

FINDINGS FROM COMMUNITY WELLBEING CONSULTATION

CLANE - MAYNOOTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Findings from the consultation held Monday 17th July 2023

Location: North Kildare Sports Centre

MD area: Clane/Maynooth

Number of members in attendance: 18

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	Equestrian centres Castles Pharmacy's Canal walks/Barges Town Parks Food banks Golf courses Men's Sheds Playgrounds Forests/Walks Yoga Hospital Primary care centres Community centres Leisure centres Nursing homes GAA Carton House & Walk HSE day centre Greenways Martial arts Evergreen groups Zipit Donadea Mindfulness Tai Chi Zero Waste Garden Maynooth Town FC Foot golf Wheelchair swings Dog friendly cafes Childcare services District nurses Kildare Sports Partnership Garda stations GPs Groups that promote inclusion Befriending services	<p><u>Accessibility</u> Think of access when thinking green Accessible recycling bins Footpaths made accessible Better maintenance of public spaces Raised lights not accessible</p> <p><u>Migrants</u> More non-nationals to be included in community conversations Better cultural competences in the health system More cultural spaces Amphitheatre with local culture and environment taken into account</p> <p><u>Exercise Facilities</u> Accessible equipment for physical fitness in all areas Outdoor exercise spaces should be covered (roof) Activities for older people Affordable leisure activities for all Affordable leisure activities for carers, older adults and the unemployed Swimming pool</p> <p><u>Educational supports</u></p>

	<p>Age friendly group Garda stations</p>	<p>Mainstream schools given support for children with disabilities July provision (also known as the Summer Programme) needs to be better run Support for children transitioning from primary to secondary school especially for those with special needs</p> <p><u>Community space</u> More community and space needed</p> <p><u>Health facilities and supports</u> More/ better staffed primary care centres Additional GPs needed Early intervention systems for physical and mental health issues Affordable health care/leisure and food More psychologists needed Measurement systems for education around mental health</p>
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

Better services. Cheaper services. More mental health services for young people. More outdoor facilities that will encourage people out and about to exercise and socialise. Better lighting in areas where people use to walk in winter
Excellent Primary care facilities. Staffed by knowledgeable medics who can refer further if they don't have the expertise. Too many families have lost loved ones where the GP doesn't know what they are dealing with when the patient presents with symptoms. Cancer patients encounter this all too often. Hospice staff say they see it all the time. It's heartbreaking for the families that their loved ones could be treated if referred in time

Economy & Resources		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<p>Carbury carers CE scheme Ballina Resource Centre Mobile & static library Connected hubs Education short term and night courses</p>	<p><u>Grants/Funding</u> Residents Association grants need to be reviewed – not just grass cutting</p>

	<p>Down syndrome garden KARE day services LIDL Musgraves SuperValu Aldi Maynooth University Kilcock Integration Group Moyvalley House Hotel Johnstown Bridge Hotel Brady meats Industrial parks Clane hospital Barberstown castle The K Club Carton House Intel Services industry Business campus Fire station Museums</p>	<p>Research needs to be done on way grants are not used Citizens information centres should be used as information centre to assist with grants Simplify the grant system</p> <p><u>Employment</u> Research is needed into unemployment in Kildare Remote workers link with local businesses</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u> The Parks Department (in KCC) needs more resources Better maintenance for public historical sites Public lighted should be changed to LED Future proof the electrical supply in Kildare Shop fronts neglected</p> <p><u>Services/Amenities</u> Transport needs to be more regular and reliable More affordable childcare Cinemas needed Accessible tourism (Historical sites) Extend services to Kilcock</p> <p><u>Education</u> More ETB courses need to be made available Universities need to offer apprenticeships</p>
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GATHERED THROUGH ONLINE CONSULTATION

More opportunities. More youth employment services. More training opportunities. More meaningfully work opportunities. Better rates for community employment places to encourage people onto the schemes.
An enterprise centre for fledgling and startup businesses. A technology centre for startup technology businesses. Include services and supports for entrepreneurs and remote workers.

<p>Social & Community Development</p>	<p>Pitch & Putt GAA clubs Community groups Coill Dubh community centre 120 & 139 bus Allenwood community centre Clane project centre Schools/Universities ETB Music generation Kildare People Banks Train station</p>	<p>GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION</p> <p><u>Medical</u> Accessible primary care centre Improved mental health services A mental health recovery centre More GPs</p> <p><u>Facilities/Amenities</u> Teenage social clubs Swimming pools Public toilet facilities More community centres Dog parks Park & ride facilities Better bus lanes Segregated cycle and walking pathways Larger library</p> <p><u>Community services</u> Community watch should be supported in all areas Garda stations should be open for longer hours More visible garda presence on the streets Visits to elderly people in their homes More parent and toddler groups Extra childcare facilities</p> <p><u>Education</u> Accessible changing facilities in universities More evening classes Language classes in the community</p>
<p>GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION</p>		

