

## **Ballybay Clones Municipal District**

### **Vision for Community Wellbeing Workshop Inputs (4<sup>th</sup> March 2020)**

#### **Social and Community Development**

How can we be an inclusive community where we support each other and ensure no one is left out? What are the important social services and facilities we need to live well from childhood to old age?

##### **Facilities and activities for youth**

- Good condition building for youth club.
- Well-funded youth services.
- Youth cafés/ hangouts.
- Coder dojo groups in all areas, towns and communities.
- A club with exchange students and other normal full-time students to help make the exchange students feel more welcome into the community e.g. a club with both full-time and exchange students.
- Good community communication for youth clubs e.g. schools.
- Good advertisement for youth clubs etc. social media not newspapers.
- Youth club.

##### **Recreation and sport opportunities**

- A cycle track for safety for teenagers and adults e.g. greenway from Monaghan to Ballybay.
- Play parks.
- Football pitch.
- Local facilities need to improve so people can have fun, especially kids with sport.
- Restore sports field to town park, Ballybay.
- Support Men's Shed/ Women's Shed
- Safe walking routes and places to visit.
- Supports for sports groups.

##### **Transport**

- Transport services with adequate disability services.
- Need Local Link in south Monaghan.
- Bus companies supplying private buses.

##### **Celebrate and support each other**

- Pride events and provide more safe spaces.

##### **Information**

- Easy local communication system to find out about all services.
- Every County Council should have a link/ liaison officer where communities can get information and connect.

##### **Community facilities and services**

- Good quality broadband.

- Good community centre.
- Proper well-funded day care.
- Improve crèche facilities in the library.
- Carers and family support.
- Non-alcohol space that opens late.
- Local care homes.
- Crèche
- Heritage groups.
- Drama society
- Supports for community groups.

### **Healthcare**

- Re-open Monaghan hospital.
- Local primary care services.
- Local GPs

### **Inclusion**

- More focus on inclusion in schools.

*(Below the line/ detailed submission:*

- *Restore tennis court to Ballybay.*
- *Repair pitch at Magheracloone.*
- *Keep Ulster final in Clones.)*

## Work, Economy and Resources

How can our communities thrive economically, with good jobs, and supports for enterprise, business and for people not in work? What resources do we have and are they use effectively without causing harm to social and environmental sustainability?

### Work-life balance

- People enjoy a high quality of life thanks to be able to work remotely.
- Well-paid jobs with security and career packages.

### Our local economy

- A strong indigenous business sector that is supported.
- Green construction and technology jobs.
- Construction.
- Computing.
- Events.
- Wider business options.
- Clean business which uses less energy and is carbon neutral.
- Bring in big franchises to provide young people with opportunity.
- Build on our agri-food sector.
- Build on our agri-food sector and move towards organic and ethically raised products.

### Training, experience and support for work

- We invest in the training of our workforce and believe in opportunities for advancement.
- Pathways to employment for teenagers starting their working life; skills training for part of the work time.
- Opportunities for young people to gain real experience in the workplace and where they are valued.
- Job opportunities for youths as everyone tends to look for college students.
- More encouragement for apprentices.
- Welfare to work schemes to incentivise long term unemployed getting back into employment, supported by skills training.
- Increase in minimum wage, especially for young people.
- Supports for the self-employed.

### Infrastructure

#### Transport

- Improved intra-county public transport to facilitate participation in the workplace and education.
- High speed rail connection to Dublin.
- Support services; rural transport to get people to work.

#### Communications

- Efficient broadband.
- High speed broadband to local/ central hub in each town, village and rural centre to facilitate business start-ups and existing businesses.
- We have up-to-the-minute infrastructure such as broadband, so our businesses are competitive.

## **Community support**

- More resources for voluntary groups.

## Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

What is necessary to ensure that our local government structures support the wellbeing of our community for this and future generations? What is necessary to ensure that we have a voice in the decisions that affect us, and that all voices are being heard?

