



Community Wellbeing Vision

Combined Workshop, Online & F2F Inputs And Final Vision

December 2019



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What is Community Wellbeing?

Although we often think about wellbeing in terms of good physical and mental health, it can also describe the wider conditions we need as individuals and communities to have a better quality of life, healthier environment and increased prosperity.



Our Vision has an overarching Vision for County Wexford and a vision for each community wellbeing “domain” or aspect.

These wellbeing domains are:

- Values, Culture & Meaning
- Environment & Sustainability
- Health (physical & mental)
- Economy & Resources
- Social & Community Development
- Participation, Democracy & Good Governance

How we developed Our Vision for Community Wellbeing

Our Vision was developed over a three stage process as follows:

Stage 1

Wexford PPN held five community consultation workshops across County Wexford from 13th - 22nd May 2019, facilitated by Dr Harriet Emmerson.

These events were held in the following locations:

- Oylegate
- Piercestown
- Craanford
- Ballinaboola
- Galbally



Workshop

PPN Members were invited to attend Community Wellbeing workshops.

At these workshops the Community Wellbeing concept was presented.



Asset Mapping

Working in groups, attendees then highlighted the "assets" and aspects of their community that they wish to preserve and protect for current and future generations.



Wellbeing vision

Using the 6 Community Wellbeing headings, attendees shared what they (and the organisations they work for) considered to be important for their community's wellbeing.

During these workshops attendees were given the opportunity to review and map the current assets in their communities and then to look at the wellbeing vision categories to detail what they felt would be important for their community's wellbeing.

Stage 2

All feedback from Stage 1 was compiled and made available to members for review – with the opportunity to add additional feedback, through an online survey and four additional face to face engagement opportunities (meeting and drop in sessions) These were held 25th June to 3rd July 2019.



Stage 3



The PPN Support Officer, Secretariat Members, and the Facilitator met to draft the Vision, based on inputs from stage one and two. This draft was then sent out again for consultation and comment from members from 19th July to end August.

This final draft was brought to the November 2019 PPN District Meetings for member approval, including an overlay of the Sustainable Development Goals allocated to each vision domain/aspect.



Our Vision for County Wexford

‘Wexford’s strong natural resources and heritage complement a vibrant, inclusive, and changing County, where there are supports and opportunities for all, and all work together to achieve them’

Our Vision Summary

Vision 'We are the guardians of the precious natural and built environment of County Wexford which we all value, restore and protect for the benefit and enjoyment of all.'

Vision – 'Wexford is a proud County that celebrates its rich and extensive heritage and actively share it with others. As a County we are open and welcoming to new traditions and communities.'

Vision 'Wexford is an inclusive County where we all play an informed and valuable part in shaping and maintaining our communities within our dynamic and proactive local democracy.'

Vision – 'Wexford is a county where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life. Holistic health is supported by good provision of health and community services, our high quality natural and built environments and an accepting and inclusive society.'

Vision 'Wexford has a sustainable economy offering a variety of employment opportunities and meaningful activities for all our citizens, utilising our rich natural resources, that creates an attractive place to live, work and visit.'

Vision 'Wexford is a safe, considerate and inclusive community, offering local support, assistance and facilities to ensure a great quality of life for everyone.'



How Our Vision links with the SDGs



Our vision for.....

Environment & Sustainability

Vision – We are the guardians of the precious natural and built environment of County Wexford which we all value, restore and protect for the benefit and enjoyment of all’

- We are environmentally aware citizens constantly striving to protect and improve our environment.
- Individuals, businesses, industry and authorities are educated in and adopt sustainable practices.
- We are all active guardians of nature, where we value and mind our rich nature natural heritage, biodiversity and wildlife habitats.
- We utilise our natural environment respectfully for accessible recreation and tourism.
- Both the State and local communities value, restore and protect our built heritage for the benefit of all.
- Wexford has minimal waste generation, optimal re-use and recycling activity and responsible waste disposal with corresponding regulations and enforcement.
- As a County, we adopt best practices and technologies to minimise our carbon footprint.
- We have infrastructure that facilitates sustainable transport systems.



