



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Niamh Craul
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-213207
Submission Made	December 11, 2024 9:42 PM

Topic

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

Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission for Athletics Facilities in the Blessington Area

I am writing as a concerned member of the Blessington community, a dedicated runner, and a parent to advocate for the development of comprehensive athletics facilities in our area. This submission is made with the intent to support community games, local schools, adults, and sports clubs.

The Blessington area, including the surrounding communities of Ballynocken, Lacken, Hollywood, Ballymore, and Eustace, has a significant population that would greatly benefit from such facilities. Currently, we lack a dedicated home for athletics, which limits our ability to nurture and develop local talent. We have some very strong athletes, and there is a growing interest in establishing a junior section to encourage young children to engage in sports from an early age.

One of the key facilities we urgently need is a 400m running track. This track would serve as a central hub for all running activities, providing a safe and standardized environment for training and competitions. A 400m track is essential for athletes to train effectively, particularly for those involved in track and field events. It would also be a valuable resource for local schools and community games, promoting physical fitness and healthy competition among young people.

In addition to the running track, we propose the development of facilities that cater to a variety of field sports, including shot put, long jump, hurdles, and more. These facilities would not only serve the needs of our community but also provide a valuable outlet for young children, helping to combat the rising issue of obesity in Ireland. As you may be aware, Ireland is one of the most obesity-ridden countries in the EU, and promoting physical activity from a young age is crucial in addressing this public health challenge.

The establishment of proper athletics facilities would have far-reaching benefits for our community. It would provide a safe and structured environment for children and adults alike to engage in physical activity, fostering a culture of health and fitness. Moreover, it would alleviate some of the pressure on our health system by promoting preventative health measures through regular exercise.

We believe that investing in these facilities, particularly the 400m running track, is an investment in the future health and well-being of our community. We kindly request that this proposal be given serious consideration

and brought to the forefront of the local area plan.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We look forward to your positive response.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Craul

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