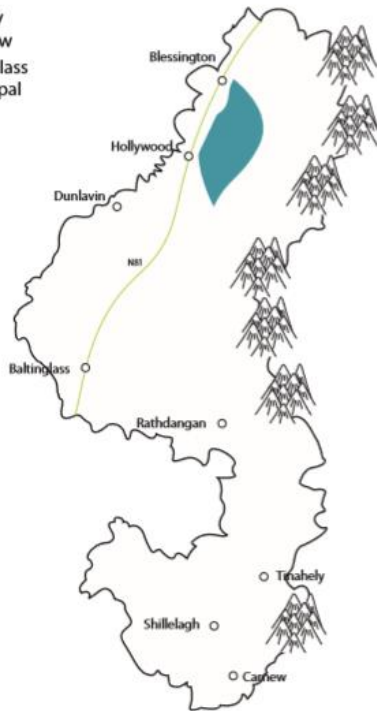


County  
Wicklow  
Baltinglass  
Municipal  
Area



# Let's Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in West & South Wicklow



What Community Groups said at the Co Wicklow PPN Community Workshops held in Hollywood Community Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and Carnew Community Care Centre on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018



## **Introduction**

Co Wicklow PPN has consulted with community groups in the Baltinglass Municipal District on their vision for West and South Wicklow (Baltinglass MD). As part of the consultation process Co Wicklow PPN held workshops in Hollywood and Carnew. An online consultation was also undertaken. Groups were asked -“What are your hopes and aspirations for your community in the future under the Community Wellbeing Headings”? Their responses are below.

*\*\* 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 Baltinglass Municipal District based on all the information provided through the consultation process

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

**Accessible services for all including people with disabilities**

**Respect, tolerance of different spiritual practices, faiths, creeds**

**Everyone in W Wicklow to have a good level of mental and physical health**

**Everyone to have a purpose in life**

**A community that looks after each other**

**Focus on prevention rather than cure at statutory and community level.**

## **Social Determinants**

- Access to means for a reasonable income (locally)
- Access to fresh air, clean water, healthy food, exercise
- Access to social & intergenerational activities

## **Facilities**

- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Public park/sensory gardens
- Designated signed walks
- Availability of inventive transport options.

## **Statutory Health**

- Adequate fully staffed health care centre (hospital, primary care centre) with mental health services
- Access to primary care (and transport/ access to it)
- Access to services, especially at weekends
- Woman's Refuge
- Adequate home help support
- Better respite services for carers
- Step down respite centre/care between home and long-term care
- Access to ambulance service
- Care of the carers

## **Other**

- Retention of the library services
- Special needs classes in all schools and sensory gardens in all communities

## **Cooperative**

- Conditions of Environment/Housing
- Need for special needs in our community to have a local service/advice/transport

## **Community Supports**

- Wellness days/programmes e.g. health heart for all age groups
- Greater engagement of community to act as comforters/advisors
- University of the third age
- Social functions
- Encourage friendship/carers group in community
- Form a group within our community (garda vetting a must) to visit elderly persons or families caring for children with special needs
- Community centre to meet up to stop loneliness
- Traditional music & dance
- Encourage chair exercises for elderly & encourage games, cards, bowling
- Good neighbours keep contact with people alone
- Social activities for the over 45s
- Community Health Provision
- Adequate resources to run community programmes
- Defibrillators and knowledge on how to use them
- Physical activities & clubs
- Sports for Life
- Community Cafe

## **Bureaucracy**

- Less bureaucracy and easier access to health supports

## **Education**

- To promote optimal mental health and wellbeing for all ages.

## **Participation Democracy & Good Governance**

**To have a national and local government which will fulfil its commitments and which will be transparent in its actions.**

## **Disenfranchised**

- West is the poor relation/forgotten
- Forgotten part of Wicklow
- **More than a Mountain Divides Wicklow East & West**
- No equality of resources or service delivery
- Where is West Wicklow?(forgotten)

- Services to be accessed by hinterland not county boundaries
- Communities interact regardless of county border

### **Participation**

- Everyone participating/working together
- Gender imbalance – no female councillors ever in West Wicklow
- Elderly to be included in all aspects of our community

### **Building a good foundation for the future**

#### **Good Governance**

- Accountability & Responsibility
- Sense of ownership
- Good local leadership
- Community development principles
- Building local capacity
- No Barriers to communication, connections & enterprise

#### **Grants**

- Knowledge needed of the availability of community grants
- Fixed dates for grants applications with a broad time line for submission
- Grants accessible, not restricted by borders
- Co. Wicklow Partnership to relocate to West Wicklow
- Support, engage local community to access grants
- Funding for governance
- Less bureaucracy for grants
- Equity of funding allocations across the county