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.
 - Bee friendly planting in all free greens in each town
- 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.
 - Stop using weedkillers.
- Food production
 - Community allotments around the County share produce that's organic. Social element of this is very important.
 - Veg swops from own gardens
- 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
- Promote marine biodiversity by creating and regulating Marine Protected Areas so that fish stocks get the opportunity to recover.
- Create wildlife habitat, promote water quality, and fight climate change by planting native trees along rivers and streams.
- Primary secondary school projects in the Autumn for Spring (plant bulbs).

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.
 - More accessible bins for dog litter
 - Paper bags or reusable
- 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
 - Waste payments (deductions) facilitated through Social Welfare payments.
- 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
 - public street recycling bins,
 - Reward communities who actively engage in recycling.

- Fast fashion is creating huge waste; campaign to discourage people from throwing away clothes after minimal wear; workshops on upcycling clothing; swapshops/ thrift/ charity shops as source of good quality clothing.
- Use plastic to make cycle/ footpaths like Holland etc.
- 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)
- Focus on local shopping to reduce carbon footprint

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.
 - More practical understanding of how they can impact the environment in everyday actions

- To be fully educated with regard to the environment and sustainability...the structure of the earth and the soil, the need for careful nurturing and protection of the soil, the role of bees in the production of food, the need to reduce chemicals.
- Immediate Public awareness campaign across all media with clearly defined goals and responsibilities outlined for every individual with regard to protection of our environment and green targets.
- More awareness programmes on what we as individuals, community groups can do.
- Education at school age.
- Look back to old ways – simpler living was more sustainable e.g. loose fruit, companion planting, local food etc
- 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.
 - Need to recognise contribution of volunteers in ensuring sustainable communities .
- 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.
 - Introduce grow your own veg and flowers programmes through schools and libraries. Want future generations to know how to grow own fruit and veg, how to garden and protect our natural flora and fauna.
 - Access to grow programmes in schools and libraries.
 - Promote community gardens
 - Wildlife gardens with a more away from manicured gardening
- 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
- Dementia friendly towns and villages.
- Safe walking, wheelchair & cycle paths through the county.
- Development of orienteering courses such as the one in the Raven will help young people engage with the environment. I would recommend & ensure a range of environmental locations.

Transport

- Walk instead of drive
- Cycling
 - More cycle paths
 - Cycle lanes to get cars off roads.
 - Improved cycling lane provision
 - Grants for electric bikes.
 - Cycling is safe: cycle lanes in urban areas are continuous and joined up.
- 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.
- Support for communities in protecting and promoting their heritage, spreading awareness of significant built heritage. More awareness = more interest in protecting.
- Appoint a Heritage Officer.

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.

Our vision for.....

Health (physical & mental)

Vision – 'Wexford is a county where everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilling life. Holistic health is supported by good provision of health and community services, our high quality natural and built environments and an accepting and inclusive society.'

- Information on health services and support is freely available, clear and accessible to all.
- The approach to health services provision is holistic and integrates community supports.
- Comprehensive and high quality mental and physical health services are available locally as needed.
- There are community-based non-medical services, facilities and supports that enable fulfilling independent living by all in our communities.
- We understand and accept the diversity of health challenges in our communities and work together for a more inclusive society.
- The Local Authority and all statutory agencies work with local communities to ensure well-designed, planned and safe environments that are fully accessible and serviced to meet the diverse needs of residents.
- There is good provision of community facilities to support services and activities of different groups and the mixing of these groups. The positive value of these for health and wellbeing is recognised.
- Recreational amenities and activities are well developed and accessible both in the built and natural environments making use of our land and water resources for the benefit of all.



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
 - Education in nutrition and healthy eating. Education in wellness, mindfulness, well being and life values.
- 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.
 - Physical exercise classes at least 3 times a week in schools
 - More detailed cooking and preparing in schools in a healthy way. Also involve all steps – ‘picking recipe’, ‘shop wise’, ‘prepare correctly’, ‘set table and come together to enjoy food’.
- 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
- Drugs & Addiction
 - An awareness of drugs and addiction.
 - Create community awareness of the impact of drug/alcohol on individuals & families.

