Arklow MD

23rd May 2022

Let's Develop our Vision for our Community

Participation Democracy and Good Governance

More resources

discretionary spending at council level has been reduced enormously.

Accountability & Transparency

People vote in public reps, one person one vote, good representation, value for money.

Information – Promoting Understanding

Lack of understanding of role of councillors.

More of these meetings.

Local Decision Making

Lost town councils is a negative each town should have its own town council.

Public Reps are not distributed widely.

There needs to be a link between local reps and public.

No contact between people and councillors

Aughrim to have a town council.

Should be a town council in Arklow.

Less national government more local.

Good Governance

Being able to display governance.

Deliberative Democracy

County managers and executives have most of the power.

There needs to be a link between local reps and public.

No contact between people and councillors

Public Participation poor alot of people not taking up the offers of participation.

People power - encourage people to take action.

People in general feel disconnected from democracy.

County councillors need to be more accessible.

People using their vote because they feel removed from democracy.

Difficult to communicate with local reps local reps need to make themselves available.

Hold clinic in smaller towns.

Local reps make out they have more power. more changeover of power at local level. community disjoint from local reps.

More of these meetings.

Only at voting time are asked to participate.

Communication

Communication.

Motivate people by more communication.

Open and two-way communication.

Feedback from this group, list ideas – reported.

Hold clinic in smaller towns.

Lack of information publish minutes of meetings widely.

More of these meetings.

Respect & Inclusion

participation can be hampered by the fear of new people joining groups or fear of existing people in groups.

Leadership

County councillors need basic leadership training (LIFT).

Apathy in general perhaps. lack of interest. disempowerment - powerlessness.

Poor turn out of County Councillors.

Participatory democracy – more communication & engagement between the public and local government – decision making in partnership with local communities

Values, Culture & Meaning

==You cannot be judgmental of the past by today's standards as we are constantly working on encouraging and improving our communities.==

Connectivity/Sociability

Ireland has a huge level of volunteers as we are a very generous community with our time. This way we can hold onto our culture.

Inclusion

Cultural days in schools to support young people to identify new communities, this broadens their minds.

Each village or town in the county should have its own Cultural Center this would support future generations.

To help people to feel included we in each organization must show and nurture people within the organization.

Young people now in school and being raised interculturally and inclusively that they do not see difference and they're learning about so many different cultures.

Reduce segregation between generations.

We need to support and educate the older generations to become more aware of different communities i.e., LGBTI + and disabilities etc.

Communication & Awareness Raising

Funding to communicate and create awareness of different organisations or radio / newspapers to provide a free section for volunteer organizations.

need to raise awareness to help people feel included, aware and valued - cultural community groups.

Let everyone know what's going on newsletter for those not on Internet. Meeting of organisations monthly, e.g., like social inclusion network in Presbyterian Church.

Feedback to participants of this meeting in a timely manner to ensure further action and discussion.

We need to support and educate the older generations to become more aware of different communities i.e., LGBTI + and disabilities etc.

Mutual Respect

The lack of empathy from council employees.

Respect for the Irish flag and national anthem this shows respect for our culture and country.

Respect for immigrants, refugees.

Be slow to judge.

Integration

Adapting to international people coming to this country to respect culture, values, and difference. But not negative, we should not have to change.

teaching people from a young age to understand other people's point of view and anyone that comes to Ireland educate them in our ways e.g., Traits, customs etc.

To help people to feel included we in each organization must show and nurture people within the organization.

Smaller communities are much better at intersectionality which leads to greater acceptance and awareness of lots of different groups of people.

Protecting Local Heritage/Placemaking

Important part of our local culture to pass on is our maritime history.

Each village or town in the county should have its own Cultural Center this would support future generations.

Traditions of music and Irish culture we should keep sharing it.

To help people feel included is to teach music traditional.

Walks outdoors advertise looped walks etc. with restaurants hotels B&B's etc. the Greenway walks.

Nonalcoholic venues for young people and adults to meet up - i.e., cafes etc.

To recognize buildings that are not in full use and repurpose them for community use.

important culture tradition of language crafts and farming.

