



Sports & Recreation Partnership

Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt agus Áineasa Chill Mhantáin

— SPORT IRELAND —

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership

Strategic Plan

2020 - 2023

Community, Cultural, Social Development

SPC March 2021

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Partnership



Consultation Process

- A series of public, individual and focus group meetings and two online questionnaires (Resident Participant Survey and Club Survey), informed this strategic planning process

What did we hear?

- ❖ More information/promotion on what sports and physical activities are available and these activities must be affordable and close to where people live.
- ❖ The need for additional resources, for 'minority' sports,
- ❖ Large multi-use facilities in strategic locations especially where populations are increasing,
- ❖ Small community-based sports hubs needed,
- ❖ Enhanced use of the outdoors and access to existing facilities such as school grounds and harbours.
- ❖ A physical activity network to share facilities/increase awareness
- ❖ Volunteer supports – attracting, retaining & training
- ❖ Diverse people live in Wicklow, therefore, there needs to be diverse physical activity opportunities.
- ❖ More support is required for people with a disability, for older people and to help integrate new members in the community.
- ❖ There are perceptions of an imbalance in sports and physical activities opportunities between West and East Wicklow and between North and South Wicklow.
- ❖ Teachers need support to realise the benefit of sport and PA as part of their school process.

Sports and Physical Activities Participation

- Participation means everyone. From pre-school years to late in life, sports and physical activities should be a regular, enjoyable and rewarding part of our lives.
- Our role in the Partnership is to identify gaps in sports and physical activities opportunities. Practical gaps which prevent some from participating, or gaps where providers are restrained by a lack of resources or know-how.
- While our mountains and wilderness are a tremendous resource for outdoor sports and physical activities, they also physically divide our county. We must continue to respond to the different sports and physical activity needs and resources in North, South, East and West County Wicklow.

Our Strategy

Our Vision

- ❖ 'More people enjoying taking part'.

Mission

- ❖ We have three complementary missions:
 - ✓ Encouraging fun in sports and physical activity
 - ✓ Inspire participation amongst the less active.
 - ✓ Supporting providers of sports and physical activities.

Our Goal

- ❖ 'More quality sports and physical activities opportunities'.
 - ✓ To get more people taking part in sports and physical activities, we need more quality and diverse participation opportunities nearby.



Our Operating Principles

- **Collaboration:** no one has all of the answers, but collaboration brings us closer to them.
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- **Coordination:** Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership will directly provide some sports and physical activities but increasingly we will support others to develop, promote and realise their appropriate programmes.
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- **Creativity and Innovation:** while we will support existing effective sports and physical activities, we must also be clever and imaginative in our approach especially if we are to appeal to those on the margins.
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- Less delivery, more strategic **leveraging** with clubs, communities, schools and others so that they can deliver the variety, visibility and localness of sports and physical activities.
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- **Long Term** and self-sustaining initiatives. While it can take longer to select, refine and deliver these long-term initiatives, their impact is substantial and they can be life-changing.
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- **Research** an agenda structured by sports and physical activities data, experience and insights.

Infrastructure

- Engaging with the Municipal Districts regarding local sports and physical activities facilities.
- More shared, multi-use and multi-sports facilities.
- Researching a model of fundamental sports and physical activities facilities in small communities.
- Increased use of our maritime outdoors.
- Increased collaboration and access to existing sports facilities, school sports facilities, and neighbouring county sports facilities.

Action Areas

County Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership Action Plan



Diverse Opportunities

- Signature and Community Events.
- More Diversity, More Inclusion.
- Priority Locations and Activities.
- Target Groups.
- A Positive Culture and Awareness.
- Programmes.
- Promote Providers, Grow Tutors.



Research & Communications

- Wicklow & External Research.
- Data Management.
- Communications Plan.
- Increase Awareness & Inspire.

Good Places, Great People

- Facility Planning & Collaboration.
- Realise & Revitalise Facilities.
- Accessible Places.
- Outdoor Recreation.
- Volunteer Training & Education.
- Continuing Professional Development.



Standards and Resources

- Governance & Administration Guidance.
- WLSP Committee Procedures.
- WLSP Work Plan & Operating Procedures.
- Funding, Resource Planning & Accounting.
- Secure Staff Contracts and SIDO Post.
- Partner Action Plan.



