VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING
KILDARE

Public Participation Network Kildare

Contents

KILDARE VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Foreword

In the ever-evolving tapestry of human civilization, the notion of 'community' remains a constant anchoring force. It is the bedrock upon which we construct our societies, the framework within which we build our futures, and the setting for the myriad stories that weave together the fabric of our collective identity. The story of Kildare, with its rich history, diverse population, and bountiful resources, is no exception. It is with great pride and responsibility that we present this vision for community wellbeing in Kildare, an ambitious blueprint that aspires to nurture and elevate every individual and institution within our bounds.

Wellbeing, as a concept, extends far beyond the absence of illness or the presence of material wealth. It encompasses the physical, emotional, social, environmental, and even spiritual aspects of our lives. It is about ensuring that every member of our community has the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive and contribute positively to the collective. Achieving this requires an inclusive, holistic approach that recognises the unique challenges and strengths of Kildare and calls upon each one of us to participate in shaping our shared destiny.
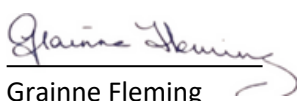
We have endeavoured to capture the aspirations, hopes, and dreams of our people while addressing the challenges we face, both immediate and long-term. By placing wellbeing at the forefront, we signal our commitment to a future where Kildare stands as a beacon of holistic health, prosperity, and inclusivity.

Yet, it is imperative to understand that this vision is not a static endpoint but a dynamic journey. The pages that follow lay out actionable findings, but the true realisation of our goals will depend on continuous engagement, adaptability, and resilience. Each resident, organisation, and institution in Kildare has a pivotal role to play in breathing life into this vision, turning it from aspiration to reality.

The road ahead is, undoubtedly, marked with uncertainties. We will face obstacles and unforeseen challenges, but it is our unwavering belief in the strength of community that gives us the confidence to move forward. The heart of Kildare is its people, and together, we are greater than the sum of our parts.

Let this vision for community wellbeing be our guiding star, illuminating the path towards a brighter, more equitable, and prosperous future for all. As stewards of Kildare, we owe it to ourselves, our children, and the generations yet unborn to actualise the immense potential that lies within our grasp. Through collaboration, dedication, and shared purpose, let us embark on this transformative journey towards a vision realised.

With best wishes and hope for the future,

Grainne Fleming
Kildare Public Participation Network Coordinator

Background

The Vision for Community Wellbeing for this and Future Generations identifies the key issues that member groups in Kildare consider to be important to their communities and to be *"The best that it can be for this and future generations"*

It was developed through an open, participative, transparent process which involves all member groups. It is a key directive from the Department of Rural & Community Development.

"This vision statement should be used as a framework for engagement with PPNs in order to support the development of the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Objectives for the LECP. In addition, LECP Implementation Plans should have regard to PPN wellbeing statements to ensure consistency with the vision outlined in these statements."
Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien launch 'Local Economic and Community Plans Guidelines 2021' (www.gov.ie)

The data informs:

- PPN representatives on Boards and Committees
- Linkage Groups – e.g. to work up policy positions
- Secretariat – e.g. to propose workplan priorities
- PPN Coordinators & Staff – e.g. to respond to consultations & submissions
- The Local Economic Community Plan

This data will be publicly available for any party wishing to access it eg: Local Authorities, HSE or ETBs

CONSULTATION PROCESS

This report provides the high-level findings from a comprehensive consultation process undertaken by Kildare PPN. This process was conducted between July and September 2023. An in-person consultation was held in each of the five Municipal Districts (MD) in Kildare, followed by an online survey which was circulated to ensure maximum participation. In total ninety-four groups participated which generated over eighty pages of detailed data.

The outcome of this is the formation of five Municipal District Wellbeing Visions, along with detailed data which is now available on the Kildare Public Participation Network website.

This vision encapsulates the key themes incorporating all five Visions, however, as stated the granular detail of recommendations can now be found at MD level on the website.

This Vision is a testament to the county's commitment to understanding and addressing the needs and aspirations of its people. Furthermore, it is a real reflection of the strength and commitment of volunteerism in the county and should be commended.

KEY THEMES

The following themes were the themes discussed at the consultations. They formed the structure for discussions and covered a multitude of areas. They were thought provoking and conversations expanded beyond the themes. In each MD we looked at mapping the assets we currently had, which then helped us to identify the gaps we needed addressed (detailed data available on the Kildare PPN website for each MD).

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. We know that all of this also helps our mental health, as does having people you can talk to, a place you belong, and space to relax. Unfortunately our health can't always be perfect, and sometimes we 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, 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. 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

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. 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 twenty 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 county, 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

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 five 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?

