

Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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Topic

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

Submission

I feel that the Lap should include proper sports facilities. Access to sports facilities should not be contingent if membership of a club, not should an amateur sporting organisation be responsible for providing sports facilities to a town. That is the responsibility of local and national government.

In particular a proper athletics grounds with a 400m running track and space for field events (long jump, shot put, javelin etc) Given the fantastic performance of Irish athletics at the Paris Olympics, the residents of Blessington should be able to emulate these successes, that is not possible if there is no where to train.

We also need basketball courts. Basketball is a very popular hobby, only look at children in school yards all over the town at lunch time. Yet they have no where to play formally should they wish to join a team. In an age where children are growing increasingly inactive, we need to ensure that every opportunity is provided to encourage active participation in sport.

A dog park is also badly needed. Somewhere for dogs to exercise safely without endangering themselves or others. It is a disgrace that a town of this size doesn't have one yet.