



# Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	Group
<b>Name:</b>	Blessington Rugby Football Club
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Reference:</b>	BLESSLAP-232647
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## File

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# Blessington Rugby Football Club

  
Blessington  
Co Wicklow

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

Dear Sirs,

Blessington RFC was formed in 2016 and are affiliated to the Leinster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union.

We cater for both boys and girls from the age of 6 upwards on an all-inclusive basis, and have approximately 250 active members in addition to over 30 coaches, administrative staff and committee members.

The ethos of the club is that everybody gets to play, the emphasis being on participation in a team sport environment.

At present we play and train at Russborough House, with the kind permission of the trustees and chief executive of the Alfred Beit Foundation, without whose support the club could not function.

However, due to the healthy appetite for rugby, and our increasing membership, the facilities which we enjoy at Russborough are barely sufficient for our current needs, but will not be so in the near future (at the current rate of expansion) given the new residential developments under construction in the Blessington area.

At present, there are no public playing facilities for any field sports in Blessington. This is a regrettable state of affairs and one which should be rectified by the Local Authority as soon as possible.

Within the past few years, major housing developments have been approved by the Local Authority without the provision of any areas for the playing of field sports and similar organised activities.

This is an appalling omission and may have a major impact on the young people in the area for years to come. It is surely time for the Local Authority to address this situation by making lands available to all of the field sports and athletics organisations within the Blessington area.

We at Blessington RFC support the submissions of our fellow sporting bodies in this regard, specifically Blessington Soccer Club and Lakeside Striders. We also support the submission in respect the provision of a swimming pool in the area.

Yours faithfully,



Trevor Burns  
President  
Blessington RFC