

PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Boyle Municipal District

The Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Roscommon Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network that provides a voice for all community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups throughout the County. Roscommon PPN aims to enable people and organisations to express a diverse range of views and interests through Local Authority and other agency structures.

The Boyle Municipal District

Boyle Municipal District covers a predominantly rural area north of a line from Ballaghaderren to Strokestown. There is a wealth of things to see and do in this Cultural Heart of Ireland, examples of which are, the magnificent Arigna way, a 62km trail following a network of paths once used by workers in the Arigna coal mines; there is Strokestown with its refurbished Park House; Ballaghaderreen with its Lakes and Legends; Boyle with its Lough Key Forest Park, King House, Cistercian Abbey and just out the road, the four thousand year old Drumanone Portal Tomb.

Keadue is home to the burial place of the harpist Turlough O'Carolan and close to Frenchpark is the birthplace of Douglas Hyde, first president of Ireland. Elphin has its restored windmill and Cootehall is located close to the fairy hills of Sheemore and Sheebeg, the burial ground of the great Irish mythical hero Fionn Mac Cumhaill. Ballyfarnon is the most northerly village in the county and Clonalis House, just west of Castlerea, is the ancestral home of the O'Conor family.

What is “community wellbeing”?

Wellbeing is an increasingly common term that can describe wider conditions than good physical and mental health, which we need as individuals and communities to have a better quality of life, a healthier environment and increased prosperity. Some of these are things that we can easily measure, like the number of pre-school places, or the speed with which an ambulance can get to a sick person.

Others are less easily measured, such as our pride of place, our heritage and the way in which we all look after each other. All aspects of wellbeing are connected to each other. So, for example, if we have a poor natural environment, it will affect our mental and physical health as well as our economy. In other words, all the parts of our community wellbeing are interconnected.

Why Community Wellbeing is useful?

By considering all aspects of society, environment, economy and democracy together, wellbeing can help us to identify positive actions that can be undertaken by local and national governments, as well as by communities.

Communities themselves need to participate in setting out their shared view of what their community would be like if it were the best that it could be. Then it is possible to understand and even prioritise actions that should be undertaken to improve wellbeing in their community for this and future generations.

We have accessible, available and affordable services and facilities for physical and mental health for everyone in the community. There is widespread provision and use of non-medical activities and therapies that support healthy lifestyles and physical and mental health. There is delivery of effective health promotion initiatives to all sectors of the community. Our rich community resources support all people to be active and healthy.

There is awareness, understanding and support for those dealing with mental health difficulties.

We have places, spaces and services that facilitate and support community initiatives that have positive mental and physical health benefits.

Our rich natural environment is valued and protected. Our built heritage is retained and creatively used to support safe and inclusive spaces for all. The community is educated and facilitated to live sustainably. There is a strong tourism sector based on our rich natural, built and cultural heritage and our traditions.

All members of the community are empowered and motivated to protect natural resources using effective and innovative methods.

There is smart planning that is responsive to community needs.

Environment & Sustainability

Our community is a place we cherish and are proud of, and which we all contribute to improving. We nurture and include new and existing communities. Across the generations we preserve, enhance and support local heritage and traditions. There is a strong focus on education that supports both individuals and community. We are all highly aware of the structures, processes and procedures in place that secure the open, transparent and accountable operation of all state and community organisations in the Boyle Municipal District.

Intergenerational learning on all aspects of heritage, culture and traditions is widespread and its benefits are acknowledged and valued.

We actively promote our rich and diverse heritage as accessible to all.

We celebrate our inclusive community which is based on education, communication and mutual respect.



The structures and processes of good governance and robust codes of conduct are followed by all our state agencies, representatives and community groups. The community is able to influence the decision-making process. The work of community groups is recognised, respected and supported. There is good communication and collaboration between community groups, and the contribution of volunteers is acknowledged and valued.

There is active capacity building to ensure strong, resilient and knowledgeable community groups.

Our community is confident that its elected representatives are well informed about community aspirations and consistently act to support these.

All people are motivated, involved and actively contributing to the community. There are diverse, rewarding jobs and creative enterprise and employment generation, with support for local and sustainable initiatives in both rural and urban areas. Our community is well connected and has good infrastructure and services. We build capacity to be a self-reliant and sustainable economy.

There is good communication and transport connectivity.

We care for our natural resources, plan for suitable accommodation for people and enterprises, and are self-sufficient in sustainable energy production.

Sustainable farming and food production generates social, environmental and employment benefits.

We value the knowledge and skills of our older people and encourage the transfer of these to support others in their own development.

There are supports that meet the needs of enterprise and employees.

We actively encourage visitors to enjoy our heritage, history and culture.

This is a safe and welcoming area with great community spirit. There is strong support for community facilities and services, including outreach to lesser populated areas. We have different models that provide appropriate housing which meets the needs of our older citizens and sustain integrated local communities. Our community organisations are well run and comply with best practice codes for governance and conduct.

Community organisations here are actively involved in education and awareness-raising to ensure positive working environments and policies and procedures to deal with potential grievances that arise.

We embrace diversity, promote social inclusion and have a community that is accessible to all.

Our strong culture of community activities and volunteering is recognised, valued and supported.

How was the Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Boyle Municipal District developed?



1

Workshop

PPN Members were invited to attend Community Wellbeing workshops.



2

Asset Mapping

Attendees then highlighted the “assets” and aspects of their community that they wish to preserve and protect for current and future generations.



3

Wellbeing vision

Attendees shared what they considered to be important for their community’s wellbeing.



4

Consultation

Following the workshop, an online consultation was shared with members who were unable to attend the workshops.



5

Draft Vision

The PPN resource workers and secretariat members then analysed the responses from the workshop and online consultation.

How will the Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Boyle Municipal District (MD) be used?

The PPN will use the Vision for Community Wellbeing in Boyle MD to communicate the aspirations of the community to state agencies and local representatives, and importantly to inform its work in representing the community and seeking to influence decisions and actions to help realise this vision

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