COUNTY KILDARE
VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

COUNTY KILDARE FINDINGS

Health Physical and Mental

We envision a county where every resident enjoys equitable access to high-quality healthcare, promoting physical health, mental well-being, and preventive care. Our community will foster active lifestyles, safe environments, and mental health programmes, ensuring a healthy and vibrant population.

Key Priorities:

1 We need to establish a comprehensive, accessible healthcare system focusing on both physical and mental health.

2 We need improved mental health and addiction prevention services, especially for the youth.

3 We need to actively promote community-based initiatives encouraging physical activity and healthy lifestyles, through inclusive community programmes.

4 We need additional supports for vulnerable groups.

5 Awareness Campaigns: Launch campaigns emphasising the importance of mental health, breaking stigmas, and encouraging residents to seek help when needed.

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Environment and Sustainability

The environment plays a pivotal role in the well-being of the community. The county's natural beauty, encompassing wildlife, waterways, and green spaces, is a source of pride. However, there's an understanding of the challenges posed by climate change and the need for sustainable resource management. We envision a sustainable county that prioritises environmental preservation, conservation, and renewable energy adoption. Our community will strive for carbon neutrality, waste reduction, and green infrastructure, ensuring a harmonious coexistence with nature for generations to come. Community gardens, wildflower areas, and allotments support sustainability. Cultural buildings and heritage sites preserve the community's history and identity. Canals and greenways offer recreational opportunities and scenic walks. Recycling facilities and smoke-free zones promote a healthier environment. Bogs and forests provide natural resources and contribute to biodiversity.

Key Priorities:

1 We need a sustainable plan for the community, promoting eco-tourism, investing in green initiatives, and incorporating climate-resilient infrastructure.

2 We need to promote the use of renewable energy sources, establish more green spaces, and encourage sustainable farming practices.

3 We need to implement advanced waste management systems, promote recycling, and organise community clean-up drives.

4 We need to implement sustainable practices in construction and resource management.

5 We need to promote renewable energy and waste reduction efforts.

6 Implement community educational programmes and seminars on sustainable living, teaching residents how to reduce their carbon footprint.

7 Promote environmental science-based actions and educational programmes in schools.

8 Improve transportation by creating connected footpaths, cycle lanes, and reducing heavy traffic in towns.

7 Encourage pond projects and biodiversity awareness in towns and villages.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION | 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND

Values, Culture, and Meaning

The county prides itself on its rich heritage, history, and the shared activities that bring its people together. 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. The prides itself on its rich heritage, history, and the shared activities that bring its people together.

Our vision for the county centres on a community that cherishes and promotes shared values of respect, empathy, and compassion. We will embrace our cultural diversity, honouring traditions while embracing progressive attitudes, instilling a sense of purpose and belonging for every individual. The report recommends preserving and celebrating cultural heritage, promoting diverse community activities, and fostering a sense of belonging and inclusiveness.

Key Priorities:

1 We need to restore and maintain historical sites, organise cultural festivals celebrating the 's heritage, and promote local arts and crafts.

2 We need to promote events that foster community spirit, such as local fairs, music festivals, and art exhibitions.

3 Support cultural heritage preservation.

4 Foster inclusivity and diversity in the community.

5 Encourage arts, music, and drama programmes for all age groups.

6 We need to introduce programmes in schools that teach students about the county's history and cultural significance.

Economy and Resources

The changing nature of work, driven by technological advancements, presents both challenges and opportunities. The community recognises the potential of remote work and the importance of diversifying the local economy. Our vision is a thriving economy that encourages sustainable growth, innovation, and inclusive opportunities for all. We will promote diverse industries, support small businesses, and prioritise resource management to ensure long-term economic stability while safeguarding our environment.

To thrive economically, the community aims to improve infrastructure, attract new industries, and support small businesses. The vision involves enhancing job opportunities, ensuring affordable housing, and investing in local resources and skills.

Key Priorities:

1 We need to promote local businesses, encourage startups, and provide training programmes for emerging industries.

2 Establish co-working spaces and ensure high-speed internet connectivity to facilitate remote working.

3 We need educational and training programmes to equip residents with skills relevant to the modern job market.
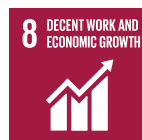
4 Enhance support for local businesses and entrepreneurs through enterprise centres reducing bureaucratic obstacles.

5 Improve public transport and accessibility in all areas.

6 Simplify grant systems and allocate funds to community priorities.

Social & Community Development

The community would like Kildare to be connected and cohesive. Where inclusivity, equality, and diversity are celebrated. The community will provide opportunities for education, skill development, and social engagement, fostering a sense of belonging, understanding, and unity among its residents. The community aims to improve accessibility, promote inclusivity, and strengthen community support systems. The vision focuses on creating safe, inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued. They aim to promote diversity and strengthen social services.

