



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail
Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath
Public Participation Network
Dublin City

VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

DUBLIN CITY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
NETWORK

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INTRODUCTION

This vision for community well-being builds on the earlier version, which was drafted after consultations, including in-person sessions, an online survey, and position papers from linkage groups. Each section has a vision and a section on what members think we need to do to achieve our Vision for Community well-being.

It is intended to support and provide a reference guide for Dublin City Public Participation members, representatives, linkage, thematic groups, and the secretariat.



HEALTH

OUR VISION FOR HEALTH

A community where physical, emotional, and mental health is valued and prioritised and people's needs are adequately met in a timely manner through a world-class healthcare system. Every community has access to local primary care facilities that include excellent mental health services and support for all life stages and support needs to help people live independently within the community. Beautiful green-blue infrastructure, leisure opportunities and affordable housing provisions contribute to our collective sense of wellbeing.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR HEALTH IN DUBLIN CITY?

- A primary care centre local to every community, with access to clinical health teams, mental health supports, dentistry, and emotional and physical health services.
- An increase in community and public health nurses from this centre, including outreach to the community.
- An inclusive healthcare system that leaves no one behind. Increased services for communities currently underserved, including the Traveller and trans communities.

- Planning with people and communities in mind with policies that care for those who care for us
- Increased one-to-one counselling support, including support groups and trauma support.
- Timely, early intervention and interdisciplinary support for young people and families, from assessments to occupational and speech and language therapy, family support, emotional support, and play therapy.
- Trauma-informed training for council staff who are often dealing with people in traumatic situations. Supervision for staff to prevent reverberated trauma.
- Increased availability of public health nurses across all age groups, including mental health support nurses within the community.
- Evidence-led addiction services
 - Available locally, when needed, for as long as required.
 - Well-resourced across the continuum of care
 - Strategically led locally by local and regional drug task forces
- Enhanced harm reduction approach to drug and alcohol services
 - To include public injection facilities and consumption rooms.
- Dual Diagnosis services available in the community and with twenty-four-hour access in hospitals for crisis care.
- Walkable communities with green-blue infrastructure and flourishing biodiversity
- Access to housing for all
- A rights-based approach to our community with freedom of expression to support well-being

- Accessible walkways, cycleways, outside exercise and leisure spaces and equipment should be available and accessible to everyone within a reasonable distance.
- A continued commitment to investing in diverse sports and leisure facilities and activities across communities so that people can keep their minds and bodies active.
- Publicly available training on defibrillator use, first aid training, and increased defibrillator access across the city.
- Provide space and practical support for community gardens so that communities can access sustainable, fresh, locally grown food.
- Dedicated support services for LGBTQIA+ people.
- Health impact assessments should be conducted in all development projects to ensure they do not contribute to health inequalities.

- **QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS**

All parks and recreational spaces have autism and additional needs toilets, and sensory area. The access is disability friendly, i.e. gates. Exercise equipment in them, and sitting areas for chess boards

Much much more councillors and therapist for mental health including play therapy

Dual diagnosis 24 hr services. Consumptions rooms to be opened.

Doctors, opticians, physiotherapists, talk therapy, dental should be the bare minimum any community can access and they should be housed in one facility and every community should have them.

WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES

OUR VISION FOR WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES

A thriving community where everyone can access fulfilling work that provides stability, dignity and a living wage. People have access to affordable, safe housing and are supported in accessing free education right throughout life. There is an abundance of community-based businesses with locally sourced goods and services and sustainable practices runs throughout all developments and planning processes.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR WORK, ECONOMY & RESOURCES

- Fund and support accessible and affordable local working hubs to reduce commuting time and contribute to more sustainable working practices.
- Support for trade union membership across all council-funded projects

- Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) would lead in the rights-based acquisition of equality, and people would be central to their development
- All employment should provide stability and a living wage, with good working conditions.
- Increase training opportunities for people seeking work
- Communities are designed to access all essential services within a fifteen-minute walk or journey on public transport.
- Development focuses on whole communities, and social infrastructure should be considered in all planning applications. All planning should be disability and poverty proofed by people with direct living or lived experience.
- All communities should include schools, primary care centres, community centres, disability services, leisure facilities, libraries and outdoor green, biodiverse and leisure spaces.
- Increase funding to libraries to allow them to stay open later. Libraries are one of few public spaces where people can spend time without the requirement to spend money.
- Create an accessibility charter for local business to support them to move towards more accessible practices. This should include accessible documents and literature alongside physical accessibility.
- Ensure adequate street lighting in public spaces

QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

Ensure that there are small businesses within localities

Creating a labour / maintenace coops in local areas

More concentration on training for work i.e. trades etc for young people who do not wish to do a College degree, smilar to the diverse courses formerly operated by FAS

End zero hour contracts, pay a living wage, encourage employment of people age 60+

Without affordable housing, everything else is made so much harder

PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

OUR VISION FOR PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

A community where people are informed, supported and encouraged to be active and involved in local community engagement and decision-making. People feel heard, and their contribution to their community is valued and recognised. There are transparent pathways to engage with local councils and community organisations, and accountability is present throughout all structures. The Council and PPN work collaboratively, and local community and voluntary organisations are practically supported to achieve high governance standards.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR PARTICIPATION, DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Increased opportunities for community members to be heard. Investment in proactively reaching out to seldom-heard voices and removing the barriers to participation.
- When people are consulted and share their experiences and opinions, they need to see that this is acted on. Prompt communication with consulted groups and regular updates on any work committed to are vital. If any commitments cannot be fully completed, a thorough explanation must be made to the community.
- Reduction of barriers to operating community and voluntary groups.
 - To include governance support, plain English support application forms and a group insurance scheme operated by Dublin City Council.
- Increased governance support for community and voluntary organisations. All non-profit boards are voluntary, and volunteers run many organisations. The legal responsibility of governance is preventing people from stepping into leadership positions, and we must increase the training and practical support available to volunteers engaging in governance and leadership roles.
- Increased support for Garda Vetting. A centralised garda vetting operation to ensure volunteers can be vetted once yearly rather than once for each organisation they volunteer with.
- A commitment to long-term planning processes beyond electoral cycles.

- Opportunities to engage in local democracy and organising should be made accessible to everyone. This should include flexible meeting times, remote access to meetings, and the provision of information in advance of all meetings to provide enough time for volunteers to be prepared.
- All representatives on SPC and JPC committees should have parity of esteem
- Publicise and celebrate positive stories of community groups' impact when engaging in local democracy.
- A directly elected mayor for Dublin City.
- Increase participation of young people in Dublin City Council.
- Hosted community forums to ask questions and connect with local officials and Gardai.
- Ensuring people understand the services available to them and how to engage in them
- Acknowledgement of local participation in the form of a PPN award to say thank you to people newly engaged or volunteering in a grassroots way
- Human rights must be at the heart of good governance
- Emphasise interdependence and foster community solidarity
- Governance support for community and voluntary organisations

QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

“There is a very high level of governance requires for not for profit organisations which is preventing adults participating at committee level”

“Provide Courses in Community Development for Young People and Adults Provide Training for Resident Associations on Community Development”

“We need more ambassadors in local areas, encouraging people to get up and out and contribute in a selfless way. A spirit of “village” needs to re-emerge in Ireland. Working from home should be a vehicle for this, but I worry that’s is actually harming community development as people are just not leaving their home”

CULTURE, VALUE & MEANING

A community that values connection and prioritises creating space for people to gather.

Where togetherness, well-being and a fulfilled life are expectations for everyone and inclusivity is a core part of our cultural identity. Local culture, history, storytelling and food are celebrated and recorded, while space is made for new communities to share their food, culture and art. The arts are well-funded and available to everyone, regardless of background, and all communities have public spaces to engage in them.

- An Ireland of welcomes where kindness, being a good neighbour and being an active part of our broader community are core values.
- Funding for local folklore projects for the recording of verbal, written and video recordings of community stories.
- Provide financial and practical support for initiatives that bring communities together and encourage intergenerational and intercultural placemaking and community buildings.
- Provide accessible, affordable courses in Irish crafting, Irish language, and traditional Irish music to preserve and introduce new communities to traditional Irish culture.
- Funding and support for diverse communities to share their arts, food, and culture with their new community. This could include community meal sharing, cultural storytelling workshops, intercultural music, and art events. This will require physical space for placemaking along with practical and financial support.

