



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Lakeshore Striders
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-202709
Submission Made	December 10, 2024 8:34 PM

Topic

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

Submission

I am writing on behalf of the local community, including Lakeshore Striders, our local running club, to advocate for the development of dedicated athletics facilities in the Blessington area. These facilities would benefit not only our club but also schools, sports clubs, and families in the surrounding communities of Ballyknocken, Lacken, Hollywood, Ballymore Eustace, and others near the lakes.

Currently, the Blessington area lacks a home for athletics, despite a growing population and a strong interest in sports among residents. This absence significantly limits opportunities for individuals of all ages to engage in structured physical activity. Establishing proper facilities would support field sports such as hurdles, shot put, long jump, and more, alongside running and general fitness activities.

Our club, Lakeshore Striders, is in the process of starting a junior section to encourage young athletes to participate in sports. However, without adequate infrastructure, this initiative—and the broader goal of embedding sports into the lives of children and adults—faces considerable challenges. This is particularly critical as Ireland continues to grapple with high levels of obesity, especially among young people. Developing a culture of fitness early can play a key role in reducing obesity and alleviating pressure on our health system.

Proper athletics facilities would offer:

- A safe and inclusive space for community games and school sports programs.
- Opportunities for individuals of all abilities, from recreational runners to competitive athletes.
- Support for local clubs to nurture talent and promote lifelong physical activity.

The potential benefits extend beyond sports, fostering social inclusion, mental well-being, and community cohesion. It is our belief that these facilities would serve as a vital resource for the long-term health and vitality of the Blessington area.

We kindly urge the local authority to prioritize the development of athletics facilities as part of the area plan. Investing in such infrastructure would leave a lasting positive impact on current and future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission. We would be delighted to provide further input or discuss this proposal in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Evie Carter

On behalf of Lakeshore Striders and the Blessington Community

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