A space where young people can go to seek support. Better community facilities in rural communities. Better infrastructure when building mass housing. More school places. Health services. Social outlets. More public services. Better transport.
Fully staffed Primary Care Centre, Swimming pool, 2000 seat Theatre, Community Centre, An Amenities Centre - Leixlip Amenities is a good example. Supports for sports clubs to give sport to all that wish to take part and include those with disabilities or conditions. All these would lend towards a good community that supports all.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidy Towns Parish council Clinics with TDs & Politicians/Councillors Cultural groups Scouting Ireland Community Connect Maynooth Community Council Local property tax Parents association (Gaelscoil) Access to council meetings National bodies Men's shed Library Kildare PPN Places of worship Residence associations KCC minutes available Pubs & cafes Internet good Political clinics Social media ICA Representative on council 	<p><u>Electoral Registration process</u> System needs to be made easier and education around this needs to happen Value statement so no one gets left behind</p> <p><u>Engagement</u> Councils need to engage better More volunteers in sustainable roles Recognise different cultural groups and how to help them engage in the community</p> <p><u>Governance</u> Proper governance for all community groups More accountability for grants Less cumbersome funding application forms</p> <p><u>Other</u> Gap between public sector and private sector too wide Control should go back to local county councils</p>
GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION		
<p>Better education on democracy and decision making. More inclusive decision making to include the people that will be affected by the decisions. Local linking when allocating of houses</p> <p>Encourage all to register to vote. When an issue/request is raised with KCC for example, make a timely decision and progress to implementation ASAP, otherwise, the requesters loose</p>		

interest in constantly fighting the case and nothing happens, the community is worse off as a result

Values, Culture & Meaning		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON WORKSHOPS
	Parish/community halls St Vincent de Paul Drama group Religious retreats Community seed swaps Churches St Patricks Day parade Pubs Roma Pride Week Cultural groups Bawnogues Centre Muslim prayer group Ukrainian celebration day African day Lions club Theatre groups Carbury/Barberstown/Rathcoffee/Maynooth Castle The Abbey (Clane) Steam museum King Mesgegras mound Clane Sports clubs & Ass Adult Education	<p><u>Accessibility</u> Balance pedestrianisation with accessible needs All services should be accessible We need a multi-purpose universally accessible public community space</p> <p><u>Services & Amenities</u> Integrate & cluster services & amenities Improve Local Link More investment in local library services More sports amenity centres Sensory gardens/more playgrounds for a wider age group, well managed and cared for</p> <p><u>Local</u> More locally branded shops More pop ups promoting local crafts and artisans Local farmers markets A gallery in every town Public seating More theatres Business centres so businesses have a place to work from</p> <p><u>Events</u> More cultural events and days which should be free for everyone More open community spaces for events which are covered by insurance</p>

		More intergenerational projects – crafts/storytelling
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION		
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Better equality and understanding on cultural differences. Better integration supports in communities. Visible integration efforts. Improved education on culture integration, 2000 seat theatre needed in Maynooth. There are at least 3 drama schools that would use it alongside the local amateur dramatics group who put on excellent productions. Support these groups and in turn mental health and wellbeing is enhanced. Let's not lose Ireland's culture with the influx of foreigners. Keep the Irish language alive and offer opportunities to use it.

Environment & Sustainability		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community gardens Community orchards Clonfert pet farm Wildflower areas Clothes swap/banks Lullymore Heritage Boglands Kilshanroe forest Golf Refuge company Tidy Towns Smoke free zones Government action plan Allotments Cultural buildings Canal walkways Graveyards Clay pigeon shooting 	<p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>Joined up cycle lanes HGVs & heavy traffic should not be allowed in towns Cycle lanes should not hinder public transport Connected footpaths and cycle lanes for safety</p> <p><u>Services</u></p> <p>Extend rail service to Kilcock Park and ride facilities Grow public services in every town/village so people don't have to travel by car to other towns</p> <p><u>Environment & Sustainability</u></p> <p>More facilities to recycle glass Educate people on the why of peat bog preservation All environmental changes must be accessible to all Should be more environmental science-based actions More recycling centres Develop pond projects in towns and villages Educate on Biodiversity General education on environmental practices for junior schools</p>

		Protection/open up promotion of boglands
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

More education on sustainability. More recycling facilities where you receive small payment for recycling (cans, plastic bottle banks) to encourage recycling. Batteries recycling facilities. Reduce water packaging on foods
Teach environmental awareness from an early age in schools. Have sufficient recycling services in each town - paper, glass, tin, clothes, electrical etc. Residents shouldn't have to drive for 30 mins to recycle their items - it negates the purpose of being environmentally friendly. Think the process through and make sure that all the steps in the chain work