

**Trim Municipal District
Vision for Community Wellbeing**

**Workshop Input Report
14th January 2020**



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?

Support for Voluntary Activities

Information Sharing and Networking

- Compile a core list of essentials for community wellbeing strategy to be enabled e.g. each community should complete a tick box form to show what services and facilities they already have. Then gaps can be identified and filled by linking with the nearest relevant service.
- An information hub for community/ voluntary groups.

Simplified Operation and Support for Operation of Voluntary Groups

- Like Muintir na Tíre - legislate to voluntary groups to set up in a simple format, through a central organisation.
- Provide standard constitutions, policy documents, governance guidance, etc. for community groups.
- Charity regulation should only apply to commercial organisations not voluntary groups.
- A community council; so voluntary groups have a structure to feed into and access information, like the MABS offices (Money Advice and Budgeting Service).
- Proper understanding of GDPR rules.
- Legislate for voluntary sector insurance.
- Facilitate voluntary organisations to act; don't penalise voluntary activity.
- Bureaucracy (Garda Vetting needed for each activity, insurance costs, etc.) are stopping participation.
- Grassroots should be there to do anything needed; get more information, incentivise, and state agency to provide catalyst for grassroots is needed.
- Lack of expertise in voluntary groups to participate properly.
- Use the TT (Tidy Towns?) structure, it's healthy.

Funding & Resources

- Springboard and support for incentives by voluntary groups/
- More/ adequate funding for voluntary organisations.

Networking, Recognition and Promotion of Volunteering

- Keep the community positive; share positive news on community action, encourage volunteers and give recognition.
- Voluntary unity and synergy working together.
- More recognition for volunteers.
- Volunteering to be promoted.
- Promote a sense of ownership by citizens.
- Negativity in social media: we need to promote a positive message on volunteering on social media.

Local Authority

Transparency

- Governance needs improvement.
- Improved transparency in planning decisions
- Work areas of Council staff to be identified.

Communicating with citizens

- Feed in (inputs) are not listened to.
- Repetition of meetings; same information from various people. These should be streamlined, with a one-stop shop on public participation at Municipal District level and open clinics.

Elected Representatives

- Honest feedback on representation; there is no follow up and all communications should be responded to.
- Accountability; systems to record members communications or motions.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- PPNs should communicate with each other.
- Communication skills training is needed by the PPN.
- Provide more information on what's happening.
- Social media Facebook/ What's App for the PPN
- National campaign on PPNs

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?

Community Facilities and Spaces

- More spaces to drop in & chat
- Communication through social activities/ aspect
- Community house/ building available to meet at minimal or no rent.
- Intergenerational spaces e.g. have toddler groups at nursing homes
- Facilities for all activities that are health enhancing.

Health Services and Facilities

- Community based “social prescribing service” to connect people into their communities, voluntary groups, etc.
- Medical/ well being centres with doctor, health coach, counselling, etc. under one roof
- [Primary Health Care] Centre for checking whether injuries or other conditions require referral to hospital.
- Step down facility
- Health plan mentor programme.

Carers

- More carers for people in need
- Encouragement of community carers
- Respite facilities for carers

Housing and Supports for Living

- Supported housing groups for those needing supported living e.g. the elderly, people living with disability, etc.
- Community care of senior citizens
- More housing supports for women’s refuge
- More refuges

Community Supports

- Community awareness of neighbours – like a Neighbourhood Watch
- “Human Library “

Information

- Full list of services available in all local communities
- Awareness of other services e.g. suicide – Pieta House
- National and local communication network for services

Recreation

- Nature walks in towns and villages
- Footpaths to allow people to engage in physical activities such as walking

- Signed walks and outdoor gyms
- Local authorities provide sporting and other facilities
- Encouragement of sports clubs in the community
- Health and wellbeing for the wider GAA community.

Environment

- Environmental initiatives for specific illnesses
- Maintain air quality by minimising pollution from trucks, cars, industry.

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

Reduction

- Responsible communications – reduce/ remove the waste generated by meetings and communications.
- Supermarkets, restaurants and hotels only use recyclable materials
- Supermarkets held responsible for the plastics they sell.

Recycling

- Recycling initiatives more user friendly
- More user friendly recycling centre; community groups should be able to access at low cost/ for free.
- Initiatives to support community initiatives to recycle or remove waste at low cost.
- Provide an upcycling space/ service in Trim

Management

- Provide collection points for plastic
- Monitoring & Control
- Controlling and monitoring waste disposal, especially in quarries and landfill
- Control of waste being drawn into quarries in South Meath
- Rubbish being dumped e.g. Bohermeen Bog

Protecting Resources

- Protect our water
- Mind Meath's aquifers and protect from quarries

Improve Practice to Reduce Damage to the Environment

- Bad management in cleaning all road drainage grates
- Encourage and incentivise GAA clubs to be greener.

