

Let's Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing for This and Future Generations in Tipperary



What community groups said at the Tipperary PPN community workshop held in Mullinahone Community Hall on 22nd October 2019



Why are we collecting the views of community groups?

The Tipperary PPN is working with its members to produce a shared vision for the future wellbeing of the Carrick on Suir Municipal district for this and future generations. This vision will be used to inform the work of the PPN and its representatives.

Community wellbeing combines a number of issues such as health, social and community development, the environment and public participation. All the different aspects of community wellbeing are captured in the diagram set out below. We want to hear your organisation's or group's ambitions and aspirations for our community around these issues.



As part of the consultation process Tipperary PPN has held a workshop in Carrick on Suir area. The inputs made by representatives of PPN member groups at that workshop are presented here for your information.

There is now a 2-week opportunity for groups that were not able to attend the workshops, or who were present but have additional inputs they want to make, to contribute their views. This can be done online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Carrick_On_Suir_Submission_Form or in writing (please see the form at the end of this document).

All the responses received will be collected and considered with those from the workshop (presented here) and incorporated into a Draft Vision for Community Wellbeing for the Tipperary PPN for This and Future Generations. This draft vision will be made available for feedback from all PPN member groups before being finalised and published.

This document

This document includes all the inputs that were made at the workshop, presented under the headings where they were made. They have been grouped by themes where this appeared to be helpful, but please note that these themes are only provided to help make the material more accessible.

Health (Physical and Mental)

- Have happy people who care about themselves, others, the environment and their surroundings and have a huge interest in having a good universe into the future. This includes caring for people in Ireland and in specific places around the world.

Health Services

- More beds for mental health
- Mental health services for children and youth
- Better mental health care – open St. Michaels psychiatric services in Clonmel
- Localised counselling and rehabilitation
- Addiction counselling around the clock
- Early intervention with counselling
- Short respite for carers
- Reduced waiting times in our hospital
- Re-open Cashel hospital and make better use of current facilities
- Fully resource primary health care team and buildings in all health centres
- Expanded services in our medical centres e.g. stitches, x-rays, as in Mitchelstown
- Affordable and accessible resources for all
- Funding for art and play therapy for young children
- A fully resourced and used Primary Care Centre in Carrick where the vital, necessary services can be accessed with the person the centre of the service. A 1 tier system with a 1 stop centre for all age groups

Support for Independent Living

- Supported independent living
- Meals on Wheels and more carers for the elderly
- Meals on Wheels to supply pet food
- Every village should have communal retirement areas/houses with services available nurses, etc.

Support for youth

- Focus on the young to ensure healthy living
- More youth projects in rural areas
- Mental health services available for youth in prevention of substance misuse
- Somewhere for young people to go to talk about problems
- Psychological assessments and support in school for all who need it

Active lifestyle supports

- Walking groups in all areas
- Affordable gyms/exercise
- Safe walk/cycle ways on all country roads
- Safe footpaths for walking between villages
- Accessible footpaths to all areas for example connecting villages
- Walking trails in all villages
- Finance where necessary for sport participation and active lifestyle
- Increase funding to encourage sport participation and active lifestyle programmes

Community Facilities and Services

- Encourage group “buddy systems” in which vulnerable people look out for each other
- Fully resourced resources such as schools, gyms, resource centres
- More family resource centres e.g. in Carrick

Education

- Accessible learning for all
- Encourage nutrition and cooking in national school

Safety and security

- Safe roads and footpaths; speed bumps around and within all villages and towns

Green Spaces and Food Production

- Green spaces kept green and accessible
- Communal gardens and allotments

Transport

- Better transport network to access services and employment

Housing

- No homeless families in Tipperary
- Shorten reallocation time for Local Authority housing

Accessibility

- Wheelchair access, street ramps, etc.

