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**Let’s Develop Our Vision for Community Wellbeing for the Boyle Municipal District**

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**Environment and Sustainability**

Built Environment

* Vibrant towns and villages
* Restore and maintain all our old buildings
* Maintain empty buildings
* Paint murals on gable walls of derelict buildings.
* Maintain traditional shop fronts
* Tax incentives for [use of] vacant buildings
* Pedestrian friendly towns and villages
* Planning permission for housing estates must include housing suitable for increasingly aging population (bungalows)
* Roscommon Co. Council to severely tax derelict houses

Natural Environment

* Protect the natural environment
* Healthy and friendly living environment
* Develop more bird.bat watch schemes
* Encourage natural habitat
* Less Sitka Spruce plantations
* Keep our local lakes as natural beauty spots
* Plants trees and hedges provided by the Council instead of concrete and walls.
* Hedging by hand not cut by machine would provide an immense amount of local employment for all communities

Clean Water

* Clean drinking water
* Reduced pollution
* Free drinkable water

Community Gardens

* [Establish] community gardens
* A thriving community garden in Ballaghaderreen bringing biodiversity and knowledge to all members of the community.
* More food plants grown in communal spaces across the whole area [Municipal District]
* Biomass plantations of willow and alder for coppicing.
* Ban harmful pesticides and fertilisers.
* [Make] land available to public for growing on.

Education

* Teach the younger generation about sustainability and preservation.
* [Environmental] education for kids
* Educate children to grow their own vegetables
* Educate companies re: packaging and recyclables
* Explore the “plastic” age and educate young people around its awful effect on lakes, rivers and oceans

Waste and Recycling

* Renewable energy; decarbonising our community
* Local recycling collection
* More training on how to recycle
* Plastic packaging must be biodegradable
* Promote upcycling
* [Provide] better incentives to live sustainably such as deposits charged on plastic bottles
* Refundable bottle charge
* Parents and kids on community rubbish collections
* Start kids out on plastic collection programme
* Expose offenders dumping illegally

Tourism/ Eco-tourism & Heritage promotion

* Look afresh at all tourist possibilities
* Develop eco-tourism
* Advertise our amenities in Dublin and further afield (e.g. West of Ireland), as these are a large market for Boyle tourism
* Utilise heritage sites more effectively; encouraging a more diverse visitor dynamic in more displays.
* Artisan craft industries
* Promote villages and towns through roadside advertisements and signage (local and motorways)

Road safety

* Make roads safer for pedestrians, e.g. through more pedestrian crossings
* Provide cycle lanes through the county

**Specific proposals (to be re-directed)**

*No entries here*

*Online*

* A greener environment through better education.
* Better quality recycling facilities from waste companies to include food waste bins - also better communication to the public regarding recycling. Reduce plastic usage in supermarkets, straws in cafes, take away cups to be biodegradable only
* All policies and programmes of local and regional government should be assessed for their impacts on the natural environment and amended as appropriate to mitigate any potential harm. Community based rivers trusts should be established along all our rivers and lakes to ensure our waters are protected. Green spaces should be developed with public access in and around all urban areas coupled with measures to promote biodiversity. Native woodlands should replace industrial Sitka Spruce plantations. All peatlands should be re-wetted and restored and converted into public amenities. Safe cycle ways and green ways should link all urban centres and rural communities. Public transport will be prioritised to support rural populations and reduce carbon emissions. Communities will take pride in and protect special areas of conservation and special protection areas. All homes fully insulated and energy efficient. Waste collection services to the door. Community owned Combined heat and power plants, using local biomass, in urban centres, to provide energy and heat for local industries. Community owned local solar and wind energy generation.
* An Enriched Earth Educational Eco Innovation and Resort Village by Lough Key. For Boyle to become first town in Ireland to be ran entirely on renewable energy. For Roscommon to become the first county in Ireland to be ran on renewable energy. Development of agroecology. Development of low-impact housing. Planting widely of native trees, inc apple and hazel to promote biodiversity.

