

Carrickmacross-Castleblaney Municipal District
Vision for Community Wellbeing Workshop Inputs (5th 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?

Safe communities

- Safe communities to live in.

Transport

- Better access to all areas by Rural Link throughout the County.
- Improved bus schedule in rural areas for people wishing to travel to the local town.

Community interaction

- More community interaction in conjunction with Gardaí
- Monthly get-togethers in the community for all ages.
- Better interaction for non-Irish children and adults.

Information

- Local information/ help point – somewhere to help point you in the right direction for your needs.
- Liaison person within all services to help people i.e. bank.

Community facilities and services

- Regeneration of Lough Muckno/ Hope Castle/ Old Barracks in Castleblaney.
- Market House social venue.
- Develop a Billy Fox memorial (community) centre in Latton.
- Accessible bathrooms available in every community.
- Computer literacy for all citizens.
- More funding.
- More affordable crèches.

Housing

- Option of different house types for older people.

Inclusion

- More opportunities for people with disabilities to access social events.
- Making existing sports clubs more accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities instead of starting new disability specific initiatives.

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?

Supporting the workforce

- Local access to the educational module of apprenticeships e.g. Dundalk (instead of being sent to Waterford, Galway, etc.).
- Training for adults with disabilities at local level -> transport to Monaghan, Clones is an issue.
- Social employment schemes.
- Support to business to provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Encourage employment of people with disabilities. Educate employers.
- More childcare facilities for young children; address lack of spaces, cost and times of opening.
- Regenerate town centres to create a vibrant local economy; make an attractive place to live.

Supporting business

- Capital investment in childcare.
- Childcare providers need support.
- Advice/ help centre for famers and locals.
- Skilled/ trained workforce with enough to make up workforce needed.
- Affordable insurance.

Support for health and wellbeing

- Improved access to adolescent mental health to make people employable (address CAMHS waiting list).
- More help for mental health.
- Respite care, occupational therapy and healthcare services.
- Local facilities for employees and residents; walking tracks – a safe place to walk in every community.

Infrastructure

Transport

- Transport connections to link to markets and ports.
- Major investments to upgrade regional roads to towns/ employment centres.
- Access to rural communities; major repairs to by-roads as a result of all the flooding “pot holes”.
- Make sure Local Link can be used by people in regular employment.

Communications

- Better broadband to encourage more businesses to operate remote working.

Business supports

- Cost competitive; rates, cost of set-up, salaries.
- Regenerate town centres to create a vibrant local economy.

- Achieve a balance between supporting business but locating it in sustainable locations.

(Below the line/ detailed issue: Road between Lough Eglisk foodpark and Carrickmacross. Bailienborough needs to be improved.)

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

Transparent

- Local government to be open and transparent.

Representation

- Never see our TDs or Councillors – only when it's election time.
- Need more two-way approach; not just one-way with people contacting their TDs and Councillors.

Consultation and participation

- Better inclusive consultation.
- No feedback from engagement with elected representatives.
- You never hear back from consultations- "what happened to my views?"

Information and communication

- Education on voting.
- Accessible information on how decisions are made.
- Information on government services is too complicated.

Education and information

- Education piece on how to get involved.

Participation in democracy

- Education on voting.
- Accessible information on how decisions are made.
- Representation on Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) is very old.

Government organisation

- Revise the municipal districts to improve their efficiency.

Community support

- Increase in volunteers should see increase in funding communities.
- Support volunteering.
- Better support for community who are providing services to engage with decision-makers.
- Relying on communities instead of governance.
- Form filling is very difficult.
- Ongoing support for community groups and volunteers.
- Transport for older people in rural areas would develop participation in community.
- Community employment and TÚS are a great support to participation.
- Top down approach to support.
- More opportunities to engage with younger generation in a way that they engage with.

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?

A safe place

- This is a safe place to live.

Multicultural and diverse community

- Free to be able to practice one's own religion and beliefs without fear.

Valuing everyone

- Respecting differences; non-judgemental training in diversity.
- Involvement of younger people – bridge the big gap.
- Combat social isolation for older people.

Intergenerational activities

- Intergeneration club, group activities monthly around the County.

Irish culture

- Irish language – change the way it is taught. (We as a people are not good at taking on languages.)

Connected community

- Address social communication problems with young people due to technology.

Local heritage

- Keep local history alive e.g. townlands.
- Protection of heritage, both physical and written.
- Passing on history of the generations and people.
- The loss of the art of storytelling.

Community venues and amenities

- Multi-purpose hall/ club for non-sporting people covering book club, games, socialising.

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 advertisements and promotion around mental health services especially through mainstream and social media posters for e.g. “wrap”, “safe talk”.
- Mental health needs to be supported better through the County with more rural outreach clinics.

Health services

- More GPs and timely access to GP services county-wide.
- Primary healthcare centre in each town in the County.
- Out of hours services increased.
- Outreach health clinics/ sub clinics in small villages.
- Information on where to go to get help/ guidance.
- Support services such as occupational therapy, speech therapy and psychological services accessible for all throughout the county.
- Diagnosis for children would be more efficient in the County.
- Increased respite services for adults and children with disabilities in the County.

Recreation and leisure opportunities

- Community swimming pool in South of the County.
- Safe accessible walking area/ walking track throughout the County.
- Improved accessibility in our playgrounds in the County.

Addressing addiction

- More education and support in rural areas about alcohol and drug addiction, starting in secondary school.
- Slowing down of the proliferation of drugs with more support from the Gardaí.

Services that address the needs of specific groups

- More social supports and opportunities for young people.
- Every community centre to have a dedicated person to visit older people particularly in relation to mental health and loneliness.
- Carers association support for all carers in the County.
- Internal services before diagnosis for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Alternative therapy

- Our County to focus on alternative therapies and services in relation to mental and physical health e.g. Men’s Shed
- Social prescribing.

Awareness and education

- More public education on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the County.
- More healthy eating initiatives for children and vulnerable adults.

- Health promotion initiatives should be “easy read” and accessible.
- County to have an initiative to promote healthier foods and snacks at checkouts and shop tills.
- Limit the promotion of sweets and sugary foods.
- Health and safety awareness from pre-school upwards.

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

- All packaging to go back to source.
- Move towards glass rather than plastic.
- A re-use cup scheme countrywide.
- Move towards using your own packaging when shopping of re-usable packaging.

Recycling

- Deposit return system to be introduced nationally for plastic.
- Sponsored plastic collections.

Waste management

- People should be more accountable for where rubbish is going (i.e. receipts, etc.).

Minding nature

- For areas that are “scrub” areas and road verges, these could be developed in biodiversity areas including native trees, pollinator planting, flowering shrubs which attract and support nature.

Agriculture and food production

- Encourage farmers to allow their lands to be used for nature walks i.e. Blackstaff to Castleblayney.

Community involvement

- Rewards/ incentives for community groups who choose to be more sustainable e.g. grants/ start-up fund to get projects started.
- Children involved in as many projects as possible.

Sustainable development

- Adhere to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Education

- Education programmes with all sports clubs on how to be more sustainable;
 - No more plastic bottles for sale,
 - No more single use tea/ coffee cups,
 - Swap system for sports equipment e.g. boots/ rackets/ clothing,
- Adult education programmes for;
 - Composting,
 - Waste prevention as opposed to extending recycling facilities,
 - Easy read policies for adults with literacy issues.
- More education needed at primary and secondary level on how to be more sustainable.

(Not agreed: plastic bottle collection at all bring bank sites. Extra facilities for recycling needed – especially plastic bottles.)