

**Dorota Richards**

*Sub No. 5*

**Subject:** FW: New submission entered for Reg no: W0294-01. (Reference Number: W0294-01-170123025005)  
**Attachments:** Submission The Rocks.docx  
**Importance:** High

**From:** Grainne Mc Loughlin [redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 January 2017 14:50  
**To:** Licensing Staff  
**Subject:** New submission entered for Reg no: W0294-01. (Reference Number: W0294-01-170123025005)  
**Importance:** High

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# Submission on a Licence Application

**W0294-01**  
**Wicklow County Council**

I am writing to you to state my huge objection to the EPA giving a licence to Wicklow County Council for the Rocks Valley in Priestnewtown (known as the Rocks Valley) to be used as a landfill.

The Rocks Valley is a protected site of "Natural Biodiversity" in the County Development Plan. Wicklow County Council officials and engineers are refusing to recognise their own CDP and the protection status of the land. They are currently planning to landfill this protected site and they have made an application to the EPA to attain a waste licence. As a community this land is protected via the new County Development plan.

The destruction of a protected site is just not acceptable - this ice age glacial valley is a greenbelt site, and a natural habitat for a diverse range of wildlife.

There is also the fact that the county's development plan for 2010 to 2016 stated that the vision for this area can be achieved by 'the retention of a suitable green belt buffer between Greystones-Delgany and Kilcoole'. Covering 13 acres of natural, unspoilt beauty, Rocks Valley stretches from Eden Gate right over to the breaches in Kilcoole.

It's worth noting too that Wicklow County Council refused permission for earth fill at this site to a private developer back in March 1999. And now, as their August 26th, 2016 planning application details, they were hoping to clear the vegetation from Rocks Valley for up to 200,000 tonnes of inert dredging material from the Dargle River. All this even though on July 4th of last year, Wicklow County Council adopted an amendment to the draft county development plan to preserve the Rocks Valley – aka Pretty Bush – just as it is. This amendment was rubber-stamped on November 7<sup>th</sup> 2016.

It is not acceptable that the council proceeded with the application to ABP, knowing the opposition to this site being used as an infill as they plan – and particularly more so that it is now protected in the County Development Plan. Using the premise that they had applied for planning prior to the Development plan being ratified in November is disingenuous to the people of Wicklow, its elected members in the council and against all good planning guidelines.

I would urge the EPA not to issue this license.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Gráinne Mc Loughlin