



# Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

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## Topic

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

## Submission

There have been wonderful advancements in the Blessington area in recent years related to GAA but other sports have not seen the same input or investment. Specifically in three areas - Athletics, Soccer and Swimming. Children from the Blessington and surrounding areas must travel to Naas, Dundrum, Crosschapel to take part in these sports. There has been a huge growth in housing in Blessington since covid and more houses are on the way. To avoid well know and documented issues that visit an area that sees rapid growth in population and housing but a lack of investment in sporting infrastrucutre - now is the time to plan and to develop. If we are serious about planning and providing for our youth then the people of Blessington and surrounds deserve to see that in black and white in the Local Area Plan.

1. Blessington needs athletics facilities and investment. Specifically, sufficient land to accommodate a 400 meter track and all associated facilities required by an athletics club. This facility should be able to accommodate other sections of the community - striders, schools, community games. Let's encourage Blessington youth in this sphere.

2. Blessington needs a swimming pool. It is ironic that the children living around the largest inland body of water in the greater Dublin area, cannot avail of swimming lessons in their locale. Not everybody has access to a car and public transport to Naas is not convenient for children to access swimming lessons. We've done the due diligence, we've done the test with the pop up pool. It's time for Blessington to get a pool.

There has been an increase in anti social behaviour in the town in recent years. Getting children involved in sport is a guaranteed way to keep them socially engaged, active and enhance their youth in positive ways. Our local area plan needs to be looking to the future, to the growth in population and the obvious lack of resources and investment in these areas as outlined above.

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