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
 - An awareness of mental health decline triggers and symptoms plus quick access to immediate support when needed.
 - Increase level of community mental health services and early interventions for adolescents/people and appropriate information/support for their families.
- 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
 - Better support for men for better mental health
- 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
- Affordable access to an efficient health care system.
- more psychologists. more therapists. shorter waiting lists
- Not forgotten in Casualty A&E because of age
- If doctor calls to house a person is important no matter what age
- Lifelong conditions should have lifelong medical card as proven by doctor/ hospital care.
- Same price from doctors for blood tests etc, all seem to charge different – why?
- Sufficient carer supports for those older or with special needs – mind our most vulnerable
- Look after the carers – additional supports such as bus passes gp card etc as we rely so much on our carers

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.
- More support for special needs teenagers or learning difficulties. Especially for autism and self-harm. Currently there are only hotlines to call but no active support from schools for older kids
- No afterhours facilities after 5pm and weekends.
- Health information must be communicated in ways other than written forms to allow for people with limited literacy skills.

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
- Better access to activities for all. Better river access. More parking access at woodlands. More common barbecue areas.
- Mother and parents toilets in public areas – adequate facilities for all.
- 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
 - Support and relieve the pressure on community groups. Growing burden and pressure on community groups - the more they do, the more is expected. Difficulty in getting funding, applications becoming more professionalised.
 - Develop recovery capital in the community for those in recovery
 - Teach mindfulness to all sections of the community..results in a kinder society.
 - Support return home after hospital

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.
 - Walking to work and school should be supported.
 - Access to many walking trails
 - Add cycle paths to the flood defence planning (Enniscorthy) to make it possible for families to enjoy safe outdoor gatherings.

- 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.
 - Provide Playgrounds and outdoor gyms where needed. Include facilities for teenagers...sadly neglected in Wexford.
- Access - an opportunity to partake in all activities regardless of orientation, disability or mental health

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
- Most footpaths are too narrow for buggies/wheelchairs or a down at road crossings.
- Safer footpaths – dipped paths for mobility buggies etc.

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
- A bigger focus on (more availability to) healthier, plant-based food.
- Support funding for participation in art workshops and events - dance, singing and well being workshops.

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
- Improved services for those with disabilities such as Occupational therapy.

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.

Men

- Improving 'lower life expectancy' in men.

Travellers

- Something for traveller youth. Intercultural training in schools, hospitals. Traveller health nurse.

Our vision for.....

Work, Economy & Resources

Vision - 'Wexford has a sustainable economy offering a variety of employment opportunities and meaningful activities for all our citizens, utilising our rich natural resources, that creates an attractive place to live, work and visit.'

- There is a diverse range of education, training and skills development opportunities available and delivered appropriate to individual need.
- A rich variety of work opportunities and skill-sharing are available that ensure a positive employment experience at all life stages.
- We have carefully planned provision of sustainable infrastructure and services that support businesses, workers and community.
- Innovative enterprise models (profit and non-profit) are encouraged and support small-scale and community initiatives critical for the future of vibrant local communities.
- Our natural environment is an important asset and enables Wexford to be a leader in sustainable living and economic development.
- Sustainability is a central characteristic of our economy and we utilise this to promote our County.
- We have a sophisticated, diverse and year-round offering of culture, heritage and natural environment for visitors.



4
QUALITY
EDUCATION



8
DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



2
ZERO
HUNGER



6
CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



17
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

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
 - More information sharing for colleges, training, work placements – more support from schools to get supported by government.
 - Offering free experience places for youth e.g. Prendergast's/Sportsman training
 - Transport links and support for young workers
- 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
 - Provide and resource Technical colleges for all trades.
 - Manufacturing for Technology - training for new roles.
- 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
 - Access to third level education for all as education is the answer to empowerment.
- 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
 - Train or re-train unemployed persons in areas where there will be jobs available.
 - Provide social Employment where participants get a real, living wage that makes them feel valued.
- 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.
 - Supports for everybody to engage with work. More support for sheltered employment
 - Opportunities & access to employment for those in recovery
- Sanctions for those who don't want to work but can.
- Offer job opportunities at all levels – encourage trades and apprenticeships as much as third level

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.
- Transport to villages close by, such as Enniscorthy to New Ross/ Waterford for future college students.

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.
 - Remove rates for social enterprise projects.
- 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
 - Incentives for artists to move and live in Wexford - studios, galleries for artists
 - Alternatives to buying online – can it be provided locally?
- 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
 - Encourage social enterprise to fund vibrant communities.
- 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
- Reward for work and work experience to encourage young people (may be token but something)

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
 - More opportunity in green jobs such as renewable energy, manufacturing based on a circular economy and eco-tourism.
- 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
 - Need to promote local economy. More local markets.
- 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.
- Support for women who do not have pension entitlements due to civil service rules.

