

FINDINGS FROM COMMUNITY WELLBEING CONSULTATION NAAS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Findings from the consultation held Thursday 14th of 2023

Location: McAuley Place

MD area: Naas

Number of members in attendance: 14

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?

Themes	Asset mapping (What we have)	Vision for the future (What we would like)
		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
Health Physical & Mental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canals / Waterways in Sallins • Canals in Naas • Kerdiffstown Park • Men’s Shed (Kill and Naas) • Women’s Shed • Counselling services • Homecare services • K – Leisure • Tidy Towns • Hospital • Naas GAA • Public parks and playgrounds • Care of the Aged • Rugby Club • Walking Clubs • Racecourse • Lakes • Library • Cycle Café • Blessington Lakes • Covid Centre (Punchestown) • Playgrounds (Monread/Eadestown/Caragh) • Vista clinic • ETB / Further education centres • Acorn group (active retirement) • Naas Sports Centre • Monread Park • Jigginstown Manor • Ambulance base / transport facility • North Kildare Carers • Mobile library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic violence, refuge services • Focus on preventative measures – GP/community healthcare • More access to medical cards for older adults • Addiction services • Music – community groups • More nursing homes • Move away from means testing for medically needed facilities @ home (physical & mental) • More GPs • Care at home packages – quicker and better • Separate commercial support for health programmes • More public funding for in school programmes e.g. drink aware • A centralised umbrella organisation or area to go to for services and facilities for older adults • More beds in Naas hospital • Stretch tents in local public parks to enable outdoor exercise • Support scheme for small music industry • A universal basic income scheme extension • Better supports for meals on wheels – rural areas • Compulsory monthly counselling services – take away the stigma • Support needed for charity clubs – Alone etc to use as a support for loneliness

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free community centre – especially for services/facilities for teens • Local link services • Social care help – Houses for service hubs • Buses only in towns – car parks outside – Disabled/older adults have passes to come into the town in cars • Less cars in town centre • Early school leaver support • Prevention services for mental health and addictions – for teens • Access for counselling for all • Community based cycling
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) Community based healthcare is still a myth and what is available currently does not meet the needs of a growing and ageing population.
- 2) new facilities, proportional for the growing populations, it is difficult to get kids into a lot of sports, schools; appropriate schools/ facilities for those with special needs, improved, safe and joined up activin travel infrastructure, priority given to active travel. green, wild, natural spaces available within 5 min walk of all homes.
- 3) The promotion of physical and mental health through improved services and public spaces. Projects linking nature and health. For example, sensory gardens have been shown to improve cognition in Alzheimer's patients. Also, exercise next to water has shown to have increased benefits. Protection of biodiversity.
- 4) Excellent services, maternity, more doctors in the area.
- 5) A complete overhaul of health services. Additional GPs who will see patients in person. Quicker access to health, mental health and disability services. Greater staff in all services.
- 6) Natural playground, like winner in Bloom.
- 7) Trees and nature in our town centre for clean healthy air. No HGVs in town centre. Pedestrians prioritised.
- 8) Local holistic health services. Community that encourages flexible thinking around mental health issues.
- 9) Mental health will generate the greatest challenge. Schools and education need to include and increase all aspects of health. Euthanasia is a reasonable solution for certain voluntary situations.
- 10) A chance to be able to receive medical attention when required no matter what impairment or illness occurs.
- 11) Good pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, this would allow for active travel, and well-designed cycling infrastructure can be utilised by wheelchair users and other vulnerable road users.

Public benches and amenity areas for the public to congregate outside A shared bike scheme, or bike library. Access to biodiversity rich green and blue spaces Significant traffic reduction in towns to improve safety and air quality and reduce noise pollution.

12) Increased awareness on the importance of real food and real connections away from social media. Government to increase sugar ban and similar bans.