Key Priorities:

1 There is a need to improve community facilities and recreational spaces to encourage inclusivity and socialisation.

2 Enhance social services and support systems for vulnerable populations.

3 Expand elder care services and home visits for isolated individuals.

4 Promote a sense of safety and inclusion for all community members.

5 Improve public facilities, such as swimming pools and accessible toilets.

6 Promote intercultural understanding and integration through community programmes.

7 Increase support for volunteering and sustainable roles in the community.

1 NO POVERTY

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

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

They aspire to uphold a participatory democracy that values transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. They aim to encourage active involvement of the community in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership and trust in local Government, promoting a better future for all.

Key Priorities:

1 Ensure proper governance and accountability for community groups and grant recipients.

2 We would like to see an improved electoral registration process and encourage voter registration.

3 The community envisions and encourages youth involvement.

4 Increased citizen engagement through transparent communication channels is required.

5 We need fair representation in decision-making processes.

6 We would like to see and promote accountable and transparent governance at all levels (Local and National).

7 The community calls for greater involvement, timely decision-making, and digital accessibility of government processes.

8 Greater Empowerment for local councils and ensure that decisions affecting the community are made locally.

9 We would like regular "town hall" meetings where residents can voice their concerns and provide feedback.

10 Ensure that the decision-making process is transparent, inclusive and that regular updates are provided to the community.

Other priorities that emerged during the consultation process

Infrastructure and Urban Planning

The rapid growth of Kildare has led to challenges in infrastructure and urban planning. Traffic congestion in the main towns and surrounding areas needs to be addressed urgently.

Accessibility

The community would recommend that a full accessibility audit be carried out across public buildings and spaces within the county.

Tourism

Develop and promote tourist attractions, capitalising on the county's rich history and natural beauty.

Transportation

Develop a comprehensive transportation plan that includes expanding public transport routes, creating dedicated bike lanes, and improving road infrastructure.

Urban Planning

Adopt a sustainable urban planning approach, ensuring green spaces are integrated into new developments and preserving the county's historical sites.

Urbanisation vs. Heritage

While development is essential, it's crucial to ensure that the county's rich history isn't overshadowed. A balance between modern infrastructure and preserving historical sites is vital.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

- With a diverse population, there's a need to ensure that all community members, regardless of their background, feel included and valued.
- Organise multicultural festivals celebrating the diverse heritage of the district's residents.
- Establish community centres offering language classes, integration workshops, and cultural exchange programmes.
- Public Awareness: Launch campaigns promoting tolerance, understanding, and the benefits of a diverse community.

Recreational Spaces

Allocate spaces for parks, playgrounds, and community centres. Consider developing a central recreational facility that can host various sports and cultural events.

Education and Youth Engagement

A strong expression of desire for more inclusive educational opportunities and platforms to voice young people's opinions. We need to establish youth councils, giving them a platform to participate in decision-making processes. Organise regular youth forums and workshops.

Safety and Security

- Some communities expressed concerns about safety, especially during nighttime. There's a call for increased Garda presence and better-lit streets.
- Encourage community Garda initiatives, fostering trust between residents and An Garda Siochana.
- Infrastructure: Invest in better street lighting and install CCTV cameras at strategic locations.

Community Engagement

For any initiative to be successful, the community's involvement is crucial. Regular feedback sessions, town hall meetings, and public forums can ensure that voices are heard, and concerns are addressed.

Educational Infrastructure

Invest in building and upgrading schools, ensuring they are equipped with modern facilities and technology.
Skill Development: Partner with local businesses and institutions to offer vocational training and internship opportunities for young adults.

Sustainable Growth

As the county grows, it's essential to ensure that this growth is sustainable. This means adopting eco-friendly practices, promoting green businesses, and ensuring that the natural beauty of the district is preserved for future generations.

Business Incentives

Offer tax breaks and incentives for businesses setting up in the district, especially in sectors with high growth potential.

Conclusion

To ensure the success of the wellbeing for county Kildare in the future, it is essential to consider the holistic development of the community. Building a healthy and sustainable community requires focusing on physical and mental health, preserving the environment, promoting cultural diversity, supporting the local economy, and fostering social inclusivity. Moreover, effective participation, democracy, and good governance are crucial for representing the interests of all residents and communities ensuring a sense of belonging and pride in its identity. Continued collaboration, investment in key areas, and an unwavering commitment to the community's values and culture will be essential for achieving this vision of wellbeing.