**Values, Culture and Meaning**

Intercultural diversity

* Provide cultural awareness day to gain an understanding of the different ethnic cultures. This could be help minimise racism, through understanding
* More intercultural events where different cultures can share and celebrate their traditions and to improve understanding of other cultures
* More arts as a medium to tackle racial abuse, bullying, class distinction, etc.
* Preserving history through music, food, art and storytelling
* Celebration of diversity through educational programmes in schools, youth and community groups
* More intercultural events
* Maintain and enhance our music i.e. O’Carolan, Josie McDermott

Traditions

* Children to gather stories from their grandparents about the fair day
* Respect for tradition
* To support our local heritage, gather stories from our elders
* Promote interlink between elderly people and the younger generation to help them understand their culture.
* Keep the old trades alive so that they can be passed on.
* Retain old buildings
* Write a history of the local area
* Preserve vanishing Ireland to retain our heritage
* Retain music and Irish language
* Keep our old traditions alive
* Promotion and acknowledgement of towns past and present; e.g. History -St. Nathy’s college, market town, food industry hub – Aurivo, Diocesan town
* To look to the history and culture from all in the community and learn lessons from all our pasts
* To develop a culture not based on material wealth but on the gifts, we have within us and find ways to share these with others in the community
* Values have deteriorated since we became 2 working partners in families

Education

* Education, education, education
* Educate our community to the benefits we have
* Teach our young and hopefully they will pass it on to the next generation
* Acceptance of different culture/ creed/ sexual orientation
* Communication skills should be enhanced
* Language learning services
* Encourage community festivals around culture and history.

Legal

* Support for restorative justice initiatives
* Implementation of our laws, e.g. dog control/ dog wardens

Social Awareness

* Ensure wheelchair access everywhere
* Respect

Tourism

* Promotional material to attract people to live in the district outlining our values and culture
* To retain the natural beauty of the local lake

**Specific proposals (to be re-directed)**

*No entries here*

*Online*

* Believe in yourself, your community and leave your area in a better place for the next generation.
* For Ireland to retain its traditions and core values first and foremost. For Ireland as a nation to be proud of our past and safeguard it for our future generations. Then for all cultures to be welcomed in under this - all values to be treated fairly and equally. For everyone to work together be it in a paid capacity or volunteering capacity to ensure a great community for everyone
* Local traditions of music, art, architecture, theatre, written word and story-telling are cherished and proactively kept at the heart of communities. Archaeological and historical aspects of our community are kept alive and celebrated or cherished as appropriate. New traditions and cultures that have arrived with new peoples whether from Kerry or Kurdistan are also celebrated and enjoyed as enriching the living experience of all in the community. Arts programmes are extended to rural community centres as well as urban ones. Children are immersed from an early age in the richness of their local cultures and heritage.
* Promotion and use of the Irish Language. Promotion and use of traditional wire-harp. Celebration of Irish Mythology and History. The importance of individual liberty and collective responsibility. Tolerance, Courage and Respect as core virtues and values. Celebration of Irish poetry, modern and historical. Irish dancing and music. Traditional arts and crafts blacksmithing and thatching. Resecting natural world and biodiversity.
* Public Relations Consultants to declare publicly their interests when representing RCC with community groups. Code of conduct for staff in administration rolls working in community Resource Centres. Full declaration of all companies associated with Community Resource Schemes in a town or village. Full transparency on all financial transactions that are channelled through community resource centres, like donations for running festivals, or donations from businesses. Terms and Conditions should be publicly available where Community Resource centres handle monies on behalf of festivals, or other groups. There should be a committee structure for festivals where public funds are sought and paid. How can Groups that don’t have a committee structure receive funding! Town Teams need serious examination on grounds on achievements. In legal terms the company of Town Team ltd should not be used for other purposes without prior agreement from all sitting members. The Chairperson should not be allowed to co-opt individuals onto the committee without first notifying all members, and then holding a discussion. Individuals should be fully entitled to make their opinion without a backlash from dominant members of the Town Team. Bullying and Harassment statement should be agreed and signed by sitting members. Employees of state agencies, whither paid or not should not hold the balance of power on Town Teams.
* Leader Programs should be forthright with information when requested to do so at a public meeting. Employees that worked for Leader Programs in the past and now are employers running courses should declare this information. Leader programs should not be competing with community groups in the same area. Leader programs are designed to assist with progress and innovation in the community, not compete with them.
* A wonderful sense of community and personal responsibility for the continuation of parkrun as we are all run by volunteers.

