

# FINDINGS FROM COMMUNITY WELLBEING CONSULTATION

## KILDARE - NEWBRIDGE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



## Findings from the consultation held Monday 24th July 2023

**Location:** Newbridge town hall - Newbridge

**MD area:** Kildare/Newbridge

**Number of members in attendance:** 26

**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?

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	<p>Moore Abby Wood Community health centres GAA and other sports Killinthomas Wood Tus Nua Primary healthcare centres Food drive/Counselling services at Teach Dara Walking footpaths &amp; walkways Golf courses American football Athletics clubs The Curragh Rugby Platinum Clubhouse Singing for wellbeing Family Resource Centres (FRCs) Red lane leisure Pitch &amp; Putt Curragh Pride Regional addiction services Camphill community Kildare youth theatre Cricket club Canoe club AA, CA, SA, NA services KARE Camping Mondello ASI day care centre Schools LGBT+ (Integration and education) Hello Kildare Men's &amp; Women's Sheds Dementia café The Hive Befriending services Skate Park Medical centres Cheshire Newbridge Clean air Adult education Animal shelters</p>	<p><b><u>Accessibility &amp; Transport</u></b> Regular &amp; affordable public transport Wheelchair accessible taxis Cycle infrastructure – improved segregation More accessible walkways &amp; buildings Newbridge main street – reduce to one size to improve cycle lanes and widen areas Town Link – shuttle bus connecting residence to shops &amp; services Trains – electric and sustainable More accessible playgrounds</p> <p><b><u>Educational supports</u></b> More education on the benefits of cycling Peer support workers to give information to people in the community</p> <p><b><u>Community space</u></b> More well planted open spaces for mental health Outdoor gyms Re-instate Slí na Sláinte with benches An extension to Linear Park</p> <p><b><u>Health facilities and supports</u></b> Paediatric services Day services for older people More support for low-income households More localised and well-staffed health centres Suicide prevention services More supports for dentists to set up More ability for pharmacists to be the first port of call for people More supports for first time mothers in local areas More supports for psychiatric patients who leave hospital to live in the community</p>



	Schools	<p>More emergency services personnel  More GPs – with a quota for people with medical cards  Supports for material mental health  Support services for the LGBT+ community, particularly older people  Ring fenced funding for the Travelling community for mental health services  Increased staffing for mental health services</p> <p><b><u>Facilities</u></b>  Playgrounds for all local towns  Swimming pools – public, affordable &amp; accessible  Less centralised sports &amp; leisure facilities  Integrated sports halls for all sports  More public toilets  Dog park that is accessible to people with wheelchairs &amp; the visually impaired</p> <p><b><u>Housing</u></b>  For special needs people  Assisted independent living  Integrated housing for older/single people  More “step-down” housing for people to down size</p> <p><b><u>Policing</u></b>  Address criminal behaviour  More garda services and presence on the streets</p> <p><b><u>Inclusiveness</u></b>  The data proves people do not get involved in sports etc e.g. Travelling community  More supports for sports clubs to become more inclusive for everyone</p>
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**GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION**

- 1) See social and community development. The link between physical and mental wellbeing is well known. We have no facilities in this town. It is a dumping ground for more houses, addition centres and hotels that will never be used as hotels, and that is scandalous.
- 2) Access to public facilities to allow participation in physical activities by all age groups. A community swimming pool. All weather pitches.

