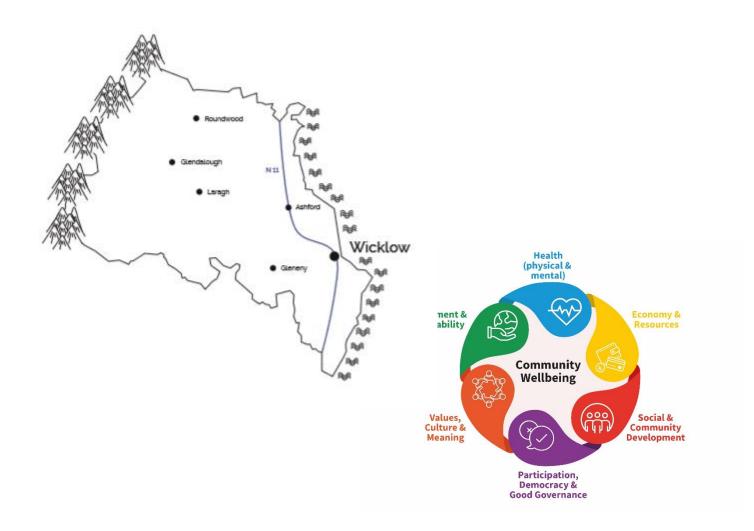# Let's Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Wicklow Municipal District

What Community Groups said at the Co Wicklow PPN Community Workshops held in An Tairseach (Wicklow Town) 18 Sept, Annamoe Centre19 Sept, & The Pastoral Centre (Wicklow Town) 8 Oct. 2018

Introduction

Co Wicklow PPN consulted with community groups in the Wicklow Municipal District on their vision for community wellbeing. As part of the consultation process Co Wicklow PPN held workshops in An Tairseach Ecology Centre, Annamoe Community Centre and The Pastoral Centre Wicklow 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 Wicklow Municipal District based on all the information provided through the consultation process

Environmental Outputs

Coastal Protection

- The Murrough still to be here
- Coastal Protection/erosion of the Murrough
- Conserve & Protect what we've got – Murrough/Cliff walk

Protect Water Quality

Community Support

- Tidy Town Group Support

Enterprise & Sustainability

- Small enterprises
- Open up closed buildings in town or office etc. (start-up businesses)
- Preserve local post offices
- Arts centre – town hall or courthouse
- Tourism not day trips: encourage people /tourists to stay and use local services.
- Film studies in Ashford – encourage to connect with community to bring local jobs.
- Irish Water ignored EU protected river; Dublin gets 95% of vartry's water – unsustainable.

Waste & Recycling

- Reduce waste – shopping – home
- Reduce or Ban plastic
- Reduce single use plastic/non-recyclable products
- Plastic free
- Better recycling
- Litter free – people acting responsible

Fresh Food

- Promote people growing food
- Local food
- Communal apple presses

Transport & Infrastructure

- Better public transport/shared transport (pooled) – to reduce car traffic
- Balancing safety and local roads
- Walks/Footpaths – lights and speed ramps

Local Energy

- Wave & Wind energy
- Fossil fuel free
- Lighting/Security lighting – consider environment impact

Every policy & decision in Every establishment is environmentally proofed

Protect & Nurture Our Environment

- Natural woodland
- Make sure rivers are free to flow in their banks
- People and communities to activate in relation to the environment
- Allotments in NTMK, garden, bees nearby, more of this
- Tourism helping to preserve environment
- Walks should be in places where you won't get erosion
- Increase number of walks to spread people
- Heather deleting, due to burning excessively, should be burning strips, heather not getting a chance with sheep ensure burning controlled.
- Headlands in fields important for bees
- Bee Keeping perspective. Don't want to see roadside spraying of weeds and flowers. Maintain hedgerows for bees and other biodiversity.
- Irish Water ignored EU protected river; Dublin gets 95% of Vartry's water – unsustainable.

Interacting with our environment

- Getting people/children into nature to create contact & love of environment that they want to preserve
- Cliff walk & walks development
- Open space
- Cycling trail
- Birdwatching, fishing sea & river
- Less regulation/health & safety
- Pedestrianisation of main streets

Built Environment

- Restore local build environment
- Government and County Council to take responsibility to restore local built environment

Governance

- Councillors should come out and interact with community should be joint decisions.
- Talk to MD councillors and others; PPN facilitate/mediate between communities and development/Co Co /Irish Water etc.
- Irish Water ignored EU protected river; Dublin gets 95% of vartry's water – unsustainable.

