



Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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Reference:	BLESSLAP-154959
Submission Made	April 2, 2024 4:18 PM

Topic

Regeneration of Communities & Places - Healthy Placemaking - Urban Design - Opportunity Sites in Blessington

Submission

Particular focus should be on intelligent design of spaces/ use of land in and close to the town so that the following objectives are met:

- a) The main opportunity to enhance the public realm would be to generate a large town park starting at the roundabout at the back of Dunnes and extending to Glending forest to give direct connectivity from the town to the forest. This would also compensate partly for the future loss of part of the forest when the main bypass road gets built. Ideally this park should be T shaped and include agricultural lands from the Naas Rd across to the No1 School. There is only one chance to establish such a park and that is now before the areas get built on. Land zoned Industrial in this areas would need to be zoned for recreation. Industrial zoning should be confined to the Dublin side of the town for access and minimisation of heavy commercial traffic needing to come into the town.
- b) Emphasis on open spaces and amenities that encourage healthy outdoor activity.
- c) Particular brief to design to avoid opportunities for young people to become engaged in anti social behavior, but rather all possible options to encourage good social interaction should be pursued eg areas of town allocated to care of schools/ certain groups of people, allotments, sports centre, swimming pool etc
- d) Invitations should be issued to a select number of (paid) international town planners who have experience in designing creative and functional town / recreational spaces. The best of their ideas should be harvested and applied to Blessington. There are lots of great ideas out there in the world that we haven't thought about!
- e) Sheltered living areas for older/ vulnerable people to live with maximum independence close to town centre.
- f) Avoid pedestrianisation that would result in significant traffic around the town eg the route from main st to Dunnes should not be pedestrianised
- g) Everything should be done to encourage and support the development of voluntary and sports organisations in the town.
- h) Housing expansion should be only done in a manner that is matched by corresponding infrastructure. At present I think the town population appears to have been underestimated and a realistic view of current population should be taken when making plans.
- i) I would be in support of calls for a multi function sports centre site to be made available in the town possibly on the vacated Dorans pit site

Thank you

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