



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Radek Dulny
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-173746
Submission Made	December 11, 2024 4:47 PM

Topic

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

Submission

I am writing to advocate for the development of enhanced local sports facilities, specifically a dedicated football pitch for Blessington Athletic Football Club and a public swimming pool in Blessington, County Wicklow. These developments would have far-reaching benefits for the local community, promoting physical health, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Football Facilities for Blessington Athletic Football Club

Blessington Athletic Football Club currently lacks a local football pitch and must rely on facilities in Crosschapel, which are only accessible by car. This creates significant barriers for players, particularly younger participants, who are unable to travel independently to training and matches. The absence of a local pitch also hinders community engagement and creates logistical challenges for parents, coaches, and volunteers.

Establishing a local football pitch would:

Encourage Participation: A nearby facility would enable more residents, especially youth, to engage in football. This would foster teamwork, discipline, and a sense of belonging.

Promote Accessibility: A walkable or easily reachable pitch ensures equitable access for all, reducing reliance on cars and making sports participation more inclusive.

Enhance Community Spirit: A home pitch would become a hub for local events and gatherings, strengthening community bonds.

Reduce Environmental Impact: Eliminating the need for car travel aligns with environmental sustainability goals by reducing carbon emissions.

Proposal for a Swimming Pool

A swimming pool in Blessington would address a vital gap in recreational and fitness amenities within the town. Swimming is a life skill and a lifelong activity that supports health and well-being for all age groups.

Key benefits of a swimming pool include:

Improved Health and Fitness: Swimming provides a low-impact, full-body workout suitable for all fitness levels. It supports cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and mental well-being.

Water Safety Education: A local pool would offer a venue for swimming lessons, equipping residents with essential water safety skills, particularly important in a coastal country like Ireland.

Youth Development: Access to a pool would enable the formation of swim teams and aquatic programs, giving young people an opportunity to excel in sports and develop discipline.

Social Integration: Pools are inclusive spaces where people of all ages and backgrounds can connect and enjoy leisure activities together.

Economic Growth: A pool facility would attract visitors, support local businesses, and create employment opportunities.

Investing in football facilities and a swimming pool in Blessington would significantly enrich the quality of life for residents. These projects align with community development goals, providing inclusive and sustainable spaces for recreation, skill-building, and social interaction.

I urge the relevant authorities and stakeholders to prioritize these developments for the benefit of our growing town.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Topic

Local Transport Assessment / Transport Strategy Map

Submission

I am writing to highlight the urgent need for improvements to the 65 Dublin Bus service, which serves commuters traveling between Blessington and Dublin, and to propose the introduction of an express service that would significantly enhance the efficiency and convenience of this route.

Current Challenges with the 65 Bus Service

The existing 65 route, while providing a vital link between Blessington and Dublin, is not meeting the needs of many commuters due to:

Lengthy Travel Times: The number of stops along the route significantly increases journey times, making it an impractical option for those with work or school commitments in Dublin.

Overcrowding: During peak hours, the service often struggles to accommodate all passengers comfortably.

Infrequent Service: The current timetable does not always align with commuter needs, especially during early mornings and late evenings.

Proposed Solution: An Express Service

To address these challenges, I propose the introduction of a dedicated express bus service between Blessington and Dublin City Centre with a reduced number of stops. This would complement the existing 65 service, catering specifically to daily commuters.

Key Benefits of an Express Service:

Reduced Travel Times: By limiting stops to key locations, the express bus would significantly cut journey times, making public transport more attractive to commuters.

Enhanced Accessibility: A faster, more direct route would encourage more people to choose the bus over private cars, reducing traffic congestion and environmental impact.

Better Alignment with Commuter Needs: A dedicated service during peak hours would provide reliable and efficient transport for workers, students, and other regular travelers.

Improved Passenger Experience: The express service would alleviate overcrowding on the 65 route, creating a more comfortable journey for all passengers.

Suggested Implementation

Key Stops: Blessington, Tallaght (for Luas Red Line connections), and Dublin City Centre (e.g., College Green, St. Stephen's Green).

Peak Hour Focus: Prioritize morning and evening commutes, with additional services during high-demand periods.

Coordination with Existing Services: The express bus would operate alongside the current 65 service, ensuring

comprehensive coverage for all passengers.

Introducing an express service and improving the existing 65 route would greatly enhance public transport options for Blessington residents. These changes would save time for commuters, promote sustainable travel, and contribute to a better quality of life for the growing population of Blessington.

We strongly urge Dublin Bus and relevant transport authorities to consider this proposal and engage with the community to develop solutions that meet our needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

[File](#)