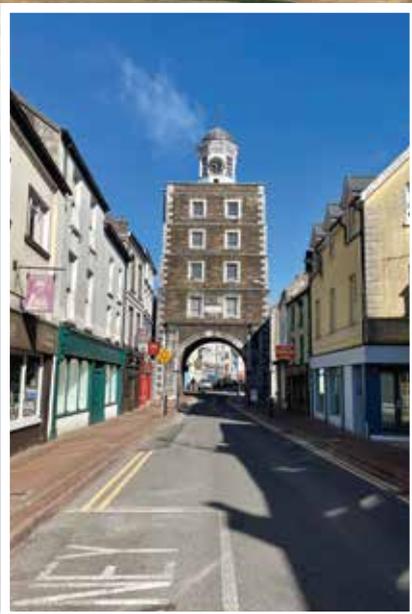




Public Participation
Network Cork County

Cork County PPN's Vision for Community Wellbeing



Distance and time:

- Cork County Hall to Allihies in West Cork MD
Distance: 140km Drive Time: 2hours 30 minutes
- Cork County Hall to Ballyvourney in Macroom MD
Distance: 56km Drive Time: 1 hour
- Cork County Hall to Charleville in Kanturk-Mallow MD
Distance: 61km Drive Time: 1 hour
- Cork County Hall to Cobh in Cobh MD
Distance: 28km Drive Time 30 minutes
- Cork County Hall to Youghal in East Cork MD
Distance: 58km Drive Time 1 Hour
- Cork County Hall to Minane Bridget in Carrigaline Md
Distance: 25km Drive Time 30minutes
- Cork County Hall to Mitchelstown in Fermoy MD
Distance: 42km Drive Time: 1 Hour
- Cork County Hall to Courtmacsherry in Bandon-Kinsale MD
Distance: 48km Drive Time 50 minutes



Fermoy Population 38,935	Bandon - Kinsale Population 40,387
Kanturk - Mallow Population 58,084	Carrigaline Population 39,145
Macroom Population 39,847	Cobh Population 37,214
West Cork Population 57,001	East Cork Population 49,539

Total Population as per Census 2022: 360,152

Cork County PPN's Vision for Community Wellbeing

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Vision for Community Wellbeing

Introduction

If we woke up in the morning and County Cork was the best that it could be – what would that be like?

This Vision is a HIGH LEVEL STATEMENT OF OUR ASPIRATIONS: setting out what community and voluntary groups in Cork County want to see achieved here. It is the goal we are working towards.

This document sets out what the member groups of the Cork County Public Participation Network (PPN) in each of the Municipal Districts have agreed describes what they want to see in their area, and that will ensure a community with a high level of wellbeing, so that all parts of the County can be the best they can be for this and future generations.

The PPN member groups represent community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental activities across the County, all working hard to foster and support their communities. They have invested considerable time and effort to generate a shared view of what they want to see achieved here. This document is intended to inform Cork County Council and other state and semi-state agencies - whose function it is to deliver services to the people of Cork - what the communities across the County have as their goal.

This Vision is a blueprint of what Cork County PPN, its representatives, and its members will work in partnership with local government and other stakeholders to secure for the County.

Cork County Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Cork County PPN is a network of community/voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups from all the municipal districts across the County. It provides an inclusive and independent structure that enables community consultation and participation in policy and decision making so as to improve the quality of life and opportunities for all people in the county.

It is the main way that the County Council and other structures will connect with community groups in the County. Where community representatives are needed, the PPN will be asked to select these from its membership.

The PPN has three core roles:

- to provide a structure for community groups in County Cork to nominate community representatives to decision and policy-making bodies in the County.
- to support the community to participate in local and national policy and decision making.
- to support member groups to grow, develop, be informed, and have their voices heard.

The PPN is non-party political and non-sectarian. The PPN members elect a "Secretariat" group to manage the PPN's activities, which are decided by the membership as a whole.

The PPN is a great opportunity for community organisations to network, get access to information, training, funding opportunities, and publicity, as well as to have their voices heard in consultations and through representation.



Why does the PPN need a Vision?

The Cork County PPN is made up of hundreds of very diverse groups from across the County. It is important that these members come together to agree what they are looking to achieve for their communities, so that this can be clearly represented, for example in consultations and by PPN representatives on Committees in the County Council and elsewhere.

The PPN will share the agreed Vision with the elected County Councillors and seek to work with them towards the results that communities want to see.

Our representatives will be guided by this in their work and our member groups, and all other stakeholders will be encouraged to support actions that will achieve this goal. Having an agreed Vision, created by the PPN member groups themselves, gives confidence to PPN community representatives to speak on behalf of all the PPN membership and it also reassures all the PPN member groups about what will be said on their behalf.

The PPN may choose to carry out further, more detailed, policy development (through Linkage or Interest Groups or the PPN as a whole). Other detailed community plans that are consensus based, will inform more detailed PPN policy and will be considered to sit within this overarching vision.

Why have a Vision for Community Wellbeing?

Community organisations may each have a particular focus but they all know well that for a place to thrive, it needs to work for everyone, and all aspects of the area need to be considered and any issues addressed.

Thinking about the wellbeing of our community is an approach that allows us to work out what the County would look like if it were perfect and helps us to develop our Vision. We need to take into account everyone's needs, across all aspects of our lives, to ensure that wellbeing is achieved for all.

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.

Considering all the aspects of community wellbeing together helps us to identify actions that can be undertaken by communities alongside local and national governments. PPNs in Ireland developed their own model, based on international experience, to help them explore all aspects of wellbeing (see diagram below).



Fig. 1 Describing Community Wellbeing in Ireland



How was this Vision created?

The Vision was developed through an open, participative, and transparent process which involved all member groups operating in the County.

In this process member groups were asked to consider all aspects of life and things that affect this in their community, using a community wellbeing approach. This involved considering each of the six headings that describe aspects of our lives, set out in the community wellbeing model above.

PPN member groups were all invited to participate in workshops held in their Municipal District and following each of these all the inputs gathered were written up and circulated to the groups who then had an opportunity to make inputs online under each heading for a further two-week period. The detailed inputs from these consultations can be seen in separate documents.



The diagram above illustrates how the Vision was developed. At the workshop consultations, member groups were asked to consider all the positive aspects of living in the Municipal District and then, using the six community wellbeing headings they were asked to identify what they consider important for their community's wellbeing. Inputs gathered were shared via the online survey which enabled those who were unable to attend consultations to make inputs. (Those who had attended also had the chance to input further if they wished.) The staff and Secretariat then analysed all the consultation inputs and produced draft wellbeing visions based on all the inputs received. These Draft Vision documents were circulated for all member groups in the relevant Municipal District to consider before being put forward for adoption by the PPN Plenary.

The Vision represents consensus amongst PPN member groups.

How our vision is set out

Our overarching vision for community wellbeing in the whole County is set out below.

Then the vision for each Municipal District is set out. These include an overall statement and then details of what groups want to see achieved under each of the six wellbeing headings. Cork County PPN has signed up to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and where each of the Vision headings relates to specific SDGs, these are indicated. (More information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be found at the end of the document.)



Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in County Cork

We are proud to live and belong in such a great place to live, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life. Ours is a diverse community, where everyone is welcomed, valued and respected. We work with each other to understand, embrace and support one another across different cultures, ages and abilities to make sure everyone is included in all aspects of our community life. This is a safe and fully accessible place to live and visit.

We have strong, connected, active and resilient* communities, where we have homes and community facilities which meet our needs and live sustainably in attractive, well-planned and supported neighbourhoods. Our community groups network and work well with agencies and are supported to meet local needs. Everyone here has access, as they need it, to great physical and mental health care, and community services that support us to be well. Along with services provided, we support one another to flourish.

There is excellent infrastructure, communications, transport and services, that support our local economy, workers, education and recreational activities, and the integration of our communities. Excellent and varied education and training opportunities are accessible, and we benefit from a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy with good employment options. County Cork is a leader in green agriculture, tourism, recreation and new technologies, and there are good supports for new and existing businesses, social enterprise and our valued volunteers.

We record, celebrate, and pass on all aspects of our Irish heritage and culture, and we embrace all the cultures that now enrich our County. There is a vibrant creative life across the County that we are all able to enjoy. There are outstanding facilities, resources and supports for community activities including cultural, recreation and sports, and for community-led services. Our built heritage is protected, conserved, and given new life.

