

FINDINGS FROM COMMUNITY WELLBEING CONSULTATION

CELBRIDGE - LEIXLIP MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Findings from the consultation held Thursday 27th July 2023

Location: Leixlip youth & community centre

MD area: Celbridge/Leixlip

Number of members in attendance: 20

Health Physical and Mental: Being healthy is more than not being sick, it's about being safe and secure, it's about being able to have good clean food, to be able to get out and about. Now that the evenings are lengthening, look at all the people out jogging and walking and cycling and doing their thing on the roads and the tracks around sports fields and the parks and trails. We know that all of this also helps our mental health, as does having people you can talk to and a place you belong, and space to relax and be calm. But our health can't always be perfect, and sometimes we do need to be able to get professional help. We can't have a hospital at every crossroads, so what makes sense to build a healthy community? What would it look like?

Environment and Sustainability: If you live in a poor environment, everything else suffers. Environment is not just nature and wildlife and waterways (though they are very important too), it's also our buildings and streets, towns and our housing. It's about how we manage our natural resources, so that we leave enough for the generations to come. We hear a lot about climate change, and how it is the cause of a lot of the extreme weather we have had. The fact is that we are going to have to change the way we live, moving to renewable energy, making less waste and using less resources. How do we plan for this in a way that sustains the communities?

Values, Culture and Meaning: This is one which seem less obvious – but it's about what makes us who we are? What identifies us as a community? Our heritage and our history, our past and our present. What brings us together? What do we do when we gather; sport, music, drama, arts and crafts, spirituality, cards, dance, food, etc. The cup of tea and the chat, the sociable pint, the theatre and drama, the music and song, the neighbourliness that happens when there is a crisis. What is it about our communities that emigrants will get tearful about in the pubs of New York or Sydney? How will this look in the years to come? How would we want it to look?

Economy and Resources: Money makes the world go around – and people need enough income to live. We know that work is changing, and lots of the jobs that were there 20 years ago are gone, and lots of the jobs that people do now were not even imagined then. What are the main sources of work in this area, are they secure, what new opportunities are out there?

Technology gives us some real opportunities for rural areas. There is a small town in Scotland, where they have set up a working hub and there are about 60 people employed – working for a university in Boston! That's real jobs and quality jobs, bringing income into an area – and where distance is no object.

We also need to look at people who are not in paid work for whatever reason, maybe they are retired, or unemployed, or caring or have a disability. Are there programmes to help them to maintain their skills and learn new ones? To get involved in the community, along with their families?

For the economy to thrive we need good services and infrastructure; Transport, Broadband, Education for all ages, Shops, support for new businesses and old? What local resources and skills do we have and how can they be managed sustainably?

Social and Community Development: Everyone talks about the economy, but we don't live in an economy, we live in a community. A good community is probably one where people feel safe and secure, that has facilities to bring people together and they have things to do. What about people with disabilities, or new people or people from different cultures? Men and women? How do we develop a place where people can live without fear, and have places to go, and things to do? A place to be proud of and to belong to. It's also where we look at equality, how do we include everyone, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation, or culture, or ethnic group or age etc.

Communities that work well also have good services and infrastructure – transport, broadband, social services etc. But the most important thing is people!

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance: This is tricky – the easy start is participation, volunteering, getting involved, “doing your bit” and encouraging others to do the same. And around you, do you have a voice or a say in the decisions that affect you locally, as well as voting every 5 years? Are the views of all the different communities of Kildare heard and considered, and not just the ones that shout loudest or are in a so called “golden circle”. You can't please all of the people all of the time, but can we trust the way decisions are taken? The decisions on how money is spent? and how fair it is? Good Governance would mean that we can – all the way from the Dail to the Council to our own group that runs a lotto, or a Churchgate collection or a table quiz. But does this accountability mean that we are drowning in paperwork and people are put off getting involved in committees? What do we need to restore trust in our charities and voluntary organisations, and keep them vibrant?

To conclude: You have to love your area or your community – if you look to the future, you have to think about what you will hand on to the next generation, what you would like to be different for them. You have to keep to the forefront of your mind, what would you like the community to look like, how will it change to keep people here and make the people who live here want to stay here and raise their families here, participate and carry on the culture and the values in the decades to come.