This report outlines the key themes identified in the consultations and presents the vision for the future. It serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders in fostering positive change and enhancing the overall wellbeing of county Kildare.

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 wellbeing and development of Kildare. By working together, the community can take meaningful steps towards realising their vision for a thriving and sustainable county for this and future generations.

KILDARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT VISIONS FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

ATHY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FINDINGS

Health Physical and Mental

The consultation participants emphasised the significance of holistic health, encompassing both physical and mental aspects. The assets identified for this theme include various sports clubs, walking groups, fitness centres, healthcare facilities, and addiction centres. However, there was a call for more accessible health facilities, additional support for mental health services, and social prescribing link workers to connect people to relevant resources. The vision for the future includes expanding healthcare infrastructure, promoting physical activities, and enhancing mental health support services.

Environment and Sustainability

Participants acknowledged the importance of a healthy environment for overall wellbeing. The assets listed include green spaces, museums, and natural resources. To ensure a sustainable future, the community seeks to reduce its environmental impact through renewable energy adoption, waste reduction, and improved infrastructure. The vision includes a focus on nature preservation, sustainable development, and effective management of resources.

Values, Culture, and Meaning

The consultation recognised the significance of cultural heritage, community gatherings, and shared experiences. The assets mentioned include various cultural events, arts, music, and community organisations. The vision for the future emphasizes preserving cultural identity, encouraging community engagement, and promoting inclusivity amongst diverse groups.

Economy and Resources

The participants discussed the changing job market and the need for diverse economic opportunities. The identified assets include educational institutions, local businesses, and industry-specific organisations. To thrive economically, the community aims to improve infrastructure, attract new industries, and support small businesses. The vision involves enhancing job opportunities, ensuring affordable housing, and investing in local resources and skills.

Social & Community Development

The consultation highlighted the significance of community cohesion and safety. The assets listed include recreational facilities, community centres, and support organisations. The community aims to improve accessibility, promote inclusivity, and strengthen community support systems. The vision focuses on creating safe, inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance

The participants discussed the importance of citizen involvement, with an emphasis on the importance of a transparent decision-making process. The assets identified include community groups, political representatives, and the Kildare Public Participation Network. The community envisions encouraging youth involvement, improving governance accountability, and ensuring fair distribution of funds and resources.

Conclusion

The consultation for Athy Municipal District shed light on key areas impacting the wellbeing of the community. The findings suggest a strong focus on holistic health, sustainable development, cultural preservation, economic diversification, community engagement, and transparent governance. The vision for the future involves various initiatives, such as enhancing healthcare services, promoting sustainable practices, preserving cultural heritage, supporting small businesses, fostering inclusivity, and encouraging youth participation. By actively working on these aspects, the community can strive to create a flourishing environment for current and future generations, making Athy the best it can be.

The document outlines the key themes identified in the consultation and presents the vision for the future. It serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, community leaders, and stakeholders in fostering positive change and enhancing the overall wellbeing of the district

CELBRIDGE – LEIXLIP MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FINDINGS

Health Physical and Mental

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Infrastructure Development:** Establish more local health centres, especially focusing on mental health services.

2 **Community Programmes:** Organise community events promoting physical activities like marathons, yoga sessions, and mental health workshops.

3 **Awareness Campaigns:** Launch campaigns emphasising the importance of mental health, breaking stigmas, and encouraging residents to seek help when needed.

Environment and Sustainability

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Green Initiatives:** Promote the use of renewable energy sources, establish more green spaces, and encourage sustainable farming practices.

2 **Waste Management:** Implement advanced waste management systems, promote recycling, and organise community clean-up drives.

3 **Education:** Organise workshops and seminars on sustainable living, teaching residents how to reduce their carbon footprint.

Values, Culture and Meaning

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Cultural Preservation:** Restore and maintain historical sites, organise cultural festivals celebrating the district's heritage, and promote local arts and crafts.

2 **Community Building:** Organise events that foster community spirit, such as local fairs, music festivals, and art exhibitions.

3 **Education:** Introduce programmes in schools that teach students about the district's history and cultural significance.

Economy and Resources

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Economic Diversification:** Promote local businesses, encourage startups, and provide training programmes for emerging industries.

2 **Remote Work Infrastructure:** Establish co-working spaces and ensure high-speed internet connectivity to facilitate remote working.

3 **Skill Development:** Organise workshops and training programmes to equip residents with skills relevant to the modern job market.

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Business Incentives:** Offer tax breaks and incentives for businesses setting up in the district, especially in sectors with high growth potential.

2 **Entrepreneurship:** Establish business incubators and offer grants for startups, fostering a culture of entrepreneurship.

3 **Tourism:** Develop and promote tourist attractions, capitalising on the district's rich history and natural beauty.