#### **Red tape bureaucracy challenges**

- Less bureaucracy for grants, and local community development
- Charity status is not helping, it is inhibiting communities
- Less governance demands on charities
- Clear transparent local policies for community centre – support for groups to develop policy
- Different planning regulations across border, need to regularise

#### **Local Structures**

- District forums that really work that are community focused
- Having links with experienced 3<sup>rd</sup> parties that can offer help and assistance

#### **Local Authority physical presence & access to it**

- Rotate Council meetings across the county
- Encouragement from local Co. Council office
- Properly staffed local offices – day clinics
- Civic office in every town open regularly
- Caring Co Co officials i.e. local support/involvement from local office

- Support form WCC for local issues
- Community development support
- More clear information about the Co. Council
- More than one Co. Council person making decisions; engineer not so powerful. Community unites to have more say/influence

#### **Accountability of elected reps**

- No support from local councillors for community groups
- Election promises not kept (e.g. broadband promised 15 years ago)
- Have elected res familiar with the area

#### **Engaging with the local authority**

- Council structure easy to understand
- People can make the effort to engage with the Co Council
- Voice of PPN with local authority
- Opportunities to join Strategic Policy Committees & Public Participation Networks

#### **Valuing the work of Community Groups**

- Fair balance between tidy towns/volunteers/ Co Council
- Recognition for the work of tidy towns
- Recognition & support for the work that should be done by Co Council being done by volunteers

#### **Volunteering**

- Succession planning – people willing to step up
- People not being time poor
- The right people are willing to get involved
- Collaboration and coordination between groups
- Younger people involved in the community
- People willing to volunteer

#### **Services**

- Banks need to be more user friendly: keep credit unions

### **Social & Community Development**

**Preserve our own natural beauty/heritage: Retain its uniqueness**

**Community Pride**

**A place where the diaspora want to come home to – maintain the connection with the Irish diaspora**

**Maintaining a vibrant community**

**Develop the economy to keep people here**

## **Valuing Diversity**

### **County Council:**

- Need to be present on the ground in West Wicklow
- Be accountable and transparent
- Can't hand down Co. Council seat to family member
- More co-operation with Co. Council in relation to the upkeep of the villages
- Rates, discussed premises should be encouraged to open

## **More activity for young people**

### **To reduce social isolation**

### **To promote social inclusion**

## **A safe environment for vulnerable people to live, enjoy and participate**

### **Outdoor recreation:**

- Health walks
- Exercise park with stationary units
- Dog park

### **Public Transport**

- Rural Transport/connectivity
- Public transport designated stop
- Much improved rural transport

### **Local Facilities and infrastructure:**

- Need for a post office
- Tourist accommodation
- Safe walk and cycle ways
- Signposting
- Footpaths in villages
- WIFI hub
- Garda presence in area
- Road sweeper
- Adequate road infrastructure
- Accessible towns – shops, amenities, public spaces, sports facilities, public lighting, bus shelters.
- Local health services
- Continued and planned development of smaller urban centres to promote employment.

### **Community Initiatives**

- Community Hall
- Community Shop
- Festivals – music

- Drop in centre/social focus
- Intergenerational activities

### **Grants**

- Grants to buy buildings for community use, both young and old.
- Grants for clubs to supplement fees for low income families
- Grants for walkways – create and restore
- Access to Grants – make it easier for local communities to access grant and funding, local information person to give information about grants.

### **Local Services**

- Drugs project for those in addiction and support for families
- Staffed family resource centre in West Wicklow
- Women's refuge
- Need for more services in West Wicklow
- Community Development worker to provide supports for families and young people living in poverty
- Better publicity for existing services
- Childcare facilities
- Older people's groups
- Flexible education opportunities & funding

### **Community Development**

- Partnerships working well to support the community
- Rural groups as a focus of local knowledge
- Consultation re: planning to manage new estates etc.
- Overall community development worker to support groups and people with ideas
- Cut down bureaucracy
- Everyone working together
- Strong Community groups – with access to support
- Encouragement and support to think creatively to develop new models to promote viable rural communities.

