

Baltinglass MD

17th May 2022

Let's Develop our Vision for our Community

Participation Democracy and Good Governance

We will see results

Strong voice for Baltinglass - West Wicklow has not TDs – no representation at government level

West Wicklow is the poor relation in comparison to the North East/East of the county

Rural Wicklow has different needs to East Wicklow, that needs to be recognised

That we wouldn't need to go to Carlow to access services

Bureaucracy/Governance should not restrict community activities/development/volunteering

More resources – more staff – more efficiencies and coordination

HSE needs to outfit the primary care centre (Baltinglass) & use it to its full capacity

More accountability and transparency

We want to feel/believe we have been heard

Local Decision Making

Local representatives need to have more influence

Local people need to have more influence in their local area

More decision-making powers for elected Reps

Less national control/constraint

Good Governance

Need to be able to trust the council – not a strong connection

Bureaucracy/Governance should not restrict community activities/development/volunteering

Joined up thinking/coordination

More transport/connectivity for Baltinglass & Blessington – more affordable

Not enough connections to Naas for hospital services etc (most older people sent to Naas)

More cooperation & less divisiveness

Need councillors to work cohesively together for the good of the WHOLE county

Deliberative Democracy

We want to feel/believe we have been heard

Need more opportunities to have our voices heard – local conversations

Local people need to have more influence in their local area

More engagement with elected representatives & TDs

That our voice is heard and what is said is acted upon – visible outcomes

That the MD meeting should circulate around the district & hold clinics before/afterward to facilitate more engagement

Need to be able to trust the council – not a strong connection

Policy & Practise

More equality of services, funding, opportunity across the country

A whole county plan for all citizens that live in the county

That the MD meeting should circulate around the district & hold clinics before/afterward to facilitate more engagement

Rural Wicklow has different needs to East Wicklow, that needs to be recognised

Placemaking

More transport/connectivity for Baltinglass & Blessington – more affordable

Not enough connections to Naas for hospital services etc (most older people sent to Naas)

Harness enthusiasm

Actively welcome new people

That we wouldn't need to go to Carlow to access services

HSE needs to outfit the primary care centre (Baltinglass) & use it to its full capacity

Community Development & Capacity Building

Need more opportunities to learn from each other

Need strong active community networks

Harness enthusiasm

Actively welcome new people

A lot is expected of volunteers in community groups, more support needed

Partnership in decision making – visible outcomes

Engagement & communication

Disconnection from local & national government

Placemaking access & resourcing rural services and infrastructure

Values, Culture & Meaning

Connectivity/sociability

Community Hubs – Café

Occasions that bring together communities

Need to fill the gap from the separation of the Church

Men's Shed for retired men very important

Everyone should talk to each other/welcome each other – support people to feel included

Need more networking opportunities – regionally – peer support – information sharing

More opportunities for communities to meet up

Cohesive Inclusive Communities

Use our culture to connect us

Inclusion

Need to meet the needs/interests of all our young people

We should respect everyone's values – older people – younger people – migrants

Actively welcome new people who move to the area

Communication & Awareness Raising

More communication – newsletter contributed to by all community groups – community notice board

Mutual Respect

Need to value & protect our volunteers

Integration

Actively welcome new people who move to the area

Need more language classes/language support (signage) to help include/integrate our migrant communities

Local Heritage, Cultural Exchange & Placemaking

We need to value & keep alive our culture & heritage for future generations

Use our culture to connect us

Events that bring people together, to create a sense of community

Community Hubs – Café

Vibrant Communities

Need to feel connected to our community/place – using our heritage

Heritage is a great way to bring new & existing residents together

Resourcing

Need more support & opportunities for intergenerational activities

Need a language officer

Community improve volunteers

Need practical education sessions – local knowledge – practical skills/life skills

Need technology skills to help us communicate

Equality

We should respect everyone's values – older people – younger people – migrants

Sustainable Development

Need to value & protect our volunteers

Safety.