Arklow has a lot of activities to feel included already. But if we could work on activities (free of charge) for physical outdoor activities. Cycle Tracks would be very good.

To learn about the local history and local sayings - Hungry Hill, Love Lane, Navvy Hill/Bridge.

How we can link our culture into our education system to support young people to feel.

Irish language is a substantial part of young people's future and is a great value in our culture.

To preserve our culture, to hand it on to our next generation i.e. Sports GAA, Irish Music Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

Value of sport cannot be overemphasized.

Respect for the Irish flag and national anthem this shows respect for our culture and country.

Fisheries culture to be passed on.

Health & Wellbeing

Value of sport cannot be overemphasized.

Resourcing

A new bridge to support local people.

To feel included is to provide free activities and find a way to advertise them.

Nonalcoholic venues for young people and adults to meet up - i.e., cafes etc.

To maintain and develop local services i.e., Tidy Towns, Maritime Museum, Pottery Museum. To pass on to younger generations.

Arklow has a lot of activities to feel included already. But if we could work on activities (free of charge) for physical outdoor activities. Cycle Tracks would be very good.

Sustainable Development

To recognize buildings that are not in full use and repurpose them for community use.

To maintain and develop local services i.e., Tidy Towns, Maritime Museum, Pottery Museum. To pass on to younger generations.

Policy & Practice

Start from the top down, start at the council level then work down to people in the community.

Young people now in school and being raised interculturally and inclusively that they do not see difference and they're learning about so many different cultures.

Respect, inclusion, and integration for all members of the community.

Placemaking- built, natural and social integration

Social & Community Development

Equality & Inclusion

Challenge getting different types of Job

Attitudes – visibility is best way of tackling social attitudes e.g., campaign for marriage equality – people form different backgrounds more visible e.g., Traveller, working women – gender pay gap –

KWETB phones course – elderly abuse/to not know/to assume knowledge of online – fear of scams – good idea to get students to work with elderly (TY students) young people have the knowledge

Autistic community - every town and village autism friendly - open ? - employment for people with disabilities community support and respite for family - young people could live independently

Assisted living housing for young people with disability or elderly supported by health care

Discrimination against those who are computer illiterate – cheaper to get things online e.g., insurance, internet banking

Not everyone is involved in sport/music/artist but still needs to be space for people to connect with these in the same way -need people in the background – give credit to everyone's contribution

Physical or mental disabilities should not be a barrier to engagement

Accessibility

Challenge getting different types of Job

Discrimination against those who are computer illiterate – cheaper to get things online e.g., insurance, internet banking

Physical or mental disabilities should not be a barrier to engagement

Need events, supports that are open/accessible

Physical structures – Co Council refurbishments consider Wheelchair users and people with disabilities

Elderly people need to get town bus to go around Arklow but was not supported – now people don't have cars at the moment – give people their independence to prevent isolation – keep visible

Accessible walking routes – wheelchairs and buggy's

Assisted living housing for young people with disability or elderly supported by health care

Capacity Building

KWETB phones course – elderly abuse/to not know/to assume knowledge of online – fear of scams – good idea to get students to work with elderly (TY students) young people have the knowledge

Assume if I can do it then others can do it

People come to propose an idea & can be supported by others who have expertise

People don't have confidence to make first move especially if finances are involved – if setting up a support org/business difficult to get people on board to help out – people get burnt out

Community Supports/Services

Events at the library for the elderly

Citizens info – should be more visible & bigger service – merge with other services in one building

Friendships/talking/networking – centres, premises, facilitators

Community places/coffee morning for surveys. Community café environment where someone can offer help where needed

Young people & elderly e.g., DIY in the home, skill sharing among peers

People feel comfortable accessing the support & be proactive about using them

Services needed – medical surgeries – no doctor in Aughrim, HSE office in Aughrim has not been open

Consultants being available on local basis (would make a difference to all ages)

Services for young people – the colour club

Mental health services from an early age

Facilities for new parents

KWETB phones course – elderly abuse/to not know/to assume knowledge of online – fear of scams – good idea to get students to work with elderly (TY students) young people have the knowledge

Solas – good peer support

Coral leisure – community availability of services – community bonding

Take part in voluntary activities e.g., tidy towns – how to tempt people into it – Co Wicklow Volunteer Bureau – ICA is long gone from Arklow -? active in Avoca