<mark>**Economy & Resources Outputs**</mark>

More joined up thinking

Supportive/sensible systems

No Homeless People

- Tenancy Act/Legislation – people moved on after x number of years

Planning

- Site value tax – tax on vacant properties
- Stronger town – less scattered development – more concentration of people will support local business

Employment

- **Environment to incentivise work and enterprise**
- Meaningful employment opportunities for everyone
- Efficient progression routes to employment
- Labour activation for long-term unemployed – mainstream & financially support the positions into part time positions, local jobs initiatives
- Training & investment in people how do we follow up and encourage to stay
- Zero hours contact removed
- Job Opportunities Locally

Transport & Infrastructure

- More local public transport & to Dublin, Arklow etc – East of Summerhill no access
- Infrastructure, broadband, transport
- Better connected
- Better transport Links
- Transport access to more educational facilities
- Access to better Public Transport for accessing work and bringing people into the area
- Broadband and better phone reception to support small business

Energy Community

- Local community energy base
- Develop green energy

Local Economies

- Bring people back into the town to live locally & shop locally – use empty buildings in the centre of the town
- People have to support local businesses, or we'll lose them.
- More encouragement to shop locally
- We want more variety (To be able to shop locally) (travel agent, furniture, shoes & underwear)
- To add a baker a greengrocer
- More open shops in town

Enterprise Support

- Support for business
- Rural business hubs
- Small enterprise
- **Tourism** management – transport access
- Communities need to look at how to improve tourism and planning in their area
- Tourism needs to hold people longer (Too many day trippers: Rathdrum needs a hotel more accommodation
- Support arts business

Community Supports

- State support for community groups to link with youth unemployment
- Insurance to change to enable flexibility (ICA/Transition Year)
- Link youth & unemployed to Mens Sheds, ICA, Women's Groups etc for skills networking

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Social & Community Development

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Business & community are connected & complement each other

Celebration of diversity – Pride in our community

Equality & Diversity are valued and treasured

Kindness & community between all generations

People engaged/active in local community

Community needs to look after its own development

Inclusion

- More inclusive community
- Equal access – work to remove barriers
- Challenge to make sure no one is left out if not involved in a group
- Some of new communities hidden in private estates – challenge to address
- Festivals that get communities together
- Open days
- Get people to be open to change and open to all sectors of community

- Want to see Disadvantaged get more support (Developing mindfulness walk in Ballard)

Volunteering

- Properly resourced volunteer centre
- Support & Resource Community & Voluntary sector
- Voluntary groups are supported to do their work
- More volunteers – inter generational
- People are terrified to volunteer – afraid of getting trapped (that they wouldn't be able to leave their volunteer role)

Supporting Communities

- More resources, funding training, support
- Men's Shed – community support for men
- CEART – great support for Travellers
- Adequate funding for community and social sector
- Support to comply with requirements e.g. Charitable status, GDPR
- On the ground resources
- Support groups to work together and with agencies. Provide resources and skills
- Less Bureaucracy – small groups crippled by garda vetting, health and safety.

State Support

- More support for family unit – childcare/further education/jobs
- More support for youth groups to gain access into colleges
- CW & Tus opportunity/support for training & progressions
- Need to remove the under 26 payment on social welfare
- Standard payment of doctor etc
- Work to address/remove poverty gap

Community Facilities

- Place for young people to gather that is not sport or alcohol based
- Communal spaces on estates that encourage multi-generational use
- Support charity shops/space for people to meet
- Benches for people to pause, sit, talk, people watch
- Walkable town/MD
- Cinema/Arts Centre
- Adequate Community space

PPN

- PPN & community reps role valued and recognised
- Challenge to get people to share information
- Focus groups for people not in groups
- PPN to support community in planning matters

Health (Physical & Mental)

Sensible efficient services

Resilient people

As good health as possible

Supported emergency services Fire, Lifeboat, Ambulance,

Transport & Infrastructure

- Route to be determined by community groups
- Trains – extended service – dart to Wicklow – (infrequent services)
- Better rural transport – bus availability – better routes
- Regular affordable access – primary care centre Wicklow
- Want to walk, but taking life in hands, need footpaths. speed limits need to be reviewed.
- Cycle Paths and Speed ramps
- Local link buses
- Rural Transport bus – more flexibility and availability

Natural Environment

- Coastal protection on the Murrough
- Safe & natural environment for play
- Upgrade existing walks – river walk & Whitfield lane
- Don't dump plastic bottles

Inclusion

- A lot of isolation outside large towns
- Autism, old age, mental health
- Acceptance that difference is natural and celebrated

Facilities

- Day-care facilities
- Refurbish old buildings rather than leave derelict

Less litigation – Health & Safety

Housing

- Access to affordable appropriate Housing
- Supported to remain at home
- To adapt home to different stages of life

