



# Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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## Topic

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

## Submission

Proposal: 400m Athletic track with respective facilities

I'm an active member of the local running club in Blessington the Lakeshore Striders. I live in Lacken and joined somewhat recently in 2021 after moving back to the area after living and working in Dublin. The current facilities the club have use are the asphalt track in the Blessington Community College grounds. This was maybe somewhat adequate in the early days of the club circa 2007 and maybe even up to recent years. Since I joined the club in 2021 however the club has seen an explosion in growth and activity.

The club has both a competitive and community ethos with members competitive in the Wicklow and Leinster Track, Road & Mountain running scene to the Couch to 5k programme that renews every year with large numbers taking part. The club will lose access to what are the bare bones facilities of the asphalt track next year and sorely need access to full facilities of a 400m track with toilets, changing area, showers and also preferable are field sport facilities within the 400m track. The current state of facilities is a deterrent to many with especially no toilet facilities. A junior faction is now starting in the club and these facilities are essential if they are to thrive. I've two young daughters who I hope will participate in the sport but without the facilities that other sports have they are at a disadvantage

A full athletic 400m track would be a great asset to the community in general as it would provide a fantastic training opportunity for other local sporting clubs. There are few and far between track facilities once you leave Dublin and this would be a great resource for Blessington and the surrounding towns and villages