### **Get rid of religion in School**

**Local Enterprise eg. photograph bus, craft, art, hillwalking, and heritage.**

## **Values, Culture & Meaning**

### **Community Spirit**

**Hold on to own & embrace all others**

**Good Nature & welcoming generosity/time**

**Nurture, hospitality, sharing, generosity, time**

## **Building On Our Heritage**

**Recognition of the impact that music, sport and other aspects of our cultural heritage have on our wellbeing.**

- Developing more sporting activities
- Links between St Kevin's Way and Camino way in Spain
- Walk way to St Kevin's statue
- Creating a walking culture
- QR codes for walks
- A proper tourist office in West Wicklow
- Tourism – coffee shop
- Community space (land), community orchard or garden
- Weekly trad session (share) tourism
- Community/culture centre where all members can share own values – music, arts, plays etc

## **Supporting Volunteering**

- Restoring, improving role & valuing volunteering
- Facilitate volunteering & to get involved

## **Social Inclusion/Open Welcoming Inclusive**

- Open & inclusive to all
- Our county to be disability inclusive
- Socially inclusive care on a constant basis for those most in need – elderly & disabled
- Embrace new cultures
- Education around other cultures
- All diversity is promoted
- Less racism
- Embrace diversity
- Proper English classes for Eastern Europeans and others
- Support vulnerable members of society
- Social Inclusion (lack of access to WiFi, Doctor, Wicklow Co CoO
- Old community and new community – work to have an inclusive and integrated society
- Centre to facilitate integration and structures to facilitate integration
- Signage: for towns, villages and townlands that identifies the area; that explains the background to the area; that welcomes and thanks people for visiting; use of English & Irish

## **Intergenerational**

- Give young people things to engage with
- Support young people to be empowered
- Provide intergenerational opportunities & culture
- QR (black box/bar code) codes for walks AR (augmented reality)/VR(virtual reality)

## **Education/Passing on Culture & Traditions**

- Raise awareness of culture & traditions



- Reminiscence project to capture local & oral history & traditions
- Set up a session where our older generations can tell their story
- Capture the history to inform future generations
- Provide information and access to local history
- Pass on our cures & sayings in a book
- Recognition of the contribution that local people has made in other countries where they have settled.

### **Preservation & Restoration**

- Irish language integrated, review as a compulsory subject
- Restore, preserve & celebrate our built heritage & ancient monuments
- Restore local culture, old place names and field names
- Preserve & protect the landscape, mountain life and experiences
- Promote respect for the area
- Hollywood Fair
- Preserve our agricultural heritage – (promoting clean countryside and green produce)

### **Community Development**

- Nurturing/fostering encouraging people to stay to develop business in local area
- Community Website/Billboards

### **Need for community policing**

## **Economy & Resources**

**An economy that supports access to adequate food, housing and opportunities for all.**

**A series of measures to show the absolute priority given to making life attractive enough that ambitious 20 -30 year olds will thrive when they stay in this country.**

### **Communications**

- High quality Broadband
- Poor Mobile Phone
- Coverage in West Wicklow
- Accessibility to Digital for older citizens

### **Employment and Enterprise Support**

- Lack of work opportunities in the locality
- Industry needed
- Council site in Blessington lying idle
- CE Schemes, gets work done – people into employment
- Encourage Local Enterprise (broadband, rate reductions, low cost rent for social enterprise)
- Hub for Social enterprise and small enterprise
- Establishment of shared working space e.g statutory/community/business
- Funding social enterprise to support local jobs and provide an opportunity for long term unemployed

- Affordable Childcare
- Local improvements aimed at people out of work; encourage uptake of this, CE schemes etc.
- Employment schemes used to support community groups/projects
- Enable community job creation
- Access to work/education for the young
- Enterprise Board: Have to sign up with Wicklow Enterprise Board but Carlow, Kildare, Dublin would be more convenient; Enterprise Board has no presence in West Wicklow; Enterprise Board only interested in manufacture/export, nothing for craft/home enterprise/sole trade.
- Develop artisan Food/Culture Markets. Buy local foods
- Craft Centre to maintain traditional crafts, plus tourism and jobs in museums etc.
- Chamber of commerce in West Wicklow
- Rural redevelopment grants; Leader, reduced match funding 50% = low support
- Flexibility in funding when clients (funding beneficiaries) need to change their plans to suit the needs of developing their projects.
- With improved economy difficulty filling CE scheme – essential services are under threat
- Need funded services – not reliant on employment schemes
- Make a big help to the area
- Promote green clean enterprises
- Community supported agriculture
- Promotion of organically grown local foods

### **Transport**

- Need improved, affordable public transport (tourism, work, education, independence for older people)
- High unemployment which will ultimately lead to poor mental health. No job prospects in Dunlavin – no transport out of it.
- Promote rural link bus – people don't know what time or where it stops.
- Alternative models for rural transport eg. especially for older people
- Link for small towns (ie. Dunlavin, Hollywood and Donard) to link up with national transport
- Lack of public transport -not a place to grow old
- Improve roads, N81 upgrade
- Safe provision for different road users, not just cars, pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Formal Planning**

- A town 'examination' re: infrastructure to improve and maybe build for our community . Feasibility study.
- Sustainable resource use and planning, such as for water that allows support housing and business development.

