



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual, Group
Name:	Poulaphouca Paddlers
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-200443
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Topic

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

Submission

I joined the Poulaphouca Paddlers in 2021, who operate out of Russelstown on the Blessington Lakes after trying out kayaking in the Avon. This is a great amenity for the locals, under used in my opinion. What I like about the club is the diversity. We have people from 12 years of age right up to 60+. The club has a lot of experienced coaches, who give a great deal of their time to the younger members and us newcomers, teaching the skills of kayaking, but most importantly the safety on the water. But, what the club really needs is a clubhouse, with toilets, showers, meeting room, kitchen for after paddle chats, also a gym to aid in the improvement of fitness and injury prevention needed for kayaking as it is a physical activity. The club also plays a big part in the social inclusion, most recently with the addition of Ukrainian members joining. We have people from all walks of life who without our club would never have known each other. This is what makes it a special club to be a part of, but to keep it going into the future we need to get proper facilities as we are working out of containers at the moment. Thank you for taking the time to read this submission and hopefully this helps in learning about the importance of inclusion of all the different clubs, local amenities etc in the Blessington area. Regards, Mick

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