Submission to the Public Consultation on the Carlow Draft County Development Plan 2022 - 2028

By

Carlow Public Participation Network

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Introduction

Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN) was established in October 2014 under the Directive of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and in accordance with legislation in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Section 46).

The PPN is an independent organisation and is a framework for public engagement and participation with sustainability and wellbeing at its core. The aim of this structure is to facilitate and enable public organisations operating within the wider community to articulate and give voice to a diverse range of views, issues and interests within the local government system.

Currently there are 453 community groups across the three colleges - community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental affiliated to Carlow PPN. The nature of these groups is extremely diverse. Representatives from the PPN membership are elected to boards/committees throughout the County to represent the community voice and donate their time voluntarily. For the first time, the PPN has granted these local community volunteers a voice in local decision-making that directly affects them and their communities.

Carlow PPN and Carlow County Council

The PPN is the main channel through which Carlow County Council informs the community of the work it carries out. It is essential that any policies / decisions affecting the community be communicated through the PPN to ensure voices are being heard.

As part of the reform of local government, the report from the Working Group on Citizenship Engagement stated: '*the approaches to engage citizens in local authority policy formulation and service design must go beyond the range of communication, consultation and citizen participation mechanisms used in the past.*'

In this regard when Carlow County Council are undertaking any policy changes and are planning a consultative period, it is proposed that Carlow PPN be informed at the earliest possible stage so that information can be disseminated to the appropriate sector etc.   Also, that information is communicated in clear and accessible language – 'plain English', see *Appendix I*.

Community Consultation

Carlow PPN welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the draft County Development Plan.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions and the health and safety of our members, face-to-face meetings did not take place. Instead, PPN members were invited to feed in by email. Carlow PPN worked in partnership with Carlow County Council to carry out an online consultation meeting on the evening of Monday, 10th August 2020 on the pre-draft County development plan. Members who could not attend the online consultation were asked to feed in by email.

A presentation from Carlow County Council Planning Officials was broken down into the areas set out in the Issues Paper and is discussed further below.

This submission is based on the County Carlow Community Wellbeing Vision.

In 2019, the PPN held Wellbeing Workshops throughout the County. Creating a Vision for Community Wellbeing entails considering what we have and what we require to assist each Municipal District of

the county in becoming the best it can be for us and future generations. Our wellbeing is affected by many things; the economy, the environment, services etc. and the wellbeing of the community affects everyone within it. Under this programme, Carlow PPN looked at what wellbeing for a community involves under the following headings: -

- Environment and Sustainability
- Health (Physical and Mental)
- Work, Economy and Resources
- Social and Community Development
- Participation, Democracy and Good Governance
- Values, Culture and Meaning

Three workshops, one in each Municipal District, took place and all responses were documented – *Appendix II*.

The actual vision, below, was launched at Carlow PPN's Plenary in October 2020 and is available to download from the PPN website www.carlowppn.ie – 'Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in County Carlow'.

County Carlow Community Wellbeing Vision

In the County of Carlow, we are a diverse community, that celebrates all our rich heritage and where all people are valued and supported to live healthy and fulfilled lives. All our citizens are well-informed and engage actively in their communities and in decision-making that affects them. We have well-planned facilities, infrastructure and services that facilitate us to be leaders in sustainability and best practice within our thriving economy and vibrant local communities.

Environment and Sustainability

Everyone in the County of Carlow is enabled to live sustainably. We are leaders in actively caring for our environment and make wise use of all our assets; natural or made.

- All our citizens have access to continuous education and appropriate upskilling that supports sustainable living.
- Agencies and individuals are committed to protecting our biodiversity, water and air, ensuring we can enjoy these now and into the future.
- Our built environment is well-planned and constructed and designed to be sustainable. It has minimum impact on the natural environment, and we make creative use of our built and natural heritage, waterways and urban spaces.
- We are conscious consumers that minimise waste production at all points in production and consumption. We actively repair and reuse goods and materials and recycle wherever possible using accessible, up to date and efficient facilities.
- Sustainable transport options both public and private are available and accessible.

Health (mental and physical)

We are well-informed and educated citizens who are able to actively support our own good health. We have a range of community activities and services involving all generations that protect the vulnerable, prevent isolation and support the mental and physical health of all community members. We have seamless provision of excellent and accountable mental and physical health services across the County.

