

Navan Municipal District

Vision for Community Wellbeing 2020

&

Workshop Input Report



Navan Municipal District

Vision for Community Wellbeing

Navan is a safe place, with a strong sense of identity, where all citizens are respected and valued and culture and diversity are celebrated. We are included in the strategic planning for our area, where good integrated and accessible infrastructure and services enable our strong local economy and vibrant community to thrive. We live and work sustainably, taking care of our precious resources, and use our excellent local services and facilities to support us to live well and fulfilling lives. The Local Authority works closely and openly with local communities, and there is widespread volunteering and co-operative community action that enriches all of our lives.

Social and Community Development

Navan is a vibrant and safe place to live. We have excellent, accessible facilities with a range of uses that meet the needs of all groups in our community. There is good community consultation in our planning. This delivers fully accessible public areas and a sufficient mix and adequate supply of housing catering to diverse needs. We have good public transport infrastructure. There are care and support services that are well resourced, signposted, and meet identified needs in our community. Our community and voluntary groups and our charities work well together and engage with local and national government on the community's behalf.

Work, Economy and Resources

Our economy is supported with great housing, transport, communications and sustainable energy infrastructure. Training and employment opportunities are open to everyone, with facilities and services that support workers. We have a range of locally based training options to develop and share our learning and knowledge. We have a strong, mixed economy, based on sustainable resource use that we promote actively.

Culture, Values and Meaning

In Navan we practice values of equality and respect. We promote understanding of people's different needs and provide supports for these in these in the community. Diversity is celebrated and services are designed to reflect this. We have a strong sense of place, we welcome others, and we share the story of Navan. We celebrate the cultures within our community and deepen and strengthen our Irish heritage. We have great facilities that are accessible and used by all groups within the community.

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

The Local Authority has appropriate authority and sufficient resources to provide good local infrastructure and services. It uses a variety of ways to communicate well with all citizens. There is good consultation by the Local Authority will all community and voluntary groups, where their voices are heard. In all cases, we have the ability to influence decisions taken on issues that affect us. The Local Authority is fully transparent; all issues raised with it are openly tracked and traceable.

People with disabilities are supported to participate in democracy and the Local Authority includes consideration of their needs in all its functions.

There are simplified procedures and regulations for our community and voluntary groups which are well-resourced. We value the important work of our volunteers. The Public Participation Network (PPN) is well understood and represents all of our community.

Health (Physical and Mental)

Our community is a safe place with a healthy environment where each of us can work and live well. We are a connected and resourced community where we can learn to look after ourselves and others. We identify the wider needs in our community and use this to plan delivery of supports and services so that we can sustain our wellbeing. We have sufficient health services and facilities that are designed to meet our varied needs, and which are accessible to everyone.

- Our health care services promote prevention, early intervention and local treatment in the community wherever possible. We have transport services to support people who need to travel for treatment.
- We have adequately resourced frontline services accessible for those in crisis when needed.
- Our buildings, public spaces and services are designed to be accessible to everyone.
- Everyone has a home and access to good transport and development meets the needs of the community with full use of existing buildings.

Environment and Sustainability

In Navan we use best practice and continued education to ensure that we live and work sustainably:

- we have good, inclusive green transport infrastructure;
- we use renewable energy sources;
- we produce minimal waste and use outstanding recycling services; and
- we grow our food sustainably.

Everyone has a comfortable, low-energy home and opportunities to enjoy our natural environment and heritage. Development includes provision of community centre facilities.

Workshop Input Report – Navan Municipal District

Workshop held 4th February 2020

The inputs collected in this report were transcribed directly from the written contributions of workshop participants. Any factual errors which may have arisen should be considered in the context of the creative and spontaneous process of the workshop to generate ideas for use in shaping the vision statement.

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?

Community facilities and services

- Community facilities in Navan
- More day services
- Home support appropriate to all needs
- Counselling services (including child services) and addiction centres
- Nursing homes in Navan
- Community meeting space
- Library
- App for all community & voluntary health and social services

Health Services

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

Planning for All

- Bridge from Kells Road to Windtown Road
- Bridge access to Blackwater Park
- More consultation at planning stage
- Accessible environment e.g. roads, footpaths, buildings
- Continuous footpaths and lighting
- Pedestrian road crossing – visually impaired and deaf users

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
- Support for parents by way of allowances towards childcare costs, parental leave to cover emergencies - not just at birth **

- That there be separate creche and early childhood education services so that creche facilities for babies are not blocked by the numbers being catered for in the ECE years **

