

Co Wicklow PPN



Developing A Vision for Community Wellbeing in County Wicklow

Co Wicklow PPN

Developing a Vision for Community Wellbeing

Introducing PPNs

- 2014 Local Government Act amended to introduce PPNs (Public Participation Networks)
- To facilitate public participation & representation into local government structures
- 31 PPNs nationally – 17,548 Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion, Environmental Groups
- 1013 PPN representatives elected to 397 committees

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PPNs & Wellbeing

Working Group Report on Citizen Engagement with Local Government –DECLG Feb 2014

- “Each county/city PPN will commence its work by going through a process to set out what it considers necessary to promote well-being for present & future generations”

Circular CVSP2/2014

- “This process begins at Municipal District level. This statement will act as a guiding vision statement for everything done by the group that drew up the statement



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Developing a Vision for Community Wellbeing

Developing & Piloting the Process

- PPNs establishing structures and practises in 2014 & embedding into their communities
- Reference group of national stakeholders established to support PPNs to develop their wellbeing statements
- Pilot Programme funded by EPA late 2017



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Developing & Piloting the Process

Pilot Programme 2017/2018

- South Dublin
- Longford
- Roscommon
- Wicklow

Supported By

- Dr Harriet Emmerson, independent consultant
- Sara Bourke –Social Justice Ireland
- Dr Simon O' Rafferty – Environmental Protection Agency
- Michael Ewing & Justin Byrne – Irish Environmental Network

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First Task – What is Wellbeing?



Although we often think about wellbeing in terms of good physical and mental health, it can also describe the wider conditions we need as individuals and communities to have a better quality of life, healthier environment and increased prosperity.



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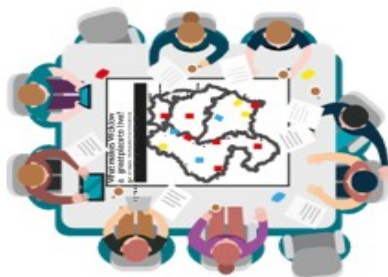


1

Workshop

PPN Members were invited to attend Community Wellbeing workshops.

At these workshops the Community Wellbeing concept was presented.



2

Asset Mapping

Working in groups, 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

Using the 6 Community Wellbeing headings, attendees shared what they (and the organisations they work for) 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.

They were provided the opportunity to answer the same questions asked at the workshop.



5

Draft Vision

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

They then produced the draft wellbeing statements.



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How This Worked in Wicklow

- Co Wicklow – 5 Municipal Districts - Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones, & Wicklow
- 11 physical workshops, 1 online survey, & 2 written submissions
- Approx. 2,500 individual, issues, suggestions highlighted



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What We Heard – Recurring Messages



- Better transport services
- More local employment opportunities
- Use the areas assets to their potential for the benefit of the community
- Welcoming, inclusive communities
- Opportunities to learn from each other
- Easy access to health & support services
- More consultation with communities

County Wicklow

Vision - “Our wise use of resources, and our care and connection with our environment enables all citizens to live healthy and sustainable lives. ”.

- All planning decisions and development support sustainability and liveability
- A cared for and accessible natural environment supports healthy communities
- All citizens have an awareness, appreciation and a strong connection to the natural environment and work together to protect it.

Vision - “Co Wicklow is a modern welcoming, caring and inclusive community that values the environment, and the culture and heritage of its diverse citizens. ”

- We preserve our culture, traditions and heritage for future generations
- The impact of diversity in enriching our community is recognized, valued and supported.
- Supports, information and resources enables volunteering and facilitates all citizens to connect, engage and participate in their community
- The importance of our natural environment is understood, recognised and appreciated.

Vision - “Co Wicklow is a caring community where everyone has a good level of physical and mental health”

- Accessible, coordinated and well-resourced statutory & community services & facilities support the good health of all citizens
- Our natural & built environment contributes to the good health of the community
- The health related needs of all and especially our more vulnerable citizens are met.
- Extensive and coordinated information, education and early intervention initiatives promote good physical and mental health

Co Wicklow is a welcoming caring inclusive community, where a vibrant and responsive business, statutory and community sector enables communities and individuals to thrive, and where our natural, and built environment is protected and contributes to sustainable living.

Vision - “Transparent and accountable local governance structures and procedures allows all citizens to contribute to the development of a county that responds to their needs.”.

- All statutory and community stakeholders are collaborating and ensuring that the voice of all people, and especially the more marginalised is heard
- Grass roots development is encouraged, supported, resourced and uninhibited by bureaucracy.
- Local government is participative, inclusive, accessible and responsive to the needs of the community

Vision - “Our vibrant local economy supports all our citizens to live well and thrive”

- The statutory, business and community sectors recognise and value the skills of all citizens and enable them to contribute meaningfully in the local economy
- People, businesses, facilities, and services are well connected physically, electronically and socially
- Enterprise activity within the county is sensitive to our environment and people and is enabled to achieve its full economic growth and potential

Vision - “Co Wicklow is an inclusive, caring and supportive community that nurtures all its citizens equally”

- Statutory, private and community services and facilities are well resourced, collaborating, coordinated and easily accessible to all.
- Diversity is recognised and valued, and everyone is included, engaged and active in their community.
- The contribution of volunteers and the community sector is recognised, valued and supported.
- The needs of our communities, particularly the more marginalised are met.

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The Benefits for the PPN and its Member Groups



- Toolkit Development Team – Learning & Support
- Positive engagement with member groups
- Cross sectoral engagement
- Networking & Community Development

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Using the Vision for Community Wellbeing

How we use the data

- Direction for our work
- To influence the work of other organisations
- Reference & mandate for PPN

Representatives

- Reference & basis for PPN Submissions

Submissions

- Policing Plans
- WCC CABA SPC Workplan Development
- SICAP Plans
- WCC Customer Service Strategy
- Towards a National Action Plan Against Racism in Ireland
- Co Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy
- WCC Draft Corporate Plan



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2022 Reviewing the Vision

- On the road again!
- Collaborating with Wicklow County Council LECP Consultations– LCDC applies for funding to engage hard to reach communities
- 1 online survey & 8 physical workshops – 1 in each Municipal District, Wicklow Women's Social Inclusion Network, Environmental Groups, Comhairle na nÓg





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2018 v 2022

- Repetitive issues: lack of transport, poor communications, disconnection between government & communities etc
- Deeper conversations – change in language
- Keeping it local v Placemaking
- Holistic approach to local planning & development
- Nurturing, Supporting, Strong, Resilient
- Connections & Connectedness
- Communities & Local Government Working in Partnership





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Reflection & Learning

- Wellbeing is subjective
- Wellbeing is unique
- Wellbeing is vulnerable
- Valuing the process
- Pride in PPNs



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THANK YOU!



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