

# Let's Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing for This and Future Generations in Ballina Municipal District



What community groups said at the  
Mayo PPN Community Workshop  
held in Great Northern Hotel Ballina  
on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022



**Mayo**  
Public Participation  
Network

## Why are we collecting the views of community groups?

The Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN) is working with its members to produce a shared vision for the future wellbeing of the Ballina Municipal District for this and future generations. This vision will be used to inform the work of the PPN and its representatives.

Community wellbeing combines a number of issues such as health, social and community development, the environment and public participation. All the different aspects of community wellbeing are captured in the diagram set out below. We want to hear your organisation's or group's ambitions and aspirations for our community around these issues.



As part of the consultation process Mayo PPN held a workshop in the Great Northern Hotel, Ballina on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The inputs made by representatives of PPN member groups at that workshop are presented here for your information.

There is now a 2-week opportunity for groups that were not able to attend the workshops, or who were present but have additional inputs they want to make, to contribute their views. This can be done via the link in the email.

All the responses received will be collected and considered with those from the workshop (presented here) and incorporated into a Draft Vision for Community Wellbeing for the Mayo PPN for This and Future Generations. This draft vision will be made available for feedback from all PPN member groups before being finalised and published.

### This document

This document includes all the inputs that were made at the workshop, presented under the headings where they were made. They have been grouped by themes where this appeared to be helpful, but please note that these themes are only provided to help make the material more accessible.

# Health (Physical and Mental)

## Mental Health Services

- Accessibility to mental health services for all
- Mental health units
- Mental health courses for national and secondary schools
- Psychologists for CAMHS
- Counselling services accessible for all, not just on a sliding scale

## Health Services

- General hospital
- Access to good health services for everyone
- Timely diagnostics scanners, etc.
- Free access to GPs
- A&E Helicopter service & helipads every 20 miles
- Local triage
- Respite for families as needed
- Contact communication: numbers for people & signage

## Transport

- Transport for outpatients to hospital & doctor appointments
- Sustainable school transport
- Cycle paths/lanes on all main roads
- Ring road around Ballina
- Disabled parking

## Pedestrians & Independent travel

- Pedestrianised streets
- Safe walkways
- Wheelchair and cycle paths in Ballina
- Disabled accessible footpaths
- Lighting in outdoor areas -> Belleek, athletic track, etc.
- Good quality footpaths
- Remodel quay area beyond Kennedy's as public realm

## Recreation

- Greenway from Ballina to Enniscrone
- Greenway from Crossmolina to Belleek
- Greenways linked up
- Sensory parks
- More sport choices (cricket, racketball, etc.) for different communities.

## Carers

- Safe numbers of carers for older people
- Real jobs for carers
- Better terms and support for carers/ choice for family carers

## Employment

- More quality jobs to support improved physical and mental health

## Housing

- Community /assisted housing so people can live independents, including in rural areas
- Independent supported living

*(Specific: pedestrian crossing at the Quay)*

# Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

## Volunteering

- Culture of volunteering across all the community.
- Good work-life balance allows recreation time and volunteering for all
- General understanding of the positive benefits from volunteering (for volunteers)
- Only reasonable commitments and expectations requested from volunteers
- Information and education on volunteering provided, especially in schools
- Clear explanation of what's involved in volunteer roles, and welcome and induction/ mentoring provided for new volunteers.
- Recognition for what volunteers contribute.
- Tax breaks for volunteers

## Local Authority

- More access to our local councillors
- Ballina MD meetings to be streamed online, minutes made available, public able to attend, and transparency with reporting back.
- Communication/ feedback on issues brought to their attention
- Local community voices to be heard
- More power/ say within Municipal Districts
- More local employees to get genuine buy-in and interest
- People working in local government need to have skills/ qualifications in the area they are working in e.g. rural development qualification should work in community development
- Freedom for elected representatives to express what people want, even if this is contrary to their party position.
- Active engagement and education of young – student councils, Comhairle na nÓg.

## Governance requirements for community groups

- A single Garda vetting form should be available that would be valid for a person involved in a number of groups
- Streamlined governance requirements for voluntary organisations

*(Not agreed: compulsory voting)*

# Social and Community Development

## Respectful community

- Respect for diversity in our community
- Openness to diversity
- Cultural respect
- Education in schools and the community about respect for different cultures, identity and sense of self, and the right for all to live safely in our community

## Safe community

- Safe areas

## Children

- Free creches attached to schools
- Breastfeeding-friendly spaces
- Safe spaces for children
- Sensory parks
- Afterschools/ childcare more accessible in rural areas
- Affordable childcare
- Playgrounds

## Youth

- Youth centre
- Activities for young people

## Employment

- Variety of local jobs suited to different backgrounds and circumstances allowing people to engage
- Expanded CE schemes

## Volunteering

- Recognition for volunteers
- Vibrancy in community involvement/ volunteering
- Leadership training

## Information

- Comprehensive information easily accessible on services available in Ballina (e.g. Alone)
- Good communications – in all forms (suiting different people)

## Older people

- Affordable elder care
- Support for independent living (& information)
- Affordable nursing home
- Visitors for older people
- Reduced isolation

## Carers

- Support for carers

## Accommodation

- An affordable, good quality, home for everyone that meets their needs
- Accommodation suitable to residents

## Transport

- Rural transport expanded and running day and night
- Access to transport for all
- Transport regularly and reliably available
- School transport to school of choice
- No parking on paths for wheelchair users, prams, etc.