13) I'd like see the Main Street completely reimagined to prioritise walking and cycling. There are 5 schools within a stone's throw of the main street, and it is genuinely dangerous to allow those children (approx 3,500-4,000) to walk or cycle. The town is choked with traffic, which is dirty and dangerous. HGVs should be removed from the town immediately as we already have a ring road and bypass. Naas GAA club is fantastic and very successful and despite moving to a new site only circa 20 years ago is already bursting at the seams. They urgently need more space, additional playing pitches and / or... should consideration be given to a second club? Other towns the size of Naas have two clubs and given how the town is expanding, this should be given serious consideration. It's also incredibly dangerous to cycle to Naas GAA Club on the Sallin's Road which is forcing hundreds if not thousands of journeys by car every week to that particular club. If we can prioritise cycling access to the club, it would really help traffic across the town.

Economy & Resources		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis Club • Millenium Park • Boutiques • Naas Racecourse • Merits • Local Employment Services • Turas Nua • Swimming Pool • Connected Hubs (Hot Desk Osprey) • Banks and Post Office • Pubs and Restaurants • Well placed access to employers • Construction • KCC Offices • Naas Hospital • Volunteerism (SVP, NCBI) • Farming (Equine and Agriculture) • Horse racing / Equine industry • Broadband • Coffee shops • Retail jobs • Health board • Food industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job swap portal "Match skills" • Four-day work week trials • Implement the German model of social welfare to help with the fear of losing benefits if you go back to work • Cargo bikes lending scheme for businesses (electric) • Tax incentives to encourage businesses to lease (electric) cars/bikes to those that can't afford to buy them • Community /not for profit – enable VAT claim back or exemption • Basic business courses • More social enterprise supports • Help with promotion of services like the Men's Shed • One stop shop for finding skills/trades people • Local business mentorship programmes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower rates for commercial enterprises• Mini IDA for local businesses (Decentralise this for decision making)• Short courses• Better use of local radio stations• Use pharmacies for one stop shop for where to go for services• Change the perception of carers/stay at home parents.• Different approach for people who don't have access due to additional needs or work commitments to upskill and get qualifications to earn more money• LEO – More classes needed that are part time / evening courses – accessible and affordable• Support for bikes on buses – facilities needed• Reduce requirements for small businesses – paperwork –regulations – rates• Rates for local small businesses or community run/Coops• Covered and secure cycle parking – particularly at public transport areas• MABS/Citizen information hubs – Financial advice for people out of work or retired• More cycle routes between public transport and businesses• More funding for sports clubs to bring kids and adults together with appropriate activities
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More local shuttle bus services (expansion of local link to rural communities) • Cheaper public transport (would improve tourism and for commuters) • Motor sports for young people – Mandello park • Recycle repair cafes • More apprenticeships for trades • Community shops support for managing roles Scheme – Grants • NON digital (social media) for promotion e.g libraries
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GATHERED THROUGH ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) State funded quality childcare is required to ensure that everyone can participate in the workforce.
- 2) Easy and quick access to train station, reliable and frequent buses, extension of trains to Naas centre or some reliable public transport from Sallin's train station to Naas centre and suburbs, open the old tram line from Tallaght to Blessington.
- 3) 4-day work week. Supports for people to find work as close to home as possible. Support for small-scale, sustainable businesses. Projects to support food-security in the county.
- 4) A variety of work spaces, work pods.
- 5) Get rid of local places that are an eyesore to attract new businesses (eg: fire damaged buildings at Naas ball). Local small business enterprise showcases. Greater awareness of local small businesses at local markets.
- 6) Bus lane from Naas to Dublin. Cycle lanes on every route. No car parking except disabled parking on Main St.
More trees/ shade on streets
- 7) Pedestrian friendly town centre so that business can thrive.
- 8) Local schemes such as the CE scheme to keep people engaged in meaningful community work. More Assistance for working couples on low to medium income to access housing and build communities. Education about circular economy, climate and environmental sustainability. Reducing the need for consumerism.
- 9) Education and awareness will be the key to management of change which will happen and be forced. Sustainability will be challenged at all levels and core /primary skills may benefit greater numbers. We would like the good stuff and plenty of it as soon as possible. But would settle for sustained peace and freedom from disasters and crises.
- 10) A chance to work in a wide selection of available jobs. To be treated fairly and paid a good wage.
- 11) More community spaces for work and recreation. There is a significant lack of space for sports and other clubs to rent which limits the choice of activities the public can participate in. This would in turn create more jobs and revenue. Work hubs.

