



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
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Topic

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

Submission

I have been a member of Poulaphouca Paddlers Kayak Club since 2008 when it was formed. I have seen the club advanced over the years I've been involved. One of the best things about the club is it really is suitable for all. There are kayak disciplines for fitness, leisure and wellness and competitive disciplines. Maybe it's a form of exercises for some people or a mental break immersed in the beautiful surroundings of the Poulaphouca Reservoir.

I have seen many children from age 8-18 of all abilities participate, no one is left sitting on the bench, all are equal. Similarly there is no upper age limitation, many of the members have taken the sport up as they move towards retirement. The club has a gender balance in the club at junior, adult and committee is in line with what is promoted by Sport Ireland.

The club also host the biggest flat water kayak marathon race in Ireland 'Poulaphouca Paddlers Race' as part of the National Race League series but having no proper base makes this difficult.

The club is thriving but one think that does restrict some people participating is the lack of facilities. We have no toilets, changing room, no meeting / training facilities indoors, no fresh running water and no electricity. The club has limited boat storage. Apart from basic needs, we have people trying to get changed outdoors in car parks.

Please consider allocating some land to Poulaphouca Paddlers for a club house close to the lake - perhaps the Burgage area. Or perhaps a shared site with other water sports like rowing or a scouts group. The club provide a fantastic and healthy outlet for children, teens and adults of all ages. This club has the potential to grow and thrive with the right base. It would be a really great addition to the local community and and outlet for young and old alike.

Thank you for reading this submission.

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