



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Blessington AFC
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-190049
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Topic

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

Submission

I would like to make a submission to support blessington AFC.
This club is in desperate need for some more facilities.

At the moment the club supports a growing academy, 22 underage teams and 3 seniors team.
We are unfortunately in a situation where we lease the grounds off road stone and that limits us to how we can development our current playing pitches in cross chapel.
And any development request is met with resistance from our landlord and takes too long to align development with our growing membership.

We would like some allocation of land in the plan to expand our current footprint into the town.

This would allow us to develop more playing pitches, possibly an astro and more importantly a club house.

Blessington is huge sporting hub but its largest sporting club has no club house . Which is a huge disadvantage to our memebbers and the wider community around blessington.

Our catchment area is huge , we get players from blessington , brittas , kill , killteel , rathmore , eadestown , punchestown , ballymore , dunlavin , Hollywood, vallemount, Ballyknockan ballynastockan , lacken and Kilbride.

Memebers from all these area don't have a place where they can congregate as a group or as a club.

Having such a facility would help the club match the exponential growth and demand for soccer.
Our current pitches in cross chapel only supports one training pitch. But this pitch has no drainage which means we cannot train on it resulting in team renting halls and the gaa astropitch.

The small size of our facilities has the club at the the point where we have to place kids on waiting lists.. while we try our best to get every kid into a team. Some are waiting 9 - 12 months.

To summarise the support for blessington AFC :

We need more land in the town to support memebbership growth and the natural growth of our catchment area.

We need more land in the town to allow us to build a club house or a place for our memebbers to meet and socialise.

We need more land in the town to get our kids training more on potentially a soccer astropitch.

We been out of the town for too long, its time to bring blessington AFC back to the heart of the community.

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