- We have good provision of high-quality, immediately accessible services to address both mental and physical health needs. All initiatives that support our health are well co-ordinated.
- There is easily available information on health services and supports. Appropriate education on all aspects of mental and physical health and healthy living is provided to all citizens in the County, thereby increasing awareness and reducing stigma.
- Widespread recreational and social activities such as sports and crafts, throughout the County, supports good mental and physical health of individuals and strong, cohesive communities

Social and Community Development

In the County of Carlow all people are valued and supported. We share our diverse cultures and build strong relationships throughout our communities. There is well-planned infrastructure, housing and community facilities that meet the needs of all citizens. Community services, supports and activities are in place that enable us _all_ to live fulfilled, secure and valuable lives.

- We have a sustainable housing plan that includes flexible and creative measures to meet all housing needs.
- Our vibrant community has access to a variety of spaces that can accommodate multiple needs.
- Citizens are educated and empowered to take leadership roles and actively participate.

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

In the County of Carlow there is meaningful participation in civic society across all age ranges where transparency and accountability are held in high regard. Citizens are properly informed and understand the structures and processes of government and actively engage in these. Proactive local government communicates and engages with communities and demonstrates that it prioritises their wishes and wellbeing. Resources and supports are available for the effective operation and administration of community groups.

- There are mechanisms in place to ensure the voices of all groups in our community are included in decision-making that affects them.
- Relevant best practice is adopted in all agencies, organisations and voluntary groups.

Values, Culture and Meaning

The County of Carlow is a respectful and inclusive community. We protect and celebrate our historical and multi-cultural heritage. We value and enjoy our built and natural heritage. We thrive as a community rich in arts, local history and culture. All our citizens are empowered and enabled to participate fully in the community.

- We understand the needs of our citizens and have social amenities and activities that support all groups within our communities and their interaction and integration. These are accessible to all.
- The positive impact of our diverse cultures is recognised, valued and supported.
- We have skills and expertise available and accessible to communities and agencies.

Economy and Resources

In the County of Carlow, we have creative models and supports for enterprise and workers. We have sustainable infrastructure that meets the needs of businesses, workers and the community. Flexible, future-focused training is available for all. Our businesses adopt the highest ethical standards and best practice in all aspects of operation.

- Innovative planning delivers sustainable development; supporting a wide variety of commercial enterprises to include indigenous and social enterprises.
- Our transport and communication infrastructure meet the needs of all.
- Comprehensive business supports are available and fully utilised to energise our economy. Businesses operate in a secure and healthy environment.
- We embrace training from a diverse range of skill sources and institutions which is available to all.

Areas of Consultation – Issues Paper

A presentation from Carlow County Council Planning Officials in August 2020 focused on the areas/headings as set out in the Issues Paper. These areas/headings are similar to the areas/headings set out in the Community Wellbeing Vision above and is essential that these be taken into consideration as this is now the mandate for the PPN.

The following was discussed at the Online Consultation: -

- Strategic Planning – The Plan will be informed by the National Planning Framework "Project Ireland" 2040 which guides growth patterns for the country to ensure future sustainable development, RSES – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and Legislative Requirements and Ministerial Guidelines.
- Population and Housing – Carlow has a younger age profile than Ireland as a whole and has proportionately fewer persons in their late twenties, thirties and over 65 years. This signifies a need for more housing within the County. Housing needs for all, including those with disabilities need to be met within this Plan.

- Economic Development, Enterprise and Employment – This area is quite diverse within the County of Carlow and it is essential that excellent road linkages exist in and out of the county to ensure efforts in this area are at their optimum: –
    - Carlow Town: broad economic / commercial base
    - East Carlow: strong agricultural sector
    - Central Carlow: significant manufacturing sector
    - Western Carlow: mixed economic profile with agriculture
- Movement and Transport – It is essential that there be more sustainable modes of transport introduced i.e. public transport, cycling and walking with the right infrastructure in place. These modes of transport need to be accessible to all.
- Infrastructure (Water/Wastewater and Environmental Services) – Waste infrastructure, energy infrastructure and the provision of telecommunications and broadband is necessary to support sustainable development.
- Environment and Climate Change – The Plan must ensure that there is a balance between development and the protection of the environment. Climate change adaptation and mitigation should be an overarching consideration of the Plan and inform policies and objectives throughout the review process. There needs to be an emphasis on reducing the impacts of climate change at a local level through settlement and travel patterns, energy use and protection of green infrastructure.
- Sustainable Communities – The new County Development Plan should seek to promote and facilitate the development of sustainable communities through land use planning to support the provision of services and to accommodate community, leisure, recreational and cultural facilities. Development of public realms must be considered where disability, youth and minority groups are taken into consideration to ensure real inclusion and accessibility. Defibrillators available throughout the community in public places. Documentation to be considered here is the County Carlow Migrant Integration and Intercultural Strategy 2020-2024 and A Socio Demographic of Carlow – 2019.
- Heritage, Amenity and Landscape – The Plan needs to balance the need for development with the preservation of important landscapes, amenity of places and features of heritage significance and natural beauty is necessary for sustainable development. The employment of a County Heritage Officer is an essential component here.
- Design and Regeneration – Renewal and regeneration together with the promotion of architecture and design which complements and reinforces the existing character of our towns, villages and rural landscapes needs to be a key consideration in the forthcoming Plan. Rural areas where populations have decreased needs to be reinvigorated. This can be achieved by working with local communities and ensuring local community plans form part of the overall Plan.
- Rural Development – The County Development Plan should seek to promote rural activities and enterprises and to strengthen our rural communities. Diversity and innovativeness are required to ensure economic resilience and job creation. Key Issues to be addressed include:
    - Agriculture
    - Forestry
    - Diversity in the rural economy e.g. tourism, renewable energy, recreation, leisure etc.
    - Sand and gravel extraction