Disclaimer: The findings in this report were gathered directly from individuals and member organisations of Kildare PPN. It represents their opinions and comments. Every effort has been made not to distort data; however, some grammatical and non-related edits have been made.

Themes	Asset mapping (What we have)	Vision for the future (What we would like)
		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
Health Physical & Mental	Youth Services Amenity Centre Youth Clubs Castletown LCDC Representative GP & Dental services Primary Care Centre Sporting Facilities Athletic Club Dara Services St. John of Gods St Raphels Si na Slainte Leixlip Amenities Pharmacy GAA Golf Health Centres Choirs Senior Athletics St Catherines Park Pop Up Pool Nursing Homes Psychiatric Services Gym in the Mill Driving Range Therapeutic Farm	<p><u>Accessibility & Transport</u> Scooter rentals in towns Community bike rental scheme Better cycling lanes Autism friendly town scheme for all towns Footpaths and accessibility audit for all towns and a plan put in place Public transport direct to Blanchardstown hospital Access to buildings fully funded by councils Universal design for all signage to reduce language barriers for inclusion</p> <p><u>Migrants</u> Create opportunities to involve migrant community in community food production (draw on their skills)</p> <p><u>Exercise Facilities</u> Sports facilities with access for older people (weather proof) in a central location Swimming pool accessible to ALL Leisure centre in Celbridge Teen facility for sport and leisure</p> <p><u>Educational</u> School intake to be more inclusive Education for sports organisations on wellbeing for communities</p> <p><u>Community Space</u> More outdoor play areas More bike racks More community gardens Sensory gardens in all towns</p>

		<p><u>Health Facilities and Supports</u> Information is needed on over 70s medical card Longer late opening hours in pharmacies Mental health emergency beds available locally (In primary health care centre) More GPs & more that will accept medical cards Increased supports for pharmacists to be the first port of call Digital healthcare services Psychotherapy services locally Dietitian community services Well-staffed, primary healthcare centres Dementia cafes Retirement homes like McAuley Place Community led/HSE primary health care Centralised volunteer programme for transport to health services</p> <p><u>Services & Supports</u> Citizen's information centre in all towns Library in Ardclough Family Resource Centres in all towns More Garda stations /Full time/better access Increase facilities at Celbridge Library</p> <p><u>Other</u> Utilise the priests house on main street to give access from the Liffey to main street Member led Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's) (Inclusive) Council should acquire land to develop CSAs and allotments Organisations to showcase skills hub (Share skills)</p>
GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION		

- 1) Easy and affordable access to local healthcare.
- 2) Create a Retirement Home similar to the McCauley Centre in Naas. Build and maintain more Social and Affordable Housing.
- 3) Per head of population an appropriate number of community recreation centres, swimming pools, parks, community gardens. There is little to no emphasis on providing public amenities for residents as is found in other countries.
- 4) Kids to have access to resources to deal with mental health needs. The disgrace and wait times associated with CAMHS is shocking. The lack of resources in Celbridge despite having a primary care service. The lack of resourcing means there is limited accessibility for a growing population over 20k. An end to the disjointed Gov strategies where people are expected to travel without a network. Access to GPs on a timely basis and a working health system with no long wait times for services.
- 5) To be believed and to feel confident enough to say when their mental health is in a bad way. To make it the norm to have a "mental health day" here and there. To speak about stress and ways to manage it. Learn how to say "no" to things. Create spaces for teenagers to hang out together and not feel like they need to be moved on. Better access to mental health services. Free healthy lunches to be provided to schools. For less waiting times and more consultants in hospitals.
- 6) We need infrastructure locally where elderly people have a centre to attend where they can meet others, have social gatherings like bingo, sing songs. We need our primary care to include facilities to help people with all forms of dementia.
- 7) Make medical clinics a prerequisite for new housing estates, in the same way that childcare facilities are.
- 8) Have an affordable space for physical health and wellbeing.
- 9) A river pathway for physical exercise, and for unwinding from the stress of life. Segregated cycle lanes. A link for pedestrians & cyclists to the Grand Canal Greenway which will become a popular commuter and leisure amenity for the area.
- 10) Lower street lighting levels as the new LED street lights disturb sleep for humans and all wildlife because they are too bright and have a harsh, cold artificial colour temperature; more and better public transportation with an accurate real-time app for bus schedules with actual arrival times displayed at stops; better, more accessible, walk-in mental health care facilities as with climate change and the fast pace of technological change there is a lot of stress leading to a lot of unaddressed mental health issues.)
- 11) Opportunities for participation, inclusion and meeting other people that are very low-cost, or free -- opportunities for meaningful work (both paid and unpaid) that contributes directly to the community.
- 12) As an ageing population, more local spending on accessibility will help the local economy. There is lots of global research on the value of the "purple pound".