Communities feel safe/energised

Resourced Connected Cohesive Inclusive Communities

Local Heritage, Cultural Exchange & Placemaking

Social & Community Development

Equality & Inclusion

Events like field days & cultural & fund things that bring people together & Parish Fun Day and would include all the nationalities

Accessibility

Baltinglass a disaster area for mobility & accessibility

Capacity Building

If you train (the PPN training course) & 12 directors id ultimately makes things more manageable

Community Supports/Services

Youth service needed, with professionals

Drop in centres

Volunteers needed for it & get community Gardai involved

Covid showed how community is important& those that aren't linked into community are very vulnerable

Events like field days & cultural & fund things that bring people together & Parish Fun Day and would include all the nationalities

Placemaking

Public space/plazas/coffee shops

Change/social cohesion

Community has changed, transient/commuting, too busy, don't get involved, haven't the time

Those that know each other stick together

New estates, young families, difficult to get communities together

Credit Union is a great service & The Post Office

Community is changing – don't know neighbours – calling to neighbours is dying out

Housing

Housing – council housing is not enough & re-lets take forever

Resources & Infrastructure

Parking, People (commuters) parking all day

Traffic Warden

Pedestrian Crossing

Access to internet

No computer hub to go to (during covid)

More library opening hours 6 days

Digital inclusion

Sports Complex Facilities & Community Centre

Health Centre

Transport to access them (sports complex & community centre)

Local link, customer demand

The only county that is route driven is Wicklow

There's one local link in Baltinglass

Services – Lost CWO to Athy, primary care centre not staffed & don't know the services

Swimming pool

Footpaths not wheelchair friendly or walker friendly

Town Park- boardwalk and playground need repair and regular safety checks

Walking routes- Lords Wood welcome and well used addition but there are possible opportunities along the river joining wier to town park.

Healthy Heart walk in town

There are several walks folk do here- Weaver square to green lane and back- need more street lighting from lathleer to the hospital, trimming of edge of road green lane.

Bawnogues- out rathvilly Road turn onto castledermott Road and back in behind the Garda Station turn right back into town at the main cross roads. - hedge trimming required on back road

Sruthaun -up past graveyard out to n81 and back into town safety issues on N81 stretch.

Gym space/investment incentive- there is no local gym several have tried to set up but rents have been an issue. No outdoor gym equipment -could be an addition to the playground.

Policy & Practice

Burden of bureaucracy on small voluntary groups

Communication & Information

No central community notice board. Very difficult to spread the word re events plus difficult to find out about events esp if you are new to the area. No newsletter covering the actual hinterland- baltinglass/kiltegan/castledermot/Stratford/ Rathvilly /possibly dunlavin.

Suggestion -Large external centrally located community notice board - information hub-a supervised desk space(Leader or CE scheme) where tourist info could be located plus a central co-ordinating point for a local newsletter- eg- www.westkerrylive.ie free fortnightly newsletter distributed throughout South kerry.

Investing in cultural opportunities will be largely wasted unless the communications issue is resolved.. build it and they will come IF they know about it!

Mens Shed shutting down

Dutchman's Corner – do something with it, derelict building, traffic lights

Speed ramps on chapel hill

The Bridge

Community Resources, Supports, Services, & Activities

Infrastructure & access

Inclusion and connectedness

Communication & Information

Environment and Sustainability

Environmental Protection

Plant a tree when a tree cut down (as in Belgium)

Resources (incl. waste management)

Bottle banks in Baltinglass were taken away due to littering – a need to identify another location and bring them back

Littering is a major issues in the area of Baltinglass and surrounds- groups that organise litter pickups could be better funded – Tidy Towns

Private Bin Operations not covering – waste littering

Recycling bank intown abused – needs monitoring CCTV – Access to Rampere (need car)

Littering is a huge issues, litter charges, recycling charges

Community schemes supporting by WCC – compost – garden waste – wood chipper

More bins in towns – new bins/compactable – poo bins for dogs

Tearmann Community Garden – maintenance – no ongoing money – no consistency – grant issues (only for specific projects)

More EV charging points to give people confidence to go electric – High speed charging please

