



# Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
Name:	Seamus Kelly
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-221642
Submission Made	December 3, 2024 10:40 PM

## Topic

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

## Submission

I am a member of Lakeshore Striders Athletic Club, a long-standing community organisation in Blessington and West Wicklow's sole Athletics Ireland affiliated AC. Lakeshore Striders has been a cornerstone of West Wicklow's athletic scene for 13 years promoting health, fitness, and social connection for residents of all ages and abilities.

I joined Lakeshore Strider's about 2 years ago on my fitness journey in preparation for marathon completion and overall fitness and have seen both personal and wider community benefits as the club's intergenerational and inclusive ethos welcomes and supports all new joiners.

Lakeshore Striders has benefitted from the use of temporary facilities at Blessington Community College but with build works commencing at the College and plans to develop the Club's youth section a more permanent home is required.

There are no permanent Athletics Facilities in West Wicklow, a growing commuter belt community. Lakeshore Striders, via its juvenile club and senior club, anticipates membership will grow significantly over the coming years. West Wicklow is also fortunate to have a very strong Community Games Organisation who excel across track and field events despite a lack of facilities.

I ask that the provision of sufficient lands to support an athletics campus, including a 400m running track, track and field facilities, together with changing/ toilet facilities, and adequate parking is considered with lands allocated appropriately in the Blessington Local Area Plan 2025.

File