,640 in 2011, 158,000 in 2022, 167,000 in 2025 and 176,000 in 2028. There are a number of infrastructural projects that are needed to allow the County meet those targets.

- Upgrading the N11/M11. A study has been carried out by Transport Infrastructure Ireland into the serious traffic problems along the N11. A plan has been outlined in the study, this needs to be incorporated into the Planning Framework and progressed.
- Upgrading of the N81 to Blessington. A preferred route has been identified and needs to be progressed.
- Blessington Inner Relief Road. This road has been partially constructed and needs to be completed to allow Blessington develop to its full capacity and take unnecessary traffic away from the town centre.
- Extending the LUAS to Bray. The extension is included in the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area. It is a critically important infrastructural project that needs to be progressed. We would proposed that the Green line is extended to Bray and terminates at Bray/Daily Station. A spur from this line should also serve the lands at Old Fassaroe.
- Extending the DART to Kilcoole. As Kilcoole is a area of high population growth we believe that extending the DART to Kilcoole should be included in this plan.
- Deep Sea Port in Arklow. Developing a deep sea port in Arklow has been a long held policy of the local authorities in the County and has been included in Local Area Development Plans. Arklow has a busy harbour and a location at Arklow Rock, where Roadstone have a quarry would be ideally suited. With Brexit developing a deep sea port in Arklow would provide an excellent link to Europe.
- Developing the film and production industry in Wicklow. Ardmore Studios, the National Film Studio is located in Bray. The State is a shareholder in Ardmore, this needsto remain the case. Ashford Studios is also located in Wicklow, both studios bring investment into the County and helps promote both Wicklow and Ireland internationally. The importance of the industry needs to be reflected in the plan and the potential to develop Wicklow as a film and TV production hub. There is also an opportunity to exploit the industry for tourism within Wicklow.

The final issue we want to address is the need for a County Boundary extension in Bray and in Blessington.

The Kildare border cuts right into Blessington town centre in West Wicklow. When you have two local authorises, Wicklow and Kildare looking after Blessington it makes it very difficult to develop the town from both an planning and economic perspective. There is now an ideal opportunity to extend the boundary and for Wicklow to take in a small section of Kildare. The preferred route has been selected for the N81, this runs on the outskirts of Blessington and would make an ideal new county boundary. Currently there are only two residential estates in the area that we are proposing to be taken into county Wicklow in the boundary extension.

There is also a need to extend the boundary in Bray into Dublin. Parts of Little Bray area marginally over the County border with Dublin. The people in these areas see themselves as

Bray people, they shop in Bray, work in Bray, socialise in Bray and go to school in Bray. However the local authority in Bray has no responsibilities for the area. We would propose extending the county boundary to the Wilford Roundabout on the Old Dublin Rd, taking all that area into County Wicklow.

Many regards

Wicklow Sinn Féin Public representatives
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