



Draft Blessington Local Area Plan Submission - Report

Who are you:	Private Individual
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Reference:	DBLESSLAP-193505
Submission Made	December 3, 2024 7:49 PM

Topic

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

Submission

I would like to see provision in the local area plan for a running track. West Wicklow needs facilities for athletics. I am a member of Lakeshore Striders running club. We will shortly lose our basic gravel running track around the sports pitch at Blessington Community College as the school is undergoing expansion and the building works will mean that we will no longer have a home. A running track offers a safe facility for women to exercise at night time. During these long winter months it is essential that there is a place where people especially women can feel safe to exercise. It also would be invaluable for our children. There are no athletics clubs for children in West Wicklow. The nearest ones are in Naas, Tallaght and Crookstown and these have waiting lists. When parents have to travel 20-30 minutes by car to the nearest juvenile running club it means many children will miss out on the opportunity to even try athletics. Athletics is a great way for children to keep healthy, fit and active. It has both individual and team aspects and it is something that people can enjoy for life. Ireland had great success in the recent Olympics and it would be great to have a facility in our community to inspire future Olympians.

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