



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	N McHugh
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Topic

Community Development (incl. sports facilities & schools, etc.)

Submission

I would like to see the inclusion of an athletics facility in the Local Area Plan to serve the growing needs of Blessington and surrounding communities.

Lakeshore Striders Athletics Club is currently expanding and establishing a juvenile section. However, despite the club's growth and the increasing population in the area, the club currently has no permanent facilities to support training.

It would be brilliant to see the development of a facility that would include a running track with an infield space for sports such as shot put, long jump, and hurdles. A facility that can provide support for youth and adult participation.

With ongoing residential development in Blessington, access to an athletics facility would benefit not only club members but also local schools, community games, and sports clubs. It would provide an outlet for young people, promote physical activity across all age groups, and create opportunities for talent development.

On a personal note, participation in the Lakeshore Striders has been a transformative experience for me. In the five years I have been a member I have personally benefitted from the positive physical and mental health improvements, cultivated new friendships, and contributed to my community. I believe in earnest that this is a gift that must be paid forward.

With the proper athletics facility in place it would be a beacon in the community that could foster curiosity and inspire others to engage in sports and activities no matter what their age or ability.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration,
Niall McHugh,
Lakeshore Striders A.C. Committee Member

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