

## Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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## **Topic**

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

## Submission

Hi

I'm involved in the local athletics Club - Lakeshore Striders. We sadly need a home. I've been involved in the Club for 6 years and only started running on my year. Never too late to start and again from the great health and social benefits.

I have coached the Couch 2 5k for the past three years. We have people of all ages, young and old and fitness levels. We often have whole family Mother, Father and Daughter/Sons. Husbands and Wives and groups of friends etc. We start off well, with well over 30 new members each year. Most of these are ladies and starting in Jan and running for over a three month period we loss people, mostly due to not having any bathroom facilities. This is our biggest difficulty in the Club. If we had even these simple facilities, much less a new track we would be in heaven.

We have over 120 active members and our numbers grow all the time with new house in Blessington. We have started the process of beginning a Juveniles section that will attract huge numbers as we are asked regularly to start coaching for the Community Games. We plan in bringing all these kids in under our wing of the Club for track and field activities. We just need a permanent home. We'd be happy to share with any of the other groups in the area looking for pitches etc. Blessington FC and the local Rugby Club too.

A new track and field facilities would help us attract even more people and retain them. We have quality runners and the beginners turning up each session but would love more local adult and kids to learn the joys of running and field events.

Please consider our needs for today and for the future, please.