



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
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Topic

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

Submission

I work as a teacher at Blessington No 1. School and I am a member of Lakeshore Striders athletics club. I joined the club a year ago and found it an amazing way to get fit while meeting like minded people. After COVID, it was a great way to get involved in the local community again. We have been using the track at the Blessington Community School, but we will lose the facility when the school starts its building work in November.

Therefore, we strongly believe that it is essential to locate a permanent home for our club in Blessington. The club would love to build a 400m track with changing facilities. This would benefit the adult members and would allow us to grow our club to extend our membership to children also. Many of the club members are in the process of setting up a junior section to the club. However, we need a permanent home to secure the future of the club. It would be such a shame to lose the club due to having no home to train at. While the club members train on the road and on local trails, the track sessions are the highlight of the week. It is essential that we successfully secure land to ensure this can continue.

Personally, this would benefit me as a mother whose children love to take part in the park run most Saturdays at Russborough and also as a teacher who coaches children at school for cross country events, our school marathon run and sports day. Our children at Blessington No 1 School currently drive to clubs such as Crookstown which are a long drive from Blessington. A local track and a club to accommodate children and adults alike would be an exciting development for the area. We have had great success at recent cross country and track events as part of Blessington No. 1 School and we would love to have access to a 400m track to further develop the sport and train on days when the fields are too wet.

Blessington is a poorly resourced town in terms of sports facilities. We have lots of talented children who deserve a place to train. It would provide a positive meeting point to help children meet and get fit together. This would be great for the mental health of young people and adults in the area. It would not only benefit the residents of Blessington but would provide a great location for people living in nearby areas such as, Ballymore - Eustace, Lacken, Manor Kilbride, Valleymount, Hollywood, Cross Chapel to name a few.

Athletics is a growing sport in Ireland, as it is a sport that anyone can take part in no matter what their ability or age. We could attract all ages to our track and provide a centre for people to meet up and train, exercise and coach together. We could begin to develop field athletics such as, high jump, long jump and shot putt. As someone who spent their childhood competing in county athletics and field events, I would love to give my children and the children of the local area the chance to learn and possibly master these events.

To conclude, a local running track and facilities would benefit people of a wide range of ages. It would bring people together and enhance the mental health and physical health of all involved.

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