Diverse Opportunities

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
<p>Our community.</p> <p>We have a varied community in County Wicklow.</p> <p>Outcome: clear pathways for everyone in our community to engage with and sustain sports and physical activities participation.</p>	1.1 A signature event with a lead-in and opportunities for continuation.	Realise, at least one significant annual sports and physical activities event with lead-in participation events, which provides a positive experience and opportunities for follow up participation.	An annual sports and physical activities event which has a broad appeal across the community and county.	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow Co. Co. Clubs & NGBs.
	1.2 Local community events with lead-in and continuation opportunities.	Engage with at least three communities per annum to host local event/s which provide positive experiences and support opportunities for sustained participation.	Three community-specific events which engage and sustain local participation.	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Groups. CYPSC.
<p>Varied participation opportunities.</p> <p>Different activities for different people.</p> <p>Outcome: Ongoing clarity regarding the sports and physical activities options and increased activity choice especially for the less active.</p>	1.3 Evaluate: update our profile of the different sports and physical activities which are available in or near County Wicklow.	<p>Provide a clear public perspective on what is available and where.</p> <p>Evaluate where there are location and availability gaps of particular sports and physical activities.</p>	<p>Online activity and provider list which can be searched by sport or location and which is updated every two years.</p> <p>A gap analysis of the priority locations and activities where action is required, every two years.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private/commercial Providers. Clubs. Wicklow Co. Co.
	1.4 Identify: use our research and other's experiences, to promote and support additional sports and physical activities.	Commence new sports and physical activities which are relevant to our community.	An annual minority sports and physical activities, priority development actions and partners.	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs. County Wicklow Partnership – RRO. LSP network.

Diverse Opportunities

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Programme provision. Outcome: continued provision of effective WSRP programmes.	1.5 Programmes: which provide a participant focused sport or physical activity opportunity.	<p>Evaluate our current programmes and identify any gaps.</p> <p>Align relevant locations, groups or individuals with our programmes and secure the necessary resources.</p> <p>Include everyone.</p>	<p>Programme evaluation report every two years.</p> <p>Develop new programmes in response to any gaps.</p> <p>A twice-yearly programming timetable.</p> <p>Respond to programme requests as resources allow.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups. CYPSC. Clubs. NGBs.
	1.6 Focus on the periphery. Programming for the economically, socially and geographically marginalised.	<p>Continue to support low participation target groups.</p> <p>Commit to and apply appropriate metrics to measure our engagement and the impact of our actions amongst target groups.</p>	<p>A priority target group for each of the years of the strategy.</p> <p>A continued and expanded WSRP range of programmes.</p> <p>Engagement with all target groups.</p> <p>Report every two years on our target group impact.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CYPSC. Wicklow Co. Co. Representative bodies. Healthy Wicklow.
	1.7 A Covid 19 response.	<p>Reevaluate our programmes in light of the impact of Covid 19 and regarding vulnerable participants.</p>	<p>A Covid-19 programme action plan.</p> <p>Supporting Covid-19 communications to our network.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups. CYPSC. Clubs. NGBs.

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Inclusion Outcome: structures and creative participation opportunities for people with a disability.	1.8 Provide and sustain participation for people with a disability.	Monitor and update local sports and physical activities structures and programmes for people with a disability.	On demand provision of sports and physical activities programmes for people with a disability.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Federation of Ireland. CARA. CYPSC. Clubs. Healthy Wicklow. SIDO Network.
Positive, quality and diverse opportunities. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A positive, enjoyable and inclusive sports and physical activities culture. WSRP working within a network of clubs, communities, schools, private/commercial providers, informal groups and tutors to expand the range of opportunities. 	1.9 Culture: sports and physical activities as a positive experience.	Compose a distinct and concise message about positive experiences and personal growth for everyone through sports and physical activities. Promote this message through all of our actions.	A sports and physical activities positive experience tagline and culture.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs.
	2.0 Sports and physical activities providers include clubs, communities, schools, commercial and informal meet and train type groups.	Coordinate and work via all provider types to grow and sustain participation.	Online club, community, and commercial sports and physical activities provider contacts. Local provider contact information available at all WSRP events and activities. Where possible working with and growing the capacity of tutors and providers to deliver all of WSRP initiatives and programmes.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Wicklow Partnership – RRO. Wicklow Co. Co. Private/commercial Providers. LSP Network.
Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
	2.1 Tutors: employed directly or indirectly by WSRP, tutors are skilled individuals who deliver specific programmes and activities.	Transition to the use of tutors for the direct delivery of any WSRP activities and programmes. We will connect tutors with communities and others who may benefit from their skills.	Annual online physical activity provider contact list. Annual tutor continuing professional development training or new tutor engagement priorities. Align appropriate tutors with programmes and communities.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private/commercial Providers.