Support for Community & Voluntary Groups

- Resourcing and celebrating of C&V groups
- More opportunity for NGOs and charity services to collaborate and inform each other
- Resource community development work and understand its potential for realising social change **
- Incorporate it as a core work to local government and a wide range of issues**

Youth

- Skate park in Johnstown
- More facilities for young people – playgrounds, youth services
- Johnstown youth/community facilities

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 in place before houses

Transport

- Train link to Dublin
- Accessible public transport
- More dependable commuter transport links
- Local transport accessible into Navan
- No bus stops in rural areas
- Cycle lanes
- Efficient traffic management

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

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?

Transport services and infrastructure

- More accessible transport. Inclusive service and affordable
- Train service in Navan
- Proper ring road around Navan to circumnavigate the town
- Improve cycle lanes around Navan
- Buses need to service Athlumney, Kentstown Road, N2 area

Growing local economy

- Tourism developed
- More major employers locally
- Retrofitting of houses. Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) for Navan
- Trade Fair would be great. Expo Centre
- Market gardening. Local sustainability sourced food. Farmers markets
- Promote Navan as a good place to business in order to attract local and foreign direct investment.**

For this to happen

- more houses are needed for employees **
- more childcare facilities needed **
- more social outlets other than pubs need to be encouraged. **
- Big employers should be encouraged to provide childcare and after school facilities as happens on the continent. **
- More long distance and local bus services needed and more parking spaces in town to encourage people to spend money locally.**

Broadband

- Effective broadband everywhere

Training

- Training and upskilling for native furniture trades
- Training centre for apprentices in Navan
- 3rd Level institution in Navan
- Further education courses need to be improved in Navan

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

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
- Should be made into different languages as well to help people with broken English**
- It should also be done through the spoken word as well as the written word for people who can't read or are blind. **

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
- Town council and mayor with executive powers
- Junior u18 town council voted for by youth of town
- The powers which local authorities had - prior to services supposedly being "funded centrally" - should be restored and new powers added.**
- Local authorities and the elected representative for the areas should have much more influence than they currently have. over areas such as health, housing, transport, water, lighting, environment, infrastructure etc. **
- Our system is too centralised. **
- Local authorities should get a much bigger slice of the property tax to spend on local infrastructure and facilities. **
- Real local government where decision making is devolved and meaningful participation of community groups**

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
- 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 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

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.
- Welcome to Navan project.
- “Sense of Community” project with internationally benchmarked resources.
- Tolerance, awareness of, respect and support for young and old, for rich and poor, for native and immigrant, men, women, lgbt, hetro, able bodied and disabled, those suffering physical or mental illnesses needs to be understood and promoted. **
- Social facilities for families, young people and old people to meet each other as on continent**
- value of diversity **
- equality at the core of all we do **
- ensuring that a focus on human rights reflects how we interact **

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.

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.
- Address lack of services and amenities in Johnstown, especially for young people, to address anti-social behaviour.

Sustaining Irish Culture

- Set dancing for every age (8-80+) for social fun.
- Provide local Irish language classes (spoken word).
- Remember where we come from; our history, traditions, etc. (Vikings, heritage furniture, etc.)
- Comhaltas classes should be introduced to all schools within the navan area **

The Story of Navan

- Promote a belonging to the town; “People of Navan”.
- Share the story of Navan.
- The Tourist office to create a virtual App.

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.
- Have some of the buses which are currently using the N£ route change to Boyne road, Athlumney, Kentstown Road N2 to facilitate patients going to Dublin hospitals e.g. Beaumont, Mater, Bons, etc.
- 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.
- More and improved GP services.
- Bring Doctor on Call back to Navan and provide transport to attend Doctor on Call for those with medical cards.
- By having more health education programmes in places where people gather **
- more Primary Care Centres which are open in the evening and on Saturdays. **
- Public transport which would bring people to medical centres and hospitals. **
- Upgrade the facilities available at Navan hospital. **
- The GP service should be better catered for and more like NHS clinics open during the day as well not just at 6 pm this should reduce the numbers in the hospitals. **
- A move to primary health care model that focuses on prevention which means many services that are hospital based be located in primary care centres that have the facilities needed e.g. xray machines, blood tests etc **

Community Facilities

- Further development of social clubs and funding, e.g. Men's Shed, Active Retirement.
- N Community centre for every built up housing estate implemented with planning.
- L Community meeting spaces indoor and outdoor.