## Facilities & services

- Neighbourhood watch
- Men's & Women's sheds
- Family Resource Centre
- Meals on Wheels
- Community gyms
- Appropriate facilities for all ages

## Planning & Development

- Safe and usable infrastructure with future/ forward planning that cares for the environment

## Healthcare

- Support for people with mental health issues that ensure they are included and not isolated
- Primary Health Centre
- Respite Centre

# Values, Culture and Meaning

- Celebrate our culture with annual festivals
- In still our values in our youth
- Be flexible and with ability to adapt to change, embrace new ways within our Irishness

## Respectful and Inclusive community

- An open and respectful community – acceptance of all for all.
- Tolerance and respect of different ideas and religions
- People’s different sexuality is respected and valued
- Teach about different cultures in schools
- Multi-cultural community – Cead Mile Failte to everyone
- Teaching about Travelling community in schools
- More cultural inclusivity in Heritage Festival for different community groups

## Irish Culture

- All our Irish culture (language, music, traditions, etc.) are thriving throughout the community.
- Intergenerational activities ensure transfer of skills and awareness of cultural heritage
- Record our traditions, stories, music, etc.
- Promote our Irish dancing and Irish ways to go back to our culture and promote it
- Music & dance
  - All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil
  - Encourage younger generations to play/ have an interest in Irish music
  - Teach younger generations to sing our old songs
- Language
  - Irish language regularly used in the community on a daily basis
  - Teach the Irish language to keep it going
  - Social Irish language classes
- Have storytelling between generations
- Maintain & pass on traditional skills; basketweaving, tin smithing, poteen making, etc.
- Have full immersion and participation in Heritage Day – including dressing in period clothing
- Have good, accessible records/ archives on our history, geology, heritage, etc.
- Interest and support of different sports

## Heritage

- Remember our resilient and hardworking past
- Identify what is unique to this place, document it, and have experts to guide us
- Preserve our heritage sites
- Maritime museum to document and celebrate maritime heritage, ecology, way of life, etc.
- Celebrate salmon fishery and associated history and heritage around Moy River – don’t turn our back on this heritage.
- Weirs in Ballina (& mill race) needs to be interpreted, protected and maintained for future generations

## Tourism

- A non-commercialised tourism industry – keeping our Céad Míle Failte.  
(Specific: Belleek wood - cared for and maintained.)



# Economy and Resources

## Education & Training

- Schools
- Good schools
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Level education
- School completion programmes for all schools to increase education and hopefully help increase employment
- More training opportunities for school leavers
- Training centres for different industries, e.g. hospitality
- Apprentices skills centre
- Hub for those who cannot work but would like to share their skills
- Drop in centres/ hubs

## Energy

- Solar panels
- Energy sources other than windfarms
- Wind/ wave energy offshore
- State-funded retrofitting of houses
- Heat recovery from industry
- Realistic grants for retrofitting

## Employment

- More work
- Scouts
- More employment/ industry
- Fully funded supports and services for a fully inclusive workplace and community
- Medical cards and incentives for part-time workers
- A place for small and family farming – economic support

## Transport

- Free local bus transport
- Low emission buses

## Infrastructure

- Fibre broadband

*(Specific: cover area at military barracks)*

# Environment and Sustainability

- Everyone is actively respectful of all elements of our environment. (Disrespect is not acceptable)

## Energy

- Fewer windmills inland
- Micro hydro generation on the Moy
- Research & develop wave energy off Mayo coast (best potential in the world)
- Retrofitting of houses and buildings

## Transport

- Increased charging points for electric cars
- Comprehensive, integrated public transport systems that are sustainable, free and user friendly
- Bike facilities, electric bikes e.g. lime bikes
- Affordable electric cars and sustainable transport

## Planning & Development

- 5 year plans that are implemented and allow for some adjustment
- Balanced approach to development and maintaining and protecting heritage. Future needs v past stoics?

## Natural resources

- Good water quality to protect marine and freshwater ecology of the river Moy.

## Minding Nature

- Protect our environment
- Preserve all biodiversity
- Provide more education on nature and biodiversity locally to encourage respect for the environment.
- Introduce and uphold genuine “Leave no Trace” philosophy understood and applied by all.

## Built heritage

- Retain our heritage by educating our youth – passing on an appreciation for it
- Maintain/ refurbish our built heritage
- Dolmen

## Waste management

- Responsible dog owners
- Centralised rubbish collector
- Future generations should not have to depend totally on volunteering

## Outdoor recreation

- Wide range of greenways and cycle ways/ lanes.
- Well-maintained walkway on the Moy
- Expand Blue, Green and White flag designations – linked to funding availability.

## Climate adaption

- Flood defences for Crossmolina
- Rickshaw for older people(?)

*(Specific: proper facilities at Belleek woods – toilets, bins, safe walkways, etc.)*

If you want to make an input to the Mayo PPN Ballina Municipal District Vision for Community Wellbeing, you can do this either online or in hard copy (form available from the PPN).