

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



What community groups said at the
Mayo PPN Community Workshop
held in Breaffy House Hotel
on 26th Sept. 2022



Mayo
Public Participation
Network

Why are we collecting the views of community groups?

Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN) is working with its members to produce a shared vision for the future wellbeing of the Castlebar 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 Breaffy House Hotel on the 26th 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 online via the link in this 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)

- Wellness education
- HSE online medical advice

Social Interaction

- Castlebar social services
- Having a Laughter Coffee Mornings
- Drop-in Centres – someone to talk to
- Social meet ups for older people

Physical / Recreational Opportunities

- Gráine Mhaol Dragon Boat Club
- Alpine walking activator poles
- Gym facilities in rural and urban settings, spinning
- Community gardens

Young people

- Mental health services for youth
- Primary schools – care for physical health; suitable chairs, lighter bags, fitness balls,
- Schools – better seating, lighter bags, help with focus, encourage physical activity
- Reduce the use of phones by children and adults

Infrastructure

- Better accessibility to buildings for differing abilities
- Housing availability

Carers

- Support for Carers

Older people

- Volunteering in secondary schools & Foroige to help older people
- Access to technology & technology hub for older people
- Reach out for older people in the community

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

- Local Authority meetings should be online
- Transparency around County Council involvement in grants
- More balanced involvement in Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) – i.e. increase community numbers and participation – too local government heavy at present
- Equal and transparent access to housing officers, same process for all to remove barriers
- Better understanding of Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Transport – participation
- Communication
- Youth involvement (voice)
- Youth councils
- Governance requirements costing too much (requirement for audited accounts for community groups) – this is discouraging people joining groups/ volunteering
- More streamlined administration requirements for community organisation. For example, one code of practice for all voluntary organisations. (2)
- Streamline Garda vetting

Social and Community Development

Accessible recreation

- Every playground to have at least one disabled/ wheelchair friendly swing

Built environment

- Community centre – visibility of access
- Building that integrates young and old
- Revitalise clubs that closed during Covid

Support for new residents

- One stop shop for supporting new citizens
- Integration officer
- Integration hub
- Feeling safe – visibility of people/ Gardaí

Transport

- More regular services for towns and surrounding areas
- Walkways & bicycle lanes linking villages with town centres

Communications

- Virtual notice board/ hub
- Listing of facilities & services available (where & when)
- Listing of events so everyone can know what's happening ahead of time

(Not agreed: More social housing)

Welcoming & Inclusive community

- Irish welcome
- Friendly & tolerant
- Multicultural (1 in 5 not born in Ireland)
- Language exchange -> café meet ups with different/ multiple languages
- Connectedness - in person
- Adaptability – not stuck in one way

Irish culture & arts

- Sean Nos dancing
- “Card games”, “25”, “course”, “role” of card instructor
- Traditional Music
- Storytelling
- Culture “night/s” – more than one or monthly – 365
- Arts & creatives
- Invite to drama groups to Castlebar centre
- Culture hubs, youth hubs, permanent hubs
- Museum – more use of facilities in schools and education
- Contact with diaspora
- GAA complexes – community
- Soccer & sport
- More transparency in local government
- Give young people a voice
- A youth plan

Economy and Resources

Tourism

- Promote Mayo tourism
- Tourism – reach out the Diaspora
- Install toilets on the Greenway
- Maintain our resources of beautiful countryside, lakes and mountains
- Permanent work done on Lough Lannagh weeds
- Fishing platforms for fishers with disabilities
- Car rental

Transport

- Public transport shelters
- More public transport links
- Better hospital transport
- Links to public transport
- Direct airport link

Work & Business

- Support & encourage remote working
- Provide work hubs
- Keep the area as a focus for business in Europe – BMW Region funding
- County employment – better rates
- Reduce the red tape (days) etc.
- Increased social enterprise – with provision of promotion and support (resources/ accommodation)
- Training facilities

Local communities

- Local shops & social hubs
- Local care in the community – looking out for people to avoid isolation
- Public walkways in local communities
- Castlebar social services
- Social clubs – free classes
- Paid volunteer programme

Infrastructure

- Better broadband access

Places to live/ stay

- More accommodation
- Houses to buy
- Houses to rent
- Student accommodation
- More holiday/ hotel availability

Environment and Sustainability

Minding & enjoying nature

- Gardening
- Replanting trees
- Blue Zones
 - Intergeneration's
 - Pass on skills
- Biodiversity plan – area examples in small scale and bigger scale models
- EPA Maintenance, planning, [need] more resources
- Long-term planning & continuity
- Off-road greenway for Westport/ Newport
- Leave No Trace Ireland – adapt the principles
- Preserve older buildings (OPW), especially town centre
- Rezoning industrial sites for environmental projects instead of using green sites, e.g. Lough Lannagh surroundings

Food production

- [Support to] Produce our own food
- Allotment system

Attractive environment

- “Pride in Front Garden”
- Tidy Towns – educate “value”
- E-bikes, tidiness
- More of Green Flags, Blue Flags – through schools

Energy

- Encourage renewable energy & connection (supply) to the Grid
- Solar - retrofitting
- Who gains from windfarms, gas?

Public engagement

- Communication – public consultation on environment

Waste

- Reports from the County Council about the level of waste

Financial management

- Budgeting – yearly spend “no carry over” – wasted and dormant funds
- Mayo County Council buy and don't use – post office, re-enactment, military barracks empty – stalling. Rethink development

Use of heritage buildings

- Military barracks – arts office, preserve?

Local Authority

- Municipal authorities
 - “maintenance” on housing estates, etc.
- Mayo Co Council modelling good practice - Act as leader & practice what they preach:
- Real “no mow May”
- [Abide by restrictions on] hedge cutting

(Specific: OPW & Mayo co Co to tackle the weeds on Lough Lannagh permanently)

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

