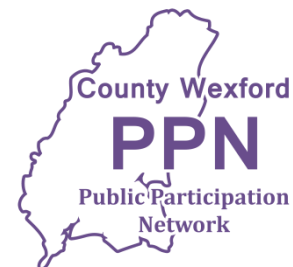


Community Wellbeing Vision Development Combined Workshop Inputs

May 2019



Wexford PPN held five community consultation workshops across County Wexford from 13th - 22nd May 2019. These workshops gave members an opportunity to provide their vision across six headings as follows:



Below is the combined feedback from these sessions, shown under each of the six headings as they were recorded. The facilitator, Dr Harriet Emerson, has included sub-categories in each of the six categories to help in understanding but these headings are only for ease of review. Members are invited to review this feedback and to add any additional elements that have not been included. Additional comments should be provided online via the link provided to members, by end of June. For those who wish to contribute but do not have online access please get in touch with Wexford PPN. All feedback will be used to compile a draft Community Wellbeing Vision For County Wexford.

Environment & Sustainability



How do we value our natural environment and built heritage? What can be done to conserve, protect and restore these? How can we interact with the environment in a sustainable way, and hand it on to the next generation in a better state?

Minding nature

- Wildlife
 - Take care of our wildlife
 - Protecting our natural birds & wild animal habitat
 - Increase wildlife, bees, etc. Create awareness of the importance of biodiversity & habitats & provide incentives to preserve them.
- Protect our beaches
- Pollinators
 - sow for them rather than spray to kill them.
 - Bees – insect hotels
 - Undertake planting for pollinators
 - Use plants to attract bees, butterflies, etc.
- Chemicals
 - Poison in the air; houses surrounded by fields exposed to constant spraying of crops, how much do we inhale? and how can this be addressed?
 - Wildlife – reduce agri-chemicals and contaminants.
- Food production
 - Community allotments around the County share produce that's organic. Social element of this is very important.
- Hedgerows & ditches
 - County Council plans should include protection of ditches & less frequent grass cutting
 - Hedge trimming and grass cutting less frequently
 - Leave hedges, man-made nests, hedgehogs, etc.
 - Stop taking away hedgerows
 - Enforce the law; no hedge cutting or mountain fires outside designated times.
 - Enforce hedgerow cutting restrictions
- Hardwood and native tree planting
- Catch & release fishing
- Farmers compelled to plant a tree for every head of cattle they have.
- Villages in many areas are kept well but the countryside is neglected.
- More parks, play areas

Waste

- Prevention
 - No plastic
 - Producers to pay upfront the full cost for their packaging; add this to the cost of the item.
 - Ban single use plastic
 - Ban plastic coffee cups & lids
 - Make paper bags trendy again
 - Bring in restrictions on plastic packaging
 - Less packaging of vegetables & fruit in supermarkets
 - Schools to use environmentally friendly produce.
 - Compost household waste instead of dumping.
 - Wexford County Council to practice sustainability & stop giving out plastic bottles.
 - Use less plastic packaging, No loose packaging for fruit & vegetables
 - Every bin & bin bag should be traceable to a shop or a person
 - Use less plastic; use glass, cans, stainless steel bottles instead
 - Discounts for purchasing of sustainable goods.
 - Schools to use sustainable products only
 - Prevent fly-tipping & dumping of rubbish bags in rural areas; insist that every household has a rubbish account/ can demonstrate that it disposes of its rubbish appropriately.
 - Encourage better litter management in schools & the community
 - Incentivise people to refuse or re-use packaging before having to recycle
 - Provision of doggy poop bags that are biodegradable.
 - Increase fines for littering of plastics & cigarette butts & harmful rubbish
 - More public toilets.
- Civic responsibility & action
 - Promote civic responsibility
 - Personal responsibility for rubbish, litter, etc.
 - Pick up litter along our filthy roads & enforce littering laws
 - Litter pick within communities & with schools.
 - Green schools, encourage people to pick up after themselves in schools
- Recycling
 - Awareness of what should be recycled & what CAN be recycled.
 - Make people more aware of what & how to recycle
 - Having recycling workshops, with all bin companies informed
 - Recycle & use the right bins.
 - No charge for recycling
 - Have civic amenity sites open all weekend.
 - Refundable deposits for bottles, jars, etc.
 - Use glass bottles/ mugs & if brought back to restaurants, you get a certain amount of money back/ refunded instead of using plastic disposables.
 - plastic recycling and reduction
- Coasts and marine
 - Raw sewage going into the sea; a treatment plant will make sea safer for all into the future.
 - About 5-13million tonnes of plastic bottles find its way into the oceans, into birds & fish & is now into the human food chain.
 - Better provision and maintenance of bins at beaches.
 - Focus on protecting our coastline
 - Keep beaches clear of rubbish
 - Removing plastic from the sea
- An air space that doesn't pollute our areas, e.g. aeroplanes overhead

- Less pollution; use less chemicals & recycle more
- Develop a circular economy
- A clean & protected landscape with no dumping
- In many cases our environment is not valued. Dumping is a major problem.
- No rubbish dumping in the countryside. This is where you travel through in the summer – keep it beautiful!
- No bonfires by farmers. There is a huge environmentally unfriendly outcome.