**Work, Employment and Resources**

Resources

* Broadband
* Transport
* Sustain foodbank
* Economy is a much abused and “bastardised” word today. It means use what you can to make a much money as you can despite the consequences. Get back to real economy.
* Resources are precious and few and need to be used effectively, not just to generate money.
* We need to value our resources and save on electricity, fuel and food waste.
* We need a sustainable future.
* Food grown locally
* Biomass plantations can create local employment and lock down carbon in the roots of the trees for many harvests (coppicing)
* Seed banks for food security

Social Farming

* Social farming developed on a greater scale
* Support for organic sheep farmers through separate collection of fleece to contribute to an indigenous organic woollen industry
* Craft and slow food, local growers market

Children involvement

* Better childcare services
* Affordable childcare for those working
* All schools to have polytunnel/ garden on school grounds
* Schools to look at sourcing lunches locally – creating employment.
* Meals on wheels sourced locally
* More training courses that ensure employment at the end
* Locally delivered training
* Transport
* Help jobless to get back to work

Built environment

* Affordable housing
* Roscommon Co. Council to look at single storey accommodation planning for aging population
* Renewal of streets through repair and occupation of commercial premises and their use for social enterprise with an educational component
* Towns need to be looked at; overcome structure as one size doesn’t fit all.

Legal

* Community people wishing to help each other for free- what’s their rights? They are afraid of being sued.

Tourism

* Promote Boyle MD as a place for tourists and commuters
* Eco-tourism market developed
* Strong need for tourism
* More facilities for tourists
* Theme towns/villages with the history and heritage associated with them, i.e. Tulsk – Queen Maeve, Elphin – Windmill, Strokestown – famine, Boyle – curlew mountains, Cootehall – Old Barracks, etc.
* Asset – the Elphin Windmill. Sustainable growth and development of tourism attraction via coffeeshop, heritage shows and displays, creating employment and social meeting space.

Workforce

* More water fountains to replace plastic bottles (Crystal Clear – already in place in Boyle)
* Buddy system between older people and social welfare recipients to learn skills
* To develop a skills programme for unemployed people so they can contribute to the economy
* Create industry to retain the youth with high skills
* Industry/ factory to be brought to Frenchpark to attract younger community/ (Frenchpark residents currently all over 50, 65 houses, supermarket/post office).
* More incentive to go to work (social welfare)
* Build sustainable economy
* IDA to listen
* Negative reaction from IDA state agencies for Enterprise Ireland replacement of factory. No good restaurants, no hotel, no swimming pool results in bad quality of life.
* Rates for businesses are high at present, businesses need support with these to stay open.
* More inclusive; the out of work people to feel included. It is important for people to feel they belong in a community.
* Sustainable jobs
* Encouragement for 3rd level graduates to use the assets available, e.g. heritage and history
* Easier funding to start businesses
* Decisions made in Dublin about Roscommon, when they don’t know the County.

**Specific proposals (to be re-directed)**

*No entries here*

*Online*

* More resources for local training and better spread of development and job creation to the regions.
* Excellent broadband throughout Roscommon. More jobs in Roscommon. Better infrastructure in the county. Reduction in numbers of county councillors & admin staff in the council - every citizen should be able to access info through the internet- redeployment of these staff to training and education of citizens to be more active, more able and can do for themselves.
* Farmers are paid to protect the environment and promote biodiversity. Sustainable tourism built around our natural environment is promoted to increase employment. More opportunities for both the employed and the unemployed to develop themselves as people through education and shared experiences of community development. Development of cottage industries linked by good quality communications and sustainable transport. Local owned sustainable energy production.
* Develop more Eco Enterprises e.g. via Enriched Earth project. A much greater value placed on the Arts. Development of Third Sector.

**Participation, Decision Making and Good Governance**

## Local Government and Public Representatives

### Decision Making

* More Power at Municipal District Level
* More transparent in spending public money
* Open honest transparent communications
* Decisions not based on financial gain but seriously based on the well-being of the population
* Clear access to decision making
* Promoting realistic timelines for comments (on investment)
* Local Government has not worked for resident’s associations, so we are going to restructure and through volume consultation hope to impact on future RCC decisions to do with our streets and estates.

