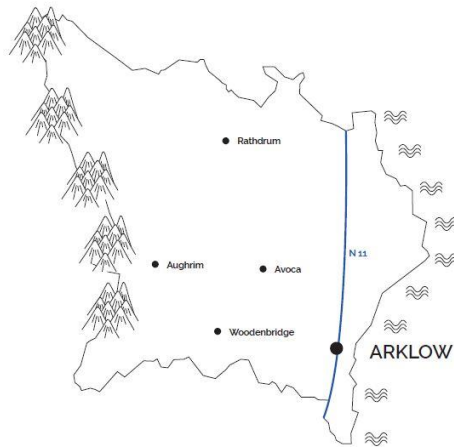


# Let's Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Arklow Municipal District

Arklow



What Community Groups said at the Co Wicklow PPN Community Workshops held in Rathdrum RDA Hall 17 Oct and Bridgewater Centre 18 Oct



## **Introduction**

Co Wicklow PPN consulted with community groups in the Arklow Municipal District on their vision for community wellbeing. As part of the consultation process Co Wicklow PPN held workshops in The RDA Hall in Rathdrum and the Bridgewater Centre in Arklow town. Groups were asked -“What are your hopes and aspirations for your community in the future under the Community Wellbeing Headings”? Their responses are below.

Co Wicklow PPN is now inviting member groups who wish to add to their input on the day and those who couldn't attend on the day, to participate in an online consultation to ensure their voice is heard fully in this process

*\*\* The responses that were more specific than visionary have been separated and will be passed on to our PPN Representatives to bring to the committees they sit on.*

Co Wicklow PPN will develop a Wellbeing Statement for the Arklow Municipal District based on all the information provided through the consultation process

## **Economy and Resources**

### **Public Consultation**

#### **Transport**

- Traffic situation in Arklow needs to be sorted
- Car-pooling subsidised
- Public transport affordable
- Use the train station to its advantage

#### **Tourism**

- Develop Tourism
- Cycle ways

#### **Enterprise**

- Attract digital industry- educate young people to feed it
- Support the fishing industry and the processing of fish in Arklow
- Make more use of Arklow Harbour/Port for industry
- Develop the Harbour and fishing industry for the local community
- Support for small local industries – financial and human resources
- Better resourced enterprise Centre
- Utilise local natural resources – river and seafront
- Off farm enterprise – farmers supported to diversify
- Facilities & supports for start-ups & small businesses
- More networking of business minded people to encourage young people to create local business

#### **Keep It Local**

- Less time travelling – more time at home
- Local hot desk centre of town – reduced pollution – better wellbeing
- People could access work locally – hub/workspace

## **Planning**

- Arklow Harbour to be retained as a social amenity for the people of Arklow, not private developers.
- New Town Centre
- Decentralise – move away from Dublin
- Develop the Harbour and fishing industry for the local community
- Don't let private development dictate plans for the Harbour area of Arklow

## **Infrastructure**

- World Class Broadband
- Good Traffic Infrastructure
- Broadband & mobile coverage
- Infrastructure & supports to increased population
- Better parking (people with disabilities)
- Provide bins and empty

## **Employment**

- Schemes not to replace real jobs
- A proper living wage
- More real/proper jobs available locally
- More apprenticeships
- Government to respect people. More schemes that pay a reasonable wage
- Upskilling opportunities for people unemployed in their local area
- Subsidised childcare
- More development of employment

## **Education**

- More 3<sup>rd</sup> level access locally

## **Good Communications & information**

- More awareness of local economics

## **Adequate supports for older people**

## **Values, Culture and Meaning**

### **Community Heart**

- Welcoming
- Friendly
- Sense of Community
- Local Industry

### **Friendliness, Hospitality, Community Spirit – to continue**

### **Getting involved**

## **Information & Communication**

- Communication about town & services
- Information – more needed for new people
- Community information linked with tourist office
- Communication across groups
- Communities are informed & consulted in relation change/development

## **Support all to hold culture**

### **Inclusion**

- Inclusive Community that includes all members and cultures in our community
- Provide opportunities for young adults to engage locally