Community events – Sinead Doyle form council- community clean up where council provided the equipment – 100 people turned up- each group had a km to clean up – very positive effect – huge amount of rubbish collected – Pure Mile organisation

Tidytowns did seed sowing with Ukrainians

Anything that brings community together for an event

Primary health centre is good but would be great if you didn't have to travel

No support group for young people overcoming addiction facilities for people who are homeless – undercounting due to couch searching

Transport

Importance of transport – local links

Climate change demands public transport to Vincents/Loughlinstown hospital

Elderly people need to get town bus to go around Arklow but was not supported – now people don't have cars at the moment – give people their independence to prevent isolation – keep visible

Communication facility – keep people in the area – local link bus that goes around the town even every other day. Need more local transport because cars becoming more expensive to run

Communication & Coordination

Kind about community groups (visibility) – elderly – MS support group – social media not enough to encourage people to use support groups

Orgs are independent & mutually dependent at the same time

Lots of organisations in the town – play a major role in inclusivity awareness of these organisations

More efficient civil servants that answer you back first-time round

No Wicklow People/no minutes being put up – public meetings should be streamed – no journalists for Wicklow people

Topics that are brought up on Joe Duffy – accountability/visibility – need for correct information – forum for discussing difficult issues. Prevent isolation of people with these issues. Makes people consciously think about how this affects our local community

Voluntary groups meet up regularly to share info e.g., social inclusion network

Covid has made people nervous about going into people's homes - Media is responsible – continuous bombardment of negativity – should be doing the opposite now – encouraging people out.

Community notice board – updated on a monthly basis – library window or newsletter to show what services we have, lots of people are not computer literate

Make more use of technology – survey people (short) what do people want, 5 questions max

Transparency & Accountability

People kept away by cost – getting there – insurance e.g. miners cross, during virus had to insure 3 graveyards in Avoca, paid insurance & got no money back, now struggling because no one to do the work and still paying insurance – why are the council not taking responsibility for the graveyards maintenance & upkeep even thought they are making the rules (loads of conditions relating to work done – what are the council doing with money them make on cost of new grave?

How unfair points system is re housing – Co Council afraid to let people know for fear of influx – equality issues

Topics that are brought up on Joe Duffy – accountability/visibility – need for correct information – forum for discussing difficult issues. Prevent isolation of people with these issues. Makes people consciously think about how this affects our local community

Placemaking

Cannot use north beach – no access for locals – public access – coastal path needed – north quay to Ennereilly needs to continue on from Greystones – Wicklow all the way down to Arklow – join with the greenway to Shillelagh

Connectedness

Orgs are independent & mutually dependent at the same time

Not everyone is involved in sport/music/artist but still needs to be space for people to connect with these in the same way -need people in the background – give credit to everyone's contribution

Housing

Assisted living housing for young people with disability or elderly supported by health care

No support group for young people overcoming addiction facilities for people who are homeless – undercounting due to couch searching

How unfair points system is re housing – Co Council afraid to let people know for fear of influx – equality issues

Resources & Infrastructure

More support for existing organisations so valuable services are not lost

Centres for people to come & congregate – community facilities down to the basics

Problem is insurance, people are so afraid of people taking advantage and making claims. Insurance should not be as high on the priority list Re public liability insurance for events like public clean up. Cost of insurance is prohibitive – support from council for startup costs.

More financial support for voluntary groups – affordable spaces

Funding- grants for the organisations

Very little parking in Arklow – free parking until 11am to use services e.g., bank

Friendships/talking/networking – centres, premises, facilitators

Recreation centres – use empty buildings –for young people/elderly

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Funding for service including voluntary & non-profit groups especially premises – fundraising takes so much manpower

Volunteer drivers for cancer support for Arklow only but not for surrounding areas

Outside gym equipment

Health & Wellbeing

Covid has made people nervous about going into people's homes - Media is responsible – continuous bombardment of negativity – should be doing the opposite now – encouraging people out.