Social & Community Development

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

Recommendations

1 **Cultural Events:** Organise multicultural festivals celebrating the diverse heritage of the district's residents.

2 **Community Centres:** Establish community centres offering language classes, integration workshops, and cultural exchange programmes.

3 **Public Awareness:** Launch campaigns promoting tolerance, understanding, and the benefits of a diverse community.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Decentralised Decision Making:** Empower local councils and ensure that decisions affecting the community are made locally.

2 **Public Forums:** Organise regular "town hall" meetings where residents can voice their concerns and provide feedback.

3 **Transparency:** Ensure that the decision-making process is transparent, with regular updates provided to the community.

Education and Youth Engagement

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Educational Infrastructure:** Invest in building and upgrading schools, ensuring they are equipped with modern facilities and technology.

2 **Youth Engagement:** Establish youth councils, giving them a platform to participate in decision-making processes. Organise regular youth forums and workshops.

3 **Skill Development:** Partner with local businesses and institutions to offer vocational training and internship opportunities for young adults.

Safety and Security

Findings

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

Recommendations

1 **Increased Garda Patrols:** Allocate resources for more regular Garda patrols, especially in areas identified as high-risk.

2 **Community Policing:** Encourage community Garda initiatives, fostering trust between residents and An Garda Síochána.

3 **Infrastructure:** Invest in better street lighting and install CCTV cameras at strategic locations.

Infrastructure and Urban Planning

Findings

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

Recommendations

1   **Accessibility:** A full accessibility audit should be carried out across public buildings and spaces within the Municipal District.

2   **Transportation:** Develop a comprehensive transportation plan that includes expanding public transport routes, creating dedicated bike lanes, and improving road infrastructure.

3   **Recreational Spaces:** Allocate spaces for parks, playgrounds, and community centres. Consider developing a central recreational facility that can host various sports and cultural events.

4   **Urban Planning:** Adopt a sustainable urban planning approach, ensuring green spaces are integrated into new developments and preserving the district's historical sites.

Challenges and Solutions

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

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

Conclusion

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

CLANE – MAYNOOTH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FINDINGS

Health Physical and Mental

Asset Mapping (What we have):

- Equestrian centres, castles, and golf courses provide recreational opportunities.
- Town parks, forests, and walks contribute to physical and mental well-being.
- Accessible healthcare facilities such as primary care centres and nursing homes.
- Mental health support services like mindfulness and counselling are available.
- Sports clubs like GAA and Maynooth Town FC promote physical activity.

Vision for the future (What we would like):

1. Develop more exercise facilities with accessible equipment and covered outdoor spaces.

2. Improve mental health services, including more psychologists and early intervention systems.

3. Enhance accessibility for people with disabilities, such as wheelchair swings and footpaths.

4. Improve mental health services, including more psychologists and early intervention systems.

5. Enhance accessibility for people with disabilities, such as wheelchair swings and footpaths.

Environment and Sustainability

Asset Mapping (What we have):

- Community gardens, wildflower areas, and allotments support sustainability.
- Cultural buildings and heritage sites preserve the community's history and identity.
- Canals and greenways offer recreational opportunities and scenic walks.
- Recycling facilities and smoke-free zones promote a healthier environment.
- Bogs and forests provide natural resources and contribute to biodiversity.

Vision for the future (What we would like):

1 Implement better recycling services and facilities for various materials, including glass and batteries.

2 Preserve peat bogs and educate the public on the importance of environmental protection.

3 Promote environmental science-based actions and educational programmes in schools.

4 Improve transportation by creating connected footpaths, cycle lanes, and reducing heavy traffic in towns.

5 Encourage pond projects and biodiversity awareness in towns and villages.

Values, Culture and Meaning

Asset Mapping (What we have):

- Community halls, cultural groups, theatres, and sports clubs foster a sense of belonging.
- Churches, mosques, and places of worship play a vital role in community life.
- Events such as St. Patrick's Day Parade and Roma Pride Week celebrate diversity.
- Music and drama groups provide opportunities for artistic expression.
- Educational institutions like Maynooth University contribute to cultural and intellectual growth.

Vision for the future (What we would like):

1 Create an inclusive community that respects and celebrates cultural diversity.

2 Develop local spaces for young people to seek support and express themselves.

3 Promote intergenerational projects, crafts, storytelling, and cultural events.

4 Support local artisans, farmers' markets, and businesses to preserve the community's identity.

5 Offer language classes and facilities for cultural exchange and integration.

Economy and Resources

Asset Mapping (What we have):

- Various businesses, including supermarkets, hotels, and industrial parks, contribute to the local economy.
- Educational institutions like Maynooth University and ETB courses provide learning opportunities.
- Community employment schemes and day services support vulnerable populations.
- Local libraries and museums offer educational resources.
- Transport services, such as buses and train stations, connect the community.

