

Let's Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing for This and Future Generations in Claremorris-Swinford_Municipal District



What community groups said at the
Mayo PPN Community Workshop
held in McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris
on 10th Oct. 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 Claremorris-Swinford 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 McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris on the 10th October 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)

- More prevention – less intervention
- Education

Mental Health

- “Wellbeing” a better word to use instead of “mental” as this may be off-putting to many people
- Mental health on the curriculum from primary school age
- Greater resilience and character to avoid mental health issues
- Mental health needs to be brought into schools. We are told to talk but there is no-one to listen
- More counsellors for youth and older people
- Mental health and well-being educational services
- Good communication with youngsters with mental health issues – more funding needed to deal with mental health
- Mental health drop in centres

Health Services

- Fewer hospitals – but better run
- Automation of health records for better efficiency
- Primary health centres in all local communities
- More services available at primary health centres
- Doctors available in primary health care centres
- Affordable or free health services for those on low-incomes
- Increased professionals – doctors and nurses
- More GPs/ doctors in towns
- Reduce waiting lists and waiting times for appointments in all health services
- Improve ambulance response times
- Provision of psychological services

Accessibility

- Accessible amenities for differently abled bodies
- Special needs as part of normal
- Development/ renovation of Crossboyne old school for people with special needs (day care) – ways to bring health care into Crossboyne community

Enabling Active Communities

- Safe indoor and outdoor spaces/ paths for people to exercise
- Lighting within confines of town for people to access for walking, running, etc.
- Community approach for walking so that everyone can feel safe
- Amenity areas free and accessible to all of the community; all age groups and all abilities
- More playgrounds in the community
- At least 1 organised walk in each community with outdoor exercise facilities similar to Lough Lannagh in Castlebar
- Public spaces
- Community gardens/ allotments

Transport

- Local Link – use census data to ensure all areas are represented so people can get into and about their communities.
- Public transport to be fully accessible to all in the community, e.g. wheelchair users
- Proper, widespread infrastructure for active travel (walking & cycling)
- Investment in active travel
- Sustainable travel promotes connected, health community

Across the generations

- Community centres that promotes mixing of older and younger generations locally
- More youth programmes to collaborate with the elderly
- More interaction between the youth and the elderly

Carers

- Increased training for carers with a set minimum wage similar to what has been done recently in childcare
- More support needed and acknowledgement for carers and the work that they do
- Nobody in poverty because they are a carer

Safe communities

- More policing in rural areas where people are vulnerable and isolated
- Garda presence and more policing for older people.
- Maybe a Garda assigned to each area/ parish who would visit that area at least once a week.

Community supports

- More inclusion in the community for older people
- Peer support groups
- Holistic services
- Women's Sheds & Men's Sheds – County audit to see if all areas are covered/ catered for
- More support for new mums, including breast-feeding support
- More multi-lingual support for immigrant families – translators available for school/ health and other settings
- More early years intervention at school
- NEPS (National Educational Psychology Service) Service inadequate
- More public forums

Housing

- Increased appropriate housing for the elderly who can leave houses they find too big/ difficult to manage and move to more community focused houses in their own locality, while still living independently.

Employment

- Reduced working week – not reduced pay

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

- Strong community spirit
- Events to participate in

Information

- Digital community notice board
- Public community notice boards in public spaces (interactive)

Local Authority

- Limited maximum term for councillors
- Address the gap between a “day time” local authority and evening time volunteers.
- Community arts officer in each town to liaise with local groups

Citizenship

- Youth citizenship programme

Community Councils

- Directly funded by national/ local government (through taxation) and having decision-making power over local spending
- Funding for community council to implement activities

Governance requirements for community groups

- Reduce level of bureaucracy and paperwork for community groups
- Unzip bureaucracy
- Limit risk and exposure – insurance
- Insurance reform now
- Public liability insurance for all groups covered by State
- Garda clearance provided as a passport for all groups