- 3) Actual proper services for disabled people and supports for their families. Not just record keepers.
- 4) More GPs and related medical practitioners and better funded access to health care at all levels. The current situation of new residents having no local healthcare options is very detrimental to both physical and mental health. Major housing programmes should have this as a condition of planning, the need to provide adequate and appropriate clinical facilities made available at competitive rates to attract appropriate medical supports.
- 5) More playground and activities for younger generations. We need to ensure that younger generations are active. Segregated cycle ways to ensure kids can cycle to school. Change the focus of cars to pedestrians around the town.
- 6) I would like future generations to be fit healthy and active in body and mind.
- 7) Integrated services. Local list available. HSE building on Station Road is not as accessible as it could be. Develop higher level aspirations for residents. Make their environments aesthetically pleasing and safe. Develop self-esteem in the town. Then add on Maslow's higher-level needs. The town is currently focused on removing criminality, becoming safe again, addressing drugs and crime. We need to move on from this and get back to higher level aspirations.
- 8) Childrens play park and pool are facilities for people to exercise their physical and mental health. Current lack of GP and dental facilities put current and future generations health at risk.
- 9) More amenities, schools, playgrounds. Cycle lanes to the curragh for example.
- 10) Good nutrition and access to locally grown organic food. Information on how to eat well and participative events around physical and mental wellbeing, disease prevention. More access to GP's and healthcare.
- 11) To be able to live and function in a healthy social and physical environment. Access to healthcare, physical and mental, needs improvement.
- 12) Access to adequate medical care ..... To be able to see YOUR GP not whomever happens to be the locum in the practice that day. A choice in who you want to be your doctor.
- 13) Relevant and adequate resources community-based supports to complement hospital-based care. Suitable range of housing for a variety of needs including step down for downsizers Independent / sheltered and assisted housing options.
- 14) Again- we need to give people what they NEED in whatever time of life and health they are in. This can be done with some basic planning locally for good supports in the home - and then when needed, well-planned " nursing homes" will always be needed. The current models of Nursing Homes will probably need to be re-thought about - particularly after what happened during Covid times, not many older people will WANT to go into Nursing Homes now. Definitely an important part of this thinking will have to be that BETTER and decent salaries are given to those employed as Carers in both community and for Carers and Nurses in Nursing homes. It's such a pity that economically, Ireland has moved in 30-40 years from both the children and older people being looked after in the home- to now being sent to Creches and Nursing homes respectively. The unfortunate cost of having both parents compelled to work to pay a mortgage for overpriced housing - has made us pay a huge price in our children and our older people being looked after by people that are not their family. When that was the case - that one person's salary could support a family - there were no creches nor were there old people's homes - they didn't exist in the 70's and early 80's. Let's take a look BACK to see what did work for our people. Sometimes so -called progress is NOT progress at all. Let's do what is the RIGHT thing for all ages.
- 15) Greater availability of GP services More services available through community pharmacy.

- 16) I want us to have a health system similar to other countries like France, Canada, Portugal and even Cuba. We should not have to reinvent the wheel when good examples are out there. Not impossible if there was a will to do it.
- 17) Much easier access and availability. Waiting lists that are not as long as they currently are. More accessible outdoor spaces. All playgrounds should have sensory play equipment that is robust and appropriate to all.
- 18) Need more GPs, need assisted living communities for elderly people. Social Accommodation for people reaching 65 who are renting.

		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
Economy & Resources	Kildare Village National Stud Penny's Japanese Gardens Lullymore Equestrian Industry KWETB Oral B/Proctor & Gamble Lily O'Brien Newbridge Ind Estate Racecourse & Racing Whitewater shopping centre Dr Pepper VETOS (Vocational) Tougher Business Park ETB Newbridge Silver Pfizer Bord na Mona Green Generation Open Farms Retail businesses Lidl & Aldi Curragh (military) Osberstown centre Train Station Town Halls Restaurants & Pubs Good broad range of skills SVP & charity shops Tourists Commercial area Bog & Hill of Allen Digital hubs	<p><b><u>Grants/Funding</u></b>            Additional funding for nighttime economy supports            More grants to reduce the costs for stall holders producing local products            Additional supports (financial) for package free – zero/low carbon businesses</p> <p><b><u>Employment/Business</u></b>            Ensure that businesses are employing people and not just automated machines            Supports for businesses to employ people from minority groups &amp; with disabilities            Co-op should be set up            Schemes to include people retired who wish to continue working            More supports for entrepreneurs outside of those on social welfare            Lower rates for backstreet in Newbridge            Greater local economy supports            local businesses should be encouraged to Support/sponsor local voluntary groups.</p> <p><b><u>Maintenance</u></b>            Rethink the cycle lanes on Newbridge main street, more segregated, wider area between parking, cycle lanes and pedestrians            Train station needs to be upgraded to include parking</p> <p><b><u>Services/Amenities</u></b>            Dedicated website of all services in the area</p>