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
- Enhance Cultural tourism offer to encourage more visitors to invest in economy.

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
- Accessible housing with universal design
- Council build housing for deserving applicants

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.
- Consumers consider their needs, recycling, reusing.

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
- Supported engagement facilities for older people supported by business e.g. tea and talk.
- No charge for community signs

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
- Allowing young leaders to shine and lead in local organisations.

Primary Production

- Organic farming
- Fisheries

Community Support from Government

- Government support to organised community projects in a way that they do not have to apply for each individual grant.
- More interaction locally from meeting in their community and situation
- Appoint a Community Development Officer.
- Increase voluntary labour contribution in grants to a more realistic level.
- Insurance a huge burden - look to forming alternative model.

Our vision for.....

Social & Community Development

Vision – 'Wexford is a safe, considerate and inclusive community, offering local support, assistance and facilities to ensure a great quality of life for everyone'

- We all enjoy a good quality of life, living in safe communities where people look out for each other.
- We benefit from intergenerational activity and engagement.
- We are a considerate community with great leadership, that reduces exclusion and leaves no one behind.
- We have good provision of local, accessible facilities that accommodate community activities.
- We value volunteering activity and there is support for the wide range of community-based groups and organisations that provide vital services and opportunities within our communities.
- Tailored supports are provided to assist community groups with governance, funding, recruitment and training for their sustainability.
- We live in a well-planned community with good infrastructure and a mix of housing to meet different community needs.
- We have innovative models of enterprise and employment that offer work alternatives and support community cohesion.



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!
 - Neither Wexford town nor Enniscorthy have a basketball club.
 - More homework clubs for Wexford 4 days a week.
- 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
 - Support for arts facilities - Wexford Arts Centre, Presentation Centre as outlets for delivery of programmes and access to arts for well being which also includes outreach links with projects in schools and community
 - More community participation in the arts
 - Outdoor gyms in all towns – suits all age groups
- 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.
 - Playgrounds in housing estates as people are too isolated – bring people together in a healthy surrounding.
- 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.
- Knowledge of supports and entitlements available following bereavement

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.
- Community groups need more support in marketing.
- Need schemes which support social enterprise models - need schemes which provide employment for tourism initiatives. Possibly develop programmes with 3rd level education institutions.
- Resilience skills developed – especially in younger people and older people.
- Too much bureaucracy in putting a stop to organic activities and to people sharing their knowledge because they need to be vetted and insured – it's off-putting and inhibits activity at neighbourhood scale.
- Make the Vetting procedure easier.

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
- Access to affordable housing without having to become homeless.

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
- Footpaths are a physical barrier.

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.
- More green spaces in all communities.

Inclusion

- Support equality.
- Become more understanding of different cultures and values.
- Use of facilities by everyone
- Integration in Ireland – accepting use by all
- Restorative justice programmes at all levels of social interactions, from junior schools on up through very level of social/community interaction, are an inclusive and fair process to educate in soc
- Social barriers need to be challenged also. We have very small numbers of non national children playing hurling/football and rugby.
- Reduce the stigma in the community for those in recovery and their families
- Inclusiveness for all - offering recreational opportunities other than sport for those not sporty
- Early intervention and keeping youth engaged will remove exclusion and anti-social behaviour
- Overcoming the cliques – understanding the barriers both real and perceived
- Fair play for all – even if ability is not equal (sport teams)
- Funding support for extra-circular activities for those in need

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
- More shuttle bus services for isolated people

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
- Put a value on volunteerism. Encourage more people to volunteer.
- More support for people on Social Welfare to volunteer – don’t penalise Social Welfare recipients for volunteering.

Older people

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

Supporting Towns

- New Ross is going to be bypassed. It must become a destination town for visitors. Do we need additional large signs on all access main roads telling the public what tourist attractions the town offers..such as Ros Tapestry, St Mary’s Church, Famine Ship

Our vision for.....

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Vision – 'Wexford is an inclusive County where we all play an informed and valuable part in shaping and maintaining our communities within our dynamic and proactive local democracy.'

