

Kilkenny City Municipal District

Vision for Community Wellbeing Workshop Inputs (17th February 2020)

Social and Community Development

How can we be an inclusive community where we support each other and ensure no one is left out? What are the important social services and facilities we need to live well from childhood to old age?

Safety and security

- Being able to feel safe in your community.
- Lighting in rural areas and speed limits.

Outdoor recreation

- Green spaces.
- Open air facilities.

Planning and housing

- More social and affordable housing.
- Life-time planning of our communities.
- Housing that is sustainable (vertical planting).
- Biodiversity area and mix of old and young people.
- 3 or 4 storey housing
- Policy so that all new facilities and buildings have automatic doors, wheelchair access., etc.
- Shared facilities

Work conditions

- Living wage
- End zero-hour contracts.

Social policy

- Try a better/ different approach to integration.
- Strategies to combat loneliness and isolation; support for organisations who's remit it is to combat the above.
- Older people need to make a plan/ strategy setting out their wishes for when they get older.

Facilities and services

- Audit of facilities that already exist.
- Facilities for older people to meet easily.
- Play are for kids.
- More sports hubs to allow for older adults to meet.
- Better services for young people who are over 18 and under 35.
- Health services and dental health services.

Work, Economy and Resources

How can our communities thrive economically, with good jobs, and supports for enterprise, business and for people not in work? What resources do we have and are they use effectively without causing harm to social and environmental sustainability?

- Shift towards renewable resources in homes, workplaces and industry, supported by grants, taxes, etc.

Business development and supports

- Regulation of rent for business premises.
- Make it affordable for small scale businesses to flourish.
- Affordable rates.
- Make it simple and support start-up businesses.
- Support for start up businesses; mentoring, financial advice, etc.
- Combine efforts of the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to develop sustainable employment in Kilkenny in design, craft and food areas.

Infrastructure

- Affordable housing.
- Improved train service; more destinations, increased frequency, increased cycle parking at stations, etc.
- Dependable and widespread broadband.
- Complete ring road to alleviate traffic.

Education, Training and Guidance

More level 6 courses in Kilkenny.

- 3rd level institution (or campus) for Kilkenny.
- Practical training.

Training for Types of Work

- Design or animation school
- More apprenticeships.
- Expand apprenticeships scheme to film, arts, crafts and sports.
- More QQI level 1 & 2 courses and qualifications in hospitality.
- Practical training in hospitality, service skills and customer services.

Guidance and Opportunities

- Focus on career guidance.
- Promote girls to look outside traditional careers e.g. a summit or conference.
- Development of initiatives for graduates to get employment work experience.

Training for Different Groups/ Sectors

- Retraining for the unemployed.
- Support for job clubs to help people get jobs everywhere.
- Education opportunities among Travellers.
- Skills and practical skills for Travellers.
- Support for people who cannot read and write.
- Tailor trainings to meet the needs of employers.

Support for workers

- Enabling people with chronic illnesses and disabilities to find suitable jobs.
- Provide affordable car insurance for young/ first-time drivers to facilitate their travel to work.
- Make the process of getting jobs easier and more affordable for immigrants.
- Living wage; get rid of minimum wage.
- Flexible working environments.
- Keep retirement age to 65 unless individuals wish to work on.
- More support for childcare facilities including in the workplace.

Social infrastructure

- Build a community centre to be accessed freely by all existing community groups for their diverse programmes i.e. employment training programmes.
- Ensure there is infrastructure in the community especially when new buildings are being planned and developed. Infrastructure to connect different elements of the community.
- A resource centre for young people (15-35yrs). Facilitating start-ups along with seed funds could occur.
- Social infrastructure for developing social enterprise.

Social enterprise

- A programme to support development of community oriented and owned enterprise; social enterprise.
- Support for small and sustainable businesses e.g. small food producers, crafts.

Support for community groups

- Regional/ local (small enterprise) community insurance scheme.
- Need for affordable community assurance for economic activity. (Many community groups could help with promoting the economy of their area if insurance costs are addressed.)
- Support for community groups to develop or achieve their aims/ objectives.

Support for those not working

- Financial and social support for carers.

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

What is necessary to ensure that our local government structures support the wellbeing of our community for this and future generations? What is necessary to ensure that we have a voice in the decisions that affect us, and that all voices are being heard?

Community Groups

- Groups working together; solidarity and mutual respect for all groups and communities.

Local Government

Communication and Transparency from Local Government through:

- Information about what they do
- Explanation of how policies are developed and decisions are made
- Live streaming of Council meetings
- Publication of list of lobby groups that approach the Council
- Transparency on how they operate.

Active consultation

- Hold joint Municipal District meetings between elected representatives and the Public Participation Network (PPN).
- All community groups are included, involved and participate fully.
- The Local Authority consults widely with all community groups to get their input into decision.
- A Citizens Assembly is consulted in good time about plans for the City, buildings, park, etc.
- Provide resources to consult using innovative methods with vulnerable groups.
- Children's voices should be heard.
- Make attending meetings easily accessible for people with disabilities.
- Use schools to deliver consultations with children and young people.

Participation

- Register Travellers to vote.

National issue

- Is proportional representation working?

- More bus shelters.

Culture, Values and Meaning

What is needed to ensure that everyone feels, and actually is, included and valued, and that our different values and cultures are respected and nurtured? What are the important parts of our culture that we want to hand on to future generations?

- All sections of our community respect one another.
- Have a value statement/ charter.

Multi-cultural community

- Welcome to Kilkenny resource; place, information and courses.
- Connecting new people to clubs, societies etc.; a directory.
- Multi-cultural festival; food, music, conversation.
- Ensure mixing in schools.
- Encourage and provide training in cultural diversity.
- Capture and document current diversity.
- Expand the Yellow Flag scheme from schools (promoting diversity and inclusion) into sports clubs, shopping centres, etc.