Covid has hidden people away, still fear – encourage people back out

Mental health services from an early age

Consultants being available on local basis (would make a difference to all ages)

Primary health centre is good but would be great if you didn't have to travel

Outside gym equipment

Accessible walking routes – wheelchairs and buggy's

Walks around roadstone – out Wexford road

Autistic community - every town and village autism friendly - open ? - employment for people with disabilities community support and respite for family - young people could live independently

No support group for young people overcoming addiction facilities for people who are homeless – undercounting due to couch searching

Participation & Democracy

Local health centre best idea in a long time rather than having to travel to big city – move away from centralisation – bad impact on local authorities – people up rather than top down – bring people with you – consult people on the ground involved in the work

Make more use of technology – survey people (short) what do people want, 5 questions max

Community places/coffee morning for surveys. Community café environment where someone can offer help where needed

Topics that are brought up on Joe Duffy – accountability/visibility – need for correct information – forum for discussing difficult issues. Prevent isolation of people with these issues. Makes people consciously think about how this affects our local community

Disscisions coming form the ground up – community development programmes based on consultation with people – not the case with the local partnership

Policy & Practice

People kept away by cost – getting there – insurance e.g. miners cross, during virus had to insure 3 graveyards in Avoca, paid insurance & got no money back, now struggling because no one to do the work and still paying insurance – why are the council not taking responsibility for the graveyards maintenance & upkeep even thought they are making the rules (loads of conditions relating to work done – what are the council doing with money them make on cost of new grave?

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Sustainable Development

Climate change demands public transport to Vincents/Loughlinstown hospital

Supportive Community

Service provision locally – accessibility to

Equality & inclusion

Communications

Health (physical & mental) & wellbeing

Supportive housing/policy

Environment and Sustainability

Leadership

More available expertise in the local authority to advise.

Environmental Protection

Resource protection against coastal erosion.

Preservation of our trees woods and forests ensure tree planting.

Better water quality.

More initiatives to clean up our rivers.

Encourage more interaction with coast watch initiatives.

More resources to maintain our beaches.

Development e.g., Riverwalk that encourages care of the environment. Celebrate these successes.

Resources

Support for residents who pick up the refuse, cost of disposal shouldn't be at personal expense.

Make outlook an app for biodiversity (Mary Reynolds Initiative).

More available expertise in the local authority to advise.

More resources to maintain our beaches.

Communication

Put vision for community wellbeing data and information into libraries.

Transparency & Accountability

Public need to know if trees are going to be removed.

More tree protection, tree protection notices clearly visible at sites.

Sustainable Transport

Local link buses - connectivity for communities and positive environment impact.

Less car use, less big car use.

Sustainable Behaviour

Preservation of our trees woods and forests ensure tree planting.

reduce reuse recycle.

Retailers and manufacturers packaging must be recyclable and compostable.

Stop wasting water, all houses should have a water butt.

Environmental Access

support the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway - Woodenbridge to Aughrim.

More opportunities for interaction with nature e.g., opening up old mass paths, link it to heritage woods and forests.

Making nature more accessible.

Education & Capacity Building

Encourage our young people to value our environment.

More use of organisations such as universities to help and advise.

Introduce an environmental course subject within secondary schools, make it mandatory.

Environmental education for all citizens.

Support the tidy towns and help them to interact more with other groups more e.g., Sunbeam and local schools.

More information about how things are recycled disposed of.

Waste Management

Initiatives and incentives to stop littering - use the bin, license bins.

Initiatives and incentives to encourage recycling.

Encourage and support pure mild community cleanups.

encourage use of reusable items EG nappies etc.

reduce reuse recycle.

ban plastic bottles incentivise return of glass bottles.

Initiatives to stop dumping e.g., mattress amnesties, heavy plastics i.e. toys.

Retailers and manufacturers packaging must be recyclable and compostable.

Stop filling up the Bog areas with housing debris.

Bottle banks and recycle collection needed in Aughrim and every local community.

Arklow - Transport to bottle bank an issue.

Stop dog fouling.

Regular incentives to reenergize people to reduce reuse and recycle.

More information about how things are recycled disposed of.

Planning & Development

That planning ensures our built environment connects flows to the whole community/area - Holistic planning with a view to the future.

sheltered supportive assisted housing.