Sustainable Development Goals

The Vision for Community Wellbeing was also matched to the Sustainable Development Goals. It is Carlow PPN's proposal that the Carlow County Development Plan be mapped to the Sustainable Development Goals in a real relevant and measurable way. Everyone has a role to play in achieving these goals locally, regionally, nationally and globally. If all objectives / actions are measured against the goals, we can see real progress in achieving these.

Appendix III looks at the Sustainable Development Goals and how local authority plans are well placed to integrate the SDGs in to action at local level.

Conclusion

It is essential that our communities be listened to for the County to thrive. When people are heard, they not only feed valued which increases well-being and leads to a better quality of life, they also take ownership. Quality of life should be paramount for all citizens.

Carlow PPN looks forward to continually working with Carlow County Council to make our county a better place to live.

Engaging with Carlow PPN………for Carlow County Council Staff

How we can help you:

1. A monthly E-Bulletin is emailed/posted to all our members at the beginning of every month. Inclusion of the Council's information will ensure a broad reach and an engaged target audience. Information should be relevant to communities, emailed the last week of every month and should be in plain English.
2. Our social media profile is growing – particularly our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/CarlowPPN/ or Twitter https://twitter.com/CarlowPPN and Instagram @CarlowPPN   A fantastic way to promote our organisation in real time.
3. Use our existing connection and relationship with community groups to set up information meetings, seminars etc. in collaboration with Carlow PPN or use Carlow PPN to publicise County Council meetings and events.
4. Work with Carlow PPN to 'inclusion proof' events or information pieces. Get simple advice about how to improve the way you engage with the community, especially the hardest to reach sectors and how you can make your overall message more accessible and engaging.
5. Use the collective gatherings at our Plenary meetings to promote or exhibit your work.
6. Send information updates to be provided to members at our Plenary meetings.

Guidelines to consider when providing information to Carlow PPN

Consultations	Information/Events	Grants/Funding/Supports
• What is the consultation about? – a short description works best • How can people feedback? Think about methods and avoid a single method e.g. online only. • Is there sufficient time? Groups may only meet monthly. Does the timing allow for considered opinion? • Is there an information session or meeting to discuss where people can get more information? • Provide a relevant picture/graphic for use on social media to increase engagement	• Provide supporting documentation if needed – provide links/soft copy and hard copy for those without email • Is there a need to RSVP and if so to whom? • Is there a contact for more information if required? • Is there a Facebook event or Eventbrite registration?	• A short description of what the grant/funding is and who can apply • What is the closing date and where to find an application form? • How are applications accepted i.e. online/hard copy or both and where to send them? • Are there examples of projects of previous projects'/awards to assist applicants? • Are there any information sessions being held or is there a contact for further information?

Remember you can always checkout Carlow PPN's Community Consultation Toolkit for further information on how to capture your audience's attention – Community Consultation Toolkit

The following is the feedback from Carlow PPN members, broken down by MD, on how they wish to see their communities within County Carlow developed.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARLOW

Health (physical and mental)

Medical

- Proper Primary Care Centre
- Respite support for full time carers
- After care for addiction services for Carlow town
- Medical treatment to be provided at local level not large hospitals
- Dementia specific services
- Day respite for individuals with dementia
- Support services for drug users and their families
- Quality accessible services – outreach – out of hours' services
- Medical care for young and old

Mental Health

- More and better mental health services, especially for young people
- Education on 'emotions' and 'feelings' from a young age
- Improved mental health CAMHS service (Child and Adult Mental Health Service)
- De-stigmatise mental health starting with early education
- Invest in frontline mental health services

Governance

- Appropriate anti-bullying procedures in schools, clubs and workplaces
- The need to look at policies around inclusion, participation and area boundaries e.g., Community Games and Special Olympics