Funding

- Better access to applications for funding
- Leader funding is difficult to apply for
- The PPN to inform voluntary groups of grant applications and dates
- Funding is inadequate – no match funding available, 50% GMA is too much

Voting

- Allow expats to vote on national issues

(Not agreed: compulsory voting)

Social and Community Development

Respectful community

-

Safe community

- Crime prevention
- Support networks

Children

- Children's playgrounds in all communities

Recreational access

- Free access to public facilities, for sports, etc.
- Services available in our towns for family, community, sports, cultural, etc. – that actively encourage people to take part.
- Open access and encouragement for those that are home-schooled to take part in recreational activities and sports.
- Sport is not just for the good or just about winning
- Diverse offerings of sport and recreational activities available

Integration

- Following on Integration Seminar held in 2018 in COE, Bakan. Government support is needed to achieve integration and social inclusion in Ballyhaunis.
- Resources are needed to address language and cultural challenges and enable voluntary and community organisations to attract new members from all groups and cultures
- Education is needed in all spheres on cultures and communities to support integration

Information

- Marketing of local communities organisations and activities. Make information available on what is going on and when – and make these easy to access for all
- Signposting – so that groups know what help is available depending on the situation that arises, what is provided, when and where. So this listing would include details of the organisations, their activities and services. Provide ongoing funding to support this.

Connectedness

- Swap the assets! Share more
- Good interconnection between towns in the area mean that they can share ideas, replicate and develop these rather than reinvent the wheel
- Inter-county towns join together rather than compete

Transport

- Car free links between communities
- Inclusive active travel networks with safe access to green spaces for all in the community
- All transport should be accessible to all; older people, people living with disabilities, etc.
- Community car programme is urgently needed

Housing

- Everyone should be able to afford a home that meets their needs, within their community
- Supported housing for independent living for aging population
- Everybody should be able to access housing at an affordable cost, that meets their needs in their community.

Citizenship

- Encourage involvement in community from young age – like citizenship training so that the idea of civic duty is normal and people become advocates for what is needed in their community. This also helps the pipeline of active citizens and volunteers that will support community groups in later life.
- Funding for Transition Year students to get used to being volunteers
- Less time spent on Communion in school and more about community.

Access

- Public spaces are all fully accessible
- Equipment in children's playgrounds can accommodate children with disabilities
- Picnic areas are fully accessible to those with disabilities
- Provide funding to enable community organisations to adapt and ensure they are accessible
- Amenity areas are free and accessible at all times

Consultation

- Feedback on all consultations to communities is essential
- Local Authority to follow up on delivery of "Community Futures"

Arts

- Community arts and wellbeing training compulsory
- Liaison officers between community groups

Funding

- Who has the cheque book?
- Community development organisations (such as local radio) need funding and adequate resources to do essential work in communities.

Detailed inputs: - Children's playground in Crossboyne
 - Resources to develop our local school in Crossboyne into a community hall which will benefit Claremorris, Ballindine & Garrymore along with Crossboyne itself.

Values, Culture and Meaning

Diverse and welcoming community

- Community social events
- More public displays to include more cultures and ethnicities
- Community spaces, libraries, hubs and events that are multicultural
- Encourage other cultures to share their talents
- Multi-cultural spaces and education, libraries, etc.

Respectful and Inclusive community

- Building and fostering civic-mindedness in youth, non religious, non sport affiliated

Irish Culture, heritage & history

- Celebrate local Irish culture and heritage
- Develop interpretation of this to make universal appeal
- More investment in the arts from an early age in school – preserving our national heritage and culture
- Preserve our local heritage, traditions, crafts, etc. so our young people are aware of their history, etc.
- Dancing
- Language
- Record and promote our local history

Children

- All drama, culture, folklore to be taught in primary school so that it's free for all children
- Access to music and tradition in school and out of school
- Educate our young people in schools to promote our Ceád Meile Failte across the community
- Changing religious education in primary schools to include ALL religions; informing and not indoctrinating

Community Spaces and Facilities

- Community venues, equipment and skilled supporters for cultural activities
- Better public venues
- Community hall/ hub for people to meet and partake in meetings, drafts, dance, cultural activities, etc.
- Community cooking facilities
- Better supports for the night-time economy
- Courses to suit every age group e.g. thatching! And diverse interests
- Equality in sport
- Mindfulness, emotional classes
- Mental health courses for everyone

Transport

- All public transport should be accessible to all in the community i.e. people with disabilities
- Where would society be without the volunteers!