### Local Representatives

* Greater accountability by Public Representatives
* Local Representatives to be more involved in the community, not just looking for votes
* Local representatives are for local issues – solving body
* Public representatives to how greater awareness of community aspirations

## Community Groups

### Decision Making

* More discretion around funding and access to smaller projects
* More local autonomy
* Participation by Local Residents and Community Organisations
* All community groups have to come together for great community representation

### Governance in Groups

* Better governance within community groups
* Training in corporate governance for community groups
* Code of conduct and governance with Roscommon Leader
* One stop shops for training in Governance and management

### Information and communication between groups

* Shared community calendar to avoid clashes
* Bring groups together
* Greater awareness of other community groups activities to allow shared planning

### Volunteering

* Showing the rewards of volunteering
* Valuing and incentivising volunteers work on committees

## Misc.

* Education based on real scientific advice and not on so called “quality of life” where harm can be done to future generations

Online

* Bring back Town Commissions where local voices become public and continue the ongoing development of local authorities in the running of communities.
* Again, for inclusion for all citizens in the area. To have a TD that is genuine and believes in Roscommon and speaks up for the people of Roscommon at government level
* A strong and effective public participation network involving all community & voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups. The incorporation of the PPN Wellbeing Vision into all County plans and programmes. Proactive encouragement for civil society to engage with the development of plans and programmes through the use of imaginative tools and processes that bring in those marginalised and excluded through a variety of causes. Local civil society groups helped to develop good governance.
* Development of Sociocracy as best practice in efficient participatory local decision making.

**Health**

## Medical Assistance

* A Commitment to honest diagnoses as a basis for proper decisions to meet true levels of need
* Subsidise rents charged to medical practitioners in health centres i.e. affordable
* Better access to medical facilities
* Affordable Universal Health care
* Affordable care of aged.

## Healthcare support

###  Statutory

* Creative therapies in nursing homes e.g. dance, music art mindfulness etc
* More aids available for special needs patients
* Support for carers (should not be classed as available for work)
* Holistic Practitioners to have a better / more sympathetic press – positivity approach to health to take some pressure off frontline services.

### Community

* Men’s shed provides location and presence for the welfare of people in a happy environment
* Allow support to community groups by way of funding that provide peace, harmony and a sense of purpose to individuals
* Community gardens for food, exercise and relaxation

##  Education

* Education on harmful environment e.g. Wi-Fi, pesticides, herbicides, poor diet
* Education in nutrition
* Short courses in Healthy Living
* Community garden courses re Grow your own veg –
* Encourage people to be more nature friendly

## Mental health

* Destigmatise and de mystify mental health and depression
	+ Less stigma about public mental health buildings allowing access for young and old alike
* Community gardens for Mental and physical wellbeing. A place where everyone can feel included and safe. Gentle exercise and a feeling of inclusion. We are starting one at the moment in Ballaghaderreen
* Drop in Community Day Centre for Mental Health
* Affordable, accessible counselling services for mental and physical health
* Sensory centres and emotional support – pets to support mental health

## Activities

* Develop walking trails and circuit walks for villages
* Cycle lanes to access activities / to all schools
* Promote Park Runs
* Varied outdoor recreation facilities for all ages, parents and kids, older people etc
* Greenways – walking and cycling routes
* Outdoor gyms (with instruction on how to use them – more than notices on wall)
* Develop playground for the children and a circuit path for the elderly to walk.
* Community gardens for food exercise and relaxation

## Misc.

* Public Transport for Non-drivers and older people
* Crime and Anti-social behaviour
* Scourge of drugs and smuggling
* Develop Social farming