Review revise the land use laws.

Biodiversity

Preservation of our trees woods and forests ensure tree planting.

More physical green connections between local areas.

Encourage people / incentives to keep back some of their lawn for wildlife / biodiversity.

More tree protection, tree protection notices clearly visible at sites.

Make outlook an app for biodiversity (Mary Reynolds Initiative).

Policy & Practise

Implement the policies tree policies etc.

Enforce the laws.

More tree protection, tree protection notices clearly visible at sites.

Sensible laws / development - working with the landowners, insurance liability reduce the impact.

Placemaking

That planning ensures our built environment connects flows to the whole community/area - Holistic planning with a view to the future.

sheltered supportive assisted housing.

More spaces to connect focus on revitalizing our town centers.

Ensure green spaces within our town centers.

More physical green connections between local areas.

More opportunities for interaction with nature e.g., opening up old mass paths, link it to heritage woods and forests.

Development e.g., Riverwalk that encourages care of the environment. Celebrate these successes.

Deliberative Democracy

More communication more dialogue more use of local knowledge and experience.

Preservation, protection, resourcing – local expertise

Communication/education

Sustainable behaviors

Holistic planning & policy development – implantation

Connection/Accessibility with environment.

Economy & Resources

Tourism

Events to attract people into the town

Develop tourism: Arklow area is very beautiful – Glenart wood, Ballyfad wood, Ballymoyle Hill, Tara Hill, Kilcarra village has heritage to be seen

Attractiveness of infrastructure (derelict buildings!)

More electric charge points especially in tourist locations

Benefits of Arklow e.g., new sewage plant, need to brand Arklow maritime town, Avoca Copper mines

Capture the tourists and keep them here

Leverage local resources e.g., Avoca mines as tourist destination & so create jobs, learn from other countries

Transport Infrastructure

Rail infrastructure -increase services south of Greystones, have people able to commute to Arklow

Shuttle train up and down on rail line

Road network north to south, why not east to west also

The need for motorway access from the Carlow Woodenbridge road

Planning & Policy

Should be a commercial town plan for each town

More public engagement with local people before new developments

Don't want data centres as they use too much energy and don't give employment

Encourage grants & rate waivers to new business to settle in Arklow

Attractiveness of infrastructure (derelict buildings!)

Grants to develop derelict buildings for businesses

Encourage the County Enterprise Board to make recommendations to the government for more industry in Arklow

Reduce welfare over time to encourage people back to work

Reform social welfare so part time workers don't lose

Enterprise/Economy Support

Encourage grants & rate waivers to new business to settle in Arklow

Financial grants to help businesses take on school leavers

Grants to develop derelict buildings for businesses

Grants easier forms & more relevant to new businesses

Incentives to attract new business e.g., rates waiver

Deliberative Democracy

More public engagement with local people before new developments

Youth Employment

Financial grants to help businesses take on school leavers

Local Infrastructure

2nd bridge badly needed

More electric charge points especially in tourist locations

Lack and slowness of infrastructure such as water

Arklow port is under utilised

Broadband – lack of fast broadband coverage

Broadband to area

Water & sewerage improvement to facilitate new businesses

Education & Apprenticeships

1 stop shop for apprenticeships in Arklow

Use Arklow as trial for apprenticeship hub

Apprenticeship hub – support for existing business & self-employed to access apprentices

Apprenticeships – lost is huge for employer, need more support system needs to be updated, teachers out of touch with real world

Centre of excellence for apprenticeships, wind turbines

Insurance costs stop businesses taking on apprenticeships, also apprentices have unrealistic expectations

Need more trades people, encourage school leavers to look at apprenticeships

CE schemes – extensions & link to apprenticeships

Placemaking

Attractiveness of infrastructure (derelict buildings!)