Energy

- Renewable energy.
- Renewable energy for all public, commercial & community buildings, with financial support to achieve this.
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Zero carbon footprint
- Embracing renewable methods, solar energy, etc.
- Reduce emissions on farms
- Where possible all electric cables to be placed under ground – no pylons.
- Utilise farm buildings for solar energy (PV cells)

Information, awareness & engagement

- General awareness and education
 - Environment to be a greater part of education at all levels.
 - Increase awareness of cost benefits as well as environmental benefits of sustainable practices.
 - Educate EVERYONE on benefits of hedgerows, bogs, trees, bees, biodiversity, etc.
 - Loss of environment – more public awareness programming
 - Make me aware of what I can do to help
 - Develop awareness of value of water to reduce waste, fix leaking taps, etc.
 - A community that is aware of what we can do for our environment.
 - A cleaner more sustainable environment through all the activities people do (rubbish removal, bug hotels, catch & release).
 - Change attitudes to our manicured gardens.
 - Village notice boards of local wildlife & fauna
 - More information signage about what nature is in & around our rivers so that people would know what is in the area & respect it.
- Engaging and enjoying our environment
 - List of heritage sites & walking trails; Apps to guide/ accompany with maps & spoken words at relevant way points.
 - Develop & promote local monuments & areas of historic importance.
 - Have people interest in local history as guides.
 - Our past heritage has to be passed on to the younger generation
- Committed community
 - An educated population that appreciated the importance of working together on all elements that touch the environment.
 - Communication about how to improve & protect our environment.
 - Be involved at the best possible level to add further to improving what we have.
 - By working tirelessly to enhance our environment further.
 - Zero carbon footprint with everyone participating to the best of their ability, with all being willing participants.
- Grow your own
 - Awareness/ re-educate on growing your own veg.
 - Re-education within schools & grow your own

- Community allotments allowed skilled people to train young people and others.
- Youth
 - Involve local children/ schools in local environmental issues/ concerns & not just internal to their school.
 - Increase children's awareness of need to protect the environment
 - Schools' awareness of environment initiatives.
 - Mechanism to involve schools in active participation in environmental concepts
- Value rural practices
 - Rural practices could develop employment for environmental businesses.
 - Handing on the skills, e.g. dry stone walling

Recreation and Tourism

- Connected Greenway network to Waterford from New Ross.
- Greenway Waterford-Rosslare
- Appoint a Rural Recreation Officer
- Develop our forests & great walks through them
- Walking tracks & trails
- To have the right to roam with respect for the farming community
- Restore Barrow Island as it's an historic site where Normans landed.
- Utilise and market beautiful sites around the county
- Provide access for all to all heritage sites

Transport

- Walk instead of drive
- Cycling
 - More cycle paths
 - Cycle lanes to get cars off roads.
 - Improved cycling lane provision
 - Grants for electric bikes.
- Reduced use of cars
 - Car-pooling & awareness of the impact of cars & lorries.
 - More car sharing
- Public transport
 - Use public transport instead of driving
 - Increased bus/rail provision
 - Public transport to reduce fossil fuel/ greenhouse gases.
 - Local Link to serve all local villages as they are funded sufficiently.
 - Development of local link to enable people to live in their local areas; night time link business
 - Roll out bus stops and bus shelters countrywide
 - Provide bus shelters to prevent elderly people and children waiting in the rain at bus stops.
 - Increase (not decrease) rail services.
 - Innovate (reinstate?) railway from Rosslare to Waterford.
- More electric cars
- Repair rural roads; good roads mean fewer road accidents.
- Speed control on rural roads.

Water

- Protect ground water suppose from contamination
- Reduce nutrient inputs from farms & other sources

Heritage

- Awareness of our natural & man-made heritage.
- Natural heritage
 - Protect our nature & wildlife
 - More nature & animal reserves & safe places for them.
- Built heritage
 - Have proper detailed maps for heritage sites e.g. Norman Way.
 - Develop groups to maintain local monuments.
 - Maintenance of heritage signs i.e. Taghmon Castle, Rathmacknee Castle so people can visit safely.
 - Maintenance of the traditional structures & our landscape; rights of way, small fields, hedgerows, trees, & our connection to the land.
 - Conservation of old buildings e.g. Old Hospital
 - Advertise local historic sites more i.e. Blarney Stone is well known, what about Selskar Abbey, Johnstown, etc.
 - Provide enough investment to help conserve, protect & restore our natural & built heritage
 - Give Johnstown Castle back to the State or at least have local discount cards.

Woodlands

- Increase forestry/ woods through grants to landowners and community groups.
- More native trees.
- More planning grants for trees.

Coastal & Marine

- Loss of marine life; need quotas and more SACs.
- Coastal erosion protection measures.

Planning

- Planning decisions should adhere to Sustainable Development Goals.
- Better housing/building insulation standards

Agriculture

- Farming is valued
- Give/ encourage use of seaweed as cattle feed supplement as this stops cows from producing CO₂

Policy

- Limit/ stop chemical experiments that create gases harmful to the ozone layer/ environment.
- Grants for self-sufficient community groups.

Health (physical & mental)



How can all members of our community enjoy the best possible physical and mental health? What about people with special needs, older people, and carers?

Awareness, Education and Policy Initiatives

- Provision of information
 - Information centres locally
 - Directory of Support Services clearly displayed in schools & youth centres for children to access.
 - Awareness for all of resources available; activities, resources, leisure, health, sport, etc.
 - Health education online for older people, e.g. on nutrition
- Technology
 - Safe technology that provides contact; tablets for older people to access services
 - A youth that are educated about social media & its ills (for improved mental health)
- For parents
 - Increase awareness of planned parenthood to enable young adults to take advantage of education and employment
 - Teach parents in poorer areas how to feed their children properly
 - Educate parents and you educate children
- For teachers and youth
 - Better education on better health at school; control of goodies in schools
 - Meditation and yoga as alternatives therapy taught from a young age
 - SafeTALK to be accessible to 16 year olds
 - Education on LGBT and RSE
 - Awareness in school of health – physical & mental
 - Educate teachers on mental and physical health; when I was struggling with a mental illness a teacher told me I was selfish and making it up.
- Sign language & Lámh to be taught in all schools.
- Birdwatch Ireland involved in schools
- Education at all levels – academic & trade
- Suicide awareness and prevention
- Alcohol, smoking, & obesity reduction

