



Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Simone Chiesa
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
Reference:	BLESSLAP-092134
Submission Made	April 3, 2024 10:53 AM

Topic

Regeneration of Communities & Places - Healthy Placemaking - Urban Design - Opportunity Sites in Blessington

Submission

The street area in front of Saint Mary's Church of Ireland, with the exception of the main road, should be pedestrianized up Dunnes carpark (Attachment 1). I believe this area can be used to create a more livable town center and provide a needed square to the village. It is also adjacent to derelict areas which can be used to provide community areas with additional coffeeshops and public garden.

In a utopic scenario, I would close the main street from Supervalu to the Saint Mary's Church and pedestrianise all that area too and give an European look to the village with a lot of new green spaces, but I do understand that can not happen until the inner relief road project has been completed

I also think that most of the on-street car parks should be removed in the main road and use the space to enhance the outdoor living of the village allowing businesses to use portion of the gained space with outdoor seating. The addition of a cycle track along the main road connecting to the inner relief road would help supporting active travel within the village and connect the new and existing housing estates to the village center.

I would like for Blessington to be an example for other villages and become a sustainability model for urban green spaces and quality of living.

Topic

Economic Opportunity - Tourism - Shops & Services - Community Facilities

Submission

As the village is planning to host a new greenway, a pump track from VeloSolutions Ireland would be a cool addition to the greenway area. Dungarvan has planned this already in connection to the Dungarvan - Waterford greenway.

Topic

Heritage - Biodiversity- Green infrastructure- Climate Action- Energy

Submission

As per Attachment 2, I think the Roadstone pit should be converted into a second forest close to the village and annexed to the existing woodland beside. The regenerated forest would improve the biodiversity of the area, especially so close to the lake, considering that there is minimal forest coverage around the lake already. This new forest could also be connected to the planned greenway to give a further recreational area to the village.

This would boost also tourism as outdoor activities have substantially increased after 2020 and there is a enhance focus on urban greenspaces.

I would also like to create a green corridor to the nearby locations of Russborough House & Park and Pollaphuca. The only connection to these locations is the N81, which besides Car use, is definitely not family/child friendly. It would be nice to be able to cycle/walk from the town center to these locations. It would be a great addition to the nearby Greenway too.

Topic

Infrastructure - Sustainable Movement - Transportation

Submission

From the recent data released, more than 80% of the journeys within Blessington are done by car. Sustainable transport is definitely lacking on all aspects of the current town layout and proposals. As a new resident, I would like the option of not having to use the car to commute to work in Dublin. I am sure plenty of new residents in my age category () would like to not be car dependent for work commutes.

As per attachment 3, I think the overflow Dunnes carpark (red) should be repurposed as a bus station and move the 4051 bus stop there. This would create a dedicated transport hub to enhance public transport to and from the village. Priority to buses should be given on the one-way street around Dunnes, removing on-street carpark and routing the buses outside the main road through the village.

There could be the possibility of having a park and ride facility on the south/west side of Dunnes stores (purple) to allow people to come from the nearby villages and commute to and back from Dublin and Naas. This could also serve as carpark for the enhanced town center in my previous proposal.

Ideally, the Luas should be extended to Blessington from Citywest, considering the big increase in population of west Wicklow in the close future. If one of the aims of the greenway is to enhance tourism, there is no sustainable way people can travel from Dublin to Blessington and enjoy the newly built Greenway.