Excessive Restrictions

- Data protection (GDPR) is over the top

Detailed/ specific: Ballingarry GAA Club tennis court not available

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Local Authority – Elected Representatives

- Regular public meetings with local councillors NOT just before an election
- Engage with political reps on policy formation not just local issues

Local Authority – Consultation and Information

- Council consultations need to be local; showcase local plans in the local community and provide the opportunity for feedback at local level
- Consult with all community groups
- How do we bring local authority residents on board to speak about community issues?
- The community is correctly informed and updated when environmental disasters happen in local areas.

Local Authority & State Agency Expectations of Communities & Volunteers

- Unrealistic expectation of the statutory agencies about the availability of volunteers
- There is induction of Local Authority/ State agency staff in community requirements

Encouraging Participation and Volunteering

- Actually, ask people personally to participate in volunteering
- Recognition of volunteers
- It's a crisis situation; we're a great community, how do we harness that?
- Address the fear of failure and criticism
- Promote youth engagement
- Provide a range of activities for young people
- Transition Year community engagement involving local councillors and the local authority

Unreasonable Demands on Volunteer Groups

- We have lost the balance of governance; the level of governance should be matching the level of the grant.
- GDPR (data protection requirements) are over the top and should be looked at
- Insurance barriers
- Garda vetting
- Governance - There are excessive governance requirements
- When applying for financial help, the paperwork process has grown to an impractical level. The cost of this work should be factored into the application

How we do our business (All organisations; voluntary, statutory, charitable, commercial, etc.)

- Transparency and clear reporting of spending
- Simplified language in the community sector
- We have clear ground rules and respect within our organisations
- Accountability for actions across the board

Community Organisation

- Proactive community council for vision of community not individual agendas
- Networking/ communication between community groups to learn from one another
- More co-operation between groups for the improvement of the locality
- Power is given to communities to spend the money where they think it is needed

County Boundaries

- County boundaries and challenges this poses
- County boundaries blurred to benefit the population

The Public Participation Network (PPN)

- PPN champions
- Can the PPN become more local and there be more understanding of the PPN locally?

Employment policy

- Government should encourage more apprenticeships and help companies to facilitate this.

Values, Culture and Meaning

Cultural Diversity

- Bring cultures together by having village/community social events paid for by communities (Christmas, summer, etc.)
- Secular and cross-religious values
- Making sure that cultures mix and people maintain their own cultures
- Show and tell events involving different cultures, crafts and age groups
- Annual culture day to welcome and exhibit different cultural activities

- Struggling to learn and embrace our new cultures and for them to learn our culture and mutual appreciation
- Adopt a Syrian family and culture

Welcoming and inclusive place

- Our welcoming culture to continue for future generations
- Embrace cultural change
- Annual community festivals and gatherings

Irish culture

- Keep the Irish concept of “The Craic”

Intergenerational activities

- Intergenerational opportunities – granny days
- Respect for all ages by all ages

Local Heritage

- Revival of seanchaí and story telling
- Develop mass paths e.g. Glengoole
- Record local history from family elders
- Train people in crafts to keep the heritage alive

Local History

- Local history is very important
- Shared histories
- To keep local history as told by older people before it’s gone
- Don’t let the young people forget their (our) history

Built Heritage

- Financial assistance to community groups to purchase and maintain historical/cultural buildings and preserve these for future generations
- Enhance old buildings
- Office of Public Works (OPW) renovations should have proper, recognised apprentice schemes
- “Preservation Order” system needs to be re-jigged; it’s too complicated and low for people to buy properties with preservation orders
- Protect listed buildings
- Fast track Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for old buildings
- Make sure all old stone walls and buildings are done up
- Develop the warehouse as a tourism venture, part of a trail from Kilkenny to Cashel

Arts

- Local music schools
- Choirs for everyone in the schools in the evening

Planning

- Planning laws for new buildings to consider the local character more

Recreation and Tourism

- Outline a series of walking & cycling routes along back roads to all of the sites in the community
- Caravan/ camping park to encourage tourists en route from Kilkenny to Cashel

Education

- Outreach to schools for animal and human welfare

Valuing work

- Recognise all work; work in the home, in the community and what's now voluntary work
- The difference between the living wage and the minimum wage is presently too much (€9.80 and €12.30)