12) Shift towards a resource-based economy that utilises a circular waste reduction system. Increase the number of jobs in sustainable sector such agrotourism.

13) Naas has a lot going for it, but I'd like to see everything done to support small, family-owned shops and businesses on main street, up to and including a significant reduction in rates for them. I am not against the large multiples such as Dunnes etc on main street and even in Monread, as I believe that a town the size of Naas can support both, but think we should be able to create an ecosystem where both can thrive. The town centre can become a place for local, sustainable, top-quality products and services that draws in people from all over Ireland, as it does already to be fair. We also urgently need a tourist office, perhaps in or near the new library. It could be a starting point for people to get a good map of Naas and a sense of what is going on (food, drink, shopping, horse racing, farmers market and country market, transport to Kildare Village, national stud etc.) There's lots going on, but it's so hard to pull it all together for anyone visiting the town. The Farmers Market needs more support. It is in a beautiful location but it would be great to see more local food suppliers there. Perhaps covered awnings could help?

Social & Community Development		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sallins train station • English language schools (Naas and Kill) • 126 and 183 bus services • Feeder bus • Schools • GAA • Libraries (Naas and Blessington) • Scouts / Girl Guides • Social Media (Naas Ball) • Local community groups • Interlinked community groups • Irish language classes • Community newspaper • Neighbourhood watch • Community alerts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the pay barriers for community groups • Publicly funded childcare • Community cameras • Food farms and festivals should be once a month to promote inclusion for all • Improved transportation for Naas • Repurpose old building for social needs • Community centre in Naas • More affordable activities • More youth clubs for 14+ years • Facilities for young people with a range of interests – mentoring programmes • More public meeting places with seating • More options for localised education • More social care services for all • Foster informed learning • We should find a way to integrate students with

		<p>elderly people for shared learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Garda on the streets • Development of nighttime social activities • More playgrounds for children • Recreational/social hub
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

- 1) Naas urgently needs a proper community centre that will facilitate community development activities and events.
- 2) Green spaces for all types of play/activities within 5 mins of every home, no signs saying 'no play/ ball games', design of new estates to have areas to use and play - eg not planted in such a way to discourage football: community gardens/allotments, re-wilding and native planting of unused green/ grass areas. Protection of the limited natural environments eg by canal, old town demense. active travel access that is safe and joined up to all sports/recreation/schools, activities e.g., k leisure, secure bike/scooter parking facilities. buses that local kids can use to get to and from school e.g., bus going from sallin's to piper's hill/Killashee that can bring kids to schools along this line and similar buses on other main roads - Newbridge, Dublin, Blessington roads. another k leisure facility on the Blessington /Dublin Road side of town. update / new facilities in line with new houses e.g., new schools, creches - a school should be built for x number of new houses.
- 3) Naas as an accessible 15-minute town. No through traffic except for public transport and blue-badge holders. Cultural and language exchange events. No pay barrier to social engagement.
- 4) Community and belonging.
- 5) Additional schools for growing towns. Additional childcare facilities. Affordable childcare. Additional/bigger public amenities such as pools, youth centres, libraries, community centres. Accessible playgrounds in every housing estate. Additional safe and social spaces for young people/teens: eg Astro pitch, skate park, basketball/tennis court.
- 6) Better infrastructure - bus, doctors and especially child care! (There is a huge influx of new housing developments without adequate resources for the new people moving to the area.)
- 7) Better childcare facilities in Naas. Not allowing houses to be built without ensuring creches and GPs are available. Town centre focused around people rather than traffic driving through. Safe walking and cycling to school for children.
- 8) Continuous improvement in participation, value, range and inclusion. Keep what works.
- 9) An equal, inclusive community. A place where citizens of all ages have a safe place to play, meet, talk, walk and share skills.
- 10) Good, safe infrastructure for cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. Good, reliable public transport.
- 11) A more open and integrated community participation with clear and cohesive goals that are developed from bottom up.
- 12) I would love to see a "Culture Day" introduced that would allow us to celebrate the new people who have moved to our town. I think Naas can be a hard town to connect into if you don't have children going to school etc. etc. Not a recommendation really, but a note to celebrate McAuley Place. It is a remarkable place that brings so much joy, positivity,