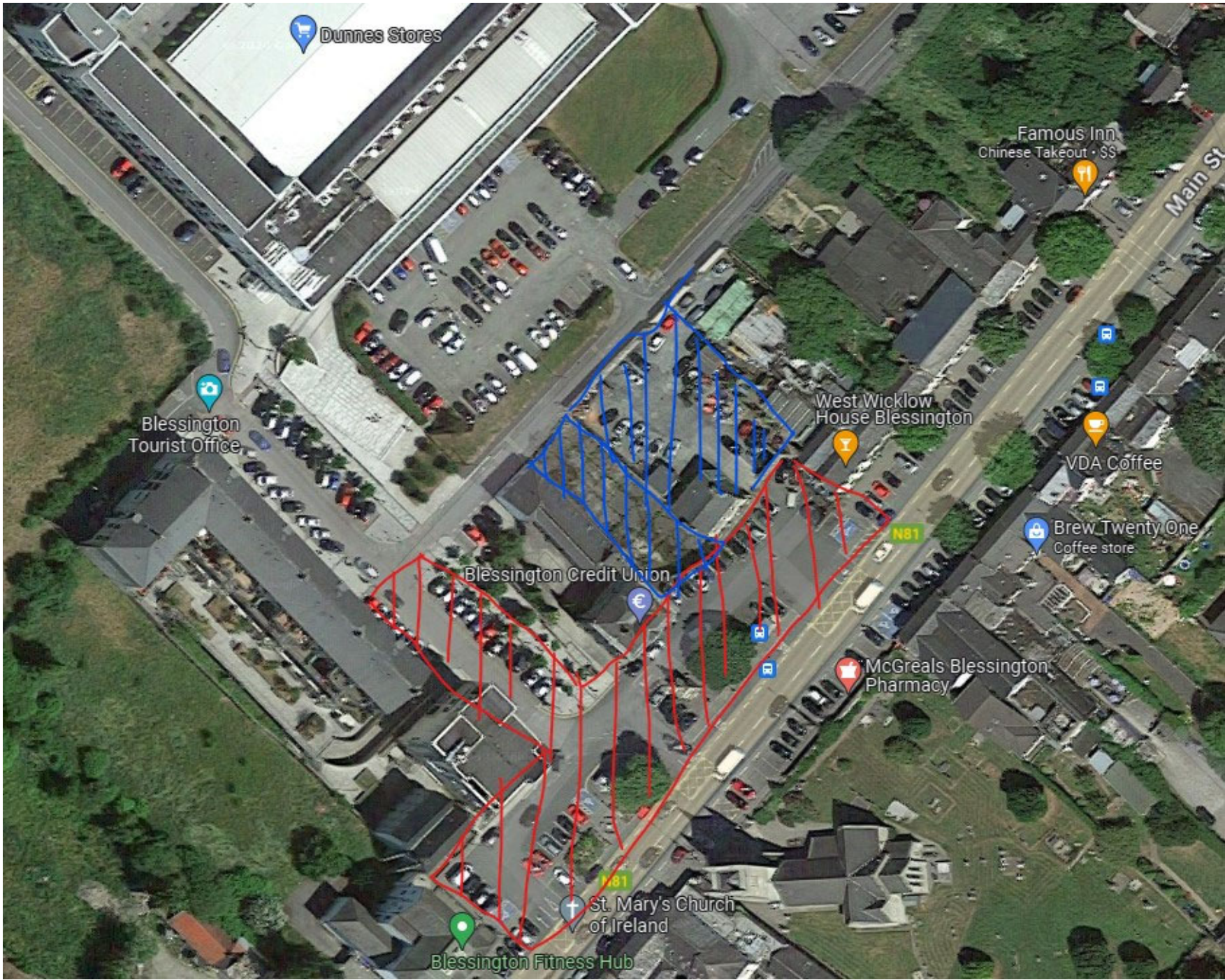
In addition, there should be a focus on the ability of people to actually cycle from the nearby locations and to Dublin or nearby park and ride facilities for both tourism and commuting purposes. The N81 and the R410 are definitely not safe for cyclists!

File

Attachment 1.jpg, 0.29MB

Attachment 2.jpg, 0.21MB

Attachment 3.jpg, 0.19MB





HOLYVALLEY

Roadstone Blessington

Gemma Deeney Yoga and wellness Blessington

Hazelbrook

ALDI

Charles Camping

HAYLANDS

Dunnes Stores

West Wicklow House Blessington

Blessington Fitness Hub

Blessington Bridge

Blessington Boat House

Blessington

