

Uimhir Thagarta Uathúil: SD-C226-73

Stádas: Submitted

Submission: Rathcoole Nature
Zone

Údar: Orla
Daly

Comhairliúchán:

Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft South Dublin
County Development Plan

Dáta a cuireadh isteach: 26.04.2022 -
20:49

Litir Chumhdaigh

Ecologist

Observations:

Chapter 2: Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy

Caibidil: Volume 1 » Chapter 2: Core Strategy and Settlement
Strategy

Select Proposed Amendment on which you are commenting: Amendment 2.1

I welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the public consultation regarding:

Section 2.7.2 Self-Sustaining Growth Towns / Self-Sustaining Town – Rathcoole

Amendment 2.13

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I am asking in relation to the proposed rezoning and zoning amendments to map 8, that all the rewilding area, the majority of which is Woodland, is protected. The rewilding area is the land owned by South Dublin County Council, the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Dept of Education.

The largest rewilding area in South Dublin, the majority of which is Woodland, including priority Annex habitat Alluvial Woodland, should be kept intact. This is supported by 2 reports; BSM report, and Hodd report.

This means that where the rewilding area overlaps with the Res – N in the zoning map accompanying CS10 SLO1 along with the proposed rural zoning; is changed to, in order of preference:

- Nature/Biodiversity Conservation Zoning (new zoning)
- High Amenity Zoning
- Rural Zoning

This is accepting that Rural zoning does not provide full protection. We need to have strong conservation action on this biodiversity gem.

How will the wildlife; bats, birds, badgers, frogs, deer, the crawlers, walkers, fliers, swimmers, that feed, sleep, live, or reproduce within this magnificent mosaic of habitats continue to do so with the proposed zoning?

All this in the context of the ongoing biodiversity crisis.

I also urge the Council to reconsider the zoning of wildflower meadow to Res-N. It is a valuable lowland hay meadow and superb for pollinators. It is a prized area of our Park, used by walkers, runners and dog walkers.

Chapter 4: Green Infrastructure

Caibidil: Volume 1 » Chapter 4: Green Infrastructure

Select Proposed Amendment on which you are commenting: Amendment 4.9

SUBMISSION 2 Chapter 4, Amendment 4.9

Ref Section 4.2.5 Landscape, Natural, Cultural and Built Heritage Amendment 4.9

I support the need to protect the Woodlands in Rathcoole which are of significance from environmental, biodiversity and amenity perspectives.

I welcome the fact that the

Council's own ecological assessment found that 'overall the site is currently considered to be of County ecological importance for its mosaic of Annex I (priority) habitats, species-rich semi-natural habitats, heritage value hedgerows, wetland habitats and mosaic of wooded and non-wooded semi-natural habitats which are rare in County Dublin'.

I ask that the Development Plan ensures that no development in the wider area can be allowed to impact on the integrity of the Annex 1 habitats including the Alluvial Woodlands within the Rathcoole Woodlands site and the lowland hay meadow within Rathcoole Park.

Documents Attached: Níl

Teorainneacha Gafa ar an léarscáil: Níl