Irish culture

- Provide outlets for speaking Irish.

Information

- Greater participation of Citizens Information Bureau.
- Single tier health service.
- Religion is an important part of the community.

Health (Physical and Mental)

How can all members of our community enjoy the best possible physical and mental health? What about people with special needs, older people and carers?

Mental Health

- More awareness of how to cope with stressful situations.
- Address long waiting lists for mental health services.
- More mental health interventions; early intervention, more services, programmes in school, programmes for parents.
- Mental health initiatives and services in the Travelling community.
- Amongst the Travelling community embarrassment and stigma is a huge issue for addressing mental health.
- More early intervention to reduce the late diagnosis of mental health and physical health conditions.
- More awareness of how to signpost for various mental health issues.
- Primary care centres are very helpful; reduces stigma around mental health and normalises mental health.

Health Services

- Address inadequate services in the hospital e.g. mental health, cardiac care, etc.
- More rehabilitation services in Kilkenny e.g. arthritis Ireland, pain management, physiotherapy, etc.

Accessibility

Transport

- Accessible transport; new bus route to give more accessibility in communities for older adults.
- Accessible transport for frail elderly e.g. minibus and driver.
- Age friendly parking for our parks.

Public spaces

- More seating everywhere in Kilkenny for older adults and people with limited disability.
- Accessible seating.
- Stroke-friendly restaurants and spaces e.g. visual menus, quiet areas in parks and restaurants to reduce background noise.

Sports and recreation

- More indoor arenas (given Irish weather)
- Introduce other sports and minority sports.
- More sports development.
- More multi-purpose sports hubs providing for older adults, minority sports, adolescents.
- Physical activity opportunities for minority groups.
- Greenway development in the natural environment with no cars; active travel.

Facilities and supports for

Adolescents

- Safe spaces and places for adolescents; fostering imagination, privacy, with outdoor options, etc. e.g. biodiversity garden. A good practical example would be the skate park in the people's park in Waterford.

Those with children

- More safe and accessible playgrounds.
- Accessible changing facilities.

Independent living

- More homecare services that are free.

Those with pets

- park that is safe and accessible.

Cultural groups

- More outreach programmes e.g. Roma community, Travellers, etc.

Community Facilities and Services

- More community-run recreational facilities.
- Men's and Women's Sheds.
- Community inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities.
- More social opportunities for people that are not alcohol-based.
- Clubs running programmes to include people in the wider community.
- More day-time activities in the community.
- More Family Resource Centres.
- More venues for health initiative groups to meet.

Safe spaces

- Increased lighting on the outskirts of the city.
- Ease cycling and walking in the city.
- Multi-functional, multi-use streets e.g. street sharing and pedestrian friendly.

Below the line (points too detailed or specific to be taken forward to Vision):

- More facilities like the Watershed in Kilkenny.
- Services Western environs? Also Rosewood, Lintown, Fairways, Johnswell rd.

Environment and Sustainability

How do we value our natural environment and man-made heritage? What can be done to conserve, protect and restore these? How can we interact with the environment in a sustainable way and hand it on to the next generation in a better state?

Leadership

- Kilkenny to be an example of best practice in sustainability.
- Community solidarity towards the environment; large clean ups, planting sessions.
- More community incentives to protect the environment.

Transport

- Much more pedestrianisation throughout the city (more bikes).
- Extension of city bus service.
- Sustainable transport.
- Independent mobility of children e.g. Mary Immaculate College
- One-way system in Kilkenny; a widely consulted on traffic management system to reduce traffic.
- Safe cycling routes including to school and big companies/ employers.
- An Post electric vehicles.
- Campaign for energy efficiency, “no cars in the city for one day!”
- No parking in brewery quarter.

Energy

- Zero carbon policies.
- More focus on renewable energies particularly by Planning Department of the County Council and other agencies.
- Harvest energy and address the problem that private individual can feed into the national grid.
- City Council to replace all lights with more efficient LED ones.
- Record our carbon footprint.
- Go back to basics; use a clothes line instead of a dryer.

Water

- Harvest water.
- Public drinking water pumps.
- Improve quality of drinking water.
- Top class sewage treatment works.

Waste

Waste management

- Stop drivers disposing of waste from cars.
- More pride in our local areas; stop littering along our roads.
- Stricter Bye Laws for littering and waste.

Recycling

- Public recycling bins.
- Clearer guidelines on recycling options.
- More recycling centres.

Agriculture, food and gardens

- Community shops for local produce.
- Grow your own vegetables and fruit; self-sufficient neighbourhoods.
- Reduce spraying of pesticides
- Stop spreading at the wrong times.
- Travellers' horse dung used as manure.
- Moss peat bins used by the wider community.
- Crop gets cut leading to rat infestation.

Minding nature

- Planting of more suitable indigenous trees.
- Vertical gardens, e.g. at the Brewery site.
- More tree and biodiversity planting.
- More green spaces.
- Full time tree surgeon in Kilkenny.
- Compliance of County Council in not cutting the verges on the motorway.

Planning for people and the environment

- Interagency approach to planning.
- Change the planning guidelines so that for every 20 houses built there must be an allocated green area.
- Enhance and maintain open spaces.
- More interactive nature facilities should be open to the public.

Education and awareness

- More awareness about the environment in schools.
- Compulsory teaching about the environment in primary schools.
- More focus on environmental awareness through education.

Animal welfare

- Policies/ checks in place to make sure that people have adequate resources and capacity to keep animals.
- People who own horses to make sure they are well-fed, groomed and in good health.

Involvement of business

- Corporate responsibility.
- Eco tourism business.