- Wexford is an inclusive County where all voices are valued and where those who need additional supports to participate are facilitated. Community representatives are enabled to present the voice of the community.
- We are all active participants in shaping and working for our communities (e.g. as volunteers) and all contributions are recognised and valued.
- All of us are well-informed about how local government works and our individual responsibilities in it (e.g. as officials, communities, councillors, individuals etc.)
- Our community groups and networks are actively supported and resourced in their work for our wellbeing.
- Our Local Government is open, transparent, listens to all citizens and feeds back regularly. Their communications are regular, up-to-date and in understandable and accessible formats.
- We are consulted about issues that affect us, using a variety of methods which ensure opportunities are available for everyone to engage and influence outcomes and decisions.
- The Local Authority works to ensure our long-term future.

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
- School visits from party leaders outlining roles and achievements
- People need to be taught from a young age the power of the collective, the power of the local on how politics work locally

b. Communication and Consultation and Representation

- More public consultation on matters concerning local areas.
- NRA and coco liaise with local groups to develop national, regional and local routes
- Coco engage with local groups regarding use of vacant buildings.
- 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.
- Local discussion groups feeding into county councils
- More female political leadership & representation at Wexford County Council
- More opportunity to have a say through online feedback surveys such as these, public meetings, even through social media channels
- Community participants need to provide input through elected council and community groups via WPPN

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
- Support for those in recovery from problem substance use to have access to decision making in their community
- Encourage participation..keep it simple, have more "getting to know you" meetings in communities where all generations can participate. Keep meetings informal and encourage discussions. Have suggestion boxes for those who won't speak publicly but care.

- Engagement opportunities for those with disabilities such as meeting town planners, area officials, and access office.
- Active support for volunteering
- Active supports for women & more diverse backgrounds to get involved at council level.

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
- Supports for community groups – women’s groups
- A local Authority that works ‘with’ community groups.

e. Transparency

- Openness and transparency at County Council meetings.
- Better newspaper reporting of Council meetings,
- Transparency of expenses within Wexford County Council
- 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
- Financial and staff support for PPN to enable it to be effective in all - enabling it to support co-operation.
- An understood & engaged PPN in the county.

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.
- A voice for all

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.

Voting

- Awareness of Vote importance.
- Huge work should be undertaken to identify areas with low voter turnout
- A focused move to increase registration and engagement in low voter turnout areas should then be undertaken.
- On election days the areas should have supports to bring people to vote

Our vision for.....

Values, Culture & Meaning

Vision – ‘Wexford is a proud County that celebrates its rich and extensive heritage and actively share it with others. As a County we are open and welcoming to new traditions and communities.’

- Wexford is an open, inclusive and respectful community that is accepting of different cultures and traditions.
- We honour our unique Irish heritage, culture and traditions; sharing knowledge, promoting and celebrating this heritage within our communities.
- There are supports for recognition, protection and celebration of our natural and built heritage.
- We promote and share our heritage with visitors through a mix of tourism experiences and activities.
- All members of our communities are generous in volunteering their time, knowledge and skills, and are supported in doing so.
- We are aware of our varied heritage and history.



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
 - Bring new traditions and celebrations to areas (e.g. Christmas Markets)
- 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
 - We want to hand on values that all who participate, live in our community are of/by/for the community and represented accordingly.
- 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

- Representatives should reflect the diversity within the community and ensure equality for all.
- 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.
 - More community involvement to make things happen - small fees to fund project and government funding to support.
- 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
 - The Irish language should be supported in the town. A subsidised cafe or areas of current cafe could be set as a place to come and speak
- 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.
- Local identity encouraged
- Cultural ambassadors in the community

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.
 - Preserving the stories of the past – handing them down generation to generation – telling stories to younger generations
- 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
 - open days for heritage sites with tours
- Natural heritage protected and celebrated
 - seaside, beaches, coastline, etc.
 - Placing more value on biodiversity, clean air, clean water, green spaces, and sustainability.
 - The green around us and the environment mix we live with – beaches, mountains 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.
- Local small scale heritage/wildlife museum
- A shed/ small building community with history, culture, and wildlife information of local area ie, Curraclloe beach.

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.
- Define, discuss and instil good values through education, good example and training of community leaders

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.
- Encourage neighbourhood groups.

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
- Materialism holds the most power dictating how we live, work and interact with each other.
- Respecting our wildlife