Support Carers

- Supportive environment/group/network for Carers
- More respite for carers
- More day centres

Mental Health

- More mental health services/funding for services for young people
- More coordinated services
- Supports for Jigsaw & Pieta House mental health services
- Psychological & psychiatric services are not accessible & have long waiting lists
- Challenge the school system to relieve pressure experienced by young people
- Encourage young people to look at bigger picture not just college etc

State supports

- Focus on prevention not waiting for problem to arise
- More localised services – working clinic one day per week
- Space for people in services e.g. disabilities – nursing homes etc
- No waiting lists for services for any one incl people with disabilities & older people
- Paid youth workers that can support youth health
- Community health workers
- Fully integrated health centre
- Family supports & services – more social workers
- Universal health system – no private health care – affordable healthcare
- More support/care hours per person

Industry

- Industry to support clean environment & good health

Community based health

- Community services link with Bluebird care/ Home instead
- Mainstream funding of all community-based health supports/programmes
- Edible estates – link with tidy towns
- Affordable complementary health activities

Recreation

- Community sports centre & general facility for all groups
- Wicklow Partnership to develop existing groups

Community Supports

- Affordable Social Outlets
- Social Activities, social groups supporting people's health through engagement, reduce isolation
- Make community halls available
- Make halls disability friendly (support needed)
- Mens sheds – supporting mens health

Active Community

- Keep people active. This is a good place to be old, lots going on
- Keeping active – better than any drug

Values

- Value of Self and each other
- Cherish our Children
- Still prize humour
- Kindness
- Active participation

Community Spirit

- More community spirit
- Sense of pride in our place
- Project to capture/record community voices
- Celebrate volunteers

Equality

- Equality for everyone
- Equality policy is implemented

Diversity

- Respect for difference/celebration of diversity
- Value & celebrate multiculturalism
- Promote & support everyone's culture – involve new communities – culture sharing
- Women of the World Group – sharing experience & culture

Natural Environment

- Respect & love of nature & environment
- Education about natural environment
- Fisheries Board to be active clearing rivers

Funding

- Fiscal contribution to enable people to engage in culture/tradition/crafts

Education & Awareness

- Link with KWETB to promote traditional crafts
- More access/funding towards: language, dance, crafts, sports

Irish Culture

- Fluidity to understanding of what it means to be Irish/Wicklow person
- Value & celebrate our Irish culture
- We want our society to promote our culture
- Bring our culture alive
- Folklore – keep and share
- Local history and culture recorded to pass on
- Capture information from older people, record them, Centre to do this

Inclusion

- Inclusive society ; everybody equal and can voice opinion

Heritage

- All Community centres should have goal to protect heritage of area. Avoid GDPR barrier
- Preserve Build Heritage

Civic Engagement

- PPN should have a seat on Heritage Forum
- Statutory Bodies need to involve Community reps.

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance

Consultation & Collaboration

- Respect members of community
- Promote better involvement on public consultations
- Genuine/meaningful public engagement
- Local Authority/Local Council to hear & meaningful respect for groups
- Consultation with children & young people
- Real collaboration
- Community want to be heard.
- Council to act in relation to what community is suggesting
- The County Council to communicate with the community – lines of communication to be open
- Want a better say in our communities especially re planning
- Councillors should engage with community – let people know what is planned

Community Support

- Support & coordinate local group development
- Someone to support groups
- Local Authority/Local Council to support local groups (resource staff & money)
- More recognition of voluntary work, volunteers supported

Bureaucracy

- Less bureaucracy, more efficient easier joined up [paperwork]
- Easier access to medical cards
- Too much responsibility/pressure on volunteers – H&S, child protection, GDPR etc

Elected Representatives

- Mandatory training for public representatives in participation, democracy & good governance
- Councillors to get more cultural awareness training
- A local TD that works for the community
- Active Committed Councillors

Housing

- Need local services, facilities & infrastructure to support housing
- Change in system Re renovation of council housing (6 month delay –govt will pay)
- Council to have own authority Re decision in housing etc

Transparency & Accountability

What authority?

A local government we can trust

- A question time for the public
- Tenders for public money to be published – person who is awarded the contract
- Stop point scoring
- Council sharing information freely
- Stop wasting money – bad spending
- End corruption in councils & statutory bodies
- Transparency & accountability of councillors
- Minutes to be published on line
- Openness & transparency of all publicly funded organisations
- More efficient in processing issues
- Community groups should have access to planners (just like developers can) save going to an Bord Pleanala

Local Sports Partnership more visible & helpful

PPN

- PPN could work, Council not listening to PPN reps or community groups
- PPN should be like parish council in England
- Councillors should engage with community – let people know what is planned. PPN can help with this.