Mental Health Support

- Acceptance
 - Self-knowledge and awareness of issues and causes,
 - social acceptance
- Comprehensive Mental Health Assessment & Treatment option
 - Medical & non-medical treatment option
 - Don't rush to medicate; not everyone will tick every box to have a mental illness. Medication has severe side effects.
 - Improved techniques for supporting mental health; more than just breathing exercises.
 - Address underlying causes and treat symptoms
 - Trauma based service model
- Better mental health services
 - More help needed for suicide prevention
 - Separate residential mental health treatment centre for young people
 - Better mental health facilities especially for children and young men.
 - More mental health facilities or youth services or safe places for youths
 - 24hr, 7 day/week emergency services available for suicide support
 - 24/7 supports for suicide risks.
 - Mental health services available for everyone who needs it, when they need it
 - Properly resourced mental health resources in the community
 - Fix CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)
 - Better mental health facilities like CAHMS with full staff (currently there is no Dr and the waiting lists are very long) Bring in foreign doctors if necessary.
 - Full Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) in Wexford and outreach to rural areas.
 - Better resources for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
 - Peer support for children in emotional distress.
 - More counselling services for stress, trauma, through work & in the community
 - Access to community-based counselling services for all ages
- More leisure facilities for youth to occupy them & support their mental health
- More contact with people living alone

Health Services

- Good local health services & facilities
- GPs, nurses, carers, occupational therapists, dentists, opticians, children's services at reasonable rate per capita in all areas
- More GPs for the New Ross area
- Properly resource the ambulance service in Gorey
- More medical facilities for transgender people and support (LGBT)
- Local medical centres make use of having multi-disciplinary teams; psychiatrists, dieticians, etc.
- Primary Care for physical & mental health
- Primary health centres
- Proper mental health services
- Affordable and accessible respite available for carers, whether of children, older people, people with disabilities
- Community living is well supported by nurses, GPs, etc.
- Have multi-cultural practitioners but who also explain and speak clearly.
- Healthcare/ mental health supports be culturally aware for minorities.
- Assistance for people who attend and appointments to explain procedures and bring them around.
- Continuous care by the same practitioner

- Supportive services with continuity of care
- Overcoming language barriers

Non-medical services and facilities

- Break the cycle of disadvantage
- Early intervention for at risk/ dysfunctional families
- Addiction supports to be all inclusive, non-judgemental “one stop shop” with instant access.
- Better facilities for disability.
- Reorganise Home Help so people who really need it get more than 3 hours /week.
- Make care/ nursing homes affordable to all. Best care to all; private health insurance or no private insurance. The country can afford it.
- Supported housing for people with additional long-term health issues, e.g. brain injury, wet brain, etc.
- Supported living for people with disabilities & older people. - Retirement villages & supports.

Community Facilities, Services and Activities

- Facilities
 - Community facilities for people who are homeless.
 - Resource community centre redevelopment for health and fitness
 - Day centres
 - Community cafes or Drop In centres for those feeling isolated; a meeting place for all.
 - Men and Women’s Sheds in each village.
 - More places and support for LGBT people and education on LGBT and RSE medical side
 - More community centres and cafes for older people and youth to meet
 - More places for people with disabilities to mix with others and people who don’t have disabilities so there isn’t such a divide.
 - Youth facilities open out of hours for young people to chat and socialise.
 - Install and maintain AEDs in all areas
- Services and activities
 - Counselling services for all who need them
 - Access to local social groups for the elderly
 - Network of local volunteer drivers to help people access health services
 - Support and resource Community First Responder Groups in every area
 - Support and resource telephone & community befriending services in all communities
 - Local community register to give details of all exercise/ sports available.
 - Community Groups all inclusive and awareness of special needs.
 - Involve teens in community organisations.
 - Support Special Olympics
 - Community Integration
 - Befriending to prevent loneliness

Recreational activity

- Non-sporting activities
 - Programmes of activity for elderly and isolated groups of people
 - Better physical activity facilities other than sports e.g. dancing
 - Publicise all facilities
 - Alternative sports – Y Ball
 - Local social activity for teenagers; for those not into sport.
 - Writing Groups
 - Reading groups/ book clubs
 - Physical activity to be reintroduced in all schools

- Forest and beach walks for schools
- Walking and cycling
 - More walkways and trails, walking paths, cycle paths
 - Map and maintain public Rights of Way to support walking for mental and physical health)
 - Cycle ways and walking trails resourced and maintained
 - Keep our woodlands in public ownership and ensure rights of access for communities to support physical and outdoor activity and related mental health.
 - Connect Greenways to get people active
 - Cycling for all ages' rickshaw to bring older people, those with disabilities out and about too
 - Better cycling paths for every day cycling; safe cycling everyday, Wexbug
 - Promote waling tracks and trails, Park Run, Junior Park Run.
- On or around water
 - Use of our coastal resource; both on land and in the water
 - Blueways; water access from Dublin to New Ross.
 - Fishing groups both physical activity & enjoyable, can have positive by-product of plastics collected from the river/ sea
- Sports
 - Sports facilities for all ages.
 - Sports in schools.

Housing, Accommodation and Planning

- Supported housing for elderly, disabled, mentally ill, etc.
- Access to sheltered accommodation
- Support to maintain people in their own homes for longer
- Change the focus away from congregated settings for people with mental health problems, disabilities, etc. back into their own homes.
- Building supports for vulnerable people and raising awareness of disability.
- Creating a caring and accessible society with an emphasis on the built environment.
- Involve groups in housing design.
- Footpaths and buildings to be accessible to wheelchairs

Access

- Public buildings and new buildings to be better equipped to be accessible for those with special needs.
- More ramps to enter places; easy access for wheel chairs.
- Inclusion services and facilities e.g. affordable buses in the countryside
- Easier access and affordable services for people who struggle with transport.
- Universal access for disabilities
- Travel passes used by taxis and hackneys to enable local access to services

Health Policy

- Ban bars in sports complexes
- Increase the tax on alcohol
- Restrict unhealthy food and alcohol space in shopping outlets
- Control use of iPad by children

Security & Safety

- More Gardaí walking on the street
- Strong Garda presence.
- Better policing so older people feel safe in their homes.
- Safer streets at night so that there can be relaxed nightlife
- More visible Gardaí to prevent problems.

