Sligo Public Participation Network

Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Shligigh

Sligo PPN

Vision for
Community Wellbeing

Master Consultation Inputs Index

Sligo PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing: Master Consultation Inputs Index

To inform the development of the PPN's Vision for Community Wellbeing, extensive consultations were carried out to encourage as many member groups as possible to take part. This document sets out all the inputs received during these consultations.

1.0   The Process Involved in Sligo PPN Community Wellbeing Consultation

1.1   Reaching out to engage as many as possible

When the PPN Community Wellbeing process was developed, it was designed specifically to be tailored by individual PPNs to enable their members to participate. At its simplest, the approach involves consultation workshops at which member groups are introduced to the concept of community wellbeing. (This is an internationally accepted and widely used concept. However, as there is no single agreed model for community wellbeing, one specific to the PPNs was developed (see Fig. 1 below). This is the basis for the consultation process that PPNs co-designed and piloted. Participants are then asked to think about what things they identify in their community presently that they value and that need to be retained and built upon in the future. Following this, workshop participants are invited to identify elements of their vision of the perfect Sligo; what they want to see in relation to all different aspects of life.

Fig.1 Community Wellbeing Headings

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As well as following the standard national consultation model. in Sligo, considerable effort was made to reach out to groups that may be less likely to engage in more traditional consultation approaches for a variety of reasons. In building up this consultation profile, engagement sessions took place between November 2019 and 2020 with a range of targeted groups in a variety of settings and included:

- Dedicated Community Wellbeing Workshop

- Workshop sessions as part of the PPN Annual General Meeting

- Sligo Intercultural Project Craft Mornings

- Sligo Family Resource Centre

- Ask for Angela event

- Havin' a Laugh Charity Mental Health Coffee morning

- Migrant Women's workshop

- Digital Skills for Older Adults group

- Sligo IT students, potential students & staff

- Comhairle na nOg

- "Life in Sligo" online survey

- Irish Wheelchair Association

- Sligo Women in Business /Chamber of Commerce member survey

- School children consultation

The listed online survey ("Life in Sligo") allowed input from those who were unable to attend any face-to-face events.

Some of these engagements took the form of conversations, in order to allow groups to be at ease and comfortable to discuss issues of concern to them. This meant that not all conversations were structured directly around the six Community Wellbeing domain headings (see below) although all these headings were introduced informally to guide the narrative.

1.2 Consultations Inputs and the PPN Community Wellbeing Vision

All the inputs received at the different engagements are captured. This raw data is retained for reference (this document) and forms the basis for the development of the PPN's Community Wellbeing Vision. The draft text for this is made available to all member groups to enable them to check that all inputs are reflected and that the statement reflects their ambitions (see Fig. 2 below). This is ultimately adopted by the PPN Plenary (all member groups) and becomes the core reference point for the PPN, its representatives and work, since it reflects consensus on the members' goal.

1 Workshop

PPN Members were invited to attend Community Wellbeing workshops.

At these workshops the Community Wellbeing concept was presented.

2 Asset Mapping

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

3 Wellbeing vision

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

4 Consultation

Following the workshop, an online consultation was shared with members who were unable to attend the workshops.

They were provided the opportunity to answer the same questions asked at the workshop.

5 Draft Vision

The PPN resource workers and secretariat members then analysed the responses from the workshop and online consultation.

They then produced the draft wellbeing statements.

Fig.2 How the Wellbeing Statement was developed

2.0 Community Wellbeing and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015 the members of the United Nations agreed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This sets out "a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests." In other words, these goals define the world we want. Ireland has signed up to these goals, as has Sligo PPN, and this is part of recognising that we all have a part to play in achieving this future.

For this reason, it is crucial that the PPN aligns what the member groups are seeking for Sligo with what they want to see across the world and make clear how they relate to one another. The first step is to be aware of the 17 SDGs (see Fig.3 overleaf) and then look at how each relates to the community wellbeing headings. Remember that both the community wellbeing headings and the SDGs impact on one another.

The PPN is looking to ensure that in working towards its Vision, it will also be making a positive contribution towards achieving the SGDs.

3.0 The Consultation Inputs Index; structure, use and future development

3.1 Fairly representing all inputs

When the inputs across all the consultations were being compiled, if they came from discussions that had not specifically considered each of the six headings in turn, some inputs were placed under more than one heading where this was felt to be appropriate. This was done on the basis that, where the consultations did use the six community wellbeing headings, participants often raised a single issue under multiple headings – sometimes presenting a different aspect of that issue. This is entirely to be expected as the headings are not distinct but blur between one another, reflecting the reality of life. For example, transport issues affect the economy, social and community issues and can impinge on health, impact our environment and influence our engagement and appreciation of culture. So, it was considered that where participants had less structured conversations, it was important that an allowance was made for where their points could reasonably have related to more than one heading.