Intergenerational Activities / Reduction in Isolation

- Supporting isolation – befriending / volunteer
- Initiative to link pre-school with nursing homes nearby (research already done as to benefits for both)
- Develop a 'helping hand' service for active retired people (teacher, lecturers, Gardaí) who can use their skills to help schools and communities
- Big brother initiative or a man's best friend initiative or a type of service for lonely individuals that will get them in to a community environment or action

Getting Active

- Recreational / Leisure facilities
- Encourage children to walk/cycle to school – walking train

<u>Older Persons</u>

- Cyber abuse of older people
- Safety security for older persons

<u>Support for Diverse Groups</u>

- Community Hub – mother and child – coffee mornings – seniors – afterschool's
- CCUAM – Access for the visually impaired on paths

<u>Community Health Supports</u>

- Services in Carlow for suicide prevention – closure of Talk it Over??
- Support people living with depression and anxiety
- Support groups (like Eist) for people requiring psychosocial supports
- Women's Shelter
- Supports through joining groups such as ICA for crafts, chat and community spirit

<u>Awareness and Education</u>

- Education around nutrition / healthy eating, organic local food, growing your own sustainable food
- Sexual health education in schools – regular workshops until they finish education
- Problem solving in schools – learn soft skills – bills, fixing a plug etc.
- Understanding of mental health issues
- Physical health – dietary requirements for healthy living
- Dementia awareness across the county to support dementia inclusion
- Education on awareness of mental health to reduce the stigma in this area
- Health promotion – prevention better than cure
- Free mindfulness courses
- Knowledge of services for communities – where to go?

<u>Employment/ Enterprise Supports</u>

- Working from home/ close to home – hot desks
- Social enterprises
- Groups e.g., Inclusive GAA programmes

<u>Support for Carers</u>

- Support the carers
- More support for carers

Social and Community Development

Multi – cultural

- Community singing and dance to encourage social sharing - share in culture e.g., new communities and the travelling community

Transport

- Rapid bus link in built up areas

Infrastructure

- Improvement in traffic Management Plan
- Signage for public buildings e.g., hospital, town hall etc.
- Signage for housing estates

Housing

- Vary the size of houses in any new development
- Small living units for young and elderly
- More council housing
- Sustainable housing available to move on to

Supports for Older People

- Supported living areas for elderly and retired
- Return people (especially young families and older people) to town centre where there are services for all
- Community facilities for older people (bingo etc.)

Information

- Central hub for information about available services – live and relevant

Supports for Women

- Access to emergency housing including Women's Refuge

Consultation and Participation

- Every person is involved in identifying their own needs e.g., people with dementia
- Working with TD in the community

Community Activities and Services

- Social events for those with special needs in a regular setting with normal hours
- Arts Co-op for organisations to pool resources towards long term sustainability
- Evening and social activities in the area with public transport to and from
- Support for organisations exploring social enterprises – funding available and the encouragement to support the organisations to explore same
- Residents Associations

Supports for Youth

- A Youth Shed for young people on Tullow Road as a starter and link to Men's Shed
- Youth Cafes

Community Services

- More community centres that promote more social interaction e.g., Men's Shed, bingo etc.
- Recreational facilities – skate park, seating areas for elderly people
- Community Hub for the Tullow Road for elderly, young people and different nationalities
- Affordable rental space for rehearsals

Support for Community Groups

- Simple leadership groups
- More supports for groups
- Support for community centres and all the different voluntary groups (Tidy Towns, sports clubs, etc.)
- Support community groups, NGOs, insurance costs which are too high.
- Change structure of committee meetings
- Incentivise 3rd level students to help community groups
- *Incentivise volunteering by payment in kind

Diversity and Integration

- Community centres to actively promote cultural diversity regardless of age/ ability/ ethnicity/ gender
- Integration barriers
- More remote get togethers – using the Internet, video link-ups – needs education and good broadband
- Amalgamation of young and elderly
- Age-friendly towns and villages
- Universal access

Participation, Democracy and Participation

Community Participation in Local Government

- More community participation, where all local citizens need a bigger voice in the community and are believed by our local representatives
- Community Hub where people can access information and be supportive and engage in local government structures
- To have a Citizen Government (bottom-up approach)
- A real seat at the table; not tokenism
- Better leadership from our representatives to develop our communities
- More devolved decision making where responsible debate can take place
- Children and young people having a voice and consulted on decisions affecting their future
- Public Forum for people to meet politicians and representatives to put forward issues
- Funding informed by the community ideas or a need, they need to be listened to – Participatory Budgeting
- Accessibility to information and buildings
- Clear communication- plain English and no acronyms
- More transparency and accountability in how the government works