connection and practical function to our town, as well as saving a beautiful building that could have become just another vacant building. It is a gem in our town that should be celebrated at every possible turn. It's good to see progress on some vacant buildings in the town, but we have to see much more of this. Vacant buildings really drag a town centre down and owners should be pushed in every possible way to either renovate or sell vacant properties.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People power (example: stopped tree felling in Kill) • KCC Offices – employment • Community alert groups • Community council consultations being online • Strategic Policy Committees • PPN • Community Development Association (Ballymore) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More online consultations • Local gov needs to come to the fore • The councillors are very important to the process • Public consultations need to improve • Improve transparency of public funds (make the information easier to find) • We have good opportunities to have our voices heard however it falls on deaf ears • Better support for staff in organisations that are funded • All school should cover the process of voting • No appropriate feedback after consultations • The implementation of recommendations from the public is a problem • Volunteer fatigue needs to be addressed • We need a greater say in how and when people will be housed in the area • Groups need greater support for good governance (face to face with the group) • Everyone should be able to attend and observe meetings both in person and online without fear • Complaints process to KCC needs to be made easier

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need an active campaign to reach out to all community groups • Education on how to vote
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

1) Increased consultation and opportunities for people to have a say are needed.

2) Feedback, ideas, priorities for facilities and policies assessed from the population via groups, individuals and updated from KCC on to the locals.

3) Support a 4 day work week to give people more time to become involved in local community groups, local government. Projects to engage young people in community work and local government. KCC taking a lead in more community projects, in terms of organisation and funding.

4) Good communication.

5) Youth councils & Young people on local committees.

6) Debate, inclusion and agency at a local level. Financial Resources for local representatives to carry out community projects focused on inclusion.

7) Quality inputs and real information. Education based frameworks and references. Community, County and National based participation and democracy. Quality governance proportionate to the issues but not a nanny state.

8) A reliable platform, where everybody's voice is listened to and respected with good governance as the guiding tool.

9) Good active public participation, not just tick box consultation. Actively work with the public in the early planning stages, and ensure all voices are heard, particularly minority voices, not just the loudest.

10) More transparency. Listen to the people of Ireland on local and nation level and stop pandering to big companies.

11) The PPN Model, particularly consultations such as this, are fantastic and should be strengthened and widened. They are the definition of democracy in action. County Councils should also proactively and publicly support and highlight the work of PPN's to help spread the word about them. This does not just apply to Naas, but I think that local government should have increased powers to serve their local community. Local government in Ireland is much weaker than in European countries, and that weakness can be seen in towns and communities all over the country.