We take our role as custodians of the natural world for future generations seriously. Cork County is carbon neutral, minimises waste and manages it with care, and relies on outstanding energy efficient public transport services. Everyone here is committed and active in protecting and enjoying our precious natural environment and biodiversity.

Cork County Council works in genuine partnership with communities, who are consulted about their wishes and have real influence in the decisions that affect them. It operates transparently, communicates well and is fully accountable. The Council is committed to consistently delivering tangible and measurable outcomes that support communities to realise this Vision for our future.

** Community resilience is where the community is "able to prepare, adapt and get stronger in response to internal and external pressures and stresses, in ways that not only allow people, businesses, neighbourhoods and the whole community to maintain essential functions and bounce back relatively quickly, but also to bounce forward toward an improved environment, social and economic health and wellbeing." (George Hamilton, Institute for Sustainable Communities, 2015) For this to be achieved, it is vital to invest resources and support into infrastructure, increase diversity, develop social capital through cohesive and supportive social infrastructure, and ensure that all groups - including those who are most vulnerable and marginalised - have a genuine voice in decision-making.*



Bandon/ Kinsale Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Bandon Kinsale Municipal District

The community here works with the County Council to make decisions that affect this area and its people. This is a rich and diverse community, that welcomes and values everyone. We work together to understand and support one another across cultures, ages and different abilities, making sure that everyone is included.

There is a strong and sustainable economy here that provides good jobs and is supported with excellent infrastructure, transport and services. The community is well-resourced and supported with facilities and services for its many cultural, recreation and sporting activities. We have access to great healthcare locally and community services that support us to be well.

We are all committed and active in protecting and enjoying our precious natural environment. We celebrate this, along with our rich heritage and culture. This is a great place to live and we are proud to belong here.



Charles Fort – Kinsale/Bandon MD



Health (Physical and Mental)

Living in the Bandon Kinsale MD is an uplifting experience, with well-planned services and leisure activities that enhance our quality of life.

We have good, accessible health services and mental health supports that are available to all when they are needed. The HSE networks effectively with GPs, health practitioners, community groups/ services, volunteers and the local community to identify and delivery health priorities.

We have a huge range of community activities that bring us together to have fun, share our skills and stories across generations and groups, and through which we support one another.

We are all active, with great facilities and opportunities for us all to enjoy the outdoors safely.

There is flexible local public transport in both rural and urban areas and a high-quality, integrated transport network, with safe infrastructure for active travel.

Our community is well served with information, education and training opportunities that support each of us to live well and fulfil our potential.



Social and Community Development

There is a strong fabric of community life here that includes people of all cultures, with effective representation of community voices to the County Council.

We have a good mix of housing here that allows everyone choice and the flexibility to have an affordable, energy efficient home that meets their needs and is within their own community. There are supported living units and supports for independent living where these are needed.

We have attractive, safe and accessible public buildings, open areas and green spaces within our communities, and these are designed for people of all abilities. We make creative use of our buildings to produce flexible and fully accessible community facilities. These accommodate services and activities for all groups in the community, including cross-generational skill sharing, and particularly support the needs of our young people. Access to these services is supported with good public transport networks and active travel opportunities.

There is comprehensive information that is easily available to everyone about services, events and activities within the community. There are online and offline options, with assistive technology so that no-one is excluded from accessing services and opportunities.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Our County Council listen to us and recognise the importance of the community voice and this Vision. They involve us in planning for the future and are open and consistent in how they apply policies. They understand how to consult well with the community and listen to the feedback they receive. Community input has a real impact on the decision-making that affects us and our Councillors meet with the community regularly to review progress towards realising community goals.

The Council operates transparently and is fully accountable, with Council staff available to communicate with the community. There is good, proactive, two-way communication and clear information on all local matters.

There are resources to pay for employment that is needed within the community and these jobs co-ordinate with our highly valued volunteers. Our community groups and volunteers are supported to meet affordable and achievable governance requirements.



Environment and Sustainability

Each of us clearly understands the importance of our natural world and our role in protecting it, so that we can support ourselves and the generations to come, and live well. From our earliest years, in school, and throughout our lives, we are actively learning about our precious natural resources, environment, and climate. There is excellent local "live" information on all aspects of our environment, it's quality and the activities that affect it. We are all able to change how we behave and actively care for our planet. We put in place, and enforce, real protection and restoration measures for our environment.

We rely on green energy and transport. There is excellent and affordable public transport, freely available to those on low incomes which reduces the need for private cars. We have good infrastructure for safe, active travel on foot or by bike.

Our farmers are supported to farm sustainably and are paid for eco-system services and the access they provide to heritage and recreation. There are opportunities, such as allotments, which allow everyone to get involved in local food production, and local markets for food produce. Planting of native tree species is planned for and carried out wherever possible, and help to create and expand corridors for nature and biodiversity.

We are focused on building a circular economy, minimising our waste and managing it responsibly. We are supported to do this with good facilities and services. We use appropriate and natural measures for environmental management, such as flood prevention.

There is a rich built heritage here which we protect and provide access for people to enjoy. Creative ways of giving new life to old buildings, so that they can continue to contribute positively to the community, and provide attractive green spaces in our built-up areas. All publicly owned buildings are used to serve the community.

We enjoy great access to the natural environment and our coastline in this part of the County. We respect this and understand the responsibilities that such access brings with it.



Culture, Values & Meaning

The Céad Míle Fáilte is for everyone here; those who are visiting and those who come to live here. We learn from one another about our different cultures and beliefs and ensure that all are respected. Our rich Irish culture and heritage is flourishing and we recognise the importance of traditions and our past. At school and throughout our communities we all learn about and celebrate the unique historic character and natural environment of our local areas.

There is a vibrant, well-resourced and widely supported arts scene here, with a wealth of activities that bridge cultural differences and underpin our integrated and connected community. We have a wide variety of flexible venues, public spaces and facilities that accommodate our cultural activities, recreation and sports of all varieties, all of which are equally valued.

This is an inclusive place, where everyone is valued and able to be involved in community life, whatever their age, ability or ethnicity. All of us contribute as volunteers and work to support those who are vulnerable or in need. There is a thriving local economy with good jobs that support a strong sense of community. This is a great place for families.

Our wonderful landscape, our streetscapes and all our public spaces are attractive, accessible and encourage participation and collaboration. We are proud to call this part of the County our home and to belong here.



Work, Economy & Resources

We have excellent connectivity, with first rate digital communications, and diverse accommodation, hubs and premises to support different models of work. There is good transport infrastructure for safe travel, walking and cycling and outstanding public transport with good coverage throughout the area.

There are creative local initiatives that foster collaboration between training and mentors and e There are good information, education and training opportunities and facilities locally, especially for the young. Industry and business here is recognised for its leadership and innovation. It provides meaningful and sustainable jobs, with good conditions, in a green economy.

Our important agriculture sector supports positive climate action, sustainable fuel and food production. Local actions foster an interest in gardening and food production across all ages and abilities.

There is strong sustainable tourism in this part of the County that values, celebrates and protects our natural environment and heritage, and shares these fabulous assets with visitors.

We benefit from a full range of local facilities and services supporting business and community life that generate tangible outcomes. There are multi-purpose community spaces, and well-funded activities that involve everyone, especially children and young people.



Carrigaline Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Carrigaline Municipal District

This is a safe and inclusive part of the County, where everyone plays a valued role in the community. We have excellent facilities and services that support our local economy and workers, and the integration of our community. We are consulted by the County Council and together work to protect our built and natural environment, and our precious heritage. Everyone has access to mental and physical health services as they are needed and our community groups work in partnership with agencies to meet the needs of all local people.

Work, Economy & Resources

We have a vibrant local economy that provides access to employment with decent salaries for everyone in the community. Businesses and workers are supported with good education and training opportunities provided locally. There are employment schemes and facilitated work experience opportunities to link those seeking work to job opportunities, provide experience, and support community needs and social enterprise.

Our local business community works with local community groups and initiatives. There is good infrastructure, housing and this is an affordable place to live.



Church of Our Lady and St John Carrigaline – Carrigaline MD



Health (Physical and Mental)

We all have access to affordable healthcare services locally, when they are needed. There are psychological, counselling and mental health supports available, which are complemented by community services, organisations and support groups.