- Fund technology that supports people connecting, particularly those isolated or with increased barriers in the way.
- Preserve historic buildings and provide city space for independent retailers, artists, and crafters.
- Street names in the city could include a historic plate detailing previous names and information about historical events in the locality. This could be expanded on using a QR code.
- Creating space for dialogue to bring people with diverse experiences and outlooks together to develop a shared understanding of the world around us.
- Recognising folklore and history through exhibitions, community spaces, centres and libraries are places to share Irish folklore, spoken history, and storytelling.
- Time and resourcing for dialogue and community building across different generations, cultures, and perspectives.
- Shared public spaces for food markets at an affordable price.
- Public spaces available to local artists at affordable prices across the city
- That the council lead in combatting discrimination of any kind and fund and resource programmes across the city to combat discrimination and dehumanising language.

QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

We need to ensure folklore and all history is recognised and exhibitions are done in locals community centres and local libraries.

PRESERVE; Kindness to each other, being a good neighbour and understanding your role in the wider community and the impact you as a person or a family can have, chosen family can be every bit as powerful as a biological family, children should be allowed play and be children and have time to develop at an appropriate pace

Old buildings, trading pubs, stand alone shops and restaurants that are not part of massive generic brand. Every street name in the city should have a historic plate detailing its previous names and events attached to the street. Even a QR code Could do this.

Hosted community forums to ask questions, connect with local officials, Gardai etc.

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One of the most consistent responses in relation to community is the need for physical community spaces. Members shared that these spaces are vital for community building, welcoming new communities, sharing cultures and creating spaces for communities to come together where they do not have to spend money. These buildings should be sources of information.

A happy, connected, fulfilled community that is planned with people's quality of life in mind. Where people's needs are met, and they can engage in the community fully and with dignity. Local childcare services and family resource centres support people in working, studying, and participating in community life. Ample indoor and outdoor space is available for intergenerational and intercultural gatherings, and social, leisure, and sports activities are widely available and accessible. Everyone who lives here feels a sense of belonging.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure every community has a community centre and physical spaces where people can come together in placemaking to share social and cultural and contribute to a thriving community.

- High-quality, well-maintained local authority indoor and outdoor sports and leisure spaces and support for communities to provide affordable access to sports and leisure activities across age groups and interests.
 - Indoor community spaces should prioritise community groups and projects and ensure enough space for everyone in the community to share access.

- Regular opportunities for members of a community to come together for intergenerational and intercultural socialising and engagement, leisure, sports, and interest classes

- A central source of information about the whole community so that everyone knows events, resources, and local news.

- Resource and support community development organisations to provide multi-disciplinary services and resources to local communities.

- Ensure adequate, affordable childcare spaces to remove the lack of childcare as a barrier to education, employment, and community participation.

- Volunteers, who are the backbone of our communities, should be adequately supported in line with the national volunteering strategy

- A significant commitment to and investment in youth work. Every child should have access to a youth centre and the opportunity to engage in the transformational nature of youth work.
- The expansion of detached street outreach work. To ensure that we continue to engage with young people who have disconnected from school, community, and other youth work services. To meet them where they are and engage in a manner with the resources to continue to engage in this work without requiring specific measurements of success. To acknowledge that building trust and a relationship over long periods of time can have a life-changing impact on young people.
- Access to affordable extracurricular leisure activities for young people.
- Support membership-based sports, leisure, environmental, and activity groups that are organically formed to deliver a core purpose. These groups provide community cohesion beyond their core activity, often have a crossover of membership, and contribute to community building and cohesion.
- A commitment to retaining libraries in all communities, acknowledging that libraries are a vital community space where people can meet, learn, collaborate, and spend time without the requirement to spend money.

- Local authority supports free access to seasonal events and festivals across all communities.
- Well-maintained, biodiverse green spaces and parks have seating spaces for intergenerational mixing and feel safe and inviting.
- World-class accessible playgrounds and play spaces for all ages in all communities.
 - Families with added needs should be consulted in the planning stages of parks and play areas.
 - All parks should have fully accessible access points and gates.
 - All parks should have fully accessible toilets and changing rooms.
- Outside exercise equipment and callisthenics along greenways and waterways.
- Adequate waste, recycling, and dog foulage bins in public spaces.
- Access to space and resources to set up and maintain community gardens accessible to all communities.
- An increase in swimming pools across the city so that every community has access to a swimming pool within an acceptable distance.

