



# VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING STATEMENT

**CELBRIDGE - LEIXLIP MUNICIPAL DISTRICT**

# VISION

## FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING



The Municipal District of Celbridge/Leixlip, with its rich history and vibrant community, has always been at the forefront of promoting the well-being of its residents. This report provides an in-depth analysis of the findings from the consultation held on July 27th, 2023, at the Leixlip Youth & Community Centre and incorporates the additional findings from an on-line survey which was circulated to ensure maximum participation. It is a testament to the district's commitment to understanding and addressing the needs and aspirations of its people. The focus of the consultation was on six key areas related to the wellbeing of the Celbridge/Leixlip Municipal District: Health (Physical and Mental), Environment and Sustainability, Values, Culture, and Meaning, Economy and Resources, Social and Community Development, and Participation, Democracy, and Good Governance. This report provides a detailed analysis and offers recommendations for the wellbeing of the community.

## HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL)

### Findings:

Health is a multifaceted concept that goes beyond the absence of illness. The community recognises the importance of both physical and mental health. Being healthy encompasses safety, security, access to nutritious food, and the ability to engage in recreational activities. The community also highlighted the significance of mental health, emphasising the need for spaces of belonging, relaxation, and calm.

### Recommendations:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Establish more local health centres, especially focusing on mental health services.
- **Community Programmes:** Organise community events promoting physical activities like marathons, yoga sessions, and mental health workshops.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch campaigns emphasising the importance of mental health, breaking stigmas, and encouraging residents to seek help when needed.

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

### Findings:

The environment plays a pivotal role in the well-being of the community. The district's natural beauty, encompassing wildlife, waterways, and green spaces, is a source of pride. However, there's an understanding of the challenges posed by climate change and the need for sustainable resource management..



## Recommendations:

- **Green Initiatives:** Promote the use of renewable energy sources, establish more green spaces, and encourage sustainable farming practices.
- **Waste Management:** Implement advanced waste management systems, promote recycling, and organise community clean-up drives.
- **Education:** Organise workshops and seminars on sustainable living, teaching residents how to reduce their carbon footprint.

## VALUES, CULTURE AND MEANING

### Findings:

Culture and values are the bedrock of any community. The district prides itself on its rich heritage, history, and the shared activities that bring its people together.

### Recommendations:

- **Cultural Preservation:** Restore and maintain historical sites, organise cultural festivals celebrating the district's heritage, and promote local arts and crafts.
  - **Community Building:** Organise events that foster community spirit, such as local fairs, music festivals, and art exhibitions.
  - **Education:** Introduce programmes in schools that teach students about the district's history and cultural significance.
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# ECONOMY AND RESOURCES

## Findings:

The changing nature of work, driven by technological advancements, presents both challenges and opportunities. The community recognises the potential of remote work and the importance of diversifying the local economy.

## Recommendations:

- **Economic Diversification:** Promote local businesses, encourage startups, and provide training programmes for emerging industries.
- **Remote Work Infrastructure:** Establish co-working spaces and ensure high-speed internet connectivity to facilitate remote working.
- **Skill Development:** Organise workshops and training programmes to equip residents with skills relevant to the modern job market.

## Economic Development and Job Creation

## Findings:

While the district has seen economic growth, there's a need for more job opportunities, especially for the younger generation.

## Recommendations:

- **Business Incentives:** Offer tax breaks and incentives for businesses setting up in the district, especially in sectors with high growth potential.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Establish business incubators and offer grants for startups, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.
- **Tourism:** Develop and promote tourist attractions, capitalising on the district's rich history and natural beauty.

## SOCIAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Findings:

With a diverse population, there's a need to ensure that all community members, regardless of their background, feel included and valued.

### Recommendations:

- **Cultural Events:** Organise multicultural festivals celebrating the diverse heritage of the district's residents.
- **Community Centres:** Establish community centres offering language classes, integration workshops, and cultural exchange programmes.
- **Public Awareness:** Launch campaigns promoting tolerance, understanding, and the benefits of a diverse community.

## PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY & GOOD GOVERNANCE

### Findings:

There's a strong desire for more public participation in governance. The community believes in the power of collective decision-making and wants their voices to be heard.

### Recommendations:

- **Decentralised Decision Making:** Empower local councils and ensure that decisions affecting the community are made locally.
- **Public Forums:** Organise regular “town hall” meetings where residents can voice their concerns and provide feedback.
- **Transparency:** Ensure that the decision-making process is transparent, with regular updates provided to the community.

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

### Findings:

A strong expression of desire for more inclusive educational opportunities and platforms to voice young people's opinions.

### Recommendations:

- **Educational Infrastructure:** Invest in building and upgrading schools, ensuring they are equipped with modern facilities and technology.
- **Youth Engagement:** Establish youth councils, giving them a platform to participate in decision-making processes. Organise regular youth forums and workshops.
- **Skill Development:** Partner with local businesses and institutions to offer vocational training and internship opportunities for young adults.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Findings:

Residents expressed concerns about safety, especially during nighttime. There's a call for increased Garda presence and better-lit streets.

### Recommendations:

- **Increased Garda Patrols:** Allocate resources for more regular Garda patrols, especially in areas identified as high-risk.
- **Community Policing:** Encourage community Garda initiatives, fostering trust between residents and An Garda Síochána.
- **Infrastructure:** Invest in better street lighting and install CCTV cameras at strategic locations.

# INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN PLANNING

**Findings:** The rapid growth of the district has led to challenges in infrastructure and urban planning. Traffic congestion limited public transport options, and the need for more recreational spaces and improved accessibility were highlighted during the consultation.

## Recommendations:

- **Accessibility:** A full accessibility audit should be carried out across public buildings and spaces within the Municipal District.
- **Transportation:** Develop a comprehensive transportation plan that includes expanding public transport routes, creating dedicated bike lanes, and improving road infrastructure.
- **Recreational Spaces:** Allocate spaces for parks, playgrounds, and community centres. Consider developing a central recreational facility that can host various sports and cultural events.
- **Urban Planning:** Adopt a sustainable urban planning approach, ensuring green spaces are integrated into new developments and preserving the district's historical sites.





# CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Every community faces its unique set of challenges. For Celbridge/Leixlip, rapid urbanisation, maintaining cultural heritage amidst modernisation, and ensuring sustainable growth are some of the pressing issues. To address these, a multi-pronged approach is necessary:

- **Urbanisation vs. Heritage:** While development is essential, it's crucial to ensure that the district's rich history isn't overshadowed. A balance between modern infrastructure and preserving historical sites is vital.
- **Sustainable Growth:** As the district grows, it's essential to ensure that this growth is sustainable. This means adopting eco-friendly practices, promoting green businesses, and ensuring that the natural beauty of the district is preserved for future generations.
- **Community Engagement:** For any initiative to be successful, the community's involvement is crucial. Regular feedback sessions, town hall meetings, and public forums can ensure that the residents' voices are heard, and their concerns addressed.



# CONCLUSION

The Municipal District of Celbridge/Leixlip stands at a pivotal juncture. It relies on a multitude of interconnected factors, including health, environment, values, economy, social development, and good governance. With a proactive approach, the district can ensure the holistic well-being of its residents, fostering a community that's not only thriving economically, but is also rich in culture, values, and social cohesion. This report, based on extensive consultations provides a comprehensive roadmap. By addressing the areas highlighted, the district can pave the way for a future that's promising, inclusive, and vibrant, ensuring the best possible future for the community and future generations.

