Laytown-Bettystown

Municipal District

Vision for Community Wellbeing

Workshop Input Report
4ᵗʰ February 2020

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?

Community facilities and services

- Counselling services. Including Child services. Addiction centres
- App for all community & voluntary health and social services
- More day services
- Home support appropriate to all needs
- Community meeting space
- Library
- Nursing homes

Health Services

- Out of hours North East Doc on Call at hospital
- More GPs needed. Local health services
- Respite services
- More drug education programmes

Planning for All

- More consultation at planning stage
- Accessible environment e.g. roads, footpaths, buildings
- Continuous footpaths and lighting
- Pedestrian road crossing – visually impaired and deaf users
- No public lighting nor footpath between Wellesley Manor and Whitefield stop

Local Employment LB

- More employment opportunities locally

Safe Communities

- Safety in the community - Garda presence
- More Guards

Schools

- After-school facilities and use of school facilities
- More Special Needs Assistants. All schools to have pre-school, onwards

For families with kids

- Drop-in childcare facility; affordable
- Playgrounds for Julianstown LB

Support for C&V

- Resourcing and celebrating of C&V groups
- More opportunity for NGOs and charity services to collaborate and inform eachother

Youth

- More facilities for young people – playgrounds, youth services

Housing

- Traveler accommodation. New housing refurbishment of halting sites. Management of halting sites
- Appropriate housing for people with disabilities
- Older peoples housing
- Homeless hostel housing
- Services before houses

Transport

- Accessible public transport
- More dependable commuter transport links
- Removal of 220000 vehicles from Julianstown
- No bus stops in rural areas
- No bus shelters at Mosney
- Cycle lanes
- Efficient traffic management
- Bettystown; Matthews bus route - reduced number of stops.

Multicultural

- More intercultural events
- More language supports for migrants

Social & Street Life

- Street life, culture, activities free/outdoor
- Late night cafes, social activities
- Edible plant boxes

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?

Transport services and infrastructure

- Reverse commute. Education, jobs in LB
- No park and ride facilities for bus, train and designated . n.b Julianstown
- Buses need to service Athlumney, Kentstown Road, N2 area
- Julianstown bypass is required urgently to avoid traffic congestion at peak
- Rural bus stops in Laytown
- Improve public transport. Increase public stops. Matthews bueses need to keep all stops- should be on tickets. High Leap card price wise
- Connective cycle lane to sea ie Greenway

Growing local economy

- Tourism developed
- More major employers locally
- Retrofitting of houses. Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) for Laytown
- Trade Fair would be great. Expo Centre
- Market gardening. Local sustainability sourced food. Farmers markets

Broadband

- Effective broadband everywhere
- Laytown-Bettystown badly serviced for broadband

Local Employment & Training

- Improved local employment in the area situated to the west of the railway line.
- Employment belts with residential belts
- Training and upskilling for native furniture trades

Inclusive employment and educational opportunities

- CETAC needs to be reviewed for marginalized groups. Currently a list but no real employment at end of experience.
- Inclusive employment opportunities
- Quota for diversity, migrants, marginalized people
- Opportunities to bridge skills gaps of qualified migrants on QQI framework
- Crèche facilities at employers
- Provide jobs for trained state educated or marginalized groups

- Court Hotel should be used
- Fulltime Garda station in Slane

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?

Communication

- Language more user friendly

Ability of communities to influence outcomes

- Celebrate success so people can believe they can change
- Self and group advocacy – giving everyone the option to be heard so our opinions cannot be ignored
- Lack of consultation with local residents
- Improve understanding between top and ground levels
- More recognition/acknowledgement from top down to the voice from the ground
- Value at the top of issue from the ground
- Voluntary community groups do not have an equal say with some of the community groups who have paid employees, CEOs, etc

Powers for local government

- Take more control back from central government

Challenges to be addressed

- Insurance for everything ; services and businesses closing down

Council responsibility

- Affordable housing
- Things are stuck and need to see movement, progress
- Enact Local Area Plan or don't do one
- How many consultant reports are needed? Revisit previous reports
- CPO derelict sites

Local government organization

- All structures of local government to be universal and follow the same structures where possible.
- Allocate council officials to work for/ in municipal districts where they live

Recognition and support for C&V work

- Grant applications: add a box on the form for "no changes since last year". Same for reports
- All volunteers to get tax credits for hours whether working or not.

- Give more say to community volunteers who contribute handsomely and work for nothing
- Insurance for voluntary community groups is getting more expensive each year
- Too much bureaucracy and officialdom. Unwieldy. Stifles community development at a local level.

Support for people with disabilities

- A local authority link person for people with disabilities
- Accessible polling stations everywhere for people with physical.

Feedback

- Shorter waiting time decisions for public services
- Accountability
- Deliver on promises
- Follow through on issues raised
- Lack of feedback
- Feedback mechanism .What happens to to items that don't get done?

PPN

- Youth PPN
- More clarity about the working of the PPN.
- Don't understand how it works . In it years. Still unclear.
- Feedback on all issues raised at previous PPN meetings
- Report of minutes from each PPN meeting trickled back to members

Safe Community

- Garda station distance: Drogheda 8km. Ashbourne 30km. Who is responsible for LB?
- Should be a permanent Garda presence in Slane. Community policing.

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?