Economy & Resources		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	Carers Kildare Association Intel Evening Classes Youthreach Internships Garda station	Grants/Funding Facilitator to help voluntary groups complete forms Grant advisors

	<p>CE Scheme (Ballyoulster)</p> <p>Oakley</p> <p>Rye Brewery</p> <p>Nursing Homes</p> <p>Hardware Shop</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Clothes Shops</p> <p>Supermarkets</p> <p>New Innovation Park</p> <p>Maynooth University</p> <p>Train Stations</p> <p>Creches</p> <p>Post Office</p> <p>Credit Union</p> <p>Banks</p> <p>Cafes & Take Aways</p> <p>Pubs</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Highly skilled people</p>	<p><u>Employment</u></p> <p>Supports for pop up shops to employ people out of work (enterprise programme)</p> <p>Dedicated person for employment placements for people with disabilities</p> <p>Supports for social enterprises</p> <p>More access to job sampling for people with disabilities</p> <p>Business hub to be created to support startups and current businesses</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u></p> <p>Mandatory upgrade of shop faces by council</p> <p>Pedestrianised main street with off street parking (accessible)</p> <p>Up-grade to Siro internet for all properties</p> <p>Fibre optic cabling in all towns</p> <p><u>Services/Amenities</u></p> <p>Liffey Valley Parks</p> <p>More outdoor spaces with seating</p> <p>Football facilities should be central</p> <p>Communal space for people to use to repair/make things with tools supplied</p> <p>Repair cafes</p> <p>Bigger post office for Celbridge</p> <p>Allotments should be made available</p> <p>Pedestrian access to the Liffey in Celbridge / Boardwalks</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Additional courses (part time) at third level</p> <p>Skills hub, where all, including new Irish can exchange skills and knowledge</p> <p>Education for Co-ops to be set up</p> <p>More educational for trades/craft people, encouraging pride of workmanship</p> <p><u>Traffic & Transport</u></p> <p>Reduce traffic in towns</p> <p>Public transport to the airport</p>
--	---	---

		<p>Link train, Clonsilla to Dunboyne to Airport (not through motorway) More frequent buses to Dublin Better local transport for Ardclough</p> <p><u>Tourism</u> A taskforce for creating and exploring the tourism potential in the MD</p> <p><u>Other</u> Business rates should be reduced for town centres Open and shared spaces to utilise vacant homes Businesses focused on re-cycling / circular economy The Mills car parking reduced in size to allow for a local market Premises should be made available for businesses with lower rent and rates Covered farmers market / food hub in towns accessible to all</p>
--	--	--

GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) Celbridge could be developed as a tourist destination. There is a lot of untapped potential in relation to its built heritage, the Liffey as an amenity and its link with Castletown. The main street could be more people-centred, currently it is traffic-centred.
- 2) Please facilitate Communal central heating using Wind Turbines and or Solar Panels or Hydrogen or other. Offer attractive grants to householders to retro fit exiting older houses.
- 3) Better public transport infrastructure. Buses are 3rd tier transport and we are in the Dublin commuter zone and need tram and metro solutions. Public transport plans are unambitious and need urgent action and funding.
- 4) The ability to access accommodation and reduce stress for accommodation. Continued access to healthcare in the community e.g., GPs, dentists etc.
- 5) Better commutes; less traffic, more buses - especially X buses. More access and normality of work from home.
- 6) I truly would love to see the train service improve - for more carriages to be afforded to the morning runs as it's crazy that commuters have to stand 40 mins to get to Dublin where they work. Ideally that trains would run every 20-30 mins. That trains would not be late especially at peak times. For the Celbridge to Heuston train to be 10-15 mins late every morning is frustrating.
- 7) Extend the core retail area by moving forward with the St. Raphael's town centre KDA. Ensure that it is well integrated visually and physically with English Row and the Mill. Focus the retail offering at the north-west end of Main Street on the tourist trade. • Open up opportunities for co-worker spaces targeted at remote workers living in Celbridge. Could be as simple as the Business Barn near Leixlip. Use this as an opportunity within that community,

to create a Celbridge-focused group of professionals. If nurtured correctly, this group may create further business opportunities. Link to Intel and the new Kildare Innovation Park.

8) Improved trains. Buses leaving at regular intervals from the train station rather than all 3 at once. Improved link roads. Improved trains.

9) SIRO broadband for all housing estates.

10) Young people need affordable housing which could be developed or supported by the local authority. In 2005 at Easton Mews in Leixlip, 27 low-cost homes were developed by a group of people on Kildare's housing waiting list on serviced sites sold at low cost, as KCC had received the land as planning gain from a developer. More such schemes are required for our future, and present, generations which avoid the mainstream property financing and development industry. Research shows the most successful housing is where the residents are involved in a participatory design process. Opportunities to work locally in community-based enterprises could be encouraged and supported. Local retired and older people with experience and knowledge could support younger generations to establish, manage and develop these enterprises which can be challenging to operate in our complex business environment.

11) Covered markets that could also act as a food-hub -- an energy cooperative in each town that could take electricity generated by PV cells on roofs, etc, and feed it into a micro-grid -- more land available to groups for CSA-type growing enterprises; KCC land, or private landowners to get involved, with supports from KCC -- meaningful work that contributes to the community economy and keeps money circulating within the area where it is spent -- local currencies -- repair cafés -- easier access to recycling centres -- support for circular-economy enterprises and initiatives -- site-value tax on all zoned land, in order to keep down house prices and rents and to prevent small local businesses from being priced out of the market by high rental costs -- support for non-profit and social enterprises that are socially and ecologically beneficial -- find ways to mobilise local financial capital -- e.g. skills hub -- A ReConomy project, such as that in Totnes <https://reconomycentre.org/home/about-the-totnes-reconomy-project/>

12) More supports for local businesses, especially on promotion of the value of local spending.

Social & Community Development		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	GAA Park Runs Barnhall RFC ETB Athletics The Slip Hall Community Council OPW @ Castletown Library The Mill The Salmon Leap Community Hall Age Friendly Groups The Arch Club Alone Bridge/Card Clubs	<u>Medical</u> A centre of excellence is needed in the area More emergency and mental health services & beds Primary care services in our primary care centre <u>Facilities/Amenities</u> More banks More public covered seated areas so people can meet – used for gardening-allotments veg areas etc Improved lighting Swimming pool (public)

	<p>Men's & Women's Sheds The People Garda Stations Fire Brigade I Scoil Youthreach Meals on Wheels Link buses Youth Café Adult Education Brewery Community Centres Canoeing Immigrant Community</p>	<p>Transport for disability groups A work hub is needed All parking protocols should be enforced An appropriate space for young people and children can meet Libraries should be more inclusive LGBT friendly Free access to all clubs and groups Pubs – members of public welcome to use toilets Provision for public toilets and changing places (accessible) Hopper bus through the county to airport</p> <p><u>Community Services</u> A way to spread information and advertise local open days and events/volunteering opportunities etc. More FRCs/Citizen advice centres Garda station to be open seven days a week – more gardaí on the streets</p> <p><u>Education</u> More courses made available with Maynooth university/CKLP/KCC</p> <p><u>Other</u> Juvenile offenders should be offered courses, activities to keep them occupied in the area personal and collective pride in the area All clubs and groups should have an inclusivity policy Financial resources to be put into clubs/groups or reduce rent Gardaí to be more visible up the Barn site development</p>
--	--	--

GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) Celbridge should be a people-centred town which offers excellent amenities and an excellent quality of life for across all age groups.
- 2) Create more off-road Cycle Paths and safe Cycle Parking areas. Please do not tarmac and widen the canal paths. Only re-surface with sand and gravel, so as not to destroy their wild and wonderful flowers and fauna.
- 3) A community pool, a community park like Catherine's park.