Other:

Community Involvement in Decision-making

- Involve community in formation of Byelaws, e.g. respect families in bereavement; allow family burial plots (Crosstown)

Disability

- Take stigma out of disability; remove the fear of saying or doing the wrong thing.
- More transport resources for people with disabilities
- Create more awareness of disability and potential for employment in the workforce

Older people

- More services for older people
- To be nice to our elderly people

Employee health

- A healthy workforce with services supported for employees e.g. providing health checks, offering yoga, meditation, etc.

Community employment

- We want more community workers.

Work, Economy & Resources



How can our communities thrive economically, with good jobs, and supports for enterprise, business and for people not in work? What resources do we have and are they used effectively and sustainably without causing harm to social and environmental sustainability?

Education, Training & Opportunities

- Young people
 - Resources for young people from 12 up to prevent involvement in drugs
 - All school pupils not going to college need to work with firms or in the community
- Apprenticeships & Training
 - Education for young people to choose trades, apprenticeships.
 - Apprenticeships should come back.
 - More apprenticeships for manual labour.
 - Expand apprenticeships to all businesses
 - Training in skills for 15-25 year olds
- 3rd Level Education
 - University for academic and trade.
 - More affordable 3rd level education
 - More information on 3rd level education opportunities
 - More outside school education & 3rd level education
- Assistance for the unemployed
 - Re-training and upskilling for the unemployed.
 - Workshops or cheap ways to learn skills; many unemployed people with families trying to buy houses etc. struggle to find jobs due to a lack of skills
 - Voluntary work placements to get people back into work
 - More support for people who struggle to get jobs/ find jobs (places to give information on who's looking for work/ employees)
 - Workshops to learn new skills & make connections
 - More information on when/ where work is needed
- Access to training & education for everyone
 - Access to training and education and upskilling.
 - Access for training in/ from rural areas for everyone and those with a disability rather than online; for the social aspect.
 - More education opportunities for people with disabilities
 - More chances for people to upskill to work part-time or full-time for those who want to work.
 - Not everybody is able to work. People want to do life skills with no academic exams, etc.
 - Not everyone is academic, so value practical skills.
 - Value all people's skills regardless of age or social group e.g. youth, older people, criminals, etc.
- Employment opportunities for all.
- Sanctions for those who don't want to work but can.

Transport

- Infrastructure and services
 - Good transport links
 - Better rural transport
 - Transport links to enable people to get to work, including those working part-time
 - Bus shelters in every town
 - Affordable parking
 - Abolish parking fees in towns to encourage more consumers & visitors.
 - Town bus link in Ross; book a seat rather than it driving around town often empty.
 - Transport to health centres as well as work for everybody
- Switch to more sustainable transport
 - Carpool
 - Cut back on fossil fuels in transport
 - Change to electric cars; don't pollute the air.
 - Greater tax relief for electric cars & public transport
 - More electric charge points wall-mounted for electric cars
- Free driving lessons for under 25's.

Supports for Businesses, and Workers

- Infrastructure
 - Broadband for all areas.
 - Fibre broadband as soon as possible.
 - Better broadband
 - Broadband for all to support homeworking, reduced commuting & our environmental footprint.
 - Good broadband to support businesses
 - Good communication links
- Enterprise hubs
 - More support for local enterprise; advice hubs.
 - Small digital hubs
 - Creative community hub
 - Local business hub should be in every village.
 - Mini enterprise centres resourced & supported in all communities.
 - Work from home hubs etc.
- Services
 - Affordable childcare.
 - Crèches for working mothers
- Rates
 - Affordable rates for small businesses.
 - If the government don't start giving small business a break we will have no shops or services left in rural Ireland; rates, wages, etc. are too high, we haven't the same footfall as Dublin but have to pay the same.
- Local enterprise policy focus
 - Support jobs in local villages
 - Encourage entrepreneur spirit in communities
 - Local incentives to encourage decentralisation
 - Support the High Street; remove rates
 - Local community shops
 - Village shops supporting employment and community
- An attractive economy for business to come in
 - Modern high quality offices & buildings to attract outside investment.

- Provide advance units in the 4 districts; we have units for IT type jobs, but none for manufacturing/ assembly
- Better financial support for start-up businesses
- Support small business – shop local
- Less administration costs
- Focus on manufacturing for Wexford – trained but not highly skilled
- Encourage businesses in the area & start-ups, provide funding e.g. for events of Comhairle like Tea & Talk
- Social enterprise
 - Encourage social enterprise & develop an understanding of this
 - Have hubs for charities, e.g. community cafés, community jobs that are not for profit
- Network support group for people struggling to keep education or jobs because of personal/ medical/ mental reasons
- Use environmentally friendly facilities & encourage businesses to do the same, e.g. paper straw over plastic
- Promote financial services

Economic policy

- Sustainable economy
 - A sustainable economy with Wexford as a leading light in sustainable economy
 - More jobs with less pollution in sustainable enterprise will lead to less environmental impact
- Reduce burden on businesses/ facilitate business
 - Streamline red tape for business to increase efficiency.
 - Reduce overheads to increase profitability
 - Reasonable rents & rent control
 - Tax breaks for employers
 - Availability of small loans at reasonable interest rates
 - More grants with better access to these.
- Small and rural enterprise
 - Tax concessions for rural employment.
 - Value the small employers & focus on primary farm workers; keep people on the land by making small farms viable, as they have to represent employment to qualify for farm grants.
 - Make it easier for small businesses to employ people; handle legal requirements, guidance, remove the fear.
 - Provide more supports for sole traders; a huge part of the rural workforce & are important economically
- Wages
 - Universal basic income
 - Provide a living wage for everyone.
- Flexible working
 - Enable & incentivise remote working & decentralisation
- Provide job opportunities across a range of service so that all sectors of the community benefit.
- Social enterprise
 - Sort out the conflict that arises where buildings rented out have to be registered for rates which is a deterrent & increases insurance cost even when the activities concerned are social & community ones.
 - Explore different categories of non-profit companies & treatment by Revenue.
- Community sector should be funded to provide real, properly paid jobs where these are needed, rather than “cheap” employment or social schemes.