Values, Culture & Meaning		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON WORKSHOPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History group (Sallins, Kill, Naas, Ballymore, Blessington) • Music School • Drama society • Ceoltas (Kilteel) • Choral group • Churches / Religious community • Welcoming open community • Tidy Towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource community and voluntary groups not just financially • Outdoor community space, public square, outdoor theatre • New music venue and support the ones we have • Informal education – personal development • Tourist office

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Moate Theatre • Naas Wild Food Festival • Cinema • Moate Theatre • Festivals • McAuley Place • St. David's Church • Sult na Sollán • GAA Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn old library into a community centre • Community days in estates • A place to learn traditional skills • Men's shed for people not available during the day • Support local artists adequately • Funding for restoring and highlighting build heritage e.g - Leinster mills and St Davids castle • Opportunities to hear from people new to the community and Ireland • Language and cultural exchange – foster diversity • Repurpose buildings for community spaces • Additional libraries needed e.g Kill • County museum urgently needed • Central hub to find out what is going on • More ways to engage and welcome people new to the community • "Culture night" food and stories from all backgrounds • Online culture hub • Heritage and history signs on trails • Story telling opportunities to share local talents and highlights • More opportunities for play in nature • SLOW DOWN!!! Sense of community
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

1) Sustainable living and options, pollution emitting practices taxed to fund more sustainable options, local facilities and schools, support of all the local groups and charities.

2) A medium sized music venue to attract touring artists to Naas. Continued support of local festivals and creative use of space for this purpose. And further expand pedestrianised areas.

Support for a 4-day work week to give people more time to spend in their communities' building relationships.

3) Belonging and inclusion.

4) A Sustainable outlook where positive actions can become a rewarding venture for communities. There is too much reliance on volunteers in the community... we need key resources people whose paid job it is influence our environment in a positive way.

Government needs to commit these resources to each village / town. People are firefighting in their lives.. our community is struggling to provide volunteers... yet the governance and requirements of voluntary groups keeps rising beyond the responsibility and capacity that any volunteer should have to offer. So much red tape there soon won't be any volunteers left.

5) Respectful of others, appreciation of our culture, willing to learn more about art, our history and the true values of our life, health and wellbeing.

6) That we value nature, our community and promote and celebrate inclusivity and diversity.

7) Protect the rich heritage we have in Ireland but also allow for new innovations in the 21st century.

8) It's good to see the Potato Market redeveloped but in general we have not done enough to protect our built heritage in Naas. St Davids Castle, Jigginstown Castle, even some of the older buildings on main street could be protected more while still allowing the town to progress and move forward. Again, events and places to celebrate the growing diversity in the town would help as I would say it is hard for people new to Ireland to connect in to the community in Naas.

Environment & Sustainability		GATHERED FROM IN PERSON CONSULTATION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse vending machine • Bin collections and providers • Tidy Towns • Electric charging point • Solar panel grants • Ballymore Eustace River Liffey walk • Seed and plant swap (Ballymore) • Punchestown walk • Gardens and churches • Biodiversity group (Sallins and Naas) • Climate Action group • Regenerative agriculture foraging • Carragh Nurseries • Wild gardens and new estates no mow • Curragh Balla walk • Jigginstown Castle • No Planet B 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove HGVs from towns and villages • Any by passed town (like Naas) should ban HGVs • Bus gates (No through traffic) in all towns (Sallins Johnstown, Kill, Naas) • More park and ride facilities • More options to work from home • Make better use of canal and waterways for recreation etc • Water fountains in every town and village • Water sports on canal basin • Renovating and putting back into use existing buildings (embedded carbon) • Better resourced and more biodiversity officers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. David's Castle • Johns Castle • Viaduct • Tree growth at new estates • Tree planting at the Lane • Convent garden Luisne • DeBurghs Woods • KCC Biodiversity Officer • An Garrai Beag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the lakes in Naas – Crucial resource in very bad condition • New solar housing • Town buses circulating – 30 seaters zipping around town all the time • Training and support on social enterprises • Large scale hedgerow planting • Resourced planning department so they can ensure environmental compliance • Focus on local food supplies (Culling deer population) • More EV changing points • Improve air quality • Education and information sessions re environmental action to bring people together • Support national peatlands park • Stop cutting the hedges KCC • Urgently tackle vacancy and over shop living • More community gardens • Bus connecting Kill, Johnstown, Naas and Sallins (All day) • Cheaper transport • Better training on sustainable practices • Force developers to include EVs at buildings especially apartments • Talk to future generations (young people) about what they want • Force developers to engage with community re; developments to make them respect the local environment
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GATHERED FROM ONLINE CONSULTATION