Housing

- Implement housing first affordable housing, refurbish vacant houses and special housing for the homeless and for victims of domestic violence, etc..
- make it more affordable but not social houses unless is for a person suffering from a disability or mobility/health issues. A better crack down on the social aspect but that is for a different discussion **

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.

- Regarding healthy food i don't think we have a good selection of it to buy in supermarkets and most food chains are not implementing the yellow orange red system so something you think is healthy is not. **
- Hhealthy food is alot dearer whats more if we go down this route**
- We should be offering cooking classes to know how to use the food correctly. **

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.
- there should be maps made up of the town so that people will know how to get around. **
- there should be step by step instructions on bus platforms and in other places to explain things in simple terms. **
- there should be self checkouts for people in wheelchairs. **
- ropes along sloped paths to help people to go safety down them. also **
- that wheelchair access in the town plaza might cosmetically look nice but is a nightmare for people who have to use wheelchairs or use buggy's. **

Safe Communities

- To feel safe in our homes and community through increased community Garda presence.
- Review of fire safety on Traveller halting sites.
- Cul-de-sac roads and footpaths on estates e.g. Blackcastle.

Support for Community and Voluntary Groups

- Encouragement of volunteers/ volunteering.
- Provide affordable insurance for community and voluntary groups.
- Funding for Active Retirement.
- Providing places such as community centres where people can meet for social purposes in a relaxed atmosphere - suitable for families - with cafe facilities etc. **

Transport

- Safer better pedestrian focused access.
- Older persons' parking.
- Transport to access any Navan services.
- Cycle paths and footpaths linking all parts of town.
- Repair footpaths to provide safe walking conditions.

Sport and Recreation

- More outdoor gym equipment located throughout Navan for adults and kids.

Frontline Services

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

Mental Health

- mental health should be open to all ages as i know children that are waiting for nearly 2 years within their school to try an access rainbows **
- there should be mindfulness/ yoga workshops in the park for the children or schools to part take in **

- A social determinants model of health approach that focuses on health inequality is required for those who are most marginalised is required-this is a different model to the current one. **
- A greater focus on health in its broadest sense e.g. the impact of issues such as domestic abuse on health**

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!
- Train connection to lessen the volume of traffic.
- that Navan town itself should become traffic free. what i mean by this is that **
 - on the outskirts of the town there should be bike stand to rent a bike. **
 - there should be car-parks where cars are left and people have the option of walking around the town or cycling around it. **
 - Those with mobility issue should have chargers throughout the town for there wheelchair and other devices that help get them around. example of this concept is in Longford center parcs. **
 - there should be a clear route made to allow cars to access the shopping centre. this should be from the hospital and Scoil Mhiuire side. **
 - also the schools in the center of the town St.Josephs and St.Anns finished at the the same time so maybe see if there is away of changing one of the school hours to an earlier time. **

Energy

- Installing windmills to use our local resources (wind and rain).
- Windmills that are been built should look like the Holland ones and not be ugly Aeroplane ones**

Research

- Research – share what we learn.

Access to and Enjoyment of Outdoor Recreation Spaces

- New public outdoor spaces that are managed and connected (there are no existing public parks).
- Playgrounds in Navan.
- There should be a town farm in the area so the children can learn about farming. **
- The playgrounds that are built should also accommodate the older child i find that a lot of the play equipment in the parks are for the younger child and the bigger children are trying to use them. if they had there own it might reduce the behavior in some 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.

Housing

- An affordable, well insulated home for all -including those who need to live in rural and urban areas- using the famed skills of Irish builders , Irish crafts men and women. **
- For associated quality of life each house should have back and front garden along with driveway able to take two cars. Other wise grass verges become damaged due to congested parking. **
- Plan for and build community centres, schools and shopping/post office/banking facilities sensitive to local built and natural environment when planning/building large scale housing developments. **

Valuing our Natural Environment and Heritage

- Emphasise heritage and ancient history and talk about it.
- I firmly believe in this point that is made by making accommodations for others we have lost ourselves and what makes us who we are. **
- I want our children to be able to appreciate there heritage maybe by having a town museum. if this is not possible then signs around the town history. **
- I mean when i told the children about the story of Navan and why it got its name they were fascinated. **

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.
- Ireland needs to reduce its carbon emissions so we have to rethink how we manage agriculture, how we build, how we recycle and how we manage development in a sustainable way**

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.
- More bins for dog poop around Navan.

Recycling

- 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.