



# Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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## Topic

Land Use Zoning / Specific Local Objectives / Land Use Zoning Map

## Submission

Hello,

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 have been part of it for the past 10 years and it was a huge part in me being integrated into the community.

I joined Lakeshore Strider's via the Couch to 5k Programme 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, 1 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.

Thanks

Raymond Cummins





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