



Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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Ideas for Local Area Plan 2024 CKehoe rev.docx, 0.02MB

Blessington Local Area Plan Submission March 2024

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Ideas for Local Area Plan 2024:

The Plan should include relevant provisions to support the development of the various services and infrastructures described below with a view to enhancing the public realm, community services, accessibility, ease of movement, and regeneration of the retail and commercial offerings of the town.

Housing

- Currently there is enough land zoned for housing.
- Key to sustainability – build houses nearer to the town (Doran's Pit)
- Vacant sites – emphasis to be put on utilizing vacant units before introducing new houses.
- Roads and access to houses to be updated before houses are built.
- The road at Burgage More to be widened before the new County Council houses built.
- Parking – increase parking for new estates to avoid cars parking on main roads.
- Car park to be developed for Burgage Cemetery and Avon Ri .
- Services – Wastewater to be upgraded.
- Sporting and recreational activities – developers should pay for this before new houses are built.

Town Centre Strategy and Retail

- Paid parking (two hours free)
- Dedicated car parks – car park on the Kilbride Road to be advertised better. Signage needed. We could also use off Main Street parking to improve traffic flow.
- Dedicated Park and ride facility to be introduced so that people going on the bus are not taking up spaces all day.
- Increase the width of footpaths.
- Proper cycle paths to all main schools and around the town.
- Traffic lights at Rockypool Villas to school and at Texaco
- Inner relief road to be completed.
- Retail- vacant sites to be used before new sites are developed.
- Square to be redeveloped and cars taken out. (Town Centre First)
- Connect Dunnes with the Main Street – e.g. yard beside the West Wicklow and Dunnes Stores to be developed.

Economy

- Analyse the empty units in existing industrial units.
- Improve transport so that people outside Blessington can get to work (see transport section)
- Look at zoning for new industrial units.
- Idea here would be to focus on a specific sector. For example, in Athenry the industrial estate focuses on developing indigenous food producers. Work with the IDA on this. We could focus on Green Economy. Encourage businesses to move out of Dublin to increase spatial diversity in the country.
- To attract businesses to Blessington we need to improve our connectivity – buses, links to local town, connections with local universities (see more in transport section).

Tourism

- More accommodation needed. No hotel in Blessington at present.
- Bed and breakfasts.
- Air BnBs
- Transport- see transport section.
- Greenway to be completed.
- Bridges on the lake to be upgraded. The Council will need to talk with the ESB regarding this.
- Historical buildings/ historical walk- focus on the rich history of Blessington. Work with the local History Society on this.
- Cycleways and footpaths to be upgraded.
- Glending Forest to be highlighted as a walking destination. Proper car park to be completed. Currently people are parking at the side of the road which is quite dangerous.
- **Make West Wicklow a visitor destination** – connect Blessington, Dunlavin, Baltinglass with the rest of Wicklow. Focus on the Sally gap and connection to the East.
- West Wicklow Way – make this like the Wicklow Way. Make it into a tourist route for visitors.
- Highlight Blessington as a hub for Wellness Retreats – e.g. Yoga, hiking, sailing, kayaking and outdoor pursuits?
- Tourist centre to be developed.
- Blessington needs to be added to the Wicklow Tourist action plan as a hub town.

Social Infrastructure

- Childcare- increased number of creches is needed for the increase in population.
- Schools – development of current school and land to be zoned for new secondary school. Building of new secondary school to be pushed forward to September 2024.
- Health- new doctors' surgery or more doctors in current one?
- Leisure and recreation and cultural facilities. Currently Blessington is seriously under serviced in this area.
 - Soccer and Rugby Club needed. Lands to be zoned at Avon Ri, Burgage
 - Swimming Pool – Lands zoned at – Avon Ri, Burgage
 - Community Centre
 - Tennis Courts- Lands zoned at – Avon Ri, Burgage
 - Basketball court- Lands zoned at – Avon Ri, Burgage

In other towns there is a dedicated area for sports and recreation. Often this includes a swimming pool, soccer and rugby pitches and other recreational activities.

Cemetery

- Are there lands allocated for a new cemetery?
- Car park needed at the current cemetery- at Avon Ri, Burgage.

Roads

- Upgrade of N81 needed. What is the plan for this?
- Inner Relief Road to be completed.
- Potholes to be fixed regularly. Smaller roads to be included in this.
- Smaller roads – Burgage
- The junction of the R410 and N81 to be adjusted.

Built and Natural Heritage

- Need proper list of the protected structures (*list of these*)
- Sustainability
- Glen Ding Wood as a conservation, heritage, and amenity zone
- Hedgerows to be kept as much as possible when new developments are being done.

Transportation

- Bus service from Blessington to be upgraded.
- Feeder bus from Blessington to Tallaght suggested. To be available hourly.
- Connections to local towns to be upgraded – includes Naas, Newbridge, Dunlavin, Baltinglass
- Rosslare bus to stop in Blessington and bring passengers to Dublin. Currently this passes through the town without collecting people.
- Cycle paths to be upgraded. Need cycle paths around the town to surrounding areas – Texaco garage, Aldi etc. Should be able to cycle around the town without going on the footpaths.

Climate and Biodiversity

- Improve walking and cycling facilities to get the cars off the roads.
- Extra EV charging points for trucks etc.
- Improved bus services as mentioned above.
- Allotments – land to be zoned for this .
- New houses – to be fitted with solar panels, proper insulation and A rated. This should be made as part of the planning process.
- Areas of natural wilding to be protected – e.g. bees, insects' birds (*where are these*)
- Create a green corridor between Glending Forest the town and the lake.
- Flood plains to be protected and not used for new buildings .