### **Facilities**

- Theatre
- Community Arts Centre
- Meeting places – dance halls

### **Irish Culture**

- Nurture love of Irish language and culture
- To be aware of the past history of our town, the people before us who have given our community its values today
- Proper school buildings for Gael Scoils
- Promote use of Irish – Irish classes – adult education
- Sewing/knitting/craft classes/dancing
- Maintain the pride in Parnell (ivy day) & our Irish culture – pass it on
- Local people/expertise/knowledge/ history is valued
- Tap in to local skills & resources – U3A

### **Diversity**

- A place where different cultures are welcome, valued,& shared
- Respect for self and others
- Everyone is valued has a voice
- A spiritual place for everyone to use (non-denominational) – respect

### **Safety & Security**

- More garda available
- People to feel safe & secure

### **Tourism**

- Tourist Point
- Tourism Vision

### **Planning**

- Developed Harbour Area with Marina

## **Education**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Level institute more PLC courses

## **Social and Community Development**

### **Community Communications**

- To be vocal for community groups

### **Create Real Community**

- To be positive about our community

### **Facilities**

- Easy Access to community premises for social groups to meet
- Community Arts Centre and Theatre

### **Planning and Development**

- Consultation with community on planning decisions

### **Community Services**

- Support Services
- Homeless services

### **Safety and Security**

- More Community Policing

### **Everyone in the community is valued and knows they're valued**

- Value the people who volunteer their time to clubs

### **Community support to live life people choose**

### **Information & Communication**

- Broadband and mobile phone coverage
- Accessible TV Free to air

### **Transport**

- Minibus to bring people to services & facilities

### **Access to Information & Services**

- Access to information & access to services
- People can get them when they need them – statutory services – medical etc
- Community hub for community services
- Community information hub – link to tourism

### **Support for Intergenerational Initiatives**

- Rota of visitors /activities for older people in hospital/nursing homes
- Bring instruments – tell stories in nursing homes

## **Inclusion**

- Opportunities to come together to network to celebrate
- Social outings for people who don't have the money or means to get there

## **Collaboration**

- Private sector & local authority

## **Support Communities**

- Funding for community groups & information readily available
- Develop a strong network for all community groups under one umbrella group

## **Health (Physical & Mental)**

### **Overall Coordination of Health services in Arklow and the environs**

#### **Locally available Health services**

#### **Accessible Timely Health Services**

#### **Caring supportive community**

#### **All-inclusive care/supports for all citizens (babies, toddlers, families, older people)**

#### **Statutory**

- Staffed X Ray and MRI service
- Respite Service
- Palliative Care
- Full Time Ambulance Service
- Lack of social workers
- Care-Doc, Ambulance and Fire Service Available full time out of Arklow
- Primary Health Centre - properly resourced & staffed
- Sufficient nursing home care for elderly
- Access to GP services
- Promote access to further medical procedure
- Services to support/promote good mental health – community & statutory

#### **Community Health Services**

- Supports for non-sporty children
- More services regarding support group
- Community centre/supports
- Local social support (to address isolation)
- Local access to AEDs for everyone
- Local social activities – clubs for all ages – good communication {not only Facebook & Social media}

#### **Access & Information**

- Communication with community

- Social outlets for people living outside the town or alone – a means to get there
- Transport for patients to hospital – especially for cancer treatments

#### **Natural Environment**

- Using our natural environment to promote good physical & mental health
- Clean water
- Access to good quality fresh foods

#### **Education**

- Schools/education – drugs awareness – prevention & treatment
- Supports/education to promote healthy eating

#### **Resources**

- More funding for community groups ie First responders for training, equipment, phone bills, clothing
- More funding locally for to improve all areas of services, also for young children/teenagers who need urgent supports

#### **Housing**

- Access to independent living

#### **Infrastructure**

- Street lighting

#### **Enterprise/Employment**

- Attract more business to the area to provide employment locally – travel by train/car is expensive for young people

#### **Facilities**

- Obesity in children – no sports halls & very small playgrounds
- Sports halls

Adequate sporting facilities to cater for all sports

#### **Everyone supported to have good mental health**

- Mental Health Assessment
- Early Intervention Child Services
- Teen Counselling services
- Provide Mental Health support and assistance
- Prompt response remove red tape, simplify