Community Group Governance and Supports

- Access to funding and expertise on this within the wider community
- Practical assistance with administration and organisation of volunteer groups
- Information on grants and finding coming down from Government in good time to allow people to apply (time constraints)
- Re-evaluate the "money has to be spent" to get a grant method as many groups don't have the money
- Code of governance simpler for groups – no joined up thinking
- Informal gathering spaces

Economy and Resources

Transport

- Bus service into housing estates badly needed
- Extra train/rail service from Dublin to Waterford
- Regular town bus service (National Transport Authority)
- Inter-town transport
- No transport for those commuting to work in Tullow

Support for Community Activities

- Community hub for access to more services in one place
- A one-stop-shop for voluntary groups on insurance and new regulations e.g. GDPR
- Increased access to computers in accessible locations as well as increased resources in the libraries

Insurance

- Prevent insurance premium hikes in prices leading to businesses closing
- Insurance needs as a whole

Supports for Business

- Exemption on rates for new business (2-3 years)
- To promote businesses to stay in the town area
- Transparency on the funding available to start ups and existing businesses to encourage business retention

Planning and Policy

- Sustainable development or redevelopment of vacant shops/ business parks
- Promote environmental innovation through grant funding with sustainability a requirement
- Pedestrianisation

Infrastructure

- Better broadband for all areas in Carlow
- Affordable broadband; it is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity
- Broadband network in rural areas of the County to create more:
  - Business opportunities
  - Better and more diverse education
  - More support for enterprises

<u>Security</u>

- Garda funding increased to get more Gardaí on the streets

<u>Business Ethos</u>

- Pride of place in existing organisations supporting what is already there and encouraging the growth of same
- Promote good practice ethos within organisations e.g., Shaws, Penney's, etc.
- Organised and effective use of retired worker's skills and expertise

<u>Training & Experience Supports</u>

- More training and re-training for unemployed and those with other needs
- More upskilling for long-term stay at home parents
- Preparation for all types of jobs
- Future-focused innovation in training
- Affordable and accessible Information Technology classes for all ages
- Appropriate intermediate computer training
- University status for the Institute of Technology
- More craft training and apprenticeships
- Establish a craft centre
- Fuller local employment in general
- Work experience given as a regular process to unemployed
- More funding given as an incentive to do courses to get back to work; not given with one hand and taken back with the other

<u>Different Models for Business</u>

- Promote job diversity, social enterprise, private business, community and voluntary
- Encourage social enterprises within communities, making communities more self-sufficient and self-reliant
- Promote and enable pop-up shops for both voluntary groups and newly formed small companies
- Pop-up craft gallery or other uses in vacant spaces

<u>Support for Creative Business Opportunities</u>

- Social enterprise hubs in each municipality to aid, encourage, highlight, support, educate and provide space for social enterprise
- Micro loans
- Re-invention of the "high street" for the 21st century to create jobs and sense of community
- Re-establish artisan bakeries in the area
- Encourage and inform people about alternatives to traditional agricultural systems, e.g. co-operatives, community supported agriculture

<u>Infrastructure</u>

- Better broadband so people can work from home, more flexible working rotas, less driving as a result

Education

- Presentation de la Salle have applied for funding to establish metalwork classes to satisfy the demands for apprenticeships locally

Values, Culture and Meaning

Respectful, Inclusive and Connected Communities

- More respect and inclusion of our older generations
- Membership of "groups" committees to be representative of the diverse community base
- Develop a culture of respect for all
- Festivals to celebrate all cultures
- Consultation and communication from social viewpoint
- Social, inclusive and neighbourly community

Heritage

- Local heritage tuition in schools – local history and stories
- Preservation of our heritage - Protect our castles, houses and fairy forts
- More heritage tours, open bus tours, walking tours
- Address the rural / town divide (Carlow town) – should reflect the County as a whole, agriculture, beauty, rivers, etc.
- More development of Irish language and grants to learn
- Music, art, dance supports for all cultures

Varied Social Engagement and Supports

- Funded "mindful" summer camps for children, youth and adults
- More social amenities
- Volunteering community group for children and young people to give back to the community
- Develop summer jobs related to culture for young people
- ICA, Men's Shed & other groups that give huge support to people's mental health

Expertise

- The County Council recently employed a Heritage Officer
- Appoint a County architect (rather than have only planning officials)

Food

- Establish international farmers'/ food markets
- Develop local foods

Environment and Sustainability

Council Responsibility for Biodiversity

- Council should consult bio-diversity plans
- Implement the Carlow Bio-Diversity Strategy in conjunction with the Carlow Regeneration Plan
- Accountability of the officials for our future