- For this to be relevant jobs need to be created. Those in power and with money may do this, most people cannot.
- Black market labour eradicated.

Natural Environment

- Our biggest asset is our natural environment – protection is minimal.
- Look after local environment & biodiversity which can be used to attract visitors & residents.
- Build a sustainable farming system.
- Tourism; local facilities, trails, etc. should be co-ordinated into visitor experiences to keep visitors in the area.
- Value added to local produce by identifying opportunities from local resources.
- Bring back the Barrow river cruiser.
- Dredge the river and revitalise the port.
- Develop river sports.

Tourism

- Tourism development
- As a coastal county develop facility for enhancing tourist product
- Arts, culture, music, & dance
- Fisheries
- An extended tourism season – 52 weeks. We have to promote it

Planning

- Change planning regulations immediately to support sustainable buildings; commercial, domestic, industrial, community, etc.
- Space in streets and shops
- Good transport & adequate affordable parking
- Social environment in evening – integration of music, food offering etc.
- Good communication infrastructure
- Wise use of available land
- All businesses and enterprises to be accessible to all.

Housing

- County Council to improve houses
- Utilise empty houses efficiently

Waste

- Twice yearly collection by skips in each housing estate
- More education about recycling
- Plastic collections; more business the Barrow, i.e. water bourne.
- Keep our rivers free from pollution; keep them clean.
- 2 euro back for return empty bottles, boxes etc.

Health

- More money to go for the care of the patient.
- Health services that are accessible for those with wheelchairs or other disabilities (hearing or sight impaired)
- Healthy food and restaurants
- Promote freshly prepared food

- Help for young people involved in drugs and their families

Energy

- Use of renewable energy
- Solar panels
- Wave energy

Community Initiatives

- Produce a local register for volunteer positions available that is clearly advertised/ signposted.
- Utilise community resources to run social events in e.g. have parties in community centres & revenue goes back into the community rather than spent in pubs

Invest in youth

- More equal funding for organisations trying to encourage teens/ young people to make a change & future for themselves & their community
- More ways to give young people a voice about local issues within the community. People who will listen

Primary Production

- Organic farming
- Fisheries

Social & Community Development



How can we be an inclusive community, where we support each other and ensure no one is left out? What are the important social services and facilities we need to live well from childhood to old age?

Community-based Facilities, Services and Activities

- Community Halls
- Childcare facilities
- Family Resource Centres
- Provision of community centres in each area
- Community centre redevelopment in every community.
- Educate teenagers on Ireland's drinking culture, provide facilities to keep teenagers off the streets as we are told we're loitering.
- Playgrounds and affordable gyms for young people
- Community activities
 - Extend Men's Sheds and Women's Sheds
 - More places for young people to hang out.
 - Old machinery artefacts museum
 - Hobbies – more clubs, encourage use of community centre
 - Accessible art/ craft spaces
 - Community groups need to become more inclusive; will like to put people into boxes!
- More integration; a mixed group i.e. involve all; young, old, those with disabilities, etc. Accessible art/ craft spaces
- Services for the elderly; older people are not catered for in the community.
- More local public meetings to encourage social and community engagement to build on local resources rather than national (?)
- Register of services & resources which incorporate support groups for marginalised members of our community i.e. Travellers, Roma, OAPs, disabled, LGBT.
 - Sharing information (Directory) of what community activities are available (e.g. quilt making, cooking club, family supports, etc.), agencies and support services.
- Every village should have facilities for all age groups; crèche, community halls, teenage facilities, old age community, nursing homes, etc.
 - More facilities where people can socialise with different communities & learn about each community.
 - One stop centre that have access by transport offered & where service providers & agencies attend regularly
- Supported living
 - Meals on Wheels Service
 - Support for carers and the elderly
 - Locally based and affordable care for the elderly
 - Respite care for the elderly and dependent
 - Support for people to continue to live in their homes into old age; home modifications, home care, etc.

- Sheltered housing with a warden on site
- Home care for the elderly and disabled as needed
- Home care packages to provide greater allocation of PA hours for vulnerable people.
- Locally based, affordable childcare
 - Community crèches for 4months to 3 yrs. (pre-ECCE Scheme) to enable parents to work, train, shop or socialise.
 - Afterschool services.
- Citizen advice centres according to town population
- Community tourist information provision
- Dementia training for all those delivering services or businesses in the community
- Great leadership in our community
- Community network
- Activities
 - Community First Responder Groups supported and resources
 - Telephone befriending and community befriending services resourced and maintained.
 - Organise community projects for different levels of community at different ages
 - Social events to involve all ages, newcomers, all abilities – everyone!
 - Rubbish removal, litter picking, etc. as a social activity!
 - Organising and bringing together all groups in the area
 - Neighbourly communities, helping each other e.g. to get the messages
 - Youth involved with older people in community; ideal for Transition Year students
 - Involve everyone in activities that appeal to all both young and old
 - Walking groups
 - Improve local social activity
 - Encourage car sharing to groups like Women’s and Men’s Sheds.
 - Visit old people that live alone – respect their wishes as some may not welcome our efforts.
 - Encourage and support more community events like the Gathering or Hello May Days
- Socialising together
 - Coffee mornings
 - Supportive community of good friendly neighbours to combat loneliness and mental health issues.
 - Entertainment, fun, laughter, dancing, socialising.
 - Need entertainment – art, culture, dance, music – a sense of fun and enjoyment.
- Welcoming community
 - Welcome to all, especially “outsiders” that come to live locally and who can contribute greatly to the local economy.
 - Accepting of everybody (race, religion, gender, age, past, colour, ethnicity, culture, etc.)
 - National “Hello Day” to encourage communication
 - A community that knows each other – Big Hello
 - Community support to encourage groups in community to talk to & engage with everybody
 - Have activities or bonding groups between communities.
 - Intercultural events supported & funded by Wexford County Council
 - Try to demolish the prejudice between communities
 - Access to intercultural courses for people to understand other cultures.