	<p>Tourist Information Centre  More creche facilities connected to businesses and education  Public toilets  Community repair centre  Amenities/community centres re: governance, should be more equal to all. Maybe KCC could take over</p> <p><b><u>Education</u></b>  Supports for early school leavers.  Training centres in all towns  More PT &amp; FT classes in Kildare and Newbridge  Research on current skill levels to inform classes provided  Better range of programmes for further education  More informal centres for education – Localised and accessible  More language skills and cultural intelligence to support diversity in the community  Education services for addiction services</p> <p><b><u>Newbridge Local Area Plan</u></b>  Newbridge needs a dedicated plan to match the commercial centre of the county  ReDiscovery Centre like Ballymun  Develop supports for a circular economy – sharing, leasing, refurbishing and recycling  Support scheme to allow for collectives to set up  Reduce crime and deal with drug dealers</p> <p><b><u>Tourism</u></b>  More hotels or alternatives  Develop Eco tourism</p>
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**GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION**

1)Firstly, I would like to know that my 8-year-old son will get a secondary school place in the town we live in. But there is no guarantee of that. Newbridge needs huge investment in education, recreational facilities and it needs a council that actually cares about the present and future generations. This clearly isn't the case at the moment. There's a large building - the Patrician monastery which is housing refugees and apparently the Peter McVerry Trust has an interest in. Now, everyone needs help but Newbridge has done more than its share, that site would have



made a great secondary school option. And the Gables, recently sold to house refugees, why didn't the council buy it to make a public swimming pool? Shocking, disgraceful decisions. When are KCC going to help this town?

2) Industrial units to be outside the town centres. Residential units should be given priority in central areas along with the necessary services such as schools, medical facilities, shops etc. People should be able to walk and cycle from their homes to the services and to work. Anyone working further away should be able to travel to work via public transport.

3) Encourage much greater engagement between existing businesses and schools to facilitate greater understanding of the world of work and the increased challenges of responding to unrelenting change in almost all workplaces. Encourage far more temporary and part time opportunities for older and retired people to stay active in work settings appropriate to their needs and skills. Consideration should be given to rates reduction or other direct subvention to support businesses who have a specific programme to employ people with disabilities.

4) Focus on higher level skills for the future. No good training people for roles that won't exist in the future. Insist that ETBs run as many courses and as great a range of programmes here part time full time and nighttime as are available in ETBs like Cork Kerry Cavan Galway Dublin areas. Our range and scope of courses is far too narrow, too few, not as accessible as other ETBs. Older people need options as they age. Look at the variety of courses in other counties. Develop Newbridge commercial district properly to enable it to live up to its totalled as commercial district. At least have a local area and transport plan, high skills focus for the future, offer digital training to all residents. ...even older people. Develop transferable skills.

5) Garda resources are insufficient for the growing size of the community.

6) Stable jobs, community centre, fair access to the town hall.

7) If working from home a community initiative would be great to keep people from becoming isolated. Meeting / networking events / opportunities.

8) Again, it is all about giving everyone the same opportunities to fully participate in the economic and work arenas. It goes without saying that the provision of the right resources to facilitate these goals is essential.

9) Mix of skills and professions, access to education and upskilling at all ages and regardless of language, ability and nationality Social Enterprise models and relate funding/training to be available in parallel with traditional business models Eco Tourism and Independent Travelling options.

10) As in the previous question - our people need decent housing that's affordable - they need to work - yes - but not to the detriment of their families - the old - and the young. Fix the economics and everything else will fall into place. Government needs to look back again ... People want to live in a Community - NOT in an Economy!

11) Four-day work week.

12) I would like my grandchildren to have access to good training and/or education facilities in order for them to be able to live and work in an environment suited to their capabilities. I would also love if resources were applied to rejuvenating old skill sets in danger of being lost.

13) Make the opportunities to get supported into work or small start-ups more accessible.

14) Industry's need to give back to communities, affordable childcare, hubs.

15) Local quality jobs.

Social & Community Development		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	National & Secondary schools	<u>Medical</u>