The 3 'R's 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'

- Make Carlow the first plastic waste free town
- Encourage people to shop in charity shops
- Have more accessible recycling centres
- Have more litter pickers & bin facilities (also for dog litter)
- Education around proper segregation of waste

Minding Nature

- Encourage more beekeeping & beekeeping clubs
- Have more public allotments
- Encourage more environmentally friendly planting (less annuals) and organic farming
- Encourage bio-diversity awards for more appropriate gardening methods i.e., roads, houses, schools and streets etc.
- Stop using weed killer
- Irish wildflower on common ground and / or waste ground
- Develop Swift (bird) nest boxes in town to replace old buildings that have been replaced by new builds
- Cap the amount of forestry and encourage more broadleaf woodland. We are lucky to be surrounded by good agricultural land. Can we help to protect that?
- Proper protection of our natural habitats, water systems, biodiversity, woodlands, hedgerows, wetlands

Water

- Sustainability of water supply
- Mapping of boreholes

Support for Heritage

- County Carlow would like their own Heritage Officer
- International, National and Regional local and zero designation of buildings for listings (protection)
- Work with support organisations e.g., Carlow Tourism to enable communities to reclaim local heritage sites, customs, festivals and traditions

Energy/ Carbon Free

- Extend the use of alternative energy concepts – geothermal (extremely good community projects)
- Have smoke-free fuel, coal & turf needs to be limited
- Make Carlow carbon-free
- Community grant scheme for renewable energy, in private homes
- Promote the 'Paris Accord'
- Build houses in relation to energy saving standards

Eco-Tourism

- Develop an Eco-Tourist Trail. Link to green way to Gardens to Heritage Sites

Awareness/Education

- More workshops / training given to local community groups to learn about conserve, project & restore
- Community outreach to educate people in everyday training support
- More promotion for environmental issues
- Promote green schools

Transport

- Public & electric transport improvement – more electric car charge points
- Safe cycling lanes for kids & adults
- Education around electric vehicles including benefits (quitter)/hazards
- Rural transport needs to be addressed

Built Environment

- Innovation in affordable housing; create pilot housing schemes e.g., wooden houses, kit houses, straw bales, with the aim to create affordable, state of the art, environmentally friendly housing

Education and Action

- More green flags in the County - as young people are committed, they should be encouraged to continue with environmental projects as they get older

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG

Health (Physical and Mental)

Mental Health

- More and better mental health services, especially for young people
- Education on 'emotions' and 'feelings' from a young age
- Improved mental health CAMHS service (Child and Adult Mental Health Service)
- De-stigmatise mental health starting with early education
- Invest in frontline mental health services

Employment/ Enterprise Supports

- Working from home/ close to home – hot desks
- Social enterprises

Social Interaction

- More inclusive social outlets and sports groups e.g. Inclusive GAA programmes
- More development of social group

Support for Carers

- Support the carers
- More support for carers

Health Services

- Need more front-line services
- Develop a tool kit to help people and point them to services
- Promotion of what's there
- Social prescribing

Active Community

- Universal access to green areas
- Walks
- Street furniture
- More and better off-road walking and cycle trails from every town and village – good for physical and mental health

Social and Community Development

Support for Community Groups

- Simple leadership groups
- More supports for groups
- Support for community centres and all the different voluntary groups (Tidy Towns, sports clubs, etc.)
- Support community groups, NGOs, insurance costs which are too high.
- Change structure of committee meetings
- Incentivise 3rd level students to help community groups
- *Incentivise volunteering by payment in kind (do bureaucracy)

Diversity and Integration

- Community centres to actively promote cultural diversity regardless of age/ ability/ ethnicity/ gender
- Language used new communities
- Integration barriers
- More remote get togethers – using the Internet, video link-ups – needs education and good broadband
- Amalgamation of young and elderly
- Age-friendly towns and villages
- Universal access

Medical Services

- More health centres (Ayresfield Medical Practice in Kilkenny is a great example)
- Better transport links
- Education barriers

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Representation and Participation

- Better leadership from our representatives to develop our communities
- People are disillusioned and cynical of party politics and public representatives
- That local concerns and needs are being listened to and that's what's represented
- A real seat at the table; not tokenism

Clear Communication

- Wider participation for diversity
- Plain English
- Changing the wording/ jargon
- Acronyms – educate
- Adapting the way we access participation, online and social media committees, etc.
- Deciphering the alphabet soup of acronyms; give clarity of each group's aim, what they do, can do – this may be daunting to those who want to participate