Arklow needs positivity

Main street is not attractive – building with burnt roof blocking view

More popup shops, less empty units

Community Resources

Electric buggies for green ways to encourage older people

Vacant units to encourage community groups

Local Employment Provision/Opportunities

Arklow has a tradition of being an employment blackspot – we need new industry, sustainable, as climate is a big issue/threat

Sustainable industry needed

Blueway-Greenway – support new business along both of these

Leverage local resources e.g., Avoca mines as tourist destination & so create jobs, learn from other countries

Sustainable Economy

Green/renewable energy projects: wind solar

Arklow has a tradition of being an employment blackspot – we need new industry, sustainable, as climate is a big issue/threat

Try and create interest in Arklow as a hub for sustainable enterprises SSE

SEC Green business, more knowledge communicated

Natural Resources

Blueway-Greenway – support new business along both of these

Old & new system in community

Planning & resourcing business & tourism development – build on historical expertise

Trades & apprenticeships

Infrastructure/Connections/Access

Sustainable development

Health (Physical & Mental)

Transport & Traffic Management

Road works causing havoc with elderly getting buses as they can't walk to new bus stops

Eye care – need to pay €150 taxi to Dublin for any appointments

Public transport particularly to hospitals

More rural links for transport for appointments

Town bus should be brought back – estates too far out from town – needs to be subsidised – bus pass should be able to be used

Stigma around old people driving for example

Lack of suitable car parking for elderly & mobility impaired

Develop mini bike ways – mini greenways for smaller cycle rides

Re-open closed railway stations Avoca, Woodenbridge & Glenealy

Local bus service -Avoca to Arklow or move time e.g., 10am to 2pm or 3pm shopping time

Health Facilities & Resources (Education & Prevention)

Encourage consultants to come to Arklow on monthly basis, avoiding patients going to Dublin

Planning/Placemaking

More safe public areas -indoors & outdoors for people to meet in the evening

Link the outer housing estates so that people can move freely between them

Policy (implementation) & Resources

National Insurance Scheme needed to deal with the high costs of insurance killing companies

Abuse of disabled parking spaces is a big issue

Accessibility

Eye care – need to pay €150 taxi to Dublin for any appointments

Public transport particularly to hospitals

Communication

Community noticeboard in public space e.g., Library

Directory for Services available in Arklow

Directory of services is badly needed – people don't know what is available – not everyone has online capacity

Mental Health Policy & Practice

More counselling availability to deal with people with unseen mental health issues

Mr. Niall Breslin, need more ambassadors like that to say it's cool to chat about things

Huge stigma around mental issues

Mental Health- start at a young age e.g., national school- make it a part of the curriculum in CSPW – teach them to recognise the symptoms e.g., lack of sleep, relationships, personality change

Introduce mental health education early in schools to remove the stigma of such issues

Samaritans/Counselling/Alone – no national organisation "Talk to Tom" – its good to talk – Overall counselling strategy needed - regulated

Infrastructure

More footpaths for people to walk rather than drive

Public lighting often out of order & this prevents people from walking at night

Benches for elderly in the dog park

Lack of suitable premises for music, art, therapy services

From Knockmore Roundabout to the kisch – path of cycle path – money promised but never happened (€450,000 allocated)

Water collecting in road at Servier – after rain

Community Supports

Men's sheds are for elderly – need to change this impression

Mother & baby clubs in the library – why not father & baby clubs

Kids spending too much time inside on consoles etc not playing outside anymore

More safe public areas -indoors & outdoors for people to meet in the evening

Lack of suitable premises for music, art, therapy services

Activities for the older generation e.g., pitch & putt/bowls

School building should be used every night and every weekend & summer months for non-school activities for community groups/sporting pitches etc

Lots of new arrivals in towns with no family connections – no family to call on when something comes up – on their own all of the time

Need more facilities like mens sheds – women will talk to each other – men wont

People need to be more friendly with each other – know your neighbour – people don't speak to their neighbour – all too busy

More activity for elderly to get them out of their houses after Covid

Need for allotments to allow elderly keep active in gardening activity when they can't manage their own gardens

Safety & Security

Parents too worried about "stranger danger" – people in Inbhear Mor park driving arounds the corner to Templerainey School

Electric cars too quiet- sneak up on people -no chance to react

Cycling on footpath – E scooters too fast – not controlled

Access & Inclusion

Stigma around old people driving for example

How well do we look after our older people?

Transport & Access (local & national)

Information/Communication

Education/understanding

Resourcing Community supports & services

Safety & Security/Local Environment