Supports for Community Activities

- Promote local community groups
- Share skills and information
- Reduce/minimise red tape for community groups
- VAT refund for all community groups not just charities
- Positive tax regime for all the voluntary sector

- More funding to associations that try to bring communities together/ help them feel safe & communicate.
- More support for different groups such as LGBT so people don't feel so alone & have people that understand
- Funding pool for low socio-economic groups; possibly community bud
- Community development supports: education, mentoring, governance.
- (Good) transparency and communication within community groups amongst all members.

Housing

- Cradle to grave community housing and services (access to services) for rural areas.
- Sheltered housing for elderly.
- Sustainable housing options for all to rent and/or to buy with security of tenure.
- Social housing
- Affordable housing so that both parents do not have to work

Respect & Security

- More respect for law and order
- Respect for the elderly
- Anti-social behaviour could be reduced if parenting programmes were mandatory.
- More Garda
- More Garda foot patrols in larger towns Community Garda
- Garda on the beat
- Seek greater security in all areas through community alert involvement
- Develop neighbourly contact by community Garda liaison

Infrastructure, services and facilities

- Broadband throughout the county.
- Bus shelters and seating
- Level crossing
- Street lights that work
- Every community should have a "Town Team" to represent and support the views of all groups in the community.
- Footpaths, cycle paths, ditches to enable pedestrians – functional walking

Recreation

- Safe pedestrian walking.
- Exercise equipment & games area
- Astroturf for soccer club
- To develop a night-time café culture in New Ross; that feels safe to be out, with sufficient lighting and policing.

Inclusion

- Support equality.
- Become more understanding of different cultures and values.
- Use of facilities by everyone
- Integration in Ireland – accepting use by all

Community Enterprise and Employment

- More employment; more thinking outside the box
- More training in schools for industry, woodworking, metalworking, etc.

- A viable shop [in each village] that acts as a community hub also
- A community that supports local business and enterprises

Transport

- Transport to link communities
- Public transport to rural areas
- Volunteer rural transport service to meet medical needs (patients attending appointments)
- Accessible, reliable & affordable public transport with ease of access for those with disabilities

Policy

- Better work/life balance
- Can a parent stay at home?
- Digital detox
- Drug and alcohol abuse education linked to “AA”
- Legalise drugs
- Basic living wage for all
- Blood tests should be covered by Medical Card

Intergenerational activity

- Intergenerational engagement; learning from each other (sport, skills, days out, etc.)
- Intergenerational activity to be more social; make & do, skills
- Share older people’s skills with young people & vice versa
- Cross-generational community communication, social events & collaboration.

Other

Healthcare

- Primary care centres built and resourced properly
- Primary care for older people

Support for those not working

- Meaningful daily activities for people who don’t/ can’t work e.g. extension of special CE schemes

Volunteering

- Vibrant volunteering; renew the profile of volunteers - More volunteering when communities are in crisis

Older people

- Inclusion of elderly in decision-making
- Affordable & good quality accommodation for the elderly

Participation, Democracy & Good Governance



What is necessary to ensure that our local authority supports the wellbeing of our community for this and future generations? What is necessary to ensure that we have a voice in the decisions that affect us and that all voices are being heard?

County Council:

a. Information, Education & Awareness

- Inform the public of direct provision facilities
- Awareness of the power of your vote
- The community should be aware of procedures and opportunities so that they can contribute to Local Authority and other Agencies' decision-making.
- More discussion/ information days like this with good notice.
- Clearly available and easily understandable information on who our councillors are, what their role is, and how to contact them
- Increase awareness of how local government works; what councillors and council staff can/ cannot do.
- Social Media; give everyone an opportunity to engage at local government level on an acceptable platform.
- Wexford County Council to advertise and invite all community groups to events and showcases hosted in Wexford County Council.
- Cultural awareness training for public workers on different cultures, e.g. Travellers, minorities, LGBTA.
- More communication between County Wexford people and decision-makers in local Council (PPNs & other)
- Two-way communication with elected members
- Place County Council meeting reports on websites
- More communication between Comhairle na nÓg (Wexford) and Wexford Council County
- Formalise a "suggestion box" for the County Council as made by the community
- Good communication from LA to the people
- Regular news from local politicians
- Contribute to civics as a subject in schools

b. Communication and Consultation and Representation

- More public consultation on matters concerning local areas.
- Notify and consult the community in the development of/change of Byelaws
- Communicate with all community groups in a specific area before making decisions that affect that area.
- Streamline public consultation process; fewer events, greater participation.
- District-based strategic plan to avoid duplication of facilities and ensure all sectors of the community are catered for
- Better opportunities to meet Councillors
- More regular local meetings between Council and local communities.
- Councillors listen to the public on a regular basis and represent the majority views rather than their own view.
- Integration of communities – regular meetings of communities, politicians, and agencies – reporting back on promises made.
- People who represent the areas should consult at least 2 times per year in each village/ parish.
- Database set up with PPN registered forum to input into agendas previously set their opinions.
- Participatory democracy on all important decisions, not just to elect councillors.