- 4) Ease of access to community spaces for sustainable, inclusive activities without excessive restrictions and limitations from insurance. E.g a community theatre, a community hall (free), allocated lands per ** population for community gardens, allotments, parks, playgrounds, playing fields etc.
- 5) Access to an appropriate amount of community resources for the size of population within a 1-2k radius of homes.
- 6) Access to an appropriate amount of community resources for the size of population within a 1-2k radius of homes.
- 7) Green spaces. Places for young people to congregate and play rather than hanging around, bored with nothing to do. A better footpath system so we can actually walk to Newcastle, and out the Ardclough road - to be able to walk by footpath to the Cliff of Lyons. To see easier access to the village by car, especially for commuters who cannot rely on public transport.
- 8) Better facilities for teenagers. • Bring our local refugees/asylum seekers into community activities through a deliberate programme of communication and outreach.
- 9) A good accessible recreation centre, with swimming pool and lots of recreational clubs for young people.
- 10) Community, leisure & sporting facilities which are appropriate to a modern urban town, such as squash courts, a swimming pool, table-tennis, chess.
- 11) Walking and cycling distances to local services; opportunities for local food growing in groups like CSA; free community spaces for all to use, as currently any community activities/meetings have to be in rented spaces or, if you're lucky, the first floor of a pub with a community-minded landlord; public green spaces protected from development.
- 12) Community resilience planning for events such as flooding, fire, power outages -- register of relevant skills -- multifunctional resource hubs / projects that deliver a wide range of environmental and quality-of-life benefits for local communities (cf CDP Landscape, Recreation & Amenity 13.7.3, p 478) See 8 below also.
- 13) I want local government to plan more long term and make the most of what we currently have. Small changes can make a big difference.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	The Arch Club Intel Volunteers Age & Friendly Groups Youth Centres Tidy Towns Men's Shed Community Council Youth Centres County Kildare Access Network (CKAN) Disability Access Group Women's Shed Bridge Club Community Centres Residence Associations	<u>Engagement</u> More consultations around land re-zoning Groups need to have full participation and training for facilitators Training for businesses and services on disability Bring back town councils with their own budgets Voices of people who work or care for people with disabilities are not heard

	<p>PPN Consultations KCC submissions can be positive KCC Consultations KCC Portal</p>	<p>More visibility of councils and government Only one garda vetting to cover all groups Do not put everything online TDs and locally elected reps to be visible and accessible in the area More effort to be made by the council to include the Leixlip/Celbridge MD</p> <p><u>Governance</u> More transparency around how the budget is spent Training and a requirement of governance in clubs</p> <p><u>Other</u> We need to take a leaf out of the French people and take to the streets Public suggestion boxes in all areas More citizen information offices needed Volunteer to be made easier, it is gone too professional Access transport between MD and Naas Financial cost of querying gov bodies is prohibitive Include a module on participation, democracy and good governance in schools and clubs More power to be given to locally elected councillors Unfair distribution of LPT No one size fits all – different treatment for Dublin MASP Local government structures need to be modernised</p>
--	--	--

GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) People should feel like their voices are heard in a representational structure which properly reflects all members of society.
- 2) Please re-instate Leixlip Town Council
- 3) Better deliberative democracy at a local level. Local equivalents to citizen's assemblies. For a reform of local government that mid-level type issues are handled appropriately at a local level without so much need to resort to national level That our elected representative councillor's votes matter. An overhaul of Bord Pleanala as their decisions have huge impact on

local areas and should always be in line with LAPs. Too much planning approved without appropriate infrastructure in place.

4) Appropriate governance standards in place to ensure any funding allocated is spent for an appropriate purpose to benefit the community.