Playground nobody to maintain

Cross on hill – no maintenance (local authority maintain?)– access difficult

Greater support for Tidy Towns/Community Groups

Sustainable Energy

Accessible/sustainable future proofing of houses – increase rate of renovations by council

Subsidise private housing to upgrade BER – possible community scheme for upgrading housing

Community based PV Panelling for EV charging points

Charging points for electric vehicles in estates

Work ? – to future proof houses in older estates by re-insulation & solar panels reasonable priced

Sustainable Transport

No transport for rural areas

Poor bus service Baltinglass – Dublin

Improved local bus services

Environmental Access

No access to hillforts – Baltinglass The Pinicle

Access to full length river bank in Baltinglass – walk continuous main street – Lords Wood – mini greenway

Cross on hill – no maintenance – access difficult

[Want to extend Lords wood](#)

More walking trails for each village

Re-wilding/enhance to town – elsewhere too

Education & Capacity Building

Extend programmes with children to increase education awareness eg Tearman Garden Re environment/heritage

Get youth involved through schools – summer programmes

Awareness that our natural environment supports health, wellbeing & the economy

Information about how/where to recycle – signage

Hazardous rubbish collection – publicize dates/poster – (newsletter/)

Education/communicate on issues of hedgerow/tree cutting

Planning & Development

Accessible/sustainable future proofing of houses – increase rate of renovations by council

Annual contribution for farmers/private landowners for access or CPO

Biodiversity

Value & protect our hedgerows and trees

Want to transform our forests so that they are more attractive, add value for biodiversity, enhance landscape, move to continuous cover forestry

Plant a tree when a tree cut down (as in Belgium)

Policy & Practise

Quarry drivers not using covers -needs to be enforced

Accessible/sustainable future proofing of houses – increase rate of renovations by council

Community schemes supporting by WCC – compost – garden waste – wood chipper

Work ? – to future proof houses in older estates by re-insulation & solar panels reasonable priced

Placemaking

Access to full length river bank in Baltinglass – walk continuous main street – Lords Wood – mini greenway

Want to extend Lords wood

More walking trails for each village

Re-wilding/enhance to town – elsewhere too

Heritage

Lighting up Baltinglass Abbey – Tidy Towns – cut down anti social behaviour – will use right light

Resourcing adequate waste management & behavioural change

Resourcing sustainable housing/living

Protecting and nurturing natural resources to promote health & wellbeing

Education to support sustainable living

Economy & Resources

Tourism

Tourism hill forts are the key – access is important & extend the walks & open them up

Hill Forts -access into them

Tourism – Ring fort heritage in the town – library & accessibility & older people getting up steps –

Library can't justify 700,000 to move library – bridge

Transport Infrastructure

Regular Reliable bus service – transport

Bus shelter made a difference but are damaged

Need concrete at the bus stops at the moment walking in mulch

N81 – so narrow in places

Transport- & impacts on being able to access training & employment

Planning & Policy

small shops inhibited by bigger ones – rates are too high for town to flourish

Wind Farms – putting them in the right place

Emphasis on east Wicklow – How many times does CE of council come over

Youth Employment

high youth population

Resourcing Local Infrastructure

creche needed

high youth population

Assets: local hospital, community shop & café, An Tearmann, Equestrian Centre, Active Retirement, Men's Shed, Craft Group, Group for Kids with Special Needs, Tidy Towns, Lalor Centre, Park Playground Skatepark – need refurbishments

Broadband – many places have none/bad broadband & ? to depend on

New health centre – No GPs – no specialist – no xray – not wheelchair friendly limited GP service (not in health centre) no consultant service.

