



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	John Dooley
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Topic

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

Submission

John Dooley,
Dunlavin
Co. Wicklow

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Lakeshore Striders, our local running club, to submit a proposal for the development of comprehensive athletics facilities in the Blessington area and its surrounding communities, including Ballynocken, Lacken, Hollywood, Ballymore, and Eustace.

Our community has a growing population that would greatly benefit from accessible, multi-purpose sports facilities designed for all age groups—children, adolescents, adults, and sports clubs alike. Currently, we lack a dedicated home for our athletics club, which limits opportunities for both recreational and competitive development.

We propose the establishment of facilities that can support a range of athletic activities, including but not limited to:

Track and field sports (sprints, hurdles, long jump, high jump)
Throwing sports (shot put, discus, javelin)
Running tracks for both training and competition
These facilities would serve as a vital resource for:

Local schools for physical education and interschool competitions
Community games to encourage active participation across all age groups
Youth development with the formation of a junior section of Lakeshore Striders
Adult fitness and wellness programs to promote lifelong healthy habits
Given Ireland's alarming rise in childhood obesity rates—among the highest in the EU—it is imperative that we offer accessible and high-quality sporting outlets. Establishing a strong routine of physical activity in our youth will not only promote healthier lifestyles but also alleviate pressure on our healthcare system in the long term.

We strongly believe that with the appropriate facilities, Blessington and surrounding areas can foster a thriving athletic culture that benefits our entire community. We respectfully ask that this proposal be given serious

consideration and included in future development plans.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your positive response and are available for further discussions or meetings to elaborate on this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

John Dooley
On behalf of Lakeshore Striders

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