Recreation

- Walkway/ greenway on local bog
- Develop access to the Boyne river banks from Clonard to Trim to facilitate a walkway.

Energy

- Home retrofitting initiatives for poorer families.
- Increased grants for solar energy and insulation
- Promote possibilities to feed into the national electricity grid from small scale renewable energy sources.

Minding Nature

- Improve awareness of biodiversity
- Plant more trees

Education

- Provide environmental education from a young age
- Informing and educating the younger generation
- Raise awareness
- Promote togetherness

Tourism

- Bring Ballivor into Trim tourism

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?

Planning and Infrastructure

- Co-ordination between house planning and planning of schools and playgrounds.
- Planning for social facilities in housing developments.
- More local social housing – a 50 year plan.

Education

- More schools and special needs schools

Community facilities

- All inclusive community centres
- Community meeting rooms at low rent.
- Sufficient social facilities to reduce the need for Garda presence.

Infrastructure

- Improved broadband
- All inclusive electric/ no carbon flexi bus at low cost.

Services

- Affordable childcare

Support for Voluntary Organisations and Volunteers

- State-sponsored/ funded insurance for voluntary community groups.
- Proper accredited voluntary hours would be recognised for income tax allowance.

Information

- It's important that all information on clubs, social groups and organisations inform the local community what's available to wider areas.

Integration/ Inclusion

- Integration of older and younger people.

VALUES, CULTURE AND MEANING: What is needed to ensure that everyone both 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?

Volunteering

- Encouragement of volunteers and respect for the work of volunteers.
- Encourage volunteerism and employment for older people.
- Provide supports for volunteers.

Multi-Cultural Communities

- Provide opportunities for all cultures to integrate and celebrate; multi-cultural festivals, etc.
- Embrace other cultures
- Cultural awareness events/ training – “human library”
- Zero tolerance of racism
- Role of schools in cultural awareness, respect and values
- Integration into Irish culture.

Irish Culture

- Respect and awareness of old Irish culture.
- Raise awareness of local and national traditions.

Our Environment

- Cleaner healthy environment through recycling.
- Environmental awareness to be taught in schools from a young age.
- Conversations with young people/ children about respecting people, land, etc.

Supporting Resilience

- Training those in schools to identify and handle bullying.

Supports for Groups within our Community

Older people

- Respect for the wisdom of older people – intergenerational initiatives
- Older peoples skills and knowledge valued.

Young people

- Improved facilities/ inclusion of young people.
- More visible open spaces for young people

Families

- Family culture and values through education e.g. eating meals together
- Family inclusion, e.g. in Mass, making it more enjoyable for young people.

Heritage

- Heritage festivals

- Preservation of historic buildings and sites

Community Facilities

- Development of community centres
- Theatre-type facilities in sizeable towns.

- Shared values

- Security

- Horse riding areas to facilitate sport horse training, horse trails i.e. bridle paths.

- More awareness of use of social media

{Detail: A roof and restoration of King John's Castle}

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 used effectively and sustainably without causing harm to social and environmental sustainability?

Tourism

- More tourism and better returns from tourism
- Military and cultural museum that would keep tourist in the town a bit longer and contribute more to the economy.
- Share folklore; a centre to share stories/ poetry
- Improve water quality in the rivers and improve the River Boyne for fishing, tourism and drinking water quality.
- Provide sporting facilities so that people will be happy to stay and contribute to the economy.
- Better public toilet facilities

Transport

- Railway and good train service
- Regenerate the Navan-Dublin rail line
- More park and ride facilities in Meath

Support for Business and Workers

- Work/ skill hubs needed
- Community business hub, office space and hot desks
- More grants for start up businesses
- Hubs to facilitate remote working
- More jobs, less commuting to Dublin for work
- More support from IDA and Enterprise Ireland to allow local people set up businesses (NEC Ballivor)
- Promote entrepreneurship in local area
- More industries for the Trim town and area

Energy

- Wind farms
- Use local sources – river generators, etc.

Education, Training and Experience

- Work experience initiatives
- Collaborative initiatives to link local businesses with young people at risk

Agriculture and Food

- Regenerative farming to improve biodiversity and make farming more profitable
- Encourage agri-tourism
- More artisan foods
- More local food producers

Infrastructure

- Broadband and wi-fi connectivity to all in the region
- Better cross-country co-ordination of infrastructure e.g. Kilcock by-pass park and ride on the M4 required

Artisan producers

- More crafts people and facilities to promote these

Skills Sharing and Development

- Outlet for experienced skilled workers to pass on their skills through the school system
- Men's Sheds to bring in the young men and showing the skills that could be passed on to them, like trades, metalwork, woodwork, etc.

Community Supports

- We fall down on not having a drop-in centre for people living on their own