Good Places and Great People

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Facilities: The places where sports and physical activities happens. Outcome: a broad range of places for sports and physical activities.	2.1 Planning and provision of indoor and outdoor sports and physical activities facilities in a variety of settings.	<p>Partner with others to audit the gaps and priorities in sports and physical activities facilities in the county.</p> <p>Engage with the network annually to identify the issues and opportunities.</p> <p>Respond to communities, clubs and schools seeking to expand access to existing sports and physical activities facilities.</p>	<p>Annual online and open evening sports and physical activities forum on facility and programme needs.</p> <p>Sports and physical activities facility priority development plan with an urban and a rural focus.</p> <p>Principles and supports for facility collaboration.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow Co. Co. County Wicklow Partnership. Private/commercial Providers. Clubs. NGBs. Healthy Wicklow.
	2.2 New and revitalised sports and physical activities facilities.	<p>Encourage and work with others to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> realise new sports and physical activities facilities. revitalise existing sports facilities. 	<p>Profiles of infrastructure and equipment funding opportunities.</p> <p>Online facility management and programming guidelines.</p>	<p>Wicklow Co. Co.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland Active.
	2.3 Outdoor Recreation Facilities.	<p>Work with others to:</p> <p>Compile a database of existing local outdoor recreation facilities such as parks, coastal and rural areas.</p> <p>Increase awareness and engagement with local outdoor recreation spaces by engaging with schools, communities and others.</p>	<p>Outdoor recreation facility map of the county.</p> <p>'Urban Outdoors' activity programme.</p> <p>Community based walking, cycle and water trail development process.</p>	<p>County Wicklow Partnership – RRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. Wicklow Co. Co. Wicklow Tourism. Sport Ireland Outdoors.

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Accessibility. Outcome: opportunities for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.	2.4 Sports and physical activities access for all abilities.	Advocate for individuals with a disability to have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improved access to existing facilities. appropriate access to the proposed new facilities. 	Annual accessibility awareness-raising and action prompts. An 'Outdoors Now' plan with outdoor facilities for people with a disability.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARA. Disability Federation of Ireland. Wicklow Co. Co. Sport Ireland. Healthy Wicklow. SIDO Network.
Training and Education 1. Outcome: competent confident volunteers and staff.	2.5 Growing the competence and confidence of those who deliver sports and physical activities.	Continued provision of multi-sport coach training. Provide tangible supports for club volunteer training.	An annual timetable of first aid, safeguarding children and other multi-sport support programmes. Volunteer training grant support process. Support generic sports and physical activities training programme. Respond to club requests for training supports.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private/commercial Providers. NGBs. Sport Ireland Coaching.
	2.6 Working with NGBs and clubs to support volunteers.	Work with clubs to target and complete coach sport-specific training.		NGBs.
	2.7 Support educators to promote and provide sports and physical activities.	Provide resources for additional sports and physical activities initiatives which fit within the time and facility constraints of schools.	Twice annual school specific schedule of activities provided to schools.	Schools & Third level providers.
	2.8 Supporting best practice in sports and physical activities amongst all providers.	Share emerging sports and physical activities evidence based research and best practice.	Annual multi-sport conference and workshops.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private/commercial Providers. NGBs.
Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Training and Education 2. Outcome: Wicklow Sport Partnership staff training provision.	2.9 Responding to our continuing professional development (CPD), needs.	Compile and respond to WSRP staff CPD needs.	Annual WSRP staff CPD needs review and action plan.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.

Research and Communications

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Research Outcome: a clear perspective on what we and others do or need to do.	3.1 Profile of participation in WSRP and related activities.	Identify the demographic details of participants on WSRP courses and programmes. Analyse data to identify emerging trends and insights.	Participation data capture template. Annual participation numbers, trends and insights outline.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGBs. • Sport Ireland.
	3.2 Monitor and support external and partnered research.	Monitor and evaluate external research regarding sports and physical activities participation and programmes. Partner with others to identify and secure funding for focused research into sports and physical activities participation in County Wicklow.	Identify and synthesise three relevant research sources per annum. Undertake one partnered research project into participation over the lifetime of this strategy.	Sport Ireland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGBs. • Third level education providers.
Data. Outcome: the effective management and use of our data.	3.3 Compiling and storing our data and complying with our obligations.	Structure and pursue opportunities to improve our data storage and management approach.	Data management review.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Ireland. • Wicklow County Council.