#### **Transport and Infrastructure**

- Need accessible and reliable transport
- Lacking infrastructure

#### **Older People**

- Empower our senior citizens – Support them
- Senior Citizens to be on groups to support allocation of housing in there local area
- Home Care/Help
- Care and Repair Scheme for Senior Citizens run by local groups to be supported
- Prompt response to elderly health needs
- Active Retirement initiatives

### **Specific Health Services**

- Drug Addiction Services
- Family Planning Sexual health

## **Participation, Democracy and Good Governance**

**Local Government brought back to local as Town Councils**

**Equality for All**

**That we are seen to be a place to be invested in**

**Good community spirit, everyone working together**

**Access to local authority/good working relationships**

**Respected**

**Feel proud, valued**

**Bureaucracy**

- Make requirements more straight forward
- Insurance
- Governance Code – support groups/communicate to understand and adopt

**Less Governance and More Democracy**

- Not Good Governance

**Transparency**

- Greater Transparency
- More Openness and More Transparency around planning decisions
- Public Meetings not behind closed doors – Open to the public

**Consultation**

- People to be informed, heard and respected
- Voice for people with Disability and other minorities – Change Attitudes
- Work with people
- Local authority needs to open vastly better communication channels with the public – simplify information
- Give feedback
- Local needs are addressed



## **Planning**

- Make system of submission more accessible
- Planning is chaotic and inconsistent – locals should be given priority

## **Local Government**

- Better Quality Politicians
- Simplify Government Bodies – for better communications between bodies
- Join up thinking and working of Local Government and National Government
- Town local council
- Strong Visionary Representatives
- County Council listens to councillors & TDs
- Liaison Officers
- Local authority to provide machinery & equipment to assist group like Tidy Towns to more effectively & efficiently keep the local environment clean & attractive
- That collaborative work with local elected reps & community continues
- Irish Flags flying on all Government Buildings (Pride)

## **Inclusion**

- Isolation within the MD – want to be inclusive
- To develop a local forum group for the community of Arklow so that all sections are included in decision making and working with the local authority in making our town a more inclusive town

## **Education**

## **Housing**

## **Environment and Sustainability**

**Promote pride in place**

**To have ownership of their town**

**More Forestry and Green Areas for our children**

**Improved water quality in Avoca River**

**Everyone/Whole Community approach to maintaining & protecting our environment**

**More use of the natural environment to combat climate change**

## **Preservation**

- Our natural & built heritage is protected
- Our built heritage is maintained, preserved, and developed

## **Research and Development**

- Survey of Arklow (UCD) prepared document on ideas for Arklow
- A comprehensive plan to save our beaches – address coastal erosion
- Independent studies by relevant bodies (not government). To review the environmental impacts on Communities

## **Local Authority**

- More local Council workers
- WCC to provide more equipment to help keep environment clean ie work with tidy towns
- Council maintenance man – bring him back – local people based locally
- Role of council to support community in bad weather and prevent

## **Recycling & Waste Management**

- Dumping and pollution is stopped
- Clean up
- Waste facility for dog poo – impacts on use of park
- Support people to get rid of rubbish properly
- Encourage people to recycle
- More emphasis on reduction/recycling/re-using
- Keep & develop recycling centre
- Make rubbish collection more affordable

## **Funding required across all**

### **Facilities**

- Community centre needed for whole community

### **Industry**

- Ideas to make the fishing industry more sustainable

## **Energy efficient housing**

- Rain water systems and Solar panels for new housing
- Support people to make homes more energy efficiency – more flexibility with grants
- Grants to support people to maintain home

## **Education**

- Home Economics for all school. All able to cook and basis skills
- Education to encourage change in behavior in relation to the environment
- Promote environmental education and culture
- Educate Communities, parents children, to protect environment, natural resources

## **Housing**

- Go back to address vacant housing thrown up in boom times
- Develop/implement a system to get people to deal with derelict properties

## **Infrastructure**

- Skateboard park
- Bins
- More bins and emptied
- Develop amenities at seafront
- Effective sewerage treatment plant.