



# VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

KILDARE - NEWBRIDGE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

# VISION

# FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING



The Wellbeing Report for the Kildare/Newbridge Municipal District is based on findings from both an in-person consultation held on July 24th, 2023 that involved 26 attendees at Newbridge Town Hall, and additional findings from the online survey. The report focuses on six key wellbeing areas: 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 document outlines a vision for the future, and proposes recommendations to enhance overall wellbeing. Whilst many assets were identified throughout the Municipal District, it was also acknowledged that the focus for the Vision for wellbeing needed to look to the future and capture the areas where additional resources, and focus is required. All data capturing assets will be available on the Kildare PPN website.





## HEALTH (PHYSICAL AND MENTAL)

The consultation highlighted the importance of physical and mental health, emphasising the need for accessible healthcare, community health centres, sports clubs, mental health services, support for vulnerable groups, and recreational facilities. Recommendations include increasing local healthcare services, supporting mental health initiatives, promoting active lifestyles, and providing inclusive community programmes.

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Participants emphasised the significance of a healthy environment, calling for sustainable practices, improved waste management, renewable energy, and enhanced natural and built environments. It was suggested that developing a sustainable plan for the community, promoting eco-tourism, investing in green initiatives, and incorporating climate-resilient infrastructure would be crucial for the future.

## VALUES, CULTURE AND MEANING

The community's identity and culture were discussed, focusing on heritage, arts, community gatherings, and inclusivity. The report recommends preserving and celebrating cultural heritage, promoting diverse community activities, and fostering a sense of belonging and inclusiveness.



## ECONOMY AND RESOURCES

Economic concerns included job opportunities, entrepreneurship, local businesses, and workforce development. Recommendations involve supporting local businesses, encouraging innovation, providing training and education, and enhancing economic diversity through sustainable practices and resource management.

## SOCIAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The importance of a strong and inclusive community was highlighted, addressing issues of safety, accessibility, social inclusion, and support services. Creating safe and accessible spaces, improving community facilities, promoting diversity, and strengthening social services were key fundamental findings.

## PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY & GOOD GOVERNANCE

Participation, transparency, and good governance were emphasised, addressing citizen engagement, decision-making processes, and accountability. Recommendations include encouraging community participation, enhancing communication channels, ensuring fair representation, and promoting transparent and accountable governance within the Local Authority.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Health Physical and Mental:

- Expand local healthcare facilities and services.
- Develop mental health support programmes and resources.
- Create inclusive sports and recreational opportunities for all age groups.

## Environment and Sustainability:

- Implement sustainable practices in construction and resource management.
- Develop eco-tourism initiatives and green spaces.
- Promote renewable energy and waste reduction efforts.

## Values, Culture and Meaning:

- Support cultural heritage preservation and community gatherings.
- Foster inclusivity and diversity in community activities.
- Encourage arts, music, and drama programmes for all age groups.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Economy and Resources:**

- Provide resources and training for local businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Support workforce development and education.
- Foster a diverse and resilient local economy.

## **Social and Community Development:**

- Improve community facilities and recreational spaces.
- Enhance social services and support systems for vulnerable populations.
- Promote a sense of safety and inclusion for all community members.

## **Participation, Democracy, and Good Governance:**

- Increase citizen engagement through transparent communication channels.
- Ensure fair representation in decision-making processes.
- Promote accountable and transparent governance at all levels (Local and National).





The Vision underscores the interconnectedness of these wellbeing areas and emphasises the need for a holistic approach to community development. It encourages active participation, collaboration, and a long-term vision for creating a thriving and inclusive Municipal District.

The data gathered highlighted concerns and aspirations of the Kildare/Newbridge community across various domains. It's clear that there are a wide range of issues and priorities that the community members have identified, and they all contribute to the overall well-being and development of the town. The input from in-person and online consultations highlights the importance of community, sustainability, cultural enrichment, and good governance.

It's encouraging to see the focus on:

**Community Development:** There's a strong desire for a well-connected and inclusive community that offers a wide range of amenities, educational opportunities, and spaces for socialising and sharing culture. It's evident that people value the sense of belonging and connection that a vibrant community can provide.

**Sustainability and Environment:** The emphasis on sustainability, green spaces, and protection of natural resources like bogs and water sources is noteworthy. This reflects a collective commitment to preserving the environment for future generations and adopting practices that minimise harm to the planet.

**Good Governance and Participation:** People clearly want a more participatory and transparent governance structure, where decisions are made in collaboration with the community. The call for greater involvement, timely decision-making, and digital accessibility of government processes is important for effective local governance.

**Values and Culture:** The desire to celebrate diversity, preserve cultural heritage, and create spaces for arts, theatre, and community events indicates a strong appreciation for cultural richness and identity.

**Infrastructure and Services:** The importance of well-maintained infrastructure, accessible amenities, reliable public transport, and quality healthcare and education facilities is evident.

**Education and Empowerment:** There's a recognition of the need for ongoing education, empowerment, and support for various groups within the community, including caregivers, youth, and marginalised populations.

**Equality and Inclusion:** The emphasis on inclusivity, equality of opportunity, and challenging discriminatory attitudes highlights a commitment to creating a fair and just society.

It's important to acknowledge that addressing these priorities will require collaboration between community members, the Local Authority, and relevant stakeholders. The insights gathered from the consultations can serve as a valuable roadmap for future initiatives, policies, and projects aimed at enhancing the well-being and development of the Kildare/ Newbridge municipal district. By working together, the community can take meaningful steps towards realising their vision for a thriving and sustainable town.