Vision for the future (What we would like):

1. Encourage more remote work opportunities to support the changing job market.

2. Enhance support for local businesses and entrepreneurs through enterprise centers.

3. Invest in education and training opportunities to bridge skill gaps.

4. Improve public transport and accessibility in the area.

5. Simplify grant systems and allocate funds to community priorities.

Social & Community Development

Asset Mapping (What we have):

- Community centres, sports clubs, and social groups provide spaces for gatherings.
- Tidy Towns, community watch, and residence associations promote safety and engagement.
- Garda stations and community policing improve security.
- Parent and toddler groups, childcare services, and elder care facilities support families and older adults.
- Adult education and recreational facilities enhance personal development.

Vision for the future (What we would like):

1. Develop more community centres and social clubs to encourage inclusivity and socialisation.

2. Expand elder care services and home visits for isolated individuals.

3. Improve public facilities, such as swimming pools and accessible toilets.

4. Promote intercultural understanding and integration through community programs.

5. Increase support for volunteering and sustainable roles in the community.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance

Asset Mapping (What we have):

- Parish councils, community groups, and representative bodies provide opportunities for community engagement.
- Political clinics, internet access, and social media platforms facilitate communication with decision-makers.
- National bodies like Kildare PPN advocate for community interests.
- Tidy Towns and environmental groups contribute to local governance.
- Places of worship and cultural spaces foster community connections.

Vision for the future (What we would like):

1. Encourage more remote work opportunities to support the changing job market.

2. Enhance support for local businesses and entrepreneurs through enterprise centers.

3. Invest in education and training opportunities to bridge skill gaps.

4. Improve public transport and accessibility in the area.

5. Simplify grant systems and allocate funds to community priorities.

Conclusion

By actively engaging with the identified assets and working towards the shared vision, the Clane/Maynooth Municipal District can create a thriving and resilient community that will be cherished by future generations. Investment, collaboration and commitment to the value and culture of the community will be key to achieving the vision of wellbeing into the future.

KILDARE - NEWBRIDGE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FINDINGS

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.

Recommendations

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

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.

Recommendations

1   Implement sustainable practices in construction and resource management.

2   Develop eco-tourism initiatives and green spaces.

3   Promote renewable energy and waste reduction efforts.

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.

Recommendations

1   Implement sustainable practices in construction and resource management.

2   Develop eco-tourism initiatives and green spaces.

3   Promote renewable energy and waste reduction efforts.

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.

Recommendations

1   Provide resources and training for local businesses and entrepreneurs.

2   Support workforce development and education.

3   Foster a diverse and resilient local economy.

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.

Recommendations

1   Improve community facilities and recreational spaces.

2   Enhance social services and support systems for vulnerable populations.

3   Promote a sense of safety and inclusion for all community members.

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

1   Increase citizen engagement through transparent communication channels.

2   Ensure fair representation in decision-making processes.

3   Promote accountable and transparent governance at all levels (Local and National).

Conclusion

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.