- Suggestion boxes from the public.
- Wexford County Council get your act together; do more work for the people.
- People are empowered to input their issues in an ongoing basis. Change happens in between the 5 yrs. (between elections)
- All our representatives and elected representatives to lead in highlighting the importance of [protecting] our environment
- Change electoral structures so that elected representatives do not get involved in areas they should not have to be involved in purely because of trying to gain re-election next time around – e.g. lobbying for social housing for individuals, getting services organised for people that other groups are responsible for.
- Need fewer councillors; 32 for 150,000 people is too many.
- More community representation at local SPC level.
- Traveller reps on the LTACC should be publicly posted and selected by the Travelling community.
- Local area community council, so that local issues can be discussed, and the people elected are accountable.
- Strengthen contact between communities and elected members and the County Council staff at district level through more meetings
- Give young people a bigger voice on local issues and issues that affect them.
- An appointed Councillor for Districts to feed in community view.
- Implementation of strategies allowing equal participation as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

c. Community participation

- Free access for the public to attend all Council meetings
- Fewer expenses for elected members
- Greater input into Council meetings through organised motions
- Provision for community representatives on the Council, from within the PPN
- We are listened to at a high level.
- Community Reps to have at least one seat on Co Council
- Greater voice of community sector at decision table
- Increase the number of community seats on County Council decision-making bodies
- Comhairle na nÓg to have a seat on the decision-making board

d. Funding & Support for Communities

- More money for local government.
- Better County Council support for local projects.
- More funding for Local Government to provide community facilities
- Local councillors appear to have influence over who gets funding; the same community group has been given a large amount of funding over years.
- More transparency over grants.
- Reports on spending by the County Council easily available to all.
- The budget from each County Council Department to be published every year.
- Ensure better accountability for money spent by the Council and more clarity on where/ what rates are spent on.
- Local government to support communities in applying for local grants
- Transparency of expenses within Wexford County Council.

e. Transparency

- Openness and transparency at County Council meetings.
- Better newspaper reporting of Council meetings,
- More transparency

F. Planning

- Think long term and invest in the future. Short term planning is not the best way forward.
- Simplify the planning and development process.

Funding

- Need for support for groups to complete grant applications, charity status etc.
- More funding and easier to access for Comhairle na nÓg Wexford
- Youth Council (Comhairle na nÓg has serious lack of co-ordinator hours (10.5 hrs is not sufficient)
- Organise to work together rather than against/ applying for the same funding/ doing the same work
- Funding for national projects should be allocated from national funds not taken from local communities or local government e.g. National Children's Hospital

PPN

- A properly supported and resourced PPN to help the community have its voice heard.
- Greater participation in the PPN
- Join your PPN

Support for Community Groups and Inclusion

- Support for community groups.
- More resources for vulnerable people and people with disabilities
- Men's sheds and the youth
- Awareness of youth inclusion
- More funding for premises for these groups as some struggle to obtain premises.
- Reduce paperwork for community groups.
- Provide speedier exemption from rates for volunteer groups and charities.
- Simplify grant forms, regulations and requirements, etc. for community groups.
- Encourage people from other cultures to join and provide help for them to do so i.e. transport, funding
- Make art & culture accessible and affordable for everyone; transport, costs, advertising, raise awareness and invite.

Community Engagement and Personal Responsibility

- An engaged community and individuals from school onwards
- An inclusive community where everyone has a voice
- Join the dots; youth and older people to improve communities
- Leave no-one behind
- Develop World Health Organisation and Age Friendly Programme.
- Everyone votes
- There is a voluntary contribution made by all sectors of society

Other

Accountability

- Accountability of Gardaí and politicians

Security

- Gardaí working with the County Council to maintain order

Funding

- Availability of better small grants and funding for communities

Waste

- Refund deposit on all liquid containers – bring back glass bottles
- Plastic free zone
- Poster free zone

Service Provision

- A 7 day/ week statutory service for those presenting as homeless.
- Money; there is tons of it around – not being spent wisely.

Values, Culture & Meaning



What is needed to ensure that everyone both feels, and actually is, included and valued, and that our different values and cultures are respected and nurtured? What are the important parts of our culture that we want to hand on to future generations?

Respectful and Inclusive Community

- Welcoming
 - We recognise and welcome other cultures
 - Have multi-cultural gatherings with different cooking, art, dancing. Party!
 - Wexford County Council host multi-cultural events in the County rather than “the Street”
 - Meet and greet and introduction to services
 - Cultural ambassadors for introduction to social aspects
- Respect
 - Respect others’ traditions, values and cultures; education on both sides.
 - Respect for all communities, new Irish, Old Irish, Travellers, mentally ill, young, old, etc.
 - That we respect the opinions of all others.
 - Identify and respect different cultures.
 - Respect for all communities, new Irish, Old Irish, Travellers, mentally ill, young, old, etc.
 - That we respect the opinions of all others.
 - Respect each other’s beliefs and religions.
 - Loyalty and commitment to our community; everyone respects everyone regardless.
 - Respect the Traveller community and have events for them
- Included and valued
 - Valuing people with disabilities; people with disabilities have skills and talents that are not recognised or valued.
 - Young people, older people, people with criminal records, disability and everyone have skills to offer. We should value them all.
 - Value, respect and love all people.
 - More social inclusion, integrated groups
 - Interpreters – sign language, braille
- Equally involved
 - Encourage communities facilitating for everyone; educating people on other cultures and allowing them to merge together, e.g. show cultural nights
 - Wexford County Council for host and be the face of interculturalism; hosting events, sharing resources, providing information on groups available in communities.
 - Work to include ethnic groups in decision-making
 - Teach people to respect and not invalidate others culture and beliefs from a young age.
 - Everyone is welcome; there is no hierarchy of opportunity to get involved.
 - Social integration of all marginalised groups
- Supports and facilities
 - More facilities/ youth groups for refugees and free learning centres run by volunteers.
 - Facilities for Travellers to encourage non-patronising behaviour amongst both settled and Travellers.
- Inform the public when direct provision people are coming amongst us to ensure happy integration for us all