Online

* Equal opportunities for everyone to physical and mental health in their own communities with easier first point access.
* Better education to children and parents regarding good food. Parents to be taught how to cook if necessary through the schools. Supermarkets to take responsibility and accountability on junk / processed food selling. Operation transformation style activities to be set up in every school and community. Roscommon hospital to be more accessible again for sick patients
* Greater resources put into prevention of, and care for mental illness. Opening up green spaces and encouraging walking etc for both mental and physical well-being. Provision of primary care centres within easy reach of all - these to deliver preventive and positive health programmes.
* Much more intergenerational events and opportunities. An Eco Home for elderly which also has a nursery and student accommodation (cutting edge development).
* We are inclusive to all groups and all abilities within the community. We have no time limits and we welcome everyone - all ages, all abilities, all people. We have trained visual impairment guides and we look to foster both the physical and the mental wellbeing of our participants through volunteering and the social aspect of parkrun also.
* Ongoing mindfulness drop-in sessions in a variety of settings for those of all age groups - young children, older children, teenagers and young people, parents, older people, those in hospices and nursing homes and so on. The provision of regular mindfulness-based stress reduction, mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, mindfulness-based relapse prevention, mindfulness-based compassionate living (MBSR, MBC, T MBRP and MBCL) and Breathworks (a mindfulness-based approach to living with chronic pain and illness) courses in the community, accessible to all. The opportunity to take part in creative activities and offering of creative therapies (art, drama, music, dance and poetry therapy and therapeutic horticulture) in a variety of care settings and in the local health centre, as an integral part of healthcare similar to the 'Arts on Prescription' programme available in parts of the UK). The introduction of a programme of care in the community for those experiencing psychological distress, based on the Finnish model 'Open Dialogue' which is currently being piloted in regions of the UK and in County Cork here in Ireland.

## **Social and Community Development**

## Supports

* Drop in Social Space expanded (FRC)
* Support for groups to be sustainable
* Overall support service strategy for community groups, for form filling
* Support elderly / meals on wheels
* Support services for community centre – make more trainings – local or provide transport
* Residents association for social purposes
* Respect and support volunteers
* Peer / Buddy system for new people to the community
* Adequate social support
* Support around research around planning for vacant houses in the village (e.g. Kiltyclogher, Leitrim)

## Safety and Security

* Safety out and about
* Local Guard
* Street Lighting
* Community Security

## Transport

* Good public transport
* Rural transport for the elderly to connect villages and bigger towns
* Social / Rural transport (people going for a drink)

## Education

* Sustain existing education projects
* Intergenerational projects
* Outdoor activities
* Children’s activities

## Bullying

* Create awareness of bullying
* Value opinions and diversity
* Collaboration

## Social Inclusion

* Social inclusion should be on a complete level not just small specific clubs but total social inclusion
* Age and sex exclusion should be abolished and a more open approach adopted to include more diverse sections of the community.

## Resources

* Encourage ladies / men’s shed
* Events and meetings to be held at suitable times for target group
* Outreach / Mobile Units / Services for small rural areas
* Improve communication/ information hub (not just FB for communication purposes)
* Improve the look of our area
* Everything accessible for all – especially people with disabilities
* Get youth involved to sustain communities and volunteering

## Facilities

* Outreach facility to make services more local
* Funding to expand existing services (outreach)
* Promotion of existing services
* Childcare facility
* Have facilities in community – areas – accessible to all
* Community Health Centre
* Go back to and focus on community development

## Governance

* Good Governance
* Being inclusive of all in community (not a clique)
* Governance/ code of conduct / town team
* Traceability and transparency

## Misc.

* Centre for people with disabilities
* Tourist attraction to highlight local heritage and culture

Specific Points to Be re-directed

* Day support for villages for elderly population to keep people in their own environment (BF)

Online

* To have all the supports available so that individuals can become communities and develop new skills and take ownership of their areas.
* All villages, towns etc to have a community, residents board set up so all new families, people are welcomed to the area - told what the community is about in terms of values, ethics etc - to participate if possible in the community spirit
* Measures to reduce rural isolation in particular for the elderly and disabled. Clustered sheltered housing developments in rural areas such as exists in Four Mile House. Good transport links for rural communities to urban and community centres. Supports for excluded or marginalised persons. Increased community events that enable people to get together, particularly in the day time and in the dark days of winter. Upgraded community facilities that enable community gatherings and activities. Community travelling shops and libraries. Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals
* A tolerant and open society in which everyone is respected equally regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or physical ability. To have enriching social and community events. To place a high value on mental, emotional and physical health. To appreciate indigenous heritage and traditions and to renew them for modern times. For people to be educated in terms of personal and social development e.g. via CBT and Non-Violent Communication.
* As above - we are all inclusive and everybody is welcome. We work in the physical and the mental well-being of all participants and we average 180 participants each week.