### Local Authority

#### Accountability

- County Council needs to be held responsible and accountable for their actions

#### Representation

- Student “Council” within each municipal district which would feedback and meet with “senior” elected municipal district councillors at same meetings.
- All demographics represented; age, gender, race, etc.
- More input sought from young people.

#### Consultation and participation

- County Council should hold consultations and information sessions to engage community members.
- More presence by County Council members/ local government; interaction with students and the elderly through community meetings and schools visits before elections.
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade consultation – County Council stall.
- Encourage participation from young people.

#### Information and communication

- Transmit County Council meetings on local website.
- Give full breakdown of finances spent by County Council by project and service delivery by County Council and contractors e.g. M/D
- More information given to public about developments.
- More awareness and transparency around developments by the Council who need to tell people what they are doing.
- Pop-up information stands by County Council at events in the County.
- County Council town hall event.

#### Council functions

- Social housing built directly by local authorities
- Put derelict properties back into use.

### Education

- Bring local government to schools to engage.
- Review of education system.
- Overhaul of CAO system.
- School curriculum to include education around government, policies, etc.
- Better education around voting i.e. transfers etc. and the structure of government and how it works.
- Schools should make pupils aware of current and local affairs.

### Participation in democracy

- Lower the voting age to 16 years.

- Use your vote.
- Make applications for community grants

### **Government organisation**

- National government should look after national strategy as opposed to TDs looking after their own back yard.
- Restore local town councils.
- Overhaul the Seanad election system.

### **Infrastructure**

- Better infrastructure including by-roads.
- Good broadband.

### **Community involvement**

- Reach out to people who aren't already involved in community groups.

*(Below the line, detailed submission: Repair pitch in Magheracloone.)*

## Culture, Values and Meaning

What is needed to ensure that everyone feels, and actually is, included and valued, and that our different values and cultures are respected and nurtured? What are the important parts of our culture that we want to hand on to future generations?

### What we are like

- More accepting
- Good neighbourliness – visit your neighbour and talk more often (leave your phone down)
- More support from parents, family and friends.

### Multicultural community

- More venues for cultural mixing.
- More places for people who come from other countries to meet up with others from the local area.
- Cultural days
- Cultural event.
- Schools to be more culturally accepting.
- Welcome packs (information) for new arrivals to the Country (available in workplaces and community)
- Language exchanges.
- Integration with community and Direct Provision.
- Educational forums pertaining to refugee living scheme.

### Valuing everyone

- Pride Parade in Monaghan
- Gender equality

### Intergenerational activities

- More intergenerational opportunities
- Intergenerational learning for languages.
- More intergenerational opportunities

### Irish culture

- More opportunities to participate in traditional Irish arts.
- More Irish sports e.g. hurling and camogie.
- Ongoing opportunities to renew, refresh and rediscover the Irish language.

### Arts

- Local music festival for local musicians.
- Funding for local dramatic societies.

### Local heritage

- Funding for local heritage/ historical groups.
- County genealogical centre.
- Heritage centre.

**Community venues and amenities**

- More social venues.
- Wider array of community centres.
- More youth clubs for all activities
- More public parks

**Information**

- A Monaghan events App to advertise all opportunities and activities in Monaghan\*

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## Health (Physical and Mental)

How can all members of our community enjoy the best possible physical and mental health? What about people with special needs, older people and carers?

### Mental Health

- More training for GPs on mental health.
- Free and speedy access to mental health professionals.
- Suicide prevention centre.
- Mental health services for young people.
- Mental health services in rural areas.
- Schools to provide mental health services e.g. mindfulness, counsellors in all schools, etc.
- More mental health facilities even in schools for people with anxiety, depression, etc.
- There needs to be less stigma around mental health issues.
- Easier access to psychiatric services.
- More education around mental health.
- More psychologists.
- Psychology classes offered to all years.
- Everyone educated on all mental illnesses.

### Health services

- Monaghan hospital to be a hospital again.
- More GPs.
- More Doctor on Call centres in south Monaghan e.g. Carrickmacross
- Fully services public health centre in each town.
- Locums to be more readily available for GPs.
- Making health care more accessible and affordable e.g. medical card.
- More specialist clinics in Monaghan.
- Access to good dental services in each town.