Everyone, regardless of age or ability, has access to leisure and recreation facilities. We all have opportunities to relax and enjoy green spaces and connect with nature.

In our strategic planning for services and development, we consider the needs of people of all abilities, to ensure that each of us has the best chance to flourish and be well.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

There is good stakeholder engagement here. The County Council consults us and listens to the voices of disadvantaged groups. Together we find creative solutions to challenges within our community, such as accommodation shortages.

This is a safe area, where there is an active Garda presence.



Environment and Sustainability

We are supported to ensure our buildings are heat efficient and we rely on low cost, green energy sources. We minimise the waste that we produce and re-use and recycle wherever possible.

We know the importance of protecting our environment, flora and fauna. We each make decisions that have positive impacts.

Our built and natural heritage is well researched and recorded, and actively conserved by state agencies and community groups that work well together.



Culture, Values & Meaning

This is a community where we are kind and support one another, especially those who are vulnerable. There is a strong sense of belonging here. We all work to create the conditions for each of us to flourish and be active members of our society. We respect everyone's individuality and our cultural differences, ensuring that this is an inclusive community.

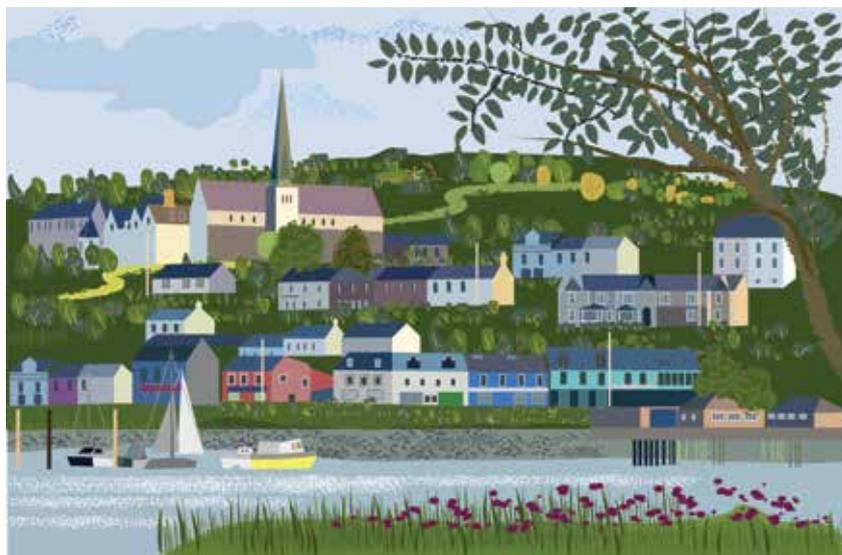
We retain our local folklore, music and environmental heritage. We work to pass these, and our values of caring and connection, on to future generations. Together we remain active and are supported to be well. We use our resources creatively and value our shared experiences.



Social and Community Development

This community has great spaces and facilities which are flexible, fully accessible and cater for people of all ages. These include venues for the arts and creative activities. There is a wide range of community activities here, and many intergenerational projects and initiatives which help make the community more cohesive. These activities and our community groups receive good levels of funding so that everyone can participate. Our community organisations are valued partners working effectively with the County Council and one another to make us more resilient.

We are active at making sure that everyone is included in the local community. There are opportunities for those who are disadvantaged and for those with additional needs to ensure that they play a full and valued role here. We have an excellent and fully accessible transport network with opportunities for independent active travel.



Crosshaven Village – Carrigaline MD



Cobh Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Cobh Municipal District

This is an active, welcoming, and integrated community which is well-served with great transport and communications infrastructure, and excellent services. There is a diverse economy here and good jobs, with great education and training opportunities. We live sustainably and are active in valuing and protecting our environment. The County Council works transparently and in partnership with us to ensure the needs identified by the community are met. There are good local health services available to everyone and great community facilities and services which support us to live active lives and be well. We celebrate our Irish culture and heritage as we embrace all the cultures that now enrich this part of the County.



St Colman's Cathedral and Deck of Cards



Work, Economy & Resources

We value our skills and talent. We have opportunities for education, vocational training, up-skilling and life-long learning to enable all to participate to their fullest. These are responsive to changing employment needs and flexible to accommodate learners. Supports are provided for those with care responsibilities so that they can partake in employment. We enable everyone to participate. There is a strong culture of people widening and increasing their skills here. There is employment for everyone, and people can remain in the workforce beyond retirement age. Throughout our lives we have opportunities to work for the benefit of the community and are known for our people skills.

The economy here embraces different business models, operating at different scales. There are a range of supports for new and existing businesses and industry, and especially for small-scale and sustainable commercial and social enterprises. We have first rate communications and transport infrastructure and good services, such as childcare, that support both workers and enterprise. There are a range of location options for businesses and industry, and top-quality hubs for remote working. Our towns are well-planned, and buildings and spaces all contribute to accommodating a thriving economy and community.

There are great community staff and resources to help everyone to develop technological skills, whilst all providers ensure that services are fully available via offline options where this is needed.



Health (Physical and Mental)

We are an active, social and connected community. We mind and support each other, so that throughout our lives we are all involved and make a valued contribution.

Everyone is empowered to achieve the best health possible. We prioritise excellent local provision of mental and physical healthcare for all and the delivery and resourcing of integrated community services. We are innovative and use both technological and social solutions to promote wellbeing.

There are attractive and flexible facilities and amenities throughout our community that accommodate services and activities for groups of all ages and abilities. Communities are well-resourced to meet local needs and create connections across generations and between us and our environment.

We provide the best sports and recreation opportunities to meet diverse interests and encourage play and fun. There is fully accessible infrastructure within reach of everyone for indoor and outdoor activities.

This part of the County is a great place to live with lifelong opportunities for work with good conditions, access to training and education, and appropriate supports as they are needed.



Social and Community Development

We have a wide variety of excellent venues, facilities and public spaces that enable us to provide comprehensive community services and activities across all generations and groups within the community. Experience and skills are shared between generations who all benefit and we particularly make sure that we meet the needs of our youngest and oldest citizens.

Community groups are well staffed and resourced to excel at providing social, recreational and cultural opportunities and local services. They have reasonable, streamlined, administrative requirements. There is a strong culture of volunteering from a young age and each of us can achieve our full potential. Community initiatives promote a circular economy, social enterprise and climate action.

This is a safe place to live, with great public transport opportunities and healthcare facilities. We have excellent communication from local groups via a range of well-known information platforms.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Cork County Council works in real partnership with local communities, recognising them as the primary stakeholder in the development of this part of the County. The community is kept fully informed by the Council in a timely manner, with regular updates, of all matters - both current issues and any potential future developments- related to the area.

The Council invests time and resources in consulting with local communities to fully understand their vision for the area and what is needed to meet their needs now and in the future. The communities' inputs clearly inform and influence decisions, policies and plans that affect their future.

We are all educated and strongly supported through our elected representatives to actively participate in our local democracy. Electoral boundaries here align with real communities and our County Council has the power and dedicated resources to act in our best interest.



Environment and Sustainability

We live and work sustainably here. It is easy to be green! We have great sustainable and public transport infrastructure with good rail, bus and waterway transport networks, charging points, and initiatives that support active travel by bike and on foot.

There is a circular economy and minimal waste production. We have sustainable, local energy production that benefits communities which supply the Grid.

We all understand the importance of protecting our biodiversity, landscape and wild places, and of maintaining the quality of our water, soils and air. The community here is involved early in working with the Council as part of the planning process to ensure that development in our rural and urban areas is carefully managed and serves community needs while protecting the environment. The Council and other State agencies work in partnership with the community to protect our environment and heritage, and to actively enforce regulations.

Our historic structures and all heritage sites are protected. There are opportunities for everyone to experience and enjoy these and our wonderful natural environment.



Culture, Values & Meaning

People here are open and friendly and have a strong sense of community. We value everyone in our community and seek the active engagement and contributions of all, from the youngest to the oldest in our community, irrespective of background, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexuality or other diversity. We share a strong sense of community and belonging. Our support for one another is encouraged and sponsored by all development bodies.

Our Irish culture is alive and thriving in our sport, music, language and a wide spectrum of activities form genealogy to art, theatre and food. There is a widespread appreciation of our history, humour and traditions which are recorded and passed on to future generations. Irish culture is fostered and celebrated through national institutions and the arts industry as well as local organisations, with great venues and facilities which accommodate many local community activities.