	<p>St Marks Special School  Community Gardens  Public spaces  Social &amp; Development education  People &amp; community spirit  Rotary club  Golf clubs  All groups that provide services  Lions club  Garda  Parish centres</p>	<p>Dementia and other health issues should be prioritised so that people get educated early  Improve crisis counselling services</p> <p><b><u>Facilities/Amenities</u></b>  Traveller centre to protect identity and support development – safe space  Public swimming pool  Safe walking and spaces where people can come together to socialise  Rehab facilities for our aging population  Accessible playgrounds &amp; sports facilities  Public seating  New library  New signage for the town</p> <p><b><u>Community services</u></b>  Information boards in post offices &amp; libraries to include information on activities and groups in the area  Better text alert systems  Leaflets should be delivered door to door re: events and through the PPN</p> <p><b><u>Education</u></b>  Spaces for learning employment and sharing culture  Training and supports for carers – real recognition for carers  Additional school spaces  Education hub to include social education  We need to build resilience in all communities through training</p> <p><b><u>Employment</u></b>  Equality of pay for community organisations employing staff, they are being lost to the private sector</p> <p><b><u>Discrimination</u></b>  Challenge discrimination  Create conditions for social change</p> <p><b><u>Transport</u></b></p>
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	<p>Accessible transport – shuttle bus linking up different transportation systems          Better staffed train station          Segregated cycle lanes -Repair &amp; paint          Park and Ride and improve transport within the town in general</p> <p><b><u>Technology</u></b>          Town based Wi-Fi          Wi-Fi should be available in the libraries etc.          Affordable broad band          Cashless is a big barrier for some people          QR codes should be readily available</p> <p><b><u>Housing</u></b>          Integrated living for the elderly</p> <p><b><u>Other</u></b>          Protect community assets and continuously develop and enhance the area</p>
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**GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION**

1)To have an actual community. With a hub, a centre. For example, a large, dedicated sports and recreation facility where multiple sports can be played. Football pitches, an indoor swimming pool, volleyball/badminton/ basketball courts. In a town of almost 30000 people this shouldn't be a lot to ask. However, years of appalling planning decisions has meant that Newbridge seems to be a town that is only good for building more and more houses that no one can afford. Also, 2 or 3 playgrounds. Instead of the crappy one by the sports centre with the large broken piece of equipment which has been broken for as long as my son went there (6 years, but probably much longer) despite us letting the council know many times. We used to bring him to Kilcullen, Sallins and Kildare playgrounds. My sister brings her toddler to Caragh playground. Kildare County Council are a joke. And my tax helps to keep them all in jobs. It's actually criminal at this stage how they've neglected Newbridge.

2)Community centre

3)Municipal sports facilities for all sports in a large central complex.

4)Much improved youth facilities, including dedicated meeting and recreational spaces to allow for socialisation, recreational and chill out spaces. Much better availability of public meeting space at affordable rates, especially for voluntary and community groups. The current tariff and access requirements and inflexibility at both the Town Hall and Riverbank are examples of how NOT to provide affordable meeting and recreational amenities.

5) Access to programmes and other avenues for physical activity other than organised sports.

6) Areas for community participation that is free or affordable for all groups i.e. proper playing pitches basketball courts tennis courts a proper theatre that sits 500 and has proper backstage room and facilities. Playground! Lots of activities open to all budgets to keep young people occupied!

- 7) Higher level of aspirations for the future knowing that ALL current highlighted dilemmas have been resolved. Think Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. We need to move beyond security and safety and aspire to the top of the triangle 😊 Well worth considering this when we reflect on social interactions, social networks, hubs for connection, services, activities, facilities. Not everyone is satisfied with GAA... some people aspire to a broader range of activities and services...not just for the youth but also for the average normal adult at all ages who need to be connected into life as much as the marginalised.
- 8) The lack of any quality free parking is a large need for the area for families. The loss of access to the curragh swimming pool and now the loss of the gables pool has left the community without any access to these facilities as the small pool remaining in the Keadeen is not sufficient for the growing community and nearby Naas resources were already under strain.
- 9) Amenities, sports grounds and playgrounds for the children and teenagers. A secondary school which the town badly needs.
- 10) A clean, healthy, sustainable life in an area that is safe, accessible, and interesting.
- 11) Greater mixing of the socio-economic groupings in the area. Too many groups and organisations tend to have the same people in them. Once established, they become "cosy" and don't really want to welcome newcomers. I would hope that future generations could overcome these barriers to social and community development.
- 12) Access to second level education in our town and not have to travel to be educated.
- 13) Connection, belonging, pride in their place, resources to create a safe, positive physical environment for people to flourish in and reliable funding resources to allow community groups to build and continue to grow their interests and activities.
- 14) I'd like there to be good facilities for youth and all ages in terms of minority sports as well as a youth and all ages community /arts centre – a community space that is multifunctional might meet that need. A planned multifunctional community space that can facilitate groups of all ages – in terms of their events, activities and facilities for meeting and communicating with each other and the community at large. A space that might facilitate creativity of all kinds would be key. A shared media booth would be very useful in such a community space -for the likes of Community Radio group- local History group- local radio / facilities for recording the stories and events and achievements of both young and older members of the community and archiving the richness of all that the community of Newbridge and surrounding areas holds in its people. Good community facilities and supports including Hospice Care for those in our community who are unwell or in older age – ensuring that older people or people of any age -are NOT separated from their own community and people when ill or aged. We need to provide these facilities within our own communities by asking the people themselves what they need – and involving them in the design and creation of such facilities and supports.
- 15) More community facilities for children- playgrounds, pitches etc
- 16) I would like a community open to diversity, open to new ideas and new ways of doing things. A safe community for all who live here where all voices are heard.
- 17) Equitable access to all services
- 18) All-inclusive community, we have a diverse community and all need to be included

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	Parish Council Provision Centres	<u>Political Education</u> Schools programme is needed

	<p>Kilcullen Community Action          Asylum seekers support group          Community Church's          LEADER Programme          Consultation portal (KCC)          Kildare Public Participation Network          Local Representative's (Councillor's)          Community Liaison Officers          Grants          Residence Associations          Lots of volunteer opportunities</p>	<p>Skills audit of the area          Programme on how to register and vote</p> <p><b><u>Engagement</u></b>          Timely decision making and outcomes from KCC          Better relationship with KCC          Make democracy accessible          Return to town councils          Digital divide in the county is a barrier          Council meetings to be live streamed          Councillors should have a greater say on decisions – elected reps          Follow up with people (public) re decisions that have been made          Meaningful partnership with civil/local government, not top down</p> <p><b><u>Governance &amp; Transparency</u></b>          Local area minutes to be published in libraries with decisions made          Governance (documents etc.) to be accessible to all</p> <p><b><u>Other</u></b>          Get rid of the cycle lanes in Newbridge          Planning to be part of a framework          Purchase more green space          Greater investment in resources          Accessible grants          Upgrade Newbridge to a key town          Development plan for Newbridge          Recognition for volunteers          Participation budget</p> <p><b><u>Services</u></b>          More Gardaí, ambulances and fire brigades for the area          Mental health services to support Gardaí</p>
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**GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION**

- 1) I would like all residents of the town to have a real and meaningful say in what happens to our town and in our town. That this is made available, known and accessible to all residents of Newbridge.
- 2) Well publicised community initiatives that are trackable and transparent.
- 3) Live video feeds of Municipal meetings as agreed by majority vote by the councillors at the time.