Recognising the need for collaboration, it is crucial to highlight that tackling these priorities necessitates a joint effort involving community members, the Local Authority, and pertinent stakeholders. The information obtained through consultations can function as a significant guide for forthcoming initiatives, policies, and projects aimed at fostering the well-being and growth of the Kildare/Newbridge municipal district. Through collective action, the community can actively advance toward achieving their vision of a prosperous and sustainable town.
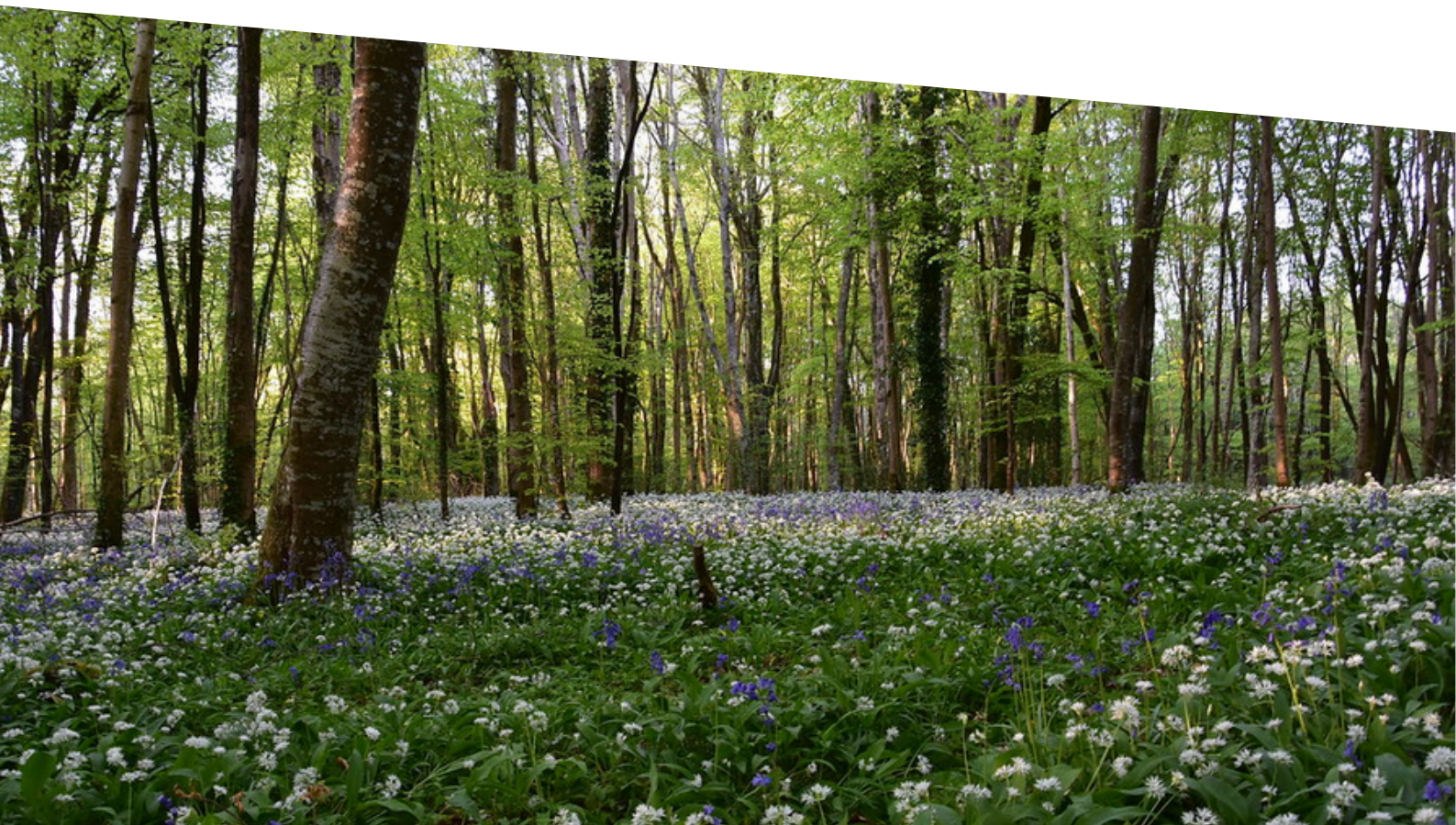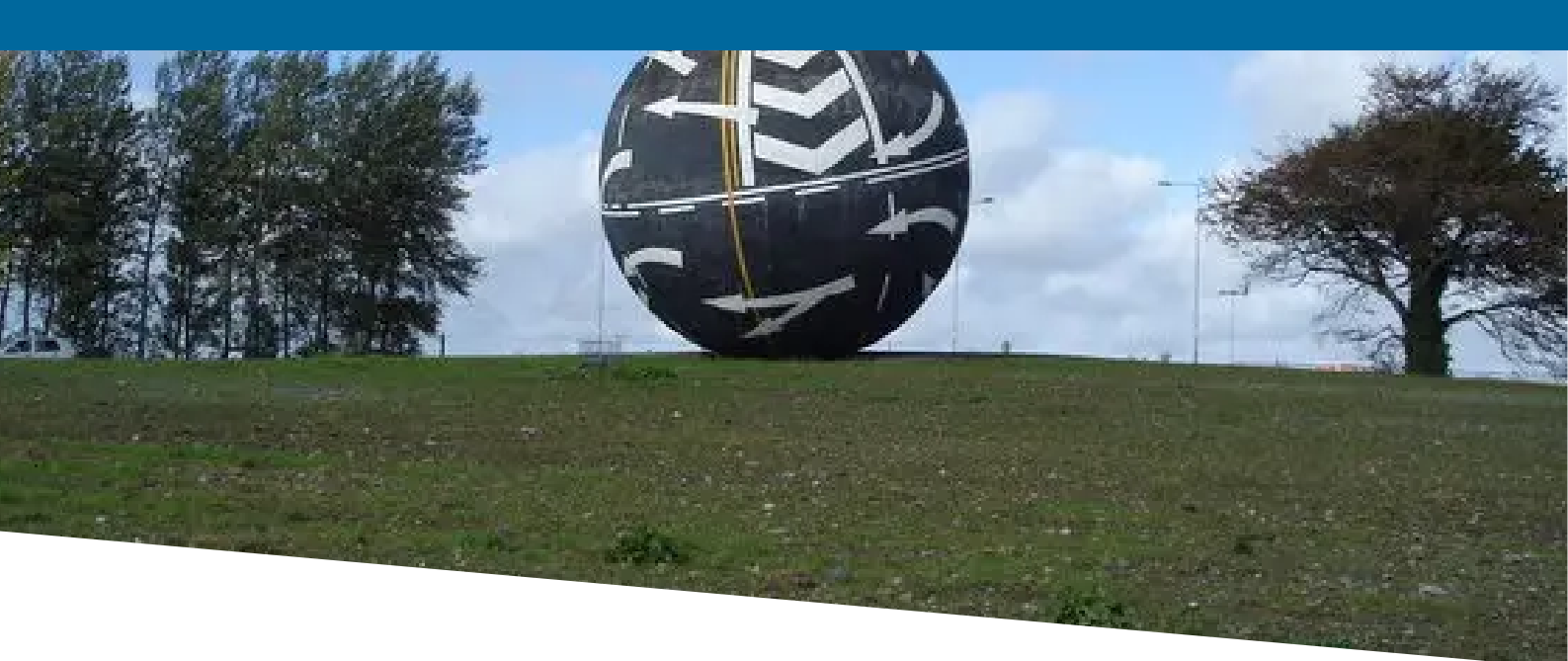
NAAS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT FINDINGS