5) To feel included i.e. go to schools and ask for teenagers opinions on how to make towns better for them? Provide a day in the life of local county council invite classes out and let them ask questions.

6) I want people living In Celbridge to feel part of a community. To have access to education. For all to live together seamlessly. It sounds ideological but I believe if we look after the youth in our community, give them places to go, to meet other teens, we can stop vandalism and anti-social behaviour in that age group. Boredom breeds trouble. We need local Councillors to have more input into what happens locally. They are on the ground listening to local issues, so they hear what people need. For instance, a Garda Station open for the 20,000 people living in Celbridge must ask questions or put forward ideas.

7) Establish a town forum to discuss issues, with a mix of in-person and on-line engagement events. Provide “safe zones” to enable discussions with KCC councillors and officials. • Work on obtaining input from underrepresented groups: elderly, teenagers, those with disabilities, etc.

8) Have a pride in their area.

9) A decision-making process and a funding process which is proportionate to the population.

10) A more open and accessible engagement with the local authority particularly in regard to sub-contractors with unmarked vans spraying 'Roundup' in public areas of estates and the hard pruning or felling of trees without any prior notice or explanation. This is our living environment and my neighbours and I think the sub-contractors are just making work, and money, without any public notice, let alone engagement. It’s our tax money too. Damaging views develop where there is poor communication and a lack of trust. This requires better governance from the local authority.

11) Citizen's Assembly' type consultations on crucial issues (e.g., Castletown Demesne; parking on main streets; revitalisation of town-centres) -- with a random selection of residents of the area, input from experts and an onus on local government to act on recommendations. -- all projects and social enterprises that receive support from local government should be required to meet high standards of participative democracy and social inclusion -- mentoring / support from adults for young people who want to contribute to their local society and economy. For example, citizenship support for 16–25-year-olds: a group of family / friends / other adults would undertake to support them in making this contribution over the course of a year.

12) I think our county councillors and Kildare CC needs to ensure they are getting the best long-term value for any investment. For example, installing a lift in The Mill community centre in Celbridge would help make community facilities more accessible for all.

Values, Culture & Meaning		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	Arthur Guinness Walk & Grave Pubs St Patricks Day Festival St Catherines Park St Marys Church	<u>Services & Amenities</u> Castletown needs to be protected SAC status More open spaces for meeting

	<p>Confey Borromeo Church The Slip Hall Drama Group Rye Brewery Castletown St Patricks Church Sports Clubs Old Oak Trees (Natural heritage) History Trail Colour Trend Guinness Graveyard All places of Worship All Historical Sites GAA Dance Classes The Library Town Twinning The Wonderful Barn Youth & Community centres National Youth Drama Grand Canal All Theatre Groups The Mill Heritage & Leixlip Streetscape Connolly's Folly Celbridge Abbey Royal Canal The Liffey</p>	<p><u>Local</u> Community spirit should be nurtured All built heritage sites to be protected (including grounds) (Oakley part / The Abbey)</p> <p><u>Events</u> We should have cultural celebrations for everyone (Community & intergenerational) Traditional story telling tradition should be encourages All traditions should be nurtured through engagement More Irish music event</p> <p><u>Inclusion</u> Develop a culture of inclusion for refugees to integrate into the community Nurture the tradition of caring for people with disabilities</p> <p><u>Other</u> Look at the traditions of the past and use them as a blueprint for the future Encourage the Irish language organically More volunteering opportunities across different areas for everyone in the community Mentoring programme for young people who wish to be involved in the community (experienced adult volunteers should be used) Co-op tradition should be nurtured</p>
--	--	---

GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) Celbridge will be a welcoming place where all people are accepted and included and have a stake in the town.
- 2) Please create more allotments and rent them at a price that would make growing your own food profitable. Encourage all especially those living in Social Housing to rent Allotments.
- 3) A welcoming, inclusive, sustainable, nature positive culture in our towns making them liveable, healthy communities.
- 4) A continued investment in community. Access to sporting facilities in the locality. This need to travel to everything needs to stop.
- 5) To value hard work and human decency. To value respect for others that share our community.