Infrastructure and services

- Communications
 - Adequate, affordable broadband everywhere
 - Broadband available so that people do not need to commute to cities in order to work
- Transport
 - Better public transport/ taxi
 - Improved public transport links to 3rd level institutions
 - E-car charging in every village
 - Suitable roads
- Housing
 - Accessible, affordable and available housing and accommodation for all
- Access
 - Pedestrian access for all to town and village centres

Education, Training and Skills Development

- Diverse education opportunities
- Help to encourage apprenticeships
- Availability for education including vocational/ trades
- Accessible education for children of all abilities
- Harness local knowledge to mentor groups

Support for Diverse Models of Business and Employment

- Social enterprise e.g. community cafés
- Promote local micro companies
- Support enterprise in the community
- Promote return to employment in smaller towns and villages
- Provide hot desks for remote working
- Encourage working from home (remote access)
- Encourage people to get involved in local economy
- Enterprise incubation hubs
- Promote our area to larger employers
- Good worthwhile jobs locally with access to digital hubs provided locally

Tourism

- Harness tourism assets (bogs, Slievanamon, etc.)

Community supports

- Each community has a hub for all example an employment and training hub
- There are community based website for job vacancies within 20 miles
- Sale or community use of derelict buildings (Garda stations, post offices, etc.)

Green Energy (Environment and Economy)

- Use natural resources for sustainable energy production
- Solar/ green technology for manufacturing
- Link economy and resources with environment and sustainability

Detailed/specific (below the line): Connection to fibre broadband for all in Mullinahone

Social and Community Development

We are/ have

- A welcoming society
- Happy people living to their full potential
- Better work-life balance
- Three-day week; everyone has a job, enough money to spend and a good quality of life
- A non-judgemental society
- Are inclusive of migrants and asylum seekers

Opportunities for Social Interaction

- More social outlets for people
- A meeting place for all, especially the elderly
- Tea room/ café
- Proper restaurants / rural pubs

Intergenerational activities

- Social activities for all age groups
- Interaction between the young and the old
- Events that young and old can be involved in/ intergenerational

Community Facilities

- Multi-usage community centres encouraging engagement between young and old
- Day care centre not only for elderly but unemployed and “not working” too
- Centre based, needs-lead, response depending on the key needs in the community at any given time
- Active community centres
- Fully resources and used Family Resource Centres (e.g. in Carrick) addressing needs in the wider community

Planning and Development

- Restoration of closed up derelict buildings
- Better wheelchair access and accessible public spaces
- Availability of Garda stations, post offices and community garden spaces for the community
- Village renewal and well-kept open spaces
- Support for community groups in procurement and securing funding

Infrastructure

- Comprehensive rural broadband

Open Spaces

- Community gardens and parks
- Community fields and walkways around them
- Walking trails in all villages

Tourism & Recreation

- A local walkway and tourist attractions, cycleways
- Good tourist information for visitors
- Advertise viewing areas

Transport

- Road and rural transport infrastructure
- E-car charging points
- Sustainable public transport for rural areas

Community Networking and Co-ordination

- Have more co-ordination between parish organisations
- Local community groups to come together to work together using the particular skills of each group
- Communities working across boundaries, borders, counties with their neighbour communities
- Develop one local news forum, not depending on various Facebook pages
- Availability phone services such as Good Morning Tipperary

Support for Families and Children

- Affordable childcare
- Childcare services
- Parent support groups
- Playgrounds
- Additional supports for blended families

Volunteering

- Encourage non-working and unemployed people to volunteer locally
- Ask people, especially the young to volunteer

Supporting Independent Living

- Home care services to keep people independent as long as possible
- Befriending group to visit people living alone in rural areas
- Dementia village in the community (“Brennan Bros TV”)
- Independent living hubs for older people with nurse and porter services, etc.
- Meals on Wheels
- Care facilities for the vulnerable of any age in the community
- Create a statutory entitlement to home care services enabling people to stay in their own homes longer with dignity and independence