Support for Community Groups

- Information on grants and funding coming down from Government in good time to allow people to apply (time constraints)
- Deadlines too short for consultation process
- Re-evaluate the 'money has to be spent' to get a grant method as many groups don't have the money
- Code of governance simpler for groups
- Assistance or help filling our applications application forms
- Informal gathering spaces
- Create a structure where all groups and organisations meet and are represented, Mayo Futures Group are an example
- No joined-up thinking

Work, Economy and Resources

Support for Creative Business Opportunities

- Social enterprise hubs in each municipality to aid, encourage, highlight, support, educate and provide space for social enterprise
- Micro loans
- Re-invention of the "high street" for the 21st century to create jobs and sense of community
- Re-establish artisan bakeries in the area
- Encourage and inform people about alternatives to traditional agricultural systems, e.g., co-operatives, community supported agriculture

Support for Community Groups

- Lower insurance costs for businesses
- Lower insurance costs for community groups
- More than Healthy Carlow

Communication

- Greater information in different languages / better communication

- Inter-agency communication

Infrastructure

- Better broadband so people can work from home, more flexible working rotas, less driving as a result

Education

- Presentation de la Salle have applied for funding to establish metalwork classes to satisfy the demands for apprenticeships locally

Values, Culture and Meaning

- Social, inclusive and neighbourly community

Community Supports

- Neighbourhood supports for people who need it – quality in the community
- ICA, Men's Shed & other groups that give huge support to people's mental health

Arts

- Support for our local artists, crafts and music, jewellery making, pottery, weaving and traditional skills, etc.
- Arts centre to promote musicianship, art, creative writing, film and to include a meeting place/ café

Local Tradition

- Highlight local history and stories
- Blessing of graves/ patterns
- 'Trad' – tradition passing down from generation to generation; recreation, storytelling, instruments, songs and stories, dancing, rambling house, etc.

Culture

- Support for cultural centres within communities and support for workshops and events within
- Heritage
- Promote and encourage local Carlow culture and story-telling; Rathanna have a lovely example with their memory map

Environment and Sustainability

Transport

- More electric car charges in each area
- Need to address rural transport
- Lack of rural transport or car sharing options means rural people are creating more carbon emissions and are possibly resulting in an increase in driver crime as they drive uninsured and unlicensed
- Also leads to more isolation rurally. At the moment school buses collect and drop kids but the day they finish school they're no longer allowed on the bus

Energy

- Extend the use of alternative energy concepts – geothermal (extremely good community projects)

Minding Nature

- Cap the amount of forestry and encourage more broadleaf woodland. We are lucky to be surrounded by good agricultural land. Can we help to protect that?
- Proper protection of our natural habitats, water systems, biodiversity, woodlands, hedgerows, wetlands

Waste Creation and Management

- Ban on single use plastics and promotion and support for alternatives
- Proper waste separation; circular use of resources. Eliminate landfill and only incinerate when absolutely necessary
- Educate further on single use plastic and the effects of it

Built Environment

- Multi-function, multi-use buildings, spaces, places
- I would like to see more new houses in the town
- Innovation in affordable housing; create pilot housing schemes e.g. wooden houses, kit houses, straw bales, with the aim to create affordable, state of the art, environmentally friendly housing
- *The town should be clean every week in the town

Education and Action

- More green flags
- 3 organisations/ schools have 5 green flags. As young people are committed, they should be encouraged to continue with environmental projects as they get older

Climate Change

- Climate change is humanity's most serious problem. We need very robust and measured law and policies to reduce our carbon footprint

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLOW

Health (Physical and Mental)

Community Wellbeing

- Wellbeing should be incorporated into all community groups
- Supports for Carers
- Appropriate supports within communities

Services for People with Disabilities

- Services for children with disabilities need to be developed
- Integrated services for children with disabilities

Exercise and Recreation

- Free community exercise opportunities
- Public swimming pool

Education

- Autism units in all schools
- Learning about emotions in schools
- Health – physical and mental education from early age

Transport

- Improved rural transport

Supports for Youths

- Improved funding for Follaine
- Youth services – Foroige

Professional Health Services

- More hospice beds
- Services for drug users – rehabilitation
- Properly resourced mental health services and continuity of same
- Adequate respite services
- Primary Care Centre for physical and mental health
- Mental health services – outreach and out of hours

Social and Community Development

Involvement of Local Reps

- More local representation at meetings

Security

- More neighbourhood watch

Access to Information

- Extended library opening hours
- Local information hub

Inclusion

- Methods of successfully addressing deep rooted societal prejudice i.e. settled v's traveller
- An inclusive and welcoming community to all who come to live in it
- Genuine disability inclusion
- Inclusive practices and ethos