1) There is no legal protection available to apartment owners who are meeting their annual service charge payments to the Owner Management Company (OMC), when other owners are choosing not to pay. As Naas is fast becoming an area with a significant number of apartments (including those planned and under construction), this is an issue that needs to be addressed, to avoid situations that have occurred elsewhere, particularly in Dublin.

a. Collection of outstanding debts by the OMC is both difficult and tedious with a low rate of success.

b. Non-payment of service charge payments for more than six years, is covered by a statute of limitations.

c. Withdrawal of services to defaulting owners is impossible to implement, particularly as GDPR is being used to hide their identities.

d. Sinking funds – which are meant to pay for future issues that may occur – will be totally inadequate and cause serious problems for everyone, including local authorities and government. Compliant apartment owners need to be adequately protected and supported through legislation to maintain their homes.

2) rewilding of unused green areas some left natural and some with areas to walk, as above - excellent, safe and joined up active travel options. priority to active travel and public transport. reliable bus routes, all kids have access to get to school by active transport of bus routes especially in the built-up area of the town. sustainable development - all new houses need cars to access work, schools, shops etc

3) All policies should be stress-tested to ensure they align with UN Sustainable Development Goals. The implementation of the recommendations from the County Kildare Hedgerow Appraisal Survey 2022. The establishment of a county tree/hedgerow nursery to meet the needs of tree /hedgerow planting in the county. The eradication of and ban on sale of invasive species. Ban on peat-based products. Ban on importation of trees/plants. The establishment of a National Peatlands Park in Kildare. The protection of existing wild areas of land from development. Protection of watercourses from pollution and agricultural run-off. Measures such as no improvement of land along the banks of rivers; planting trees along banks to reduce flooding and runoff. Projects led by scientifically-backed research and not a reliance on landscapers and contractors.

4) More wild areas for the bees.

5) More sustainable and cheaper energy. Greater support to achieve more sustainability. Backing from large businesses to support the environment.

6) Ban on disposable coffee cups/ containers (like Killarney) support for businesses to implement Go Cup scheme. No more planning permission for takeaway only coffee businesses. Businesses need to be supported to provide sit down spaces. Car free days in Naas Town at weekends. Refillable water bottle stations. Zebra crossings at Swans.

7) Ensure no toxic weedkiller used in our town. Investment in our parks so they are great for wildlife as well as people.

- 8) Local education resources for circular economy and sustainability. Local structures to support this thinking and action. For e.g. a paid role in the locality.
- 9) The future will suffer from big oil, war, rising sea levels, pollution, greed, climate change, ignorance, AI problems, and displacement of populations. I want to go back to 1992. Clean waters, cheap fuel, fish in the sea, sunny sky, green ideas, free love, music and a hippy lifestyle.
- 10) A safe, sustainable county, working to make sure our planet is respected and our citizens are more mindful of wastage, pollution and 1 use items.
- 11) An urban space with far better pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure, a fraction of the current traffic, no HGVs through town.
- 12) This is at the core of society on all levels. Return to the land and respect the earth and all its inhabitants.
- 13) I would like to see a Rediscovery Centre open in Naas. Perhaps it could be located at the struggling Canal basin. They are wonderful ways to foster a culture of reuse and respect for resources. As well as including places to buy refurbished bikes, clothes, paint etc. they could run courses and programmes for individuals wishing to develop those skills. The Rediscover Centre in Ballymun is an excellent model <http://www.rediscoverycentre.ie/rediscover-cycling/>