- 4) Local Authority structures as they currently exist are very much out of sync with present day society. On Councils in particular, the 100-year-old reliance on key decisions being made almost exclusively by representatives of political parties, and a few independents. In the rapidly changing population growth throughout Kildare, most of the new residents have little knowledge or interest in the political system as it's currently structured. A minimum of at least 20% of all future Council decision making should have directly elected community, youth, senior citizens, ethnic diverse, and sports representatives at the top table. The organisations who can put forward such delegates can be the subject of a further consultation.
  - 5) A forward looking multi-generational approach to governance. Working groups from primary school level to focus on the generational wants of the community.
  - 6) Affordable and equal facilities for all run by people with a connection to the community and an awareness of what's needed.
  - 7) Have hubs for participation, information on groups etc. Also TEST and public representatives need to focus at a higher level of thinking and aspirations. As does the County Council. The County Council needs to enforce planning and by laws in a timely manner. They need to organise for appropriate behaviour on our streets. They need to develop a streetscape for the future that is aesthetically pleasing. They need to get rid of derelict situations rapidly and liaise with Gardai on obvious criminality. They need to broaden their mindset on residential planning for ordinary residents on laneways etc in and around the town rather than giving in to criminals who are not following planning regulations. Would it not be better to grant residential planning to family members living in areas than to allow criminals to buy and build on those same sites without planning permission? Look at old small cottages and semi-detached in Bray and Dalkey. Compare them to what is happening to similar houses in Newbridge. Some regulation and oversight is required before those areas are completely destroyed and ghettoised. Need a local area and transport plan.
  - 8) Transparency from Kildare Co. Co. In relation to why Newbridge is at the bottom of the money chain compared to Naas or Maynooth for example. Transparency and more work from councillors and TDs. Secondary schools proportionate to the houses being built.
  - 9) A voice and local government responding to our voice whilst we also get involved to make things better.
  - 10) Again, a catch-all approach to participation, democracy and good governance.
  - 11) Safe streets
  - 12) Trust and confidence in civil bodies / local government' commitment to local communities on an equitable basis. True / genuine partnership with civil bodies / local government. Respect for views of the community. Timely and well-communicated decision-making and transparency.
  - 13) We need stronger communication and discussion between local government and the people.
  - 14) Allow immigrants who have moved to the area from outside Ireland the right to vote.
  - 15) I hope future generations can learn from the mistakes of the past. That the distrust of politician's endemic in today's society will give way to true democracy and good governance, become the norm – in all sectors of society.
  - 16) Their voices heard; leaflet drops into people's homes with a paper option to have their say. The digital barrier is huge for some people and they are missing out on receiving information in a timely manner and missing their chance to participate. Also, it's worth noting literacy is a problem for a lot of people either through learning difficulties or language barriers.
  - 17) Newbridge has a growing community of people from many different backgrounds, it needs to be all inclusive.
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Values, Culture & Meaning		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<p>Kildare Youth Theatre  Drama/Arts &amp; Theatre groups  Gaelscoil  Mondello  Panto  Riverbank  Gospel choir  GAA  St Brigid 1500  Friendliness of the people (Diversity)  Horse Racing  School life  Soccer/Tennis /all sports  Newbridge army band  Comhaltas  Choirs  Heritage  Places of worship &amp; Holy Wells  Local history groups  Sports complex  The Valley Walk  Royal site  Parks &amp; open spaces  Army culture  National Stud &amp; Japanese Gardens</p>	<p><b>Accessibility</b>  Smart infrastructure so we can benefit from our town and its beauty  Access to information (not just digitally)  Re: social/community events/information</p> <p><b>Services &amp; Amenities</b>  Visible policing on the back streets  Create more safe spaces  Bigger catchment for Meals on Wheels so no one is excluded  Community connection for everyone – young, old and disabled</p> <p><b>Local</b>  Art spaces need to be developed</p> <p><b>Events</b>  Celebrate and value cultural and linguistic diversity  Create opportunities for sharing culture and heritage  Celebrate the successes in communities</p> <p><b>Heritage &amp; Traditions</b>  Protect our industrial – medieval heritage  Bord na Mona – one building should be retained for community use  Making of St Brigid’s crosses and relevant Kildare traditions should be encouraged  Protect the Irish language  Protect historical buildings – (E.g. what happened to the courthouse)</p> <p><b>Grants</b>  Easier grant policy</p> <p><b>Inclusion</b>  Traveller Centre  More culturally aware &amp; appreciation for what other cultures have to offer  Traveller specific accommodation, that is culturally appropriate</p>

	<p>Challenge racist attitudes  Education programmes in schools RE:  marginalised groups  Mental health inclusion – Real  engagement</p>
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**GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION**

- 1) If you want lives to have meaning it's very important to have social supports. To be part of something like a community, to have a reasonably priced pool or sports centre to go to. Especially for low and middle earners and with the cost-of-living crisis. I have to bring my son to Naas if he wants swimming lessons, or join the Keadeen Hotel here and pay membership I can't afford. So it's all very well talking about values and meaning but put the practical things in place that will actually support and help families and young people to live a happy, healthy and meaningful life. In terms of culture, I live in a multicultural estate and love it. It reminds me of London. People coming to work and settle in Newbridge also deserve to have access to all the things I have mentioned.
- 2) I want them to have respect for their area and the people in it. Too much rubbish, too many kids with nothing to do, too many junkies roaming freely and intimidating people with no consequences. The courthouse square in Newbridge should be a hive of social activity. Instead, we have the probation centre on one side and a garage with illegally parked cars on the other. It is just not good enough and KCC need to be more proactive rather than burying their head in the sand about these types of situations.
- 3) Increasingly Kildare and many of the Leinster Counties will see more and more residents arrive who have no knowledge of Irish culture. While every opportunity should be given to welcome these groups and individuals to become familiar with Irish culture, measurable programmes should be devised to allow newer non-Irish residents retain their own cultural identity and encourage and resource such enterprises. One has only to reflect on the success of Irish emigrants in the U.K., USA, Australia and Canada in establishing strong cultural and religious centres in their adopted locations, similar integration options to help consolidate and protect national cultures should be considered in a variety of locations within Co. Kildare. Linked into this is the need to have cross cultural representation at all levels in public life in our area and across the County. Teaching, Policing, Local Authority membership, Sports organisations should all have targets to increase cultural and ethnic diversity in its front-line services. School programmes at all levels should have increased access to study programmes increasing awareness of multicultural and ethnicity studies, as Junior and Leaving Certificate subjects.
- 4) So, we really value Newbridge people? Why then is it not yet a key or strategic town? It has the 2nd largest population and is the commercial district. Challenge Newbridge residents to seek higher level meaning than safety and security. People need to broaden their aspirations and raise them. This will take training community development programmes even for the retired who are the seats of town wisdom etc. Categorise and build on our heritage...Irish rows, silverware, racing, Japanese history, run workshops to identify what we really value. Think broadly and at higher levels. Because the basics e.g. pool safety, no planning etc is the current focus people then think and talk at those levels. There now needs to be a conscious approach to changing this. People are literally dying of despair in this area. Something needs to change rapidly. Respect for bi etc Pride in area. Connection, Belonging, Safety, High self-esteem, good health, wealth and prosperity, Hope, High aspirations, Care for others, Healthy eating and socialising, Physical health, Emotional health, Spiritual health and sense of individual and collective purpose.