New Community Centre & Sports Campus like shoreline – feasibility study (with CWP) – Basketball club 390 children nowhere to practise – amenity at the river – adult exercise equipment

Education & Apprenticeships

Transport- & impacts on being able to access training & employment

Placemaking

How to get people to shop in the town

Working from home can make communities more vibrant – more time community saps energy so need the services that will enable people to work from home

Working from home

Community Resources

{FP} Governance & structure very important (did PPN training – v good). Going for the charitable status (eg substantial meal to elderly people)

Community Shop & Tea room

– Gardaí – 2 community gardai

Social Enterprise

Social Enterprise – social community & economic impact. Gaps: can be CE dependent not enough business for “pantry” to be viable- dependent on volunteers to run it – Feels like we don’t have the right support for it

Social Enterprise – profit of some sort needs to be made cant ? totally on volunteers

Social Enterprise – Stratfor Grange Con – did a lot of research & visited many around the county – has to be a business – has to earn money – what do people want to have to provide it for them

Social Enterprise/CE Scheme CE was involved but had to be supervised – difficult & time consuming – problems – lost volunteers because of it (Rathdangan & Kiltegan) - CE scheme has to run well (Stratford/Grangecon area) – The responsibility is huge on groups

Local Employment Provision/Opportunities

No jobs in Baltinglass – people travelling out of the town

Aldi & Lidl in the town

No factories

CE Scheme – no CE workers available in centres to work – needed

Community service – contract be bought in?

RRDF – works starting on first July

Resourcing & supporting Rural Enterprise – reduce burden on volunteers

Transport & Access

Health (Physical & Mental)

Transport, Access, Connectivity

Transport – access to health services & supports

Health Facilities & Resources (Education & Prevention)

Doctors based in one place – ie The Primary Health Centre – can’t get a doctor

Doctors – GPS – scarcity – long wait for appointments

Baltinglass hospital physio – in PHC

Local services not flowing/connected

Need to travel for Health Service – optician once a week in Baltinglass

Primary Health Centre – to provide full range of health services/supports – complete service in PHC – Triage Service – local A&E type service

PHC to provide complete health service and services to be permanently based there.

PHC – Arklow good example – Blessington & Baltinglass issues

Chemists – local access to 24 hour chemist

PHC needs to offer full service – 7 day element to service - Doctors available

Local doctors to join Care Doc service

Keep hospital (respite & day care) in town

Communication & Accessibility

Need to share information/communicate what is available locally

Community Notice board – communication- identify how people access information

Mental Health Policy & Practice

Mental health services support - non existent – issue – when do you start to address – Consider within context of a whole societal Task – eg need to support people re purpose in life etc

Sli an Croi counsellors – support to meet local needs & get involved with local community

Prevention/support services locally for all health needs (eg. Addiction, mental health)

Mental health – child psychology only visits once a month – services need to be supplied/enhanced

Mental Health – support services needed for mental health needs eg wexford service – community based service

Better mental health services, more on prevention, woodlands for health

Infrastructure

Adults exercise equipment

Walks eg Kiltegan GAA pitch walking track safe

Places to walk – challenge road conditions Every community to have an off road walk – a few Kms in length - encourage land owner to dedicate land to public use – provision of non productive – need both off road walking loops and GAA pitch walking track

Need support to continue for maintenance of local housing estates – if not maintained can have detrimental effect on mental health

Dog & pet park to support keeping pets & socialising

Nature rich off road looped walking route/trail from every village developed with agreement of local landowners

Exercise equipment Baltinglass – Location? needs to be on council land – council to insure

Community Supports

Elderly get together on a regular bases

Local group on Tuesday afternoon for kids of parents with special needs

Care & Repair/Helping Hand Group- people afraid to volunteer – garda clearance – have teams of 2 people, in so doing providing reassurance to person availing of the service

Activities & spaces locally for young people

Drop in Centre a safe local centre

Mental Health – support services needed for mental health needs eg wexford service – community based service

Bring back Bingo – social for older people

Socialise, role of sport, lots of opportunity

Education & Inclusion

Role of schools in special needs awareness

Natural Environment

Better mental health services, more on prevention, woodlands for health

Nature rich off road looped walking route/trail from every village developed with agreement of local landowners

Joined up thinking/coordination

Local services not flowing/connected

Addiction Services

Issue of illegal Drugs

Prevention/support services locally for all health needs (eg. Addiction, mental health)

Access to Services

Local Infrastructure & Resources

Resourcing local community services