Youth

- Youthreach – embrace older than 21 – 28
- Hangout spaces for youth for artist graffitiing

Friendly Society – Young to Old

- Childcare for all
- Appropriate and affordable childcare services
- Age friendly society (cradle to grave) – public services, access to work and education and infrastructure

Planning and Development

- Developments in more rural areas along with amenities

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Good Governance Supports

- Streamlined governance structure
- Flat structure introduced to all meetings
- Streamline funding applications – provide supports
- Help with insurance
- Move people on from volunteer groups
- Help, supports with governance

Growing Volunteering

- Information to flow to young people for community groups
- Develop volunteering for young people
- More volunteers

Value and Respect

- SPC capacity building of local reps – attitude of local reps towards voluntary needs to change
- Acknowledgement of community workers
- Respect for the voice in the community

Enabling Community Led Action

- Local authorities to enable people to work in their own communities

Community Led Local Development

- No parish pump politics
- Local planning informed by local people
- Local development informed by community development – consultation with the community before decisions are made

Opportunities to Get Involved

- Creative ways to get input from people – those working late / different hours

PPN

- PPN capacity building

Enabling Effective Representation

- Capacity building of officials in lead service providers – acknowledgement of volunteers
- Build capacity of representatives in the community
- Enable representatives to have influence over decisions

Economy and Resources

Different Models of Working

- More social enterprises
- Tourism potential developed
- Use spent compost to winter flowerbeds – develop and recycle
- Community composting facilities and use waste for commercial producers – supermarkets
- Develop cottage industries – from school children to adults – sustainable work
- More social farming

Contribution from Business

- Corporate social responsibility – waste
- Agriculture and food production
- Complimentary employment that supports small scale farming
- Diverse models for food production – commercial and non-commercial
- Changing farming back to organic ways

Rural Areas

- We agree ways of supporting our rural populations
- Rural areas considered when government making policy

Infrastructure

- Broadband vital

Transport

- Better transport links
- Affordable MD wide public transport

Education and Training

- Supports for young mothers – basic life skills
- Education for independent living – how to manage resources i.e. money, food etc.
- Accessible local education and training
- Trades and crafts to be preserved and training opportunities

Values, Culture and Meaning

Celebrate Multiple Cultures

- Cultural festival
- Ongoing social integration programmes and the resources to implement
- Respect for all cultures including the Irish
- Provide resources for new communities to showcase their community and values as they feel appropriate
- Embrace music from all cultures

<u>Preserving Irish Culture</u>

- Programme for the promotion of Irish language
- Hold on to the Irish dancing, storytelling and music

<u>Dealing with our Differences</u>

- Challenge the narrative
- Reliable information re: services available e.g., those that teach different languages

<u>Policy, Planning and Implementation</u>

- Community representatives to help with integration
- Local realistic implementation and action on Migrant Strategy Plan

Environment and Sustainability

<u>Low Carbon Solutions</u>

- Remove restrictions from selling homegrown/homemade
- Support local businesses – cottage industries which gives rise to less airmiles

<u>Built Heritage</u>

- Better resources for our built heritage to help preserve it

<u>Education</u>

- Clarity on recycling and other waste
- Education programmes for all ages

<u>Transport</u>

- More supports/charging points for electric cars

<u>Environmentally Friendly Planning</u>

- Edible landscaping e.g., apple trees vs ornamental trees, native Irish hedging vs laurel

<u>Best Environmental Practices</u>

- Community groups and agencies must adhere to organic principles and environmentally friendly practices
- Sustainable pest management – public spaces especially
- Promotion of existing environmental programmes so wider outreach

<u>Tourism and Recreation</u>

- Cycle trails – eco-tourism and use
- Make areas more accessible with water crossings and link with walkways
- Develop the river area so that it can be used right through to Wexford
- History trail

Waste Management

- Environmentally friendly packaging for business
- Improve waste services especially green waste

Minding Nature

- Develop a Biodiversity Plan at local level
- Develop wildlife sanctuary

The SDGs and Local Government

Ireland's National Implementation Plan for the SDGs identifies the crucial role that Local Authorities must play in translating the SDGs into practical action at local level. It identifies the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and the Strategic Committees (SPCs) as well as local plans as being especially well placed to integrate the SDGs into their activities. Social Justice Ireland in collaboration with the Irish Environmental Network, World Vision Ireland and ECO- UNESCO have set out a series of proposals for Local Authorities covering all 17 SDGS (see below). Carlow PPN supports these proposals and encourages Carlow County Council to consider and implement them. The full policy briefing can be found on the Social Justice Ireland website here: https://www.socialjustice.ie/content/policy-issues/sdgs-and-local-authorities-creating-sustainable-communities