- A focus on community policing that has strong links with the community, with young people and all local services.
- Planning processes should consider perceptions of safety in all planning designs and incorporate adequate lighting and visibility in public spaces.
- Communities must be designed for everyone and be accessible to all.
 - Changing Spaces
 - Disability-friendly toilets
 - Gender neutral family-friendly baby-changing facilities
- All information must be available in plain English.
- DCC will reduce the burden on community groups to hold events in local green spaces, parks, and outdoor spaces. Increase the resources available to the DCC events team to support more community events and reduce the barriers to groups making applications.
- Increased financial and practical support to groups working to bring diverse communities of people together.
- Increased training for local community volunteers to increase skills and confidence in taking on active participation within the local community.

- Foster community engagement to help people feel a sense of ownership in their community
- A community in which all LGBTQ+ people are safe, seen and celebrated

HOUSING

- When designing our housing, processes should focus on whole community planning. Our communities should be built sustainably, with mixed density and abundant green and blue spaces.
- Everyone should have local and affordable access to a safe, secure, warm, stable home provided through public housing where tenants have long-term security of tenure.
- Older developments must be retrofitted urgently to reduce energy consumption and the cost of energy for tenants.
- We do not support the private sector or build-to-rent housing models, and all council developments should be through the local authority or approved housing body tenancies.
- Communities should be designed with everyone in mind, with small, medium, and large homes for all household sizes. People whose family situation

changes should be allowed to move to a suitably sized home within their community.

- People who require support to live independently should be provided with support in their homes to enable them to live independently in their community with dignity for as long as they want to.

QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

“Build homes to foster communities... When building, it is vital to look at current resources and the future capacity for resources, e.g. schools, libraries, medical services.”

“Stop the creation of dormitory areas, build homes, not blocks of transient apartments which inhibit community development and give them appropriate green space.”

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

A community committed to increasing biodiversity, renewable energy, and protecting our beautiful biodiverse spaces is all rooted in a just transition. Where people can live, socialise and access all amenities through world-class, local, affordable public transport, walking and wheeling infrastructure. We respect the species inhabiting our city and provide space for community gardens and to grow food locally. The council is responsible for maintaining public spaces and waste services and provides ample public recycling spaces to encourage community participation.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR ENVIRONEMNT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Resource and staff council parks well, and ensure that people in every area can access local parks and playgrounds. Maintain parks equally across the city.
- Increase recruitment of young people to council positions, particularly in parks and biodiversity.

- Support for circular economy initiatives. Set up tool libraries and mending cafes to reduce overconsumption and to support people in learning how to mend and repair.
- Ensure high air and soil quality through consistent monitoring.
- A move away from economic growth and neo-liberal economics and towards a useful community which responds to the needs of its people and produces a space where people can thrive
- A rejection of greenwashing in all of its forms and commitment to truly transformational environmental policies at the local council level.
- Foster the development of natural biodiversity areas
- Increased nature and river life education zones around the city.
- Increase access to front-loaded retrofitting programmes alongside solar panels in all public buildings and homes.
- Support for communities to set up SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities through grants and local professional support.
- Creative and fun interactive educational initiatives aimed at all ages to increase awareness of nature, ecology, circular economy, and biodiversity.
- Increased practical and financial resources for community groups to sustain biodiversity projects.
- Increased planting of native trees and educational information about trees around the city
- Increased rewilding, including hedgerows.
- Affordable, reliable, accessible, safe public transport.
 - Excellent cycling networks

- Walking, wheeling, and cycling networks need to be accessibility-proofed to ensure that no one project makes our city less safe for anyone else.
- Increased availability of rental bikes and cars, cargo bikes and trailers.
- Timely, affordable and reliable public transport options that connect people across the city.

QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

New schemes not penalties on price of current heating and transport systems

“There is an expectation that all available land must be used for housing irrespective of the future implications. All construction needs to be sympathetic to the natural environment, and while it might seem like a luxury, providing outdoor space has health benefits for people. If people have access to outdoor space, they will do everything to conserve and protect them and pass them on. Ideologies need to change at a grassroots level if we are to hand on our natural environment to the next generation.”

“Everyone makes their own small contribution to protect the environment.

As for Dublin’s natural resources, we should be protecting our water resources, encouraging the naturalisation of parks, preserving our mountains/hills, and not building endlessly in such areas.”

“Keep what green spaces we currently have. Create more community gardens.”

More local talks that are creative and fun. Such as The Bug Club is jointly supported by the Amateur Entomologists' Society and the British Entomological and Natural History Society.