Medical Services

- Adequate GP services and health services
- Drug and alcohol addiction support services
- Community nursing home in every community big or small

Celebrating What we Have

- Celebrate life festival
- Festivals and community celebrations for all
- International Day to welcome and highlight people from different cultures living in our community

Inclusion and Accessibility

- Autism friendly facilities
- People set up their own social and leisure groups inclusive of all

Education and Youth

- Youth clubs and services
- Accessible education
- Non-denominational schools

Housing

- Opportunities for young people to house share with older people
- Make it easier for people to up or downsize re: housing
- Eliminated homelessness, both short and long term
- Have plenty of social housing to meet the needs of an expanding population
- Social welfare rates need to keep pace with wage increases otherwise there will be a rise in poverty. Maybe in less than 10 years we can have the basic income for all.

Waste Management

- A plastic free environment and society
- Improved recycling and zero waste
- Annual local recycling times for metal, furniture, etc.
- Reverse vending machines
- Food waste management – dates, best before, etc.
- Annual amnesty day for collection of large waste items e.g. mattresses, couches, beds, etc.
- No rubbish on side of road and no fly tipping
- Transparent recycling policies and procedures accessible to the public (where did my rubbish go?)
- Use money available for recycling of cartridges and all other recyclable products
- We must go back to the paper bag and the glass bottle – discontinue use of plastic.
- Serious improvements re: the environment and waste materials plus a huge buy in by all individuals
- Use Biodegradable material to replace plastics in time

Development and Planning

- Long term planning re: clean water, sustainability, bird sanctuaries, solar heating, etc.
- Support people to use their franchise vote to ensure positive natural environment policy
- Utilising the bog as community resource

Energy

- Co-operation with community facilities to share energy sources
- Create sustainable energy sources e.g. wind
- Better grants for retrofitting homes
- Affordable retrofitting – especially those buildings over 10 years of age
- Community windmill/ turbine
- Solar energy

Transport

- E-car charging points
- Kids cycle to school, we cycle to work
- Shared transport
- Transport hubs with pay and ride stations

Water

- Keep our waters clean
- Public water butts embracing water conservation
- Pumping of sewage into rivers is prohibited

Agriculture

- Support farmers to diversify their business
- Our agricultural community is supported to adapt, embrace alternative enterprises, etc.

Safety and Accessibility

- Improve footpaths and lighting

Food production

- Develop social farms to increase employment; put farms that might be sold to larger farms in community hands
- More support for local produce

Green Spaces

- Community gardens
- Every village has a mini garden

Recreation

- Accommodate all people who wish to walk through the fields (like gun club not without guns)

Supporting Wildlife

- Wildflower gardens to encourage the bees; don't worry Bee Happy!
- Hedge cutting laws enforced and farmer education on rules/regulations in relation to hedge-cutting and the reasons why laws are required
- Cleaning of rivers/ riverbanks to encourage biodiversity

Enterprise/ Industry

- Create hydrogen manufacturing facility
- Developing tourism; castle tours, graveyard tours, etc.

Education

- More education around recycling and composting
- Children are more involved in environmental projects; environmental and sustainability is a part of the primary curriculum
- More emphasis in schools in keeping the area rubbish and litter free
- Re-educate young people i.e. 20-30yrs re litter
- Do better advertising and educational process on future development e.g. benefits of windfarms
- Education on going back in time to understand how to keep our area cleaner e.g. glass bottles

Information and Transparency

- When environmental incidents happen, they are reported. Updates on the damage are regularly made public until fully rectified

Heritage

- Assistance (finance, etc.) towards purchase and maintenance of historical houses, monuments, etc.
- Utilise vacant properties in towns and villages
- Training in heritage skills

If you want to make an input to the Tipperary PPN Carrick MD Vision for Community Wellbeing, you can do this either online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Carrick_On_Suir_Submission_Form or in hard copy (see the form on the next page).

*Please note that this consultation ends on **Monday 18th November 2019**. Submissions received after this date will be kept to inform PPN work, but may not be included in the Draft Vision for Community Wellbeing for This and Future Generations.*