We are welcoming and embrace other cultures, alongside our Irishness. Through multi-cultural activities and education, we learn about and celebrate one another's cultures and are a well-integrated and inclusive community.

We have a deep local knowledge of the nature around us, which we all value and protect.



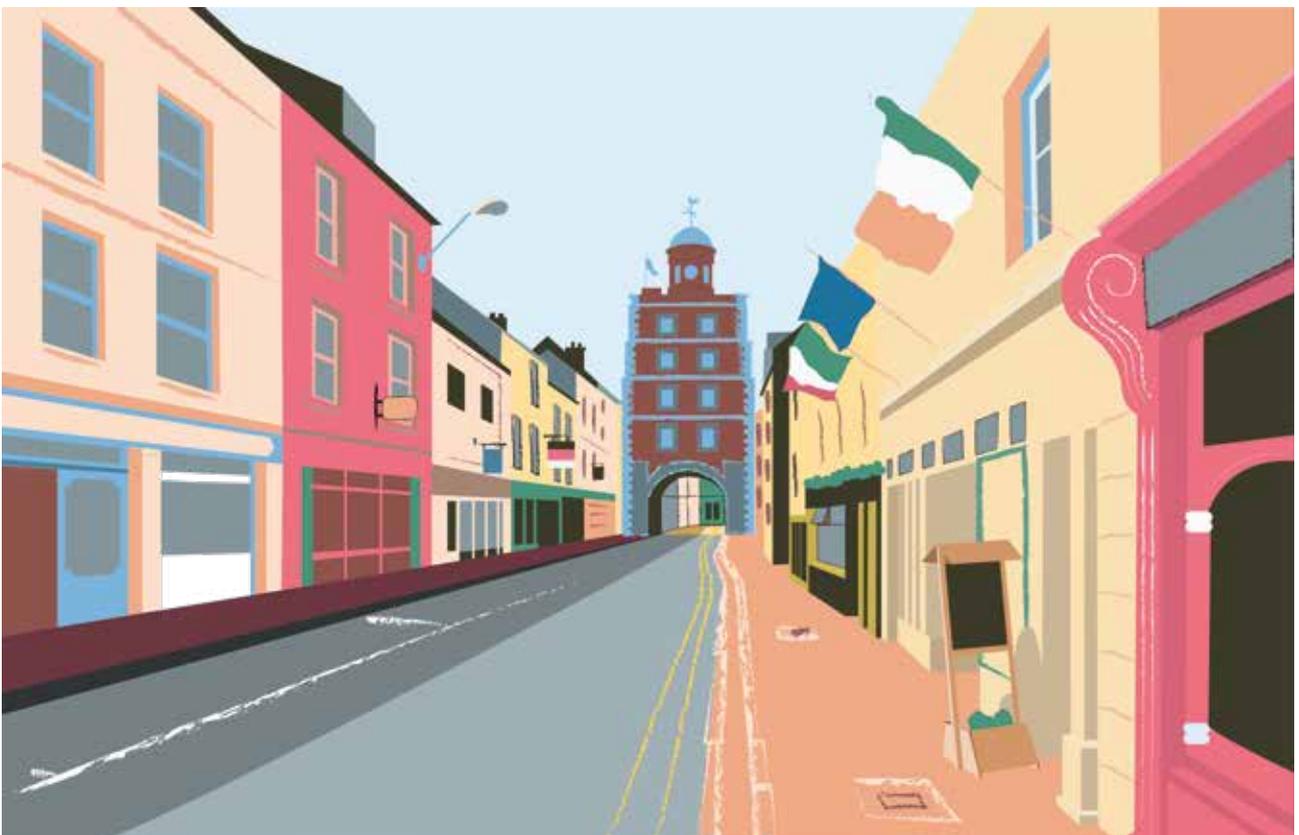
East Cork Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in East Cork

In East Cork we support one another to live our best lives. We work together and all play an active part in our community, with real influence in decisions that affect us. The County Council is accountable and communicates well. There is excellent, around the clock, healthcare available locally as needed and supports that enable us to keep well in mind and body. We have great facilities and services nearby that support our many community activities and provide a range of recreational opportunities that are accessible to everyone. We all have suitable homes and are able to live sustainably in attractive, well-designed and resilient neighbourhoods.

We are an inclusive community, which celebrates all the diverse cultures found here. There is a vibrant creative life and many different opportunities to enjoy art, culture and the rich strong Irish heritage found here. There is good employment available here and strong agriculture, tourism and recreation sectors, with excellent business supports provided.

We treasure our natural environment and biodiversity, and we work together to protect and restore it. The Municipal District is carbon neutral, minimises waste and relies on energy efficient public transport.



Clock Tower Youghal – East Cork MD



Social and Community Development

Ours is a Meitheal community, where we know our neighbours and everyone receives help when they need it, just as we all give help when others are in need. Our community groups network well locally and collaborate more widely to enhance everybody's lives. We are all actively involved in our local democracy, through which we are able to ensure that the needs of our communities are met.

We have great infrastructure and flexible, locally-run facilities (including transport) which support community activities that are intergenerational and cater for all abilities, helping combat isolation. Good funding is provided for local community services that meet the needs of different groups in the community.

Everyone has an affordable and attractive home, with all new buildings meeting sustainable standards, and older properties repaired and retrofitted to achieve best possible energy efficiency. Our social and affordable housing is managed by local communities. We have creative solutions to housing needs that support a mix of residential situations in neighbourhoods.



Work, Economy & Resources

Across the Municipal District we are well-served with local education, training and employment supports that link with employment opportunities. There is well-paid, stable work available for all. Social enterprises, associated employment schemes, and public transport connect with voluntary organisations and provide important local services for our active communities.

New and existing businesses benefit from good planning, diverse accommodation options, and first rate communication and transport infrastructure. There is effective collaboration by business support agencies which provides opportunities for growth in enterprise, employment and associated infrastructure.

We recognise and share our rich culture, beautiful natural environment and coastline with visitors and have infrastructure to support recreation and tourism throughout East Cork. There are real employment opportunities in agriculture and good training available locally, supported by successful local farmers markets.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

We do not take our democracy for granted and we are all informed and actively involved in it. Our communities have a clear right to a real input into decision-making by the County Council. The voices of all groups within the community are sought and heard, and we have genuine opportunities to raise issues and influence outcomes. There is clear local accountability for local services. There is excellent follow-up and feedback by the County Council and its Municipal Districts on plans and policies and their outcomes. This information is widely communicated in a timely and effective manner. It is always possible to deal with a human being to access services. Online (digital) is never the only option to do business.

Community groups network and work well together to increase their impact. There are excellent supports to assist with the administrative requirements for community groups, and costs are reasonable. We have a great PPN that also functions well at MD level and is well supported by all groups in the community. It feeds into policy making at local and national level.



Culture, Values & Meaning

This is a welcoming and integrated community, where we support one another through the tough times and the good times. We are forward-looking and work together, as well as with others outside the area for a positive future.

Traditional Irish culture is strong here and we enthusiastically celebrate the new cultural diversity within our community; respecting and sharing our individual and cultural differences, knowing that we all belong and are valued here.

This is an inclusive place to be; we all actively engage and support one another to flourish, recognising everyone's different skills, abilities and gifts.

We publicly display and celebrate our art, crafts and culture with creative activities at different scales, involving enterprises, public bodies, local neighbourhoods and the young, across diverse venues including dedicated spaces.

There are supports and funding provided for our community organisations and volunteers.

- There is an economic aspect to heritage that communities should be able to access sensitively, while staying in control and not compromising their identity or principals. These opportunities should be open to groups such as Travellers, new communities, and others.
- There are sustained programmes that support integration (not assimilation) for new members of our community, help to build relationships, and develop understanding and support for these new residents.



Environment and Sustainability

East Cork is carbon neutral. We minimise our waste production and energy use, relying on green energy supplies and wise use of resources. There are supports available to enable energy efficient living for everyone. We have sustainable public transport throughout the MD.

All of us know and appreciate the value of the amazing natural environment and biodiversity we have throughout East Cork. We are all active in protecting and restoring this. Citizens and public bodies work together to monitor and maintain the environment.

There is excellent infrastructure allowing public access to nature for everyone.



Health (Physical and Mental)

We have good and affordable primary healthcare, meeting both physical and mental health needs, available locally throughout the MD around the clock, with services available when they are needed. Intelligent and efficient use of technology and resources to make healthcare fully accessible, responsive to individual user needs, and to deliver early interventions. Healthcare services are accountable to community representatives.

Through lifelong learning, we are well-informed about how to mind ourselves both physically and mentally and to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. This is supported with accessible local facilities, services and activities that are actively used by all generations and abilities.

We all have a home that suits our needs in an attractive environment. Our communities have facilities and services that allow us all to be active and have fun, with many recreational opportunities indoors and out in the natural environment. Good quality, locally produced food is affordable for everyone.



Fermoy Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Fermoy Municipal District

We have the services and supports needed to live our best lives. This is an active “can do” community that works in genuine partnership with the Local Authority. Everyone here has a home that meets their needs and access to excellent local facilities and services.

We are a supportive and inclusive multi-cultural community that celebrates all our rich heritage and traditions. Each of us is valued, feel that we belong, and are supported to flourish here.

We are custodians of our natural environment and leaders in sustainable living and working. There is a thriving green economy, with training, education and supports for new and existing businesses, social enterprises and our valued volunteers.



Fermoy Town with St Colman's College – Fermoy MD



Social and Community Development

This is a safe place with a strong and supportive community network. We build links across generations and assist and support one another.

Everyone has equal access good local health services.

We have a good mix of housing, including social and affordable, that is built or retrofitted to sustainable standards. As our needs change, homes are adaptable or suitable alternatives are available in our community, with supports to help us live independently where necessary. This means that each of us has the home we need.

Planning for housing and development is future-focused and proactively ensures that communities are attractive and provided with the facilities and services needed by those of all ages and abilities to be active and well.

Fully accessible, local public transport services allow us all to benefit from the wide range of services provided within our communities. Education and community facilities are supported with funding and resources that are readily available, and they network well locally and with other organisations.



Work, Economy & Resources

We have a circular, green economy that builds on and protects our clean environment and uses our resources sustainably. We have a strong track record in environmental and energy initiatives involving commercial and social enterprises. There is support for creative new enterprises and employment developed locally.

There is first class education and training available in the Fermoy MD, with employment schemes and work experience that provide and support jobs and volunteering here for all. There are good local employment opportunities and chances to create enterprise and jobs.

Businesses and community are supported with excellent and affordable communication and transport infrastructure. We have a genuine say in how our towns and villages develop and can safeguard everyone's quality of life.

Customers matter here and we pride ourselves on excellent services and ensure in-person support is available where needed.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

We are a highly motivated, positive, community. We all have time to get involved and are supported to volunteer across the many opportunities available. This work is valued and respected.

There is support and training available locally to teach technology and ensure can operate safely online. We have the ability to verify and evaluate all information and media sources.

Administrative requirements are reasonable and our many, vibrant community groups are well-supported to meet these. Our PPN is highly effective at co-ordinating the representation of our community voice both locally and nationally.

The County Council operates transparently, works in a co-ordinated way, and communicates well to deliver for local communities. It is fully democratic and accountable. The inputs of all groups in the community are sought and consultations ensure that that we have real impact on decisions that affect us. We all participate in our local democracy.



Environment and Sustainability

We rely on green energy supplies to power our energy efficient homes and businesses. Our community is involved in decisions on the development of local energy production, which generates affordable power. Our transport systems use affordable electric vehicles.

We have a thriving mixed scale farming sector, community enterprise initiatives, allotments and community gardens that produce high quality food and products to meet local demands and generate local employment. We are innovators in near zero carbon farming in soil, grassland, and animal management, and biodiversity supports.

Fermoy MD is a leader in minimising waste production. We pioneer eco-design and materials and repair and re-use initiatives as part of the development of our circular economy. We have great facilities and services for the management and treatment of waste.

We have high quality natural resources and learn throughout our lives how to protect and maintain these and our precious biodiversity.



Culture, Values & Meaning

Everyone is included, particularly minority groups and the more vulnerable, and we all feel like we belong here. Everyone here is kind and we support people of all ages to flourish as active members of society, with good health and wellbeing.

Fermoy MD is an inclusive place that respects and celebrates people of all cultures, traditions and abilities. We are all important parts of the community.

We are a self-sufficient community, use our resources creatively, and there is work for all.

Our Irish culture, language and traditions are very important to us and we promote and share this, just as we learn about and embrace other languages and diverse cultures. We have a wide range of facilities, activities and events through which we share our experiences with much joy and laughter.



Health (Physical and Mental)

Our community builds and maintains positive mental health and wellbeing for everyone through connecting with one another, local groups, and local services and supports. This ensures we are a strong and resilient community.

We have employment, employment schemes and volunteering opportunities that enable everyone to stay active and contribute their skills, knowledge and energy to our community for as long as they wish.

Households are able to access a good quality of life on a single income. We can all afford to access healthy and sustainable food, produced locally.

There is excellent, comprehensive and affordable primary healthcare locally, with access to mental and physical health services for all ages that are available when they are needed and accountable to the local community. We live in a healthy natural environment. We are all aware and supported from a young age about how to mind our physical and mental health and we have access to the healthcare we choose.

We have a great range of fully accessible community resources, leisure facilities and recreational opportunities for activities indoors and that allow us to get out and enjoy nature. There is comprehensive local public transport for everyone.

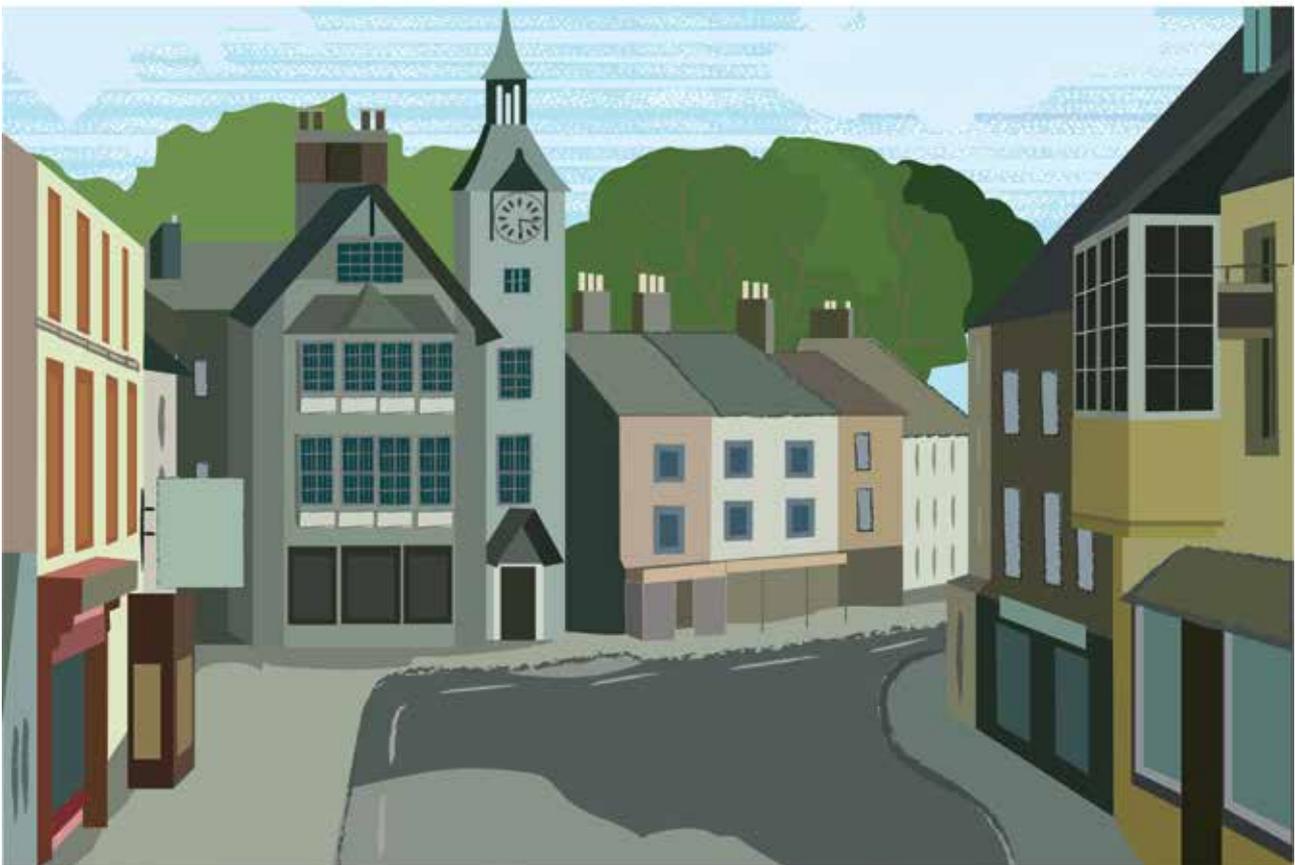


Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Kanturk-Mallow Municipal District

This is a strong community which is genuinely consulted by the County Council on all matters that affect us, and the Council operates in a consistent and transparent manner. Our varied economy provides sustainable jobs in green enterprises that support us to live well.

This is an inclusive place where we are proud of our Irish heritage and celebrate the many cultures found here. We have good mental and physical healthcare services locally, and supports to live in a beautiful and healthy environment. This is a safe and fully accessible place, where is great public transport infrastructure, local services and community organisations that meet the needs of all groups within the community. Everyone here is respected and has a valued role in the community.



The Clock House Mallow



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

The community here has a genuine opportunity to influence the outcomes of policies, plans and decisions that affect us. This is done through well-designed and delivered community consultations, following which there is ongoing feedback and follow-up, and through the effective representations of our elected representatives, and the elected community representatives of the PPN. Our local authority clearly listens to what the community says and takes this on board.

The policies and plans to which we contribute are applied consistently by the County Council particularly in the area of planning, which operates transparently and is fully accountable for its actions. It provides timely information and communicates well in a range of ways with the community. It ensures that it provides services via simple-to-use formats, including in-person options, to enable everyone to access them, and also supports all citizens to enhance their own skills and ability to engage.



Work, Economy & Resources

We attract and promote the development of clean and enduring enterprises, including those that make careful use of our spectacular scenery, pristine natural environment and resources. There are good supports here for indigenous industry and business and the creation of employment locally, with excellent local development organisations and initiatives. Businesses are consulted on their needs and careful planning supports thriving local economies and town centres, accommodating different scales of enterprise, with good communications and transport infrastructure.

There are sustainable jobs that provide a good living available here for all the local population, with flexible work options and supports that enable people to enter and to re-enter the workforce. We have excellent, accessible education and training opportunities, and employment support schemes, that meet the needs of employers and those wishing to enter the workforce, up-skill or return to work. Older members of the community are encouraged to share their skills and experience in training, education and business.

Our community organisations and social enterprises network and collaborate together to benefit the community.



Culture, Values & Meaning

This is an inclusive place where we are all involved and able to contribute to our local community and have a valued role here. Our community is successfully integrated as we learn about one another's cultures in education and throughout our lives and celebrate diversity in all its many forms. Everyone here is respected and belongs.

Our important local heritage and strong Irish culture are recognised as important, are evident in all aspects of our community life, and are actively passed on to future generations. We record our rich heritage and celebrate and share all aspects of our traditions in music, drama, language, sports, storytelling, crafts and the arts. We support our varied creative artists and appreciate how their work enhances our lives.



Health (Physical and Mental)

Everyone here has ready access locally to good quality healthcare services that address both mental and physical health needs, including GP services. There are excellent homecare services that provide the support needed for people to live independently, and the work of carers is recognised and payments reflect the true value of this contribution. Outreach services ensure that the needs of vulnerable members of the community and those living alone are met.

This is an inclusive community where all of us are actively supported to participate whatever additional needs we may have, and community initiatives mean that no-one is isolated. We are aware of the importance of minding our physical and mental health, and there is funding and resources to support community groups to meet the needs of those they work with. We ensure provision of affordable communications, active contact and support/befriending services, and a wide range of leisure and recreation opportunities (both indoors and outdoors) for all ages and abilities to stay active and engaged in their community. There are facilities and activities provided that reflect the interests and needs of different groups within the community and enable us all to flourish.

We benefit from a comprehensive and affordable public transport network that is fully accessible and enables everyone to travel for work, education, or recreation. There is also great infrastructure for safe walking and cycling that reduces the use of cars and enable us all to get out and about.

We understand the vital importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment that we can access to support our health. We work with the County Council to protect this and to ensure that everyone within our community has their basic needs met.



Environment and Sustainability

We are thoughtful, ethical consumers, that create minimum waste, recycle and manage waste carefully for a cleaner, healthier environment.

Everyone has access to great, up-to-date information about our environment, and throughout our lives we learn about the vital importance of protecting our natural world. There are initiatives that illustrate to people of all ages how to achieve a more ecologically friendly lifestyle and support our environment and community, and the benefits that come from this for us and for future generations.

The State provides funding and resources, and agencies work in partnership with local groups to undertake conservation and preservation works that are needed. The County Council applies planning laws transparently and consistently to support the protection and enhancement of both our built heritage and our wonderful natural environment.



Social and Community Development

This is a safe place to live, where we look out for one another and have an active Garda presence in our communities. There is a strong sense of community that embraces everyone living here.

We work with agencies and local services to identify and meet the needs of everyone in the community, providing healthcare and support locally as it is needed for those facing challenges, and giving assistance so that each of us can retain our independence, lead full lives and flourish.

We ensure that all our public spaces, services and infrastructure are fully accessible. So too is our integrated and affordable public transport network and green transport infrastructure that means we have great connectivity locally, regionally and nationally, and can connect with services, employment, educational and recreational opportunities.

Our community groups network well and there is good communication of information on facilities, services and activities provided locally. There are a range of employment opportunities, and we recognise and value the important work of volunteers. We are all involved in and contribute to the life of our local community.

Careful planning, good infrastructure and services, and the good housing available for everyone here supports our local communities to be integrated, cohesive and thriving.



Macroom Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the Macroom Municipal District

This is a connected and thriving community. People of all cultures, ages and abilities are welcome and included in all aspects of our community life. We are all supported to be active through great opportunities to enjoy the wonderful natural environment here. We understand the importance of our biodiversity and environmental quality, which we work to protect and enrich. We have great facilities and services that enable our community groups to meet local needs. Our diverse economy reflects this commitment to sustainability, leading the way in innovative and green technologies. There is a positive relationship with the Local Authority, which operates transparently, and we have a real say in decisions that affect us.

We benefit from excellent housing, communications and transport infrastructure that support a good quality of life for everyone. Comprehensive provision of local services for mental and physical health, supports us to be well. We have an extraordinarily rich and diverse heritage, and record, celebrate and conserve this, making creative use of our built heritage.



Macroom Castle – Macroom MD



Social and Community Development

Community groups are well networked here and deliver services and activities that benefit all of us. They are well supported and resourced to meet the needs of all ages and groups within the community and we have excellent facilities, with a wide range of activities requested by young people. The vital work of volunteers is recognised and highly valued.

There is a mix of housing types across the area that enable us all to have affordable homes that meet our needs, as these change throughout our lives, and within our own neighbourhoods. We use property creatively to provide homes, and community spaces that are needed. There are good supports for independent living where these are needed.

We welcome and actively include people from all cultures as valued members of our community across all organisations and aspects of community life. There are events that enable us all to share our culture and experience and to learn from one another.

We are all aware and understand that we have different needs and we work together to ensure everyone is included, with fully accessible public spaces and considerate behaviour. There is a strong customer focus here and there are alternatives to working online where this is preferred in all essential services.



Work, Economy & Resources

We have effective initiatives to grow new and existing businesses and industry in this part of the County, including indigenous and innovative enterprises.

We have first rate communications, accommodation options, and facilities infrastructure to support business and remote working.

There is a clear identity and strong promotion of our tourism sector in the varied and beautiful landscape we have here.

We continue to lead the way in the generation and micro-generation of sustainable energy. This area is self-sufficient in producing the energy we need and benefits from this with community income, related jobs and expertise.

There is comprehensive and affordable public transport throughout the Municipal District, with good connectivity to Cork City and beyond, which reduces use of private cars.



Health (Physical and Mental)

We all have access to good, round-the-clock health services and mental health supports within the community when they are needed. Community-based services and community groups ensure that everyone receives the support and assistance they need. People are supported in their own cultures and religious beliefs.

We have great local public transport and excellent, safe amenities, and excellent infrastructure for active travel and recreation.

There is a range of housing so that all of us can have suitable and secure homes within our own communities and supports to live independently are provided where these are needed.

Everyone is kept well informed from a central information hub within the community and at all ages we keep active and engaged in community life.



Environment and Sustainability

We are all well-informed and recognise the essential importance of our precious natural environment. Everyone here is committed and active in conserving and protecting our biodiversity and environmental quality. The County Council works in partnership with the community to ensure this is achieved.

Throughout our lives we all work to minimise and manage waste carefully, promoting reuse and recycling. We have opportunities to produce our own food locally, such as in community allotments.

Once heavily wooded, this area is ideal for growing trees, and we are supported to use appropriate, native species both to capture carbon and enhance our environment. We are proud that our tree planting and management follows best practice, and there are many opportunities to learn the skills and knowledge needed for this.

We value access to the outdoors and our natural environment which is made possible through connected greenways, blueways, and infrastructure that supports an active lifestyle for residents and visitors. There are rich natural environments and green spaces in our villages and communities. We preserve and enhance our built heritage and retain related skills and experience, supported with good funding opportunities.

Community groups and the County Council work well together to facilitate initiatives that benefit the area, with streamlined and efficient regulation and bureaucracy.



Culture, Values & Meaning

We are proud of this area's traditions, culture and our Múscraí Gaeltacht, and we are welcoming and fully inclusive of all cultures, ages and abilities. We work together to ensure a thriving, sustainable, community throughout this part of the County.

Everyone here is aware of, and appreciates, the huge diversity and richness of our evolving Irish and local heritage, including natural heritage, arts, language, tradition, culture, built heritage, history, archaeology and sports. Heritage services are well resourced and work with our well-funded community volunteers to carefully record and preserve this. Across all generations we actively share our experience, knowledge and skills to the benefit of everyone.

There are great venues, facilities and signage throughout the Municipal District that preserve and promote our heritage and all aspects of our cultural life. We find creative ways to bring new life to our built heritage.

Our local and national authorities work well together and connect with our local community, ensuring straightforward easy-to-use regulation and access to supports, funding and resources.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

Our community groups are supported to meet streamlined and straightforward, best practice, governance requirements. From a young age we are all educated, encouraged to be actively involved in our local democracy, and use our vote.

The County Council works hard to obtain inputs from the community. It listens to these and acts on them. It feeds back on its response. We can see that the community has a genuine opportunity to influence plans, policies and decisions that affect us.

The County Council's planning policies are clear and it implements them promptly, in a consistent and transparent manner.

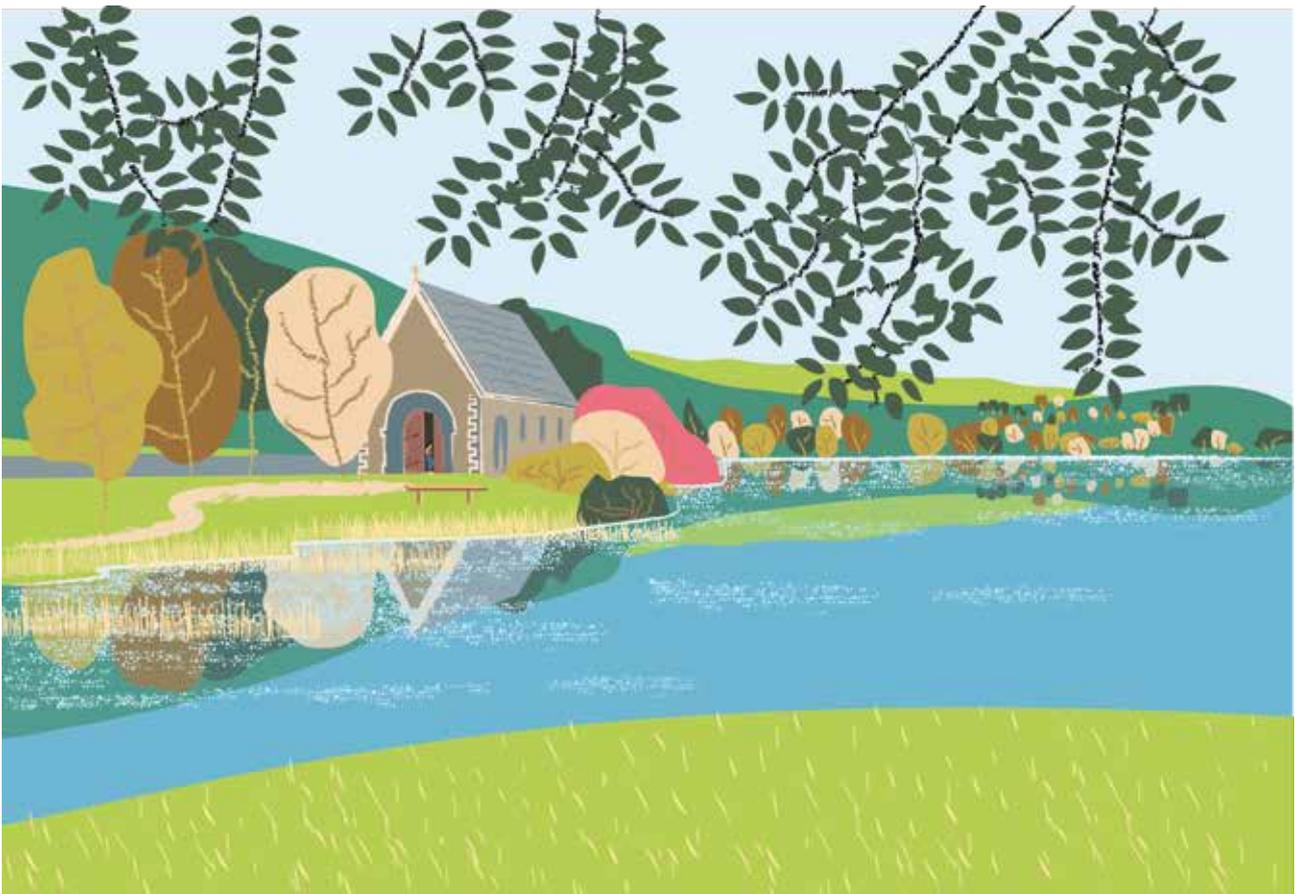
Our utilities are well-planned and services are delivered to high standards that protect our environment.



West Cork Municipal District

Our Vision for Community Wellbeing in the West Cork Municipal District

West Cork is blessed with a rich natural environment, a wealth of cultural heritage and great beauty, and fantastic people! We are welcoming and everyone is respected and supported to flourish here. We protect and include everyone within our community and look after the environment around us that we rely on. There is excellent healthcare provided here and great transport and communications infrastructure. We have good facilities and local services, and a huge range of community organisations, which meet the diverse needs of all groups within the community and provide wonderful opportunities for recreation. We actively celebrate the many cultures found here and our important Irish heritage and we live sustainably, using green technologies to support our vibrant and robust economy and communities into the future.



Gougane Barra – West Cork MD



Health (Physical and Mental)

We have great, accessible infrastructure and facilities that give us all safe opportunities to interact with one another and with nature in a wide range of activities. This provides for safe active travel throughout the area, and our access to recreation, work and education is supported through our affordable, accessible and comprehensive public transport network. There are opportunities for local food production within our communities and we benefit from pristine natural resources (water, air and soil) which provide us with a clean and safe environment.

A wide range of well-resourced services and supports are provided locally that meet the needs of the various groups in the community for all age groups, life stages and ethnic identities. These are complimented by well-resourced community groups and organisations and the voluntary work that we all contribute. There are flexible, well-equipped venues for community recreation, suitable for all different groups and activities within the community.

There is good and affordable access for everyone to mental and physical health care within West Cork with excellent primary health care across the area and full hospital services in Bantry. Our health services are designed and equipped to respond to the full range of needs within our communities and there is strong support and resources provided for carers. Throughout our lives we have access to great information and learn about how best to keep ourselves healthy and well. We understand the importance of caring for our mental health and are all supported in this through our belonging to our strong local communities, positive local initiatives and access to excellent health services.

There is a choice of housing options available to people within their own communities, including assistance for independent living where it is needed. This supports the diverse mix of people and generations here to be connected and so strengthens our community.