Research and Communications

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Inspire. Outcome: creating and sustaining a vibrancy around sports and physical activities participation in the county.	3.5 Keep sports and physical activities on the agenda of our community.	Compose an appropriate activity message for the county and promote it. Provide more communications support to our partners so that their sports and physical activities messages are visible and meaningful.	Monthly County Wicklow activity agenda and message.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wicklow Co. Co.• CYPSC.• Healthy Wicklow Coordinator.
European Opportunities. Outcome: A European perspective and benefit.	3.6 Active in Europe. EU sourced research, funding, training and programme opportunities.	Actively pursue opportunities for further sports and physical activities benefit from our membership of the European Union. Engage with organisations in County Wicklow to partner and benefit from EU sports and physical activities initiatives.	Annual European Week of Sport initiative. Identify an appropriate submission and partnership process under the Erasmus+, Pilot Projects or other relevant EU initiatives over the life-time of this strategy. Support sports and physical activities providers in their European objectives.	Sport Ireland, EU Funding Manager. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.• NGBs.

Standards and Resources

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Governance, Safety and Administration. Outcome: effective and transparent operations.	4.1 Appropriate levels of governance in all of County Wicklow's sports network.	Promote and support adherence to Sport National Governing Body governance requirements and the Governance Code.	Respond to organisations seeking to enhance their governance. Online availability of governance resources.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Ireland. NGBs.
	4.2 Child protection awareness and training.	Provide assistance for all of County Wicklow's sports and physical activities network in meeting their child protection awareness responsibilities.	Safeguarding children training programmes.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Ireland.
	4.3 Supporting sports and physical activities administration in the county.	Provide insights and information for organisations, especially those in the start-up phase, to improve their administration structures and actions.	Online administration development guidelines and supports.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs.

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership Governance, Standards and resources. Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued and additional resources. Efficient and a transparent use of resources. 	4.4 Making best use of WSRP's resources and leading by example.	Continued effective functioning of our Committee of the sports partnership. Effective and applied operating procedures. Appropriate financial allocation and monitoring.	WSRP Committee meeting timetable, Annual General Meeting and executive reporting process. Monitor WSRP Committee skill requirements and appoint or co-opt additional representatives as required. Review, update and apply our operating procedures each year. Annual WSRP work plan with six-month reviews and reporting. Annual accounting and auditing process. Publish annual accounts and report on the actions of the WSRP.	Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Ireland. Wicklow Co. Co.

Standards and Resources

Action Area and Outcome	Focus	Actions	Outputs	Lead and Partners
Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership Governance, Standards and resources Contd.	4.5 Secure resources to fulfil our obligations and to realise this strategy.	<p>Identify annual funding priorities.</p> <p>Pursue emergent funding opportunities as appropriate.</p> <p>Advocate and support appropriate partner funding applications.</p> <p>Continue to secure funding from Sport Ireland and our core Partners.</p> <p>Attract additional funding opportunities locally and nationally.</p>	<p>Identify priority funding applications every six months.</p> <p>Pursue relevant emerging funding opportunities as they arise.</p> <p>Annual resource planning workshop by the executive and committee of the sports partnership members.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Ireland. Wicklow Co. Co. Healthy Wicklow Coordinator. HSE.
	4.6 Increase the ability of the Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership to support accessibility to sports and physical activities.	<p>Identify an appropriate staff retention structure and resources.</p> <p>Pursue funding supports for a Sports Inclusion Disability Officer.</p>	<p>Secure full-time staff contracts.</p> <p>Employ a Sports Inclusion Disability Officer.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport Ireland. HSE. Wicklow Co. Co. Healthy Wicklow.
Partnership. Outcome: partnership objectives, commitments and follow through.	4.7 Partnership action at the core.	<p>Review and evaluate our current partnerships.</p> <p>Formalise, amend, clarify or establish partnership objectives as required.</p>	<p>Partner review and action plan.</p> <p>Two-year review of partnership commitments and opportunities.</p>	<p>Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership.</p>

Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Committee

- Service Providers
- Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board
- County Wicklow Partnership (RRO)
- Wicklow County Council
- Wicklow Uplands Council
- Children and Young People Services Committee
- Elected Representatives
- Co Wicklow Older Persons Council
- Public Participation Network
- National Governing Body Representative
- An Garda Síochana

Thank You – Aisling Hubbard
Coordinator, Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership