Trim Municipal District

Vision for Community Wellbeing 2020

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Workshop Input Report

Trim Municipal District
Vision for Community Wellbeing

Trim Municipal District has a diverse community where we celebrate our cultural heritage, share our learning and support one another. We have a thriving local economy. We live and work sustainably and protect our precious environment. Our community is safe and well-served with infrastructure, facilities and support for community action that makes this a great place to live.

Social and Community Development

We have good provision of well-resources community facilities, services and activities which are accessible and inclusive of all citizens. Our community is well-informed about these and they support us to mix well across all age groups. The work of our community and voluntary groups is valued and sustainable resources. Long term planning provides for integrated provision of housing, green and open spaces, and social and community facilities served by good infrastructure.

Work, Economy and Resources

Trim has a thriving and diverse local economy, reliant on local and sustainable energy sources. Where business and workers are supported with excellent transport and communications infrastructure and services. Our people have a positive experience of training and work from youth throughout their lives; actively sharing trades, talents and life skills across and between generations. There is a valuable tourism sector sustained by our pristine waters, rich heritage, recreational opportunities and great services. We have strong agriculture and local food sectors that protect and enhance our environment, support farm families and local and artisan food production and marketing.

Culture, Values and Meaning

This is a safe and resilient community where we all celebrate and share our diverse cultures. We gain strength from our diversity, respect one another, and build on our shared values. We actively treasure and protect our Irish culture and natural and built heritage, and we value and share the knowledge and wisdom of our older citizens. The important role of volunteers is recognised, encouraged and supported. We respect and value all members of our community and good community facilities help us to meet the specific needs of different groups such as older people, youth and those with families.

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Through education and information sharing, we all understand the role of local government and its importance, and we engage positively with it. Our local government and elected representatives actively share information, operate transparently and are fully accountable for their actions. The positive and valuable work of our community and voluntary groups is recognised, supported and encouraged. We all understand what the Public Participation Network (PPN) is and how it works and there is excellent communication between its member groups.

- Information is easily accessible about our community and voluntary groups and the services and facilities available in our communities. These groups work well together and to fill gaps identified in services.
- Setting up and running a community organisation is manageable for people within the community.
- Our community and voluntary groups are adequately funded and supported with a complete package of available resources.
- When we engage with local government, we can track how the issues raised are being addressed and will receive prompt feedback until they are resolved.
- All agencies collaborate in order to avoid duplication and making unreasonable demands for participation by members of the community.

Health (Physical and Mental)

We are a caring community where everyone's needs are supported. We have easy access to full information on available services which network well together. Our healthy environment and comprehensive, integrated health services support us to live well and provide an appropriate level of response to address ill health quickly and effectively and to do this locally wherever possible. Our healthy lifestyles are supported by great access to a wide range of affordable recreational activities.

- We have a good variety of mixed housing types and community spaces which allow us to meet people's different needs and stay connected with one another.
- We recognised and value the important role of carers in our community and ensure that their needs are met.
- There are many opportunities for outdoor recreation, excellent sports clubs, and other pursuits. These are all accessible and affordable for all.

Environment and Sustainability

Throughout our lives we continually inform and educate ourselves on the environment and biodiversity and how we can live sustainably. We all (state agencies, commercial enterprises, communities and individuals) protect, enhance and enjoy our natural environment and resources; making sure we use environmentally friendly practices. We create minimum waste, re-use materials and actively recycle using facilities that are accessible for everyone. The control and disposal of waste is carefully managed to protect our environment. Energy conservation and sustainability is built into our homes and power generated locally is fed into the national grid.

WORKSHOP INPUT REPORT – TRIM MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Workshop held 14th January 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.

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.

Understanding Local Government

- Starting at secondary school level to go in and explain what council does, how it compacts on their lives, how people can get involved in decision making etc..Understanding local structures for young people. **

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.

- Simplify grants process for community groups accessing funding **

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
- PPN structures and processes explained in simple language and more viability as to what it does and can do. (Understood at local level) **

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.
- Early intervention pathways and access to services. **
- Shorter waiting listings, **
- better signposting to all services and other supports by GPS and PHNs. **

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 "
- More outreach programmes and activities in rural areas. **

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.
- Wider range of sports activities **
- More inventive thinking needs to get people active. **
- Be more hobby like instead of goal focused. **
- More family based activities, i.e. treasure hunts, (free/low cost) family fun days etc. **
- More visibility of sports partnership activities.**

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
- More accessibility to recycling centres, the one in Trim is difficult to work with **
- More information on what can be recycled **
- local recycling centres working with community organisations to get information out and facilitate
- people to participate in community recycling. **

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.
- Improved quality well insulation homes for people on low incomes, reducing fuel costs and use.**

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

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.
- Improved facilitates for community organisations to work out of **
- proper resourced community and youth spaces. **
- Council need to truly commit to delegated community and youth spaces.**

Infrastructure

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

Services

- Affordable childcare

Support for Community Organisations and Volunteers

- State-sponsored/ funded insurance for voluntary community groups.
- Proper accredited voluntary hours would be recognised for income tax allowance.
- Measures to ensure community groups have fair insurance costs needed to be in place. **
- Money can be saved by diverting the Councillors Discretionary funds which would be better served going directly to groups. **
- Guaranteed long term (full) funding for community organisations currently operating in local communities, i.e. Family Resource Centres. **

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.
- Promotional materials and websites should be more visible and multinational. **
- Staff levels in Meath Co Co should reflect multinational population. **
- More input in to the celebration of different cultural days/events **

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

- Not enough of the local skills / resources / knowledge being tapped into **

Older people

- Respect for the wisdom of older people – intergenerational initiatives
- Older peoples skills an 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
- Heritage week needs to be broader with more accessible activities/events happening in Meath. **

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
- Better transport links for people to access employment **

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
- Increased (affordable/ subsidized) childcare places **

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

Youth

- More youth led initiatives focusing on employment and life skills. **
- More investment in to long term youth work and outreach support on this. **