Health Physical and Mental

We envision a Naas MD where every resident enjoys equitable access to high-quality healthcare, promoting physical health, mental well-being, and preventive care. Our community will foster active lifestyles, safe environments, and mental health programmes, ensuring a healthy and vibrant population.

Environment and Sustainability

We envision a sustainable Naas MD that prioritises environmental preservation, conservation, and renewable energy adoption. Our community will strive for carbon neutrality, waste reduction, and green infrastructure, ensuring a harmonious coexistence with nature for generations to come.

Values, Culture and Meaning

Our vision for Naas MD centres on a community that cherishes and promotes shared values of respect, empathy, and compassion. We will embrace our cultural diversity, honouring traditions while embracing progressive attitudes, instilling a sense of purpose and belonging for every individual.

Economy and Resources

Our vision is a thriving Naas MD economy that encourages sustainable growth, innovation, and inclusive opportunities for all. We will promote diverse industries, support small businesses, and prioritise resource management to ensure long-term economic stability while safeguarding our environment.

Social & Community Development

We would like a connected and cohesive community in Naas MD, where inclusivity, equality, and diversity are celebrated. Our community will provide opportunities for education, skill development, and social engagement, fostering a sense of belonging, understanding, and unity among its residents.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance

In Naas MD, we aspire to uphold a participatory democracy that values transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement. We aim to encourage active involvement of residents in decision-making processes, fostering a sense of ownership and trust in local governance, promoting a better future for all.

Recommendations

A number of strong themes came to the fore during the consultation and recommendations from attendees are as follows:

Health and Wellbeing:

- Establishment of a comprehensive, accessible healthcare system focusing on both physical and mental health.
- Improved mental health and addiction prevention services, especially for the youth.
- Active promotion of community-based initiatives encouraging physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Community Enhancement:

- Nurturing a strong community identity through heritage celebration and unifying activities.
- Leveraging technology to enhance connectivity and opportunities in rural areas.
- Ensuring transparency and inclusivity in community meetings and decision-making processes.

Sustainable Development:

- Commitment to a seamless transition to renewable energy sources.
- Community-led waste reduction initiatives and efficient resource use.
- Priority on the development of green spaces and active travel infrastructure.

Environmental Protection

- Establishment of a National Peatlands Park in Kildare.
- Implementation of robust measures to protect watercourses from pollution and agricultural runoff.
- Alignment of all policies and initiatives with the UN Sustainable Development Goals for environmental sustainability.

Support for Local Enterprises:

- Streamlined supports for local businesses, reducing bureaucratic obstacles.
- Enhancement of public transport facilities to ensure accessibility and convenience for all residents.

Conclusion

Our Wellbeing Vision for the Naas Municipal District encapsulates a holistic and intertwined approach to sustainability, community enhancement, comprehensive healthcare, environmental protection, and robust support for local enterprises, ensuring a harmonious, healthy, and sustainable future for all our residents. Addressing these priorities will require collaboration between community members, the local authority, and relevant stakeholders, working together to realize this vision for a thriving and sustainable Municipal District.

Contact

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