- There is accurate, up-to-date and widely available information on the health needs within our communities and those of our carers. These needs are met through services specifically tailored to this area and which are accountable to the community. These services are affordable and available when they are needed. They are integrated and network effectively. All our health and social care facilities are well-equipped, accessible and in suitable accommodation and the highly skilled staff that deliver these services are valued.
- Our understanding of how to support and maintain good mental health at all stages throughout our lives is continually increasing and we ensure that this is supported through the services provided, and initiatives in all aspects of our lives; social, work, recreation, family and community. We are all active and supported to be well.
- We are aware of the need to respond to the particular needs of all the different groups within our community, particularly of our young people. There are facilities and services that address these needs appropriately and the groups themselves inform and are involved in how these supports are provided.



Social and Community Development

We have excellent, flexible, facilities, venues and workspaces throughout West Cork that accommodate creative and dynamic community organisations and initiatives. These are well-resourced and ensure that all our diverse population, across all ages, abilities and cultures are integrated into the community. Everyone here feels welcome and is an active and important participant in this inclusive community, and we ensure that no-one is isolated.

There are a wide range of services which reflect the needs of the people* we have here, that are delivered locally and support us all to be safe and well. We promote and support positive community action and collaborations, social enterprise, intergenerational projects, and recreation and leisure opportunities.

Everyone here has access to affordable and secure housing that meets sustainable standards, with excellent, trusted, retro-fitting and repair services available. There is a mix of housing types within our communities, to allow for "right-sizing" and for people to have a home that meets their needs. This is delivered through careful planning involving communities to ensure integrated and sustainable communities. People have supports to live independently and we have wonderful volunteers and carers who are valued and supported. We have great public transport, that is fully accessible, throughout this part of the County that supports people to access work, education, services, recreation and social activities.

We make good use of our wonderful natural environment for outdoor education and are renown for building expertise from the earliest age through to local third level education and training opportunities in food production, the marine and natural environments. Flexible and life-long intergenerational learning is widespread here.

In West Cork we ensure that young people and disadvantaged groups in the community are asked about their needs and these are met with appropriate supports and services that mean they can flourish, participate fully and contribute to their community.

** The demographics of the area.*



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

All our community, education and support groups work well together and with our many volunteers. As individuals and across the community, we are active and effective at helping one another, meeting needs and achieving goals for our community.

The County Council and other State agencies actively seek and listen to the views of all voices in the community, particularly of the disadvantaged. We have a recognised role as stakeholders and a real impact in decision-making that affects our lives. This is achieved through the innovative use of traditional methods and new technologies, and there is local accountability for good consultation and the decisions that are taken. The County Council operates transparently and consistently across all its functions, and showcases this in development and roll-out of the County Development Plan and its planning policies. It is able to be both creative, innovative and flexible within agreed policy guidelines, it is proactive and open to proposed initiatives, and is fully accountable to the local community. It networks with agencies and communicates effectively with businesses and communities. It provides for in-person services where these are needed or requested. There is a good relationship and trust between communities and the County Council.

Our local representatives reflect the diversity found within our community. They are accessible and active in discovering the interests and wishes of those in our communities and representing these to the County Council. We are all educated about and participate in our democracy, and there is information and support for all people to become involved in local politics and public services.

We have strong, and representative, structures in our local communities, where the voice of young people is included. There are reasonable administration requirements for our community organisations, with streamlined systems to access resources, with supports available to assist groups to comply with good governance requirements.



The Beacon – West Cork MD



Through active, life-long education we are all aware of the vital importance of our environment to sustain life. We live sustainably and think through all our actions to ensure that they do not harm our wonderful natural world.

We have a circular economy where we all reduce waste, repair and reuse in all aspects of our lives, using community-based initiatives, enterprise and Council services. Our production systems do not damage the environment and we design and build-in endurance. We rely on green energy, with local power generation schemes often in community ownership. We are supported to ensure our homes are heat efficient and our enterprises are adapted to use minimal energy. We have an excellent, affordable public transport network and great infrastructure for safe active travel, which supports sustainable travel for work, education and recreation.

Our community is consulted and works in partnership with State bodies to protect biodiversity on land and in the seas of West Cork through a range of initiatives. We care for nature and our natural resources, using our water, air and soils so that they are conserved and they are maintained at the highest quality. Our farmers are supported to be carbon neutral and rewarded for their work to protect local heritage and provide access to rural areas which we are all able to enjoy. There is community food production throughout this part of the County.

Our coast and sea is a precious part of our environment and we use these resources sustainably, carefully maintaining the traditional, sustainable fishing and harvesting activities, and using sensitively developed infrastructure for marine leisure activities that do not damage these areas. Opportunities for enjoying our wonderful natural environment are found throughout West Cork and these are maintained through partnerships between landowners, state bodies, community organisations and volunteers.

The community is consulted and fully informed about the planning policies and guidelines that apply here and the County Council applies these consistently. Vacant and derelict sites are reused and those living here have access to homes locally. Our built heritage is protected and maintained with good support and resources available, and active partnerships between communities and state bodies. All of us play a key part in protecting this heritage and the environment that we rely on, and volunteers are a critical part of ensuring that we can continue to safely enjoy these wonderful resources.



This is a strong and resilient community, where we recognise wellbeing is vital. We monitor this and the community works with all state agencies to support and enhance it, to protect our meeting places, rituals, and community stories.

This part of Cork is known for the sense of belonging and engagement in our communities. We are kind and compassionate, aware of others needs and active in supporting one another, across all age groups so that we can all thrive. We value our shared experiences and know the importance of joy and laughter.

This is a multi-cultural community, where we respect all diversity, and there is no tolerance of discrimination. We actively celebrate one another's cultures and learn about these through initiatives at school and in the community.

There is a thriving arts and creative scene in West Cork with great venues and a wide range of opportunities that are accessible to all, to participate in music, craft, art, dance, theatre and so forth. Traditional Irish cultural traditions, music and dance, language, crafts, and sports are popular and widespread. The State recognises the importance of this to our community life, to tourism, and to the wider economy, ensuring reasonable administration requirements and costs, and providing support with resources.

We recognise the importance of our rich heritage and ensure that we keep full historical records. We preserve historical monuments and make creative use of these so that they can be fully appreciated.

A rounded social, emotional and academic education is highly valued here. We believe in our young people and empower them, encouraging a sense of ownership of community, and participation in the culture and values we hold. We learn together to live sustainably.



Our economy is resilient and reflects the importance of other objectives than profit alone. We have a green and circular economy where there are effective supports for business and social enterprise that contribute to a sustainable and clean environment. We have developed excellence in the environmental economy, such as green energy and retrofitting. We understand seasonal activities and have developed a diversity of enterprises here that provide a tapestry of work that helps ensure good year-round employment for all workers. These are supported through informed planning and the provision of good infrastructure.

Jobs here are sustainable and have good conditions. Purposeful work is valued and there are employment schemes that support those seeking work, community organisations and integration. All of us have time and opportunities to volunteer and work for our communities. There are a range of business models here, and good facilities that accommodate remote and mixed working models.

We are leaders in innovative training for development of sustainable and green skills such as food production and energy. We provide excellent training and re-training opportunities at all levels locally, with flexible models of delivery, and facilitated work experience that enable people to find work they enjoy and which contributes value to our local economy.

There is excellent public transport infrastructure and services, and communications throughout West Cork, and great services for both businesses and residents within local communities. The availability of affordable housing and a choice of housing options available for permanent residents makes this an attractive place for businesses and workers.

We are proud of our long tradition of high-quality food production and support our food producers, and enterprises to add value to what is grown and caught here. Our farmers and fishermen and women are able to run good family businesses. They are valued and supported, and they lead the way in demonstrating the sustainable future of farming.



United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, all the Member States of the United Nations adopted The Agenda for Sustainable Development. This sets out a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet into the future. Central to the agreement are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (below) that are an urgent call for action by ALL countries as part of a global partnership. Under each Goal there are a number of targets to be met, with actions, events and publications working towards achieving these.

The PPN has agreed that it is important as part of our global world to be conscious of working towards achieving these goals in all we do. For this reason, it is critical that we look at how our Vision aligns with and supports these global ambitions.



End poverty in all its forms everywhere.



Reduce inequality within and among countries.



End hunger, achieve food security & improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.



Notes

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County Hall



Public Participation
Network Cork County

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2023

Landmarks of Cork County