Diverse and Inclusive Community

- Welcoming all cultures into our cultural activities, e.g. GAA, Irish music, etc.
- Unity and diversity festival.
- Awareness and acceptance of Travellers in our community.
- Feedback on integration strategy and overdue actions.
- Intercultural approach entwined throughout all health services; understanding of different cultures.
- Multi-lingual communications i.e. Meath County Council website.
- Websites in different languages; signpost different languages and cultures.
- More Educate Together schools.

Accessibility for All

- Appropriate height of street and social signage for wheelchair users.
- Events and event locations designed to meet all needs, disabilities, and sufficient to meet demands of groups attending.
- Disability parking not on a hill.

Social Awareness

- Awareness/ acceptance of people and families living with addiction.
- Awareness/ acceptance of homelessness in our community.

Community Facilities

- State-built and fully funded multipurpose community centres; spaces for everyone.
- Day centres and services for all community groups.
- Proper facilities to encourage everyone to go out.
- Towns to be treated and the same facilities as other similar sized towns in the County.
- Provide library and civic space centre..

Sustaining Irish Culture

- Set dancing for every age (8-80+) for social fun.
- Provide local Irish language classes (spoken word).
- Nurture our history and heritage, music, song and dance,

Stick to the Law

- Local Authority to adhere to County Development Plan
- Live the Local Area Plan.
- Protected buildings and bridges are not interfered with by developers.

Value our Local Assets

- Recognition of history and location through informative signage.
- Proximity to sea.
- Equine industry
- Beach sports.

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?

Health Services

- Better support for teenage mental health.
- Reduced waiting lists for health services.
- Keep hospital functional and open.
- Upgrade the hospital and Accident and Emergency department for youth.
- Arrange specialist clinics for each disability so we don't have to attend all different consultants.
- Provide funding for respite, home help, family support, personal assistant services.
- Better resourced addiction services.

Community Facilities

- Further development of social clubs and funding, e.g. Men's Shed, Active Retirement.
- Community meeting spaces indoor and outdoor.

Healthy Environment

- Better water supply; less lime.
- Healthy environment; free of dangerous pollutants.
- Waste-free town.

Food

- Focus on healthy food options.
- Local farmers market.

Work-Life Balance

- Assist with work-life balance.
- Reduce the need to commute for work.
- Reduce stress, improve wellbeing by managing and ensuring enforcement of beach byelaws.
- Attract more increased investment to create higher end jobs and reduce commuting.

Supports for People with Special Needs

- Specialised supports for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Better resourced Autism services and supports.
- Equal participation opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities.
- More personal assistants' hours for people with special needs.

Safe Communities

- To feel safe in our homes and community through increased community Garda presence.
- Review of fire safety on Traveller halting sites.
- People are stressed because of criminal activity.

Support for Community and Voluntary Groups

- Encouragement of volunteers/ volunteering.
- Provide affordable insurance for community and voluntary groups.

Transport

- Safer better pedestrian focused access.
- Older persons' parking.
- Repair footpaths to provide safe walking conditions.
- Accessible transport for the local town.

Sport and Recreation

- Outdoor exercise stations/ gym equipment on the sea front at Laytown.
- More sporting facilities.
- Public (not private) sporting facilities.
- More sports programmes for everyone.

Frontline Services

- Increased resources to frontline services; for those in addiction, the homeless, etc. so no-one is turned away.

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?

Transport

- Safer roads for cyclists and walkers.
- Wheelchair accessible buses and spaces reserved on buses for wheelchair users.
- Electric wheelchair power points, especially in shopping centres and on buses.
- Cycle to work scheme.
- Electric car charging power points to be located separately from wheelchair parking spaces.
- Address lack of car charging points.
- Road repair method is unsustainable; only lasts a week until the pothole is back!
- Footpaths from estate to estate connected.
- Cycle ways and eco pathways.
- Train connection to lessen the volume of traffic.

Energy

- Installing windmills to use our local resources (wind and rain).

Research

- Research – share what we learn.

Access to and Enjoyment of Outdoor Recreation Spaces

- Plant trees, plants and shrubs from Bettystown to Laytown
- New public outdoor spaces that are managed and connected (there are no existing public parks).

Community Facilities

- Community centre.
- When new housing areas are being developed that a community centre be built and managed as part of the plan.

Valuing our Natural Environment and Heritage

- Better discreet signage to show that the River Nanny is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).
- Clear the canals to Drogheda for tourism.
- Awareness of natural and man-made heritage, signage and information points.

Food

- Allotments in urban areas to allow growing of food.

Changing our Behaviour

- Educate adults and young people in the community to change behaviour and prevent dumping and littering.

Enforce the law

- Enforcement of existing Foreshore Byelaws.

Waste Management

- Get rid of single use plastic.
- Waste free towns.
- Return of wastes collecting to local authority; waste collection companies costs are too high.

Recycling

- Provide wood recycling facility locally in Laytown/ Bettystown.
- Recycling centre.
- More recycling points.
- Supermarkets to have their own recycling facilities.
- Return refund on bottles.
- Recycling bins on the street.
- Pick up and collection service for reusable items e.g. furniture.
- Be able to leave out furniture for collection.
- If you don't have transport, you can't go to the recycling centre so a collection service for large items is needed.
- More incentives and opportunities to recycle.
- Reduced cost of recycling per item.