### **Resource Use**

- Valuing the long-term benefits over the short-term gains eg. Quarries

### **Education Supports**

- Need more flexible education so people can work part-time/study part-time with grant support

- Access to education for the young

#### **Isolation and exclusion**

- Lack of support from Wicklow County Council etc. All services and resources are in East Wicklow. [West Wicklow] should be a separate county with separate resources?
- West Wicklow forgotten
- Ageing population & isolation in farming – need all rural people to intermingle
- Accessibility for different user groups ie. Wheelchairs and buggies.

#### **Disadvantage**

- Wicklow Travellers group [has] no presence in West Wicklow. All power [is] in the east.
- Hidden pockets of deprivation in Wicklow communities, poor support for them. Working poor have no family resource centre in West Wicklow.

#### **Bureaucracy**

- Reduced development levies so small producers can sell produce
- Farming – too many restrictions let people use common sense (not farming to calendar)
- Too much regulation in farming – cull deer-antibiotics – TB – got TB under control
- TUS – less restrictions (health & safety) e.g. allow to use ladder & sprayer – let social inclusion participants remain long-term/decide what's best for individual
- Development levies the same in rural area as in Wicklow town
- Bank is cashless – can't lodge or withdraw – need full service

### **Environment & Sustainability**

**A Healthy Natural Environment that provides the people of West Wicklow with environmental services.**

#### **Pollutants**

##### **Water**

- Protect our water supply, mountains and streams
- Ensure a clean water supply for our community.

##### **Air**

- Ensure clean air

##### **Noise**

- Minimal noise pollution

#### **Natural Environment**

- Protect our mountains
- Don't make a concrete jungle
- Support our natural environment, e.g. with wildflower gardens, seed bombs and bug hotels
- Provide bird hides

- Preserve Fertile soil

### **Education**

- Develop knowledge of local flora and fauna
- Increase the level of education to promote sustainable environments and communities
- Keep the young people aware of local place names and traditions.
- Raising awareness that our quality of our life depends on the quality of our natural environment

### **Food production**

- Develop community allotments, orchards, gardens and bee hives.
- More locally grown food.

### **Renewable energy**

- Develop offshore wind and other renewable energy
- Support retro-fitting of homes with sustainable energy
- Community ownership of turbines (or any energy)

### **Heritage**

- Protect and restore hillforts and fund further excavation. Explore possible tourism potential.
- Provide safe public access to the rural environmental and heritage.
- Protect built heritage and provide grant aid to promote such work.
- Access to heritage / public ownership
- Wicklow Heritage Forum to place more emphasis on our natural environment.

### **Trees/ forests**

- Plant more hardwood forest; to help prevent landslides and flooding and support native wildlife.
- Reduce the planting of spruce and other evergreen trees.
- Protect trees and landscape change due to mass cutting. Stop unnecessary felling of trees, and use preservation orders to prevent loss of old beech and ash trees.
- Develop Coillte woods for better amenity and recreation provision; hiking, families, etc.

### **Dumping, littering and fouling**

- Prevent dumping
- A litter free environment (adequate litter bins), with clean roads and mountain paths and a “no littering” culture.
- No dog fouling of footpaths, with provision of disposal facilities and inspectors.
- Water bottles – charges – water pump

### **Recycling**

- Large recycling facility to handle paints, bulky waste,
- Inexpensive universal household recycling
- Ban plastic
- Deal with “conscious cup” issue
- Use empty industrial estates; do up old ones before new ones are built

- More accessible /local/nearer recycling centres
- Food waste campaign
- Make recycling easier to do
- More repair shops

#### **Access and recreational facilities**

- Use our natural resources free of charge for the community.
- Sensory gardens for those with dementia and special needs.
- More public footpaths across the countryside, not on roads.
- Access to lakes, streams & rivers.
- Better developed access to forests
- Nature trails, parks and playgrounds for children
- Provide picnic benches in the woods
- Increased parking provision for walkers and hikers (chargeable)
- Outdoor gyms and sensory gardens

#### **Safe environment**

- Lighting in towns and approaching roads.
- Designated well-lit safe walkways and cycle ways.

**Timebank** (where people trade skills and services)

#### **Planning**

**Very well planned urban areas built for wellbeing, with access to green spaces, communal areas, services and onfoot driverless ferry bus access, local produce for sale, more repair shops, waste recycling, extensive local online directories, fast speed broadband leading to more working from home offices.**

- **Application process too** Bureaucratic
- All aspects of environmental and sustainability to be included in the planning application at the outset.

#### **Carbon Storage**