- 5) Initiatives to promote inclusion and diversity.
- 6) A safe sound place to live with the encouragement of community and social values.
- 7) Values: respect - we really need to relearn this. Knowing the energy that is needed to make, preserve the world around us and respect it and each other. Culture - friendly, creative, interactive, interested, welcoming. Meaning - underpinning how short life is, making the very best of it in a healthy, happy environment that can be handed over to the next generation intact.
- 8) If the needs under the earlier headings in this survey are addressed, then important values will be instilled in future generations. Culture and Meaning are very flexible and somewhat intangible concepts, but I hope future generations will have a love and respect for traditions of all kinds, and especially value Irish cultural manifestations.
- 9) Family amenities. Integration of communities and a greater understanding of each other's cultures.
- 10) Shared values / vision in relation to their community. Resources to manage inevitable change and create cohesive, vibrant communities. Ability to celebrate and encourage diversity in the community.
- 11) As mentioned above - Community is everything. Community wellbeing has always been part of human life, Irish life - part of Newbridge life. Again, Human beings don't want to be part of an "economy" they want to be part of a community! A sense of belonging is very important to people. A strong community creates its values, culture and meaning - by having time to be together! - time outside of work - time to connect with all ages in the community. That's how values are created by a society -and we need to keep a sense of belonging and community alive and vibrant. In order to do that- the needs of people with regard to housing and the price of same needs to be balanced with the community needs - otherwise the scales will unfortunately go too far the other way- and we have all seen the results of that in our communities. If you don't allow people TIME - decent leisure time -to connect meaningfully with all ages in their family and wider society -there will be no time to create values meaning and culture. Again, we must look at our "economy" - Having so much focus on our "Economy" and economic factors in past years has resulted in a big loss of the very aspects of life you are asking about here. Let's learn the lesson before it's way too late.
- 12) A greater understanding of multiculturalism.
- 13) I would like my grandchildren to retain the values we have attempted to engender in them. To retain their cultural identity without being xenophobic about it and to embrace diversity - perhaps better than their grandparents and parents. Knowing my own grandchildren, I think this is indeed possible.
- 14) Inclusivity through education that is not limited to schools only. Cultural spaces that are safe and welcoming to all.
- 15) Create a central advice centre.

Environment & Sustainability		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	Blueways & Greenways Tidy Towns Moore Abby Wood Kildare Wildlife Rescue Pollardstown Fen Grants help The Curragh	<b>Transport</b> Re-introduce train station on the curragh Improve parking at the curragh Recognisable parking Public transport to support the environment (rural areas)

