



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	State Body
Name:	Canoeing Ireland
Reference:	DBLESSLAP-181738
Submission Made	December 6, 2024 6:32 PM

Topic

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

Submission

I am writing to express my support for the provision of a site and permanent facilities for Poulaphouca Paddlers Kayak Club.

Poulaphouca Paddlers is affiliated to Canoeing Ireland, the National Governing Body for Paddle Sport in Ireland and is an active, inclusive and strongly governed club. The club has a growing membership of outdoor enthusiasts and is supportive of marginalised groups and participants with additional needs (Action 13 & Action 14; National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027)

Currently, the potential growth of the club is hindered by a lack of a permanent base/clubhouse. This project will benefit not only the club, but the community at large and the surrounding region, by serving as a welcoming hub where participants will gather, connect and continue to develop a shared passion for the outdoors.

A dedicated space for equipment storage, training sessions and social events will enable the club volunteers to expand their reach and broaden their capacity to facilitate new members. (Action 15; National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027).

The club has a strong social conscious and is eager to host outreach events, environmental initiatives and fundraisers for community causes, this will be possible with investment in the proposed clubhouse.

In conclusion, Canoeing Ireland strongly endorse this proposal. The Canoeing Ireland Strategy 2024-2027 references our commitment to support facility development and this project is fully aligned with this stated goal.

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