Younger people

- Make young people more aware of old traditions and involve them.
- Try to attract young people to join the local historical society to learn about their local history.
- Ask young people what they would like to see in their own community; young people don't engage in community anymore.
- Include views of younger people
- Don't underestimate younger people; new eyes bring new vision!
- More play areas for children

Older Citizens

- Listen to the voices of older people; they have the T-shirt!
- My voice is important if I am older than you (Cradle to Grave)
- Day centre for elderly people
- Outlets for older people
- Valuing older people & involving them in activities
- Community cafés for older people
- Meals on Wheels support
- Elderly people are part of our communities and not separated off
- Important to hand down our culture to future generations.
- More physical activities for middle aged & older people

Maintaining Irish Traditions

- Preserve our heritage and culture
- Social traditions
 - Traditions, e.g. story-telling, story-telling groups
- Culinary traditions
 - Traditional foods
- Irish language
 - Encourage people to learn the Irish language and traditions
 - Promote the Irish language
 - Promote a pride in Irish language and culture (place names, etc.)
 - Irish language
 - Financial support for Irish language groups
 - Coinead and Teangan Beo
- Irish music
 - Maintain support for traditional music teaching
- Promote and celebrate literary tradition
- Tradition of drama
 - Performing arts
- National Games
 - Continuing of national games - hurling & football
 - Promote Gaelic Games.
- Traditional Irish culture to be celebrated in Ireland not just abroad e.g. Irish dancing, music, story-telling, St. Patrick's Day, etc. rather than just drinking.
- Schools are where traditional skills are nurtured e.g. set dancing in PE, knitting, crochet. Life skills are more important than academia.

Heritage

- Appoint a County Heritage Officer; Wexford is one of only 2 Counties that don't have one.
- Funding
 - Get acceptance from County Council staff that heritage projects do not have to be self-funded.
 - Provide more funding for the upkeep of historic buildings and incentives to preserve these rather than knock them down/ relocate activities away from them.
- Agricultural expertise preserved and passed on
- Local Heritage
 - Focusing on the people of the area and their heritage e.g. fish for a day with a fisherman.
 - Revitalise fishing heritage in Wexford town and other areas.
- Built heritage
 - Conservation
 - Heritage buildings should be conserved.
 - Celebrate Heritage and Culture
 - Make more of our history (1798), sport, art and music
 - Signage for local monuments and access and transport to them.
 - Protect and conserve our precious built heritage (e.g. St Ibars)
 - Full development of heritage sites in 1798 locations
 - Kinship of Gaelic rule
- Natural heritage protected and celebrated
 - seaside, beaches, coastline, etc.

Tourism

- Come up with a cross-county policy for tourism development, e.g. 1798, Norman Wexford, etc. to tie separate areas together and to attract visitors.
- Historic Ferns has been totally bypassed from a tourism point of view; the castle visitor centre is closed from Sept. to May and has no coffee shop.

Community activities

- Gardening
 - Community gardening; allotments
 - More gardening; growing your own veg.
- Community Directory
 - Online information/ community directory.
- Crafts
 - Teaching crafts in schools alongside other things.
 - Craft outlets i.e. for men's sheds
- Reduced barriers to community activity
 - Less "Health & Safety" used as an excuse for everything
 - Less emphasis on insurance; let people be responsible for themselves
- Sports
 - Ensure sports clubs reach out to all members of the community
 - Support our local clubs; athletics, GAA, boxing,
 - Boxing should be banned; it's not a sport
- Costs
 - Bring down insurance costs for festivals.
 - Costs of running events, festivals to improve the local area.
- Sports & Activities
 - Adventure centre
 - Involvement in sport

Education

- Educate the younger generation in social skills
- Education in community settlements
- Bring education to local communities if life-long learning is to be achieved
- Community education on global citizenship.
- Education in local history.
- Education on values and knowing what they are - active listening
- Engage schools and facilities to teach Ireland's good history as well as to take pride.
- More education of Irish culture and Celtic history and beliefs, more education on old Irish tales and folklore and beliefs and lifestyle rather than wars and mistakes.
- Educate our young people at the earliest age to appreciate and respect what we have.
- Pride in the community we live in.
- Take pride in Ireland's modern culture too.
- Encourage pride in Irish culture, merge modern and traditional. Learn more about Ireland's good history and culture as opposed to negative.
- Irish language education
 - Irish language to be better taught; more conversational
 - Make Irish more enjoyable and less exam focussed.
- Irish music taught in schools
- Cultural awareness training for all public workers.
- More local involvement in local historical sites i.e. Johnstown Castle.

Different histories

- A proud "Irish and acceptance of our history e.g. British ancestry, experience, British army experience
- Valuing of the lived experience; farmers and fishermen
- Respect Wexford's industrial past
- Stories and traditions
- You don't have to agree with others but it's important to listen
- Respect history

Participation and volunteering

- Full participation of school children in Tidy Town
- Young people fully engaged in community, volunteering, & care of the environment
- Special Olympics participation
- A spirit of volunteering throughout the county
- Support for volunteers (appreciation)
- Don't overuse – take advantage
- Get all ages out to maintain and clean up the areas we live in.

Roads

- More correct road signage before the road.
- Preserve roadside trees

Digital detox

- 7-8pm for example – no wi-fi or screen time

Other

- Allow all members to have an input into all decisions in our areas.
- Crack down consistently on littering and dumping; enforce the laws and prosecute.
- More infrastructures provided by local government.
- Make art and culture more accessible to people (cost and not feeling welcome).
- Develop greater respect for the trades as opposed to academia
- Full employment in well paid and sustainable jobs