	<p>Woodlands, Walks &amp; Parks  Bogs &amp; Peatlands  Sustainable Energy Community  Canals  The Fen  The Liffey  The Commons  Green Flag schools  Cycle lanes</p>	<p><b><u>Environment &amp; Sustainability</u></b>  Collaboration with green schools  Protect the Curragh  Better water infrastructure  Solar panels for all buildings  Corbally harbour development plan to extend to great Connell priory site and on to Athgarvan to include nature area with lapwings – red ticket birds  Food security – grow your own – Local markets and teach children in schools  More support for organic vegetable growing  Enterprise project to use sheep’s wool for insulation and wool production.  Minimum standard for external spaces on developments and all houses should be linked to the town by paths  Newbridge needs its own development plan  More consultation on how everything gets done  Sustainable agriculture  Re-generation of old buildings  Better supported planning for rural developments  Proper protection for natural resources, Bogs etc.  Curragh – Aquaifer – Geothermal potential  Protect biodiversity – Access to nature  More appropriate buildings and houses (one &amp; two beds) bedrooms  Allotments  Protect bees/wildlife – get rid of pesticides  Racecourse should be used for walking tracks on non-racing days  Curragh needs to be a safe space for walking – pathways etc.  More supports for sustainable and retrofit homes  Boardwalk from bridge to Newbridge college  Develop initiatives for a circular economy in Newbridge  Reduce waste</p>
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	Better recycling Stop, take-make-consume-throw away lifestyle
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**GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION**

- 1) No more houses. Enough is enough. There will be no countryside left. Newbridge has taken a huge hit in the last 20 years regarding the building of houses. Its size has doubled. Sustainability is obviously crucial but start by not spreading this town out. It's on the edge of the Curragh and as far as Athgarvan. Building needs to start going upwards. On a continental style model...see Copenhagen, Berlin. With green areas for resident's little playgrounds etc. Do it right. Make it affordable to people on €30000 or €40000 a year. Presently you either have to be earning €60000+ or be on the social housing list to buy a house in Newbridge. Disastrous policy with so little imagination and no care of the people their (KCC) decisions affect.
- 2) Any public buildings should be as environmentally friendly as possible. Solar panels etc. People should be able to walk and cycle from their homes to the services and to work. Anyone working further away should be able to travel to work via public transport. There should not be a road through the new proposed complex on the BNM site in Newbridge. This should be a cultural quarter with access for deliveries and emergency vehicles only. The more roads you build, the more cars you encourage.
- 3) Apart from the obvious opportunities to apply and implement the increased opportunity to reduce fossil fuel-based activities, safe routes to schools, staggered start times etc. could minimise the car-based transport issues so obvious in most communities. Greater use of community garden options and like the previous example of conditioning planning to reflect medical and related facilities, specific open space requirements in new developments should be set aside to allow residents to have shared garden options at competitive rates. Public housing projects in particular should have a lead role in developing such facilities as part of their developments. D hooks and other publicly funded projects should be encouraged to provide similar options.
- 4) Public transport. Less car focused town centre. Segregated cycle lanes.
- 5) People will cycle and walk when safe in terms of no crime and proper pathways with excellent connectivity.
- 6) Better affordable, reliable public transport connections in relation to bus network to support reduction in private car use. Availability of water fountains would help promote the move from single use plastics to reusable.
- 7) Less fly by night building developments, more green areas. No touching the curragh or the park for development.
- 8) More weather / sustainably generated electricity. Clean air, water, lower pollution in all respects. Less plastic. Protecting our animals, wildlife and farmers. Smarter farming - food security. More green spaces.
- 9) A good knowledge of the world around them and a respect for nature and wildlife.
- 10) Clean tidy town with safe water.
- 11) Knowledge and appreciation of local environment, built and industrial heritage Easy access including cycle and walking options to local nature areas Functioning cycle lanes and walking trails. Recognition of the natural and built environment as having social value as well as economic value. Active involvement in sustainability through cycling and walking.
- 12) People will and have bought into the idea of being sustainable and looking after the environment. Most people are recycling and taking heed of being sustainable. Again, look back - look at history -in the 30's and up to the 60's local government-built houses for their people -

which had gardens big enough to plant vegetables to feed a family. Sustainability is what we know how to do. The gardens now are almost non-existent as most houses with any kind of a garden are very expensive and out of reach for many. Once again no one wants to live in an Economy, they want to live in a community. Bring back Gardens - in homes - or community gardens!

13) Greater frequency of train services with cheaper fares. Improved water quality. Reduction in noise pollution.

14) I want my grandchildren to have clean air to breathe, walkways and nature reserves within their reach. I would also like to have a better road and rail infrastructure available to them at affordable rates.

15) Solar energy needs to be retrofitted at a cost that is possible for all. Extra recycling bins for people's homes and businesses. Shops need to adopt a facility to encourage returning recyclable packaging and batteries.

16) Need to save our bogs, stop all bog cutting by paying off turbary rights, stop allowing developers to cut hedges to build, these should be preserved.