Economy and Resources

Employment

- Minimum wage to be a Living Wage and rise in line with inflation/ cost of living
- Greater access to apprenticeships (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, etc.)
- Sustainable jobs for graduates & skilled people locally to keep young people based in the locality rather than commuting to cities or emigrating
- Increase numbers of TÚS & RSS workers
- Database of people on schemes/ RSS, etc. that can be accessed by businesses looking to recruit

Enterprise support

- Start-up funding made available for community or social enterprises (not just for the workers)
- Community support for local start-ups
- Focus on creation and use of life-time products NOT those with built in obsolescence, to reduce consumption and carbon production
- More support for small business start-ups; mentoring, funding and training
- Increased awareness of community working hubs
- Develop industries at Knock Airport to enhance employment
- Knock airport to be a tax free zone for 10-20- years to attract businesses into it
- Legislation to ensure all projects and businesses are insurable for a reasonable cost – cost/lack of insurance should not mean businesses cannot operate
- Reduce red tape

Education & Training

- Mentorship programme for students with local businesses
- Allocate professional career guidance hours to each RSS, TÚS & CE Scheme participant
- Not enough training and education supports for people not in work
- Require people on unemployment should be involved with maintenance of local community
- Intergenerational training centre for arts and crafts

Carbon Tax

- Impose a carbon tax on imports
- Recognise carbon credits

Transport

- Completion of Atlantic Transport Corridor – with rail and road from Tuam to Derry
- Better local transport services to provide
 - ways to get to town for older people, non-drivers and for young people to connect up with Bus Eireann, trains, etc.

Use of Resources

- Increased awareness of resources available e.g. halls, old buildings, schools in the area

- Be pragmatic and use the infrastructure available creatively and fully
- Community gardens/ allotments and grow your own

Infrastructure

- Fibre broadband required to give people and businesses the option to move home and work locally

Environment and Sustainability

Minding Nature

- Recognise and protect the natural environment

Energy

- National retrofitting programme for solar PV, insulation, etc. – make it cheap and easy
- Increased wind energy incentives
- Local biogas or anaerobic digestion facility to compost and generate electricity
- Better options to retrofit or improve energy efficiency/ electricity for homes and businesses

Transport

- Strengthen Local Link – provide better public transport
- Good local public transport for communities
- Sustainable transport – community involvement in the environment with walking and cycling
- Sustainable greenway development for connected communities
- More charging points for electric cars
- Proper, safe, cycling infrastructure not only in towns but linking rural areas as well

Natural resources

- Protect our water quality

Built heritage

- Protect our existing built heritage
- Re-purpose old buildings
- Celebrate & highlight our built heritage

Waste management

- Communal waste collection points
- Better community waste management
- Community compost for gardens/ allotments, etc.
- Social enterprises in recycling, repairing, re-use, upcycling, etc.
- Better enforcement of law relating to litter, dumping, etc. Landlords to provide bins in rented properties to cut down on fly tipping, dumping, etc.

Agriculture and farming

- Pay farmers to protect biodiversity and habitats for wildlife
- Incentivise farmers to lease land for community gardens/ share allotments

Outdoor recreation

- Create environmental attractions
- Development of water sports on the river and waterways

Education and skills transfer

- Environmental education from a young age throughout our lives
- Transfer of knowledge and skills from older to younger generations through community hub

Economy

- Change the market model economy to a resource based economy
- Reduce imports – develop sustainable local economy
- Enable production of affordable, sustainable goods that are necessary – housing, cars, etc.
- Have technology free days

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