



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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Topic

Overall Strategy of the LAP

Submission

Please see submission attached.

File

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Submission to the Blessington Local Area Plan

Objective: To improve the quality of life for Blessington's residents, support local businesses, and accommodate the town's growth sustainably.

1. Development of a Swimming Pool and Multi-Use Sports Complex

- **Proposal:** Include a swimming pool and multi-use sports complex (soccer, rugby pitches, running track) in the LAP.
- **Rationale:** Growing local sports clubs need more facilities.
- **Location:** Council-owned land beside the Avon in Blessington.
- **Benefits:** Shared facilities will foster community and meet various sport's needs.

2. Zoning of Land for Public Amenities

- **Proposal:** Zone land for a swimming pool, sports complex, and additional open space.
- **Rationale:** Support green spaces, leisure areas, and recreational facilities.

3. Housing and Urban Development

- **Proposal:** Zone sufficient land for housing near the town centre, prioritise vacant sites (especially along the Main Street) and upgrade road infrastructure.
- **Rationale:** Meet housing demand and avoid urban sprawl.

4. Infrastructure Improvements

- **Parking:** Develop additional parking in new estates and at key locations. Also introduce paid parking with a limited time free of charge.
- **Roads and Access:** Upgrade the N81, complete the inner relief road, and maintain smaller roads.
- **Transportation:** Improve bus services, cycle paths, and pedestrian crossings. Focus on better bus to Dublin and local links to surrounding towns.

5. Town Centre Strategy and Retail Enhancement

- **Proposal:** Implement paid parking with a free period, create a Park-and-Ride facility, widen footpaths, and introduce cycle lanes.
- **Rationale:** Improve traffic flow, support retail, and enhance walkability.

6. Economic Development and Tourism

- **Proposal:** Improve transportation links, develop accommodation options, upgrade lake bridges, enhance tourism, and establish a Tourist Information Centre.

7. Social Infrastructure

- **Childcare:** Additional creches needed.
- **Schools:** Develop a new secondary school and zone land for a second one.
- **Health Services:** Provide a new doctors' surgery or additional doctors.

8. Cemeteries and Public Amenities

- **Proposal:** Zone land for a new cemetery. Create a carpark opposite the current graveyard in Burgage (on Avon land).

9. Environmental and Public Safety

- **Proposal:** Develop allotments, repurpose the old HSE building as a Scout Den, and install more traffic controls.

10. Road and Pedestrian Infrastructure

- **Proposal:** Wicklow County Council should maintain all public roads and footpaths, addressing issues like overgrown tree roots and broken paving.

11. Miscellaneous Proposals

- **Main Street:** Reroute traffic around the town rather than through it. Improve footpaths, add seating, and place cabling underground.
- **Skate Park and Playground:** Develop a larger skate park and upgrade playground facilities.
- **Dog Litter Bins:** Introduce bins in strategic locations.

Conclusion: These proposals aim to enhance liveability, infrastructure, and community services in Blessington, supporting growth while preserving the town's character and promoting sustainability.