### Recreation and leisure opportunities

- More youth facilities across our County staffed with youth workers.
- Other activities that are affordable for the youth i.e. arts, drama, film, photography.
- More sports options for people with a disability e.g. halls for soccer, tennis, handball.
- More involvement in local walking routes.
- More support for local groups in sport, arts, history, music, heritage, etc.
- More green spaces.
- More sports facilities that are maintained properly.
- Cycle routes/ paths.
- Dedicated greenway.

### Addressing addiction

- Adequate addiction services in the County.
- Support Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in every centre in the County.
- More training about drugs and alcohol for young people using a peer-to-peer model.
- Addiction services for young people.

### Services that address the needs of specific groups

- Services being more inclusive of people with hearing difficulties.
- More early intervention and ongoing supports for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities and those with mental health issues.
- Services for people with Down Syndrome in Monaghan town.
- Mainstream funding for parenting support organisations.
- Easily accessible and affordable transport for young people and people who can't drive.
- For our new communities, make information available in different languages about services, facilities and opportunities for people to get involved in the community.
- Adapt for an older future.
- More communication about care in the community.
- More intergenerational opportunities.

## Environment and Sustainability

How do we value our natural environment and man-made heritage? What can be done to conserve, protect and restore these? How can we interact with the environment in a sustainable way and hand it on to the next generation in a better state?

### Waste management

#### Reduce

- Use no plastic straws or plastic lids to soft drinks. Sell metal straws for extra price & give discount for using metal straws.
- Reduce single use plastics.

#### Recycling

- Public recycling bins
- Simplify recycling
- Recycle sign on labels
- More shops dedicated to the bottle recycling receipts
- Replicate the CMX plastic bottle refund scheme
- Turn in 5 bottles and get free bus ticket (as in other European countries where 5/6 bottles earns a train ticket)
- Instead of having 1 bin in towns have 3 bins; recycling of plastics (cups, bottles, etc.), recycling dry paper, waste. Would promote recycling.
- More bottle and clothing banks in each area

### Waste management

- More bring centres around the country that are more accessible and importantly that are serviced more often.
- Promotion of Council amenities on waste collection.
- Bins in general in rural areas.
- Collection days more often i.e. for skips, electric items, etc.
- More bins in town to prevent litter.
- Litter control
- Promote litter picking among young people; set dates for litter picks i.e. St. Patrick's Day, Easter.
- Enforcement of penalties for those committing offences such as fuel spillages, slurry spills, etc.

### Minding nature

- Increased awareness of biodiversity.
- Pollination and biodiversity promotion.
- Reduce mowing on Council grasslands and verges.

### Agriculture and food production

- More natural pesticides.
- Enforcement of regulations in use of fertilisers.
- Grant funding for biodigesters to turn slurry into bio-gas and compost.
- Innovative solutions to the pollution created by agriculture.

## **Climate action**

- Establish Fridays for our Future group in Monaghan.
- Spread awareness of climate action.

## **Community involvement**

- Tidy Town groups promotion and support.

## **Transport**

- More accessible public transport in villages.
- Develop existing railway lines.
- Extend Rural Link across all of the County.
- Better cycle lanes for cyclists.
- Make roads wider so that cyclists are safe. Put this into County Council policy.
- More charging points for electric cars to influence people to buy electric cars.
- Better maintenance of roads.

## **Energy**

- Mandate the ESB to purchase electricity from domestic solar PV cells.
- Stop sales of smokey coal.
- Phase out solid and fossil fuels for more sustainable options and include grants to support this.
- More renewable energy and make it more affordable.

## **Heritage**

- History and heritage of Clones promoted and made accessible to the community and visitors/ tourists.
- Co-ordinated heritage tourism in the County that is promoted properly.

## **Natural resources**

- Better water sanitation and filtration.
- Water needs to be softened to reduce waste of showers, taps and pipes