- 6) We need to be more people based, work to create a community with people in mind. We need people to have a social community as well as a business community. We need to look after our elderly community, as the numbers are ever increasing as people live longer. We need to create an environment where people are not spending 2.5 hours travelling to work. There needs to be a work life balance. We need to think outside the box.
- 7) Establish a centre for the arts, both performing and visual. Allow a cinema alongside it, even if only at art-house scale. • Develop and broaden the Vanessa and Jonathan festival. Develop and broaden the St. Patrick’s Day parade into a festival. • Create a joint Castletown/Celbridge culture and tourism strategy: “Celbridge and Castletown House: The Beating Heart of Palladian Ireland”, celebrating culture and history, leveraging Castletown House, The Workhouse and Famine Graveyard, Celbridge Abbey, Celbridge Manor, the gardens in the Orchard, etc.
- 8) A town centre in Celbridge which remains relevant to the people, and is not just a road for traffic.
- 9) I would like people now and, in the future, to develop a more engaged and participatory approach to living in the community we all share; to develop a more sustainable approach to living based on the concept that 'enough is plenty' and inequality is unfair; and to make decisions based on a long-term view and consideration of the impacts of a decision for the next seven generations.
- 10) A ban on large signage, such as that at Costa Coffee at Tesco Celbridge -- such commercial signage should be very small and discreet -- a sense that each town has a distinct identity and is not dominated by the signage and appendages of large corporations -- upgrade Castletown's Protected Landscape status to one of international protected status -- varied opportunities for outdoor hands-on learning for members of the public -- especially young people -- to become involved in growing, horticulture, permaculture and gardening projects and to become aware of the life of the land/soil, how food is grown and how to support biodiversity, in both rural and suburban /urban contexts -- multifunctional resource hubs / projects that deliver a wide range of environmental and quality-of-life benefits for local communities (cf CDP Landscape, Recreation & Amenity 13.7.3, p 478)
- 11) A lot of people living in County Kildare have come from other parts of the country or world but we usually want the same basic values. A nice clean town with good public facilities like parks, libraries and transport links. I think Celbridge is constantly improving on all of these. Well done and keep up the good work.

Environment & Sustainability		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	Improved Public Transport Cycle Lanes Tidy Towns Allotments Charity Shops The Liffey Royal Canal The Wonderful Barn New pedestrian & cycle bridge Castletown Parklands Acre Project	<u>Transport & Parking</u> More parking facilities for new builds More cycle lanes Segregated areas for Cyclists and walkers Main streets too congested – they need to be people orientate <u>Services & Amenities</u> Protect Castletown & grounds for recreational purposes More outdoor spaces

	<p>Derry Beg Farm Volunteer Litter Picking Greenways Oughterard Canal Walkway The Farm St Catherines Park Knitting Club Landscape Echo System Train stations Community Gardens Mature woodlands New Link Buses All Waterways</p>	<p>Celbridge workhouse should be developed for public amenities A Swimming pool is very badly needed Pathways should be up-graded A linear path is need to Liffey valley</p> <p><u>Funding</u> Tidy towns need to be better resourced and recognised</p> <p><u>Environment & Sustainability</u> Ban fake grass Find an environmentally friendly alternative to fake grass Appropriate sheltered accommodation for older people and people with additional needs Hedgerow should not be removed without the proper studies /inspections Housing estates should only have one turbine/boiler and all houses should have sun panels Building materials need to support sustainability Make it easier to get tree preservation orders Biodiversity and environmental health need to be greatly considered (Re: Industry and high output businesses, which are damaging)</p> <p><u>Educational</u> Tidy Towns linked to educational programme in the schools</p>
--	--	---

GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) Retain important green spaces particularly around Castletown House. Retain indigenous woodland, supporting indigenous wildlife. Develop the Liffey as a protected park. Provide information and raise awareness to Celbridge and Leixlip residents on the amount of household waste generated and amount of gas/electricity usage in the towns and provide initiatives on how waste or resource usage can be reduced.
- 2) Please facilitate the retrofitting of the existing vehicles to use Electricity or Hydrogen or other. Outlaw the destruction of any section of our native Hedgerows. Plant more native trees and Hedgerows.
- 3) The retrofitting grants from the SEAI are insufficient and prices are outrageous for home owners. There needs to be a fully funded programme of retrofitting starting with older homes to make them liveable, bring them up to modern standards, and drive down the development of green field sites. Hedges and trees in greenfield sites need protections no differently than

our built heritage and should be incorporated into new developments. We have lost too many hedgerows and mature woodlands carelessly. We need better protection for our national fauna. Castletown needs to be protected in its entirety. There needs to be movements on our designated SACs and Natura 2000 sites.

4) A fast reliable public transport system. A planning system that protects natural resources e.g., lands sold to developers around Castletown should not destroy that green space.

5) More green areas and protection of green spaces especially around landmarks like Castletown House. For the government to veto land purchases by developers to create some green spaces. For farmers/agriculture to be financially aided and listened to as their work in providing local food and maintaining green land is vital to our country and economy.

6) That we don't lose so many of the trees in our area, and that we don't become very built up. We need infrastructure for families not just crèches - when housing estates are being built. We need bus connections out the Ardclough rd and Newcastle rd. Train times and bus times need to be more staggered to encourage more to use public transport, in addition to more buses. We need office spaces more available so people do not have to necessarily travel to Dublin for work.

7) Focus on improving cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in Celbridge. Focus on high-quality cycle and pedestrian routes to Hazelhatch train station. Figure out why the Salesian College have an excellent percentage cycling into school and seek to apply the learnings to St. Wolstans Community School, which has a very poor rate of cycling. • Preserve as much of Castletown House Demesne as is feasible. • Work on creating a linear park along the Liffey River, from Castletown House Demesne through Donaghcumper, the Mill, the grounds of Celbridge Abbey and into Abbeyfarm. Establish a Slí na Sláinte through Castletown House lands and on into the town.

8) Clean air with enforcement of the ban of burning fossil fuels.

9) As a society and Local Authority we are obviously not investing enough resources in the natural environment to deal with climate change (or we wouldn't have the climate problems we do have) by taking a long term view of: biodiversity; green spaces inter-connected by green corridors; hedgerow protection and re-planting; native mixed tree planting; re-wilding; protecting and re-creating wetlands instead of draining them; surface water attenuation and increased drainage capacity to avoid flooding that will happen with more extreme rainfall weather events, . . . these are just a few of the sustainable measures that can be planned for, supported and implemented locally. To develop more sustainable homes a community microgrid owned and operated by its members could be developed so that homes can share and trade electricity privately 'behind the meter' and provide useful services to the grid and be paid for these services. Community owned microgrids are encouraged and supported by the EU and there have been several pilot schemes in Ireland over the past 10 years. Microgrids support renewable electricity, battery storage, power sharing and reduce peak demand on the grid . . . all of which are sustainable strategies.

10) Thriving town centres that are pleasant to walk and sit in, with many small independent local businesses -- removal of unnecessary street signage, etc -- removal of most cars from main streets -- ban on the removal of hedgerows -- developers should be required to work carefully to erect new fencing, etc and to avoid completely any damage to existing hedgerows -- the designation of Castletown Demesnes as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) at Castletown Demesnes -- a ban on the planting of larch hedging (as at Costa Coffee at Celbridge) -- support for more hedgerow restoration projects such as <https://hedgerows.ie/celbridge-hedgerow-restoration-project/> -- the conversion of the car

park at the Mill in Celbridge to a plaza-style space, with room for seating, small traders' stalls, etc -- active support for community-driven projects to boost and enhance Kildare's green infrastructure (CDP 12.14.5, page 425, CDP) and linear connections (CDP B1024, page 396; B102, page 385; and 12.14, page 422) enhance biodiversity by encouraging citizens to create and maintain pocket-sized rich habitats linked with compatible habitats in the wider landscape (CDP B1A13 page 396).

11) We all know what is coming down the road climate wise so any efficiencies our local council can do will help. Expand our libraries, installing solar panels in more public buildings and promoting more local public transport links would help.