To illustrate this, consider the input "Groups like Comhairle na nOg and Foroige are great – meet a lot of people and get to do interesting stuff - but not really sure how much we are listened to by the people in charge of the county" which was contributed at a youth consultation. The organisations mentioned clearly have a role in *social and community development* and so the comment is featured under that heading, but the comment also relates to whether young people have a say and so to the heading *participation, democracy and good governance*. Arguably, it is also relevant to all other

headings since it is questioning whether the views of young people are taken on board in relation to all matters.

The inputs received are presented under each of the six community wellbeing headings in this document. It is clearly indicated where inputs were included under more than one heading as explained above; a single asterisk (*) is used to show that this point has been noted in one other location, two asterisks indicate that it appears under another two headings, and so on.

In order to provide as much information as possible, inputs are colour-coded in order to show which consultation they were generated at, as follows:

- **Dedicated Community Wellbeing Workshop**

- **PPN Annual General Meeting**

- **Sligo Intercultural Project Craft Mornings**

- **Sligo Family Resource Centre**

- **Ask for Angela event**

- **Havin' a Laugh Charity Mental Health Coffee morning**

- **Migrant Women's workshop**

- **Digital Skills for Older Adults group**

- **Sligo IT students, potential students & staff**

- **Comhairle na nOg**

- **"Life in Sligo" online survey**

- **Irish Wheelchair Association**

Please note that while a number of member groups and individuals from the economic sector participated in the Workshops and AGM, extensive efforts that were made to engage specifically with economic sector member groups in order to ensure thorough representation of this sector, were not successful. The PPN used the networks of Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business, BID and LEO to ask for input but responses were not received.

3.2   The six community wellbeing domain headings and sub-headings

Whether formally or informally introduced, an understanding of the six community wellbeing headings was explained to the member groups consulted. As each of these headings is set out below, a brief explanation of what that heading encompasses is also presented to put the inputs received into context.

In compiling the inputs under each of the six community wellbeing headings, a number of issues emerged. These have been identified with sub-headings and inputs have been grouped under them so that those which appear to relate to a similar issue are found together. This is intended to help make the document more accessible and the inputs easier to navigate. However, these sub-headings should not be given any weight or significance as they did not come from the member groups themselves and have simply been used as a device for sorting inputs.

Across the six community wellbeing headings these sub-headings have helped to illuminate emerging themes and particularly significant issues that were raised. The PPN's Thematic Report of Community Policy Needs looks specifically at the principal themes identified across all the inputs contained here.

3.3   Using this information

This information has been used to develop the PPN member groups' consensus on their Vision for Community Wellbeing in Sligo. (Links to the UN Sustainable Development Goals are also included for reference.)

These inputs reflect more detail that can be contained in a high-level Vision document. However, they represent an important information resource for the PPN, its representatives, individual member groups, and other stakeholders; specifically in pin-pointing needs identified by the community.

In addition, the volume and detail of inputs received in relation to specific issues and set out here, has allowed for the compilation of a Thematic Report of Community Policy Needs. Once reviewed and adopted by the Plenary, this represents further, more detailed, policy positions for the PPN, which in turn may be expanded and extended to include greater detail and specifics.

3.4   Consultation Index – a Living Document

It is not intended that this index be a static, stand-alone research piece. In covering the breadth of topics that the wellbeing consultation covered, this piece work allowed us to engage with the community on practically all aspects of life and thus was an important starting point in building up a profile of the county and how the community wants to see it develop. However, if Covid-19 has shown us anything, it is that our whole way of life can change in an instant and the PPN is conscious that the priorities facing our community will continue to evolve as new challenges and opportunities come their way. It is therefore the intention to keep adding to this index as we continue to engage with the community and find out what is important to them.

We hope that this vital picture of the local sector will not only be used by policy and decision makers to ensure the future of our county meets the needs of the people, but also to be used by the community sector as an evidence of need as they plan their own programmes and also seek funding to support their valuable work.

It is intended that the PPN will work with community representatives and community members to highlight the content of this work and to illustrate how it can be used.

4.0   Protecting What We Treasure

As explained above (1.2) all those that were consulted were asked to identify present assets in Sligo; things that are great about living in the County now, and that we need to treasure and built on. A summary of this is included in the PPN's Vision for Community Wellbeing. In this document, specific existing assets that were mentioned are listed in an appendix at the end.

Please note that some people may perceive an asset as already existing while other things it does not exist at present (or not as they would like) and they feel work is still needed to attain it. This explains how something may be listed under the consultation inputs as something people want to see achieved and also as an existing asset.

More information on all aspects of the PPN Community Wellbeing work can be obtained from:

Sligo PPN, City Hall, Quay Street, Sligo F91 PP44

Contact: Sarah Wetherald, Resource Worker, PPN

Email: ppn@sligococo.ie

Tel.:   071 911 4430

Social and Community Development

Often it seems that development is measured based on the economy alone, but we don't live in an economy, we live in a community. A good community is probably one where people feel safe and secure, that has facilities to bring people together and things to do.

- How do we want our community to work for everyone?
- What about people with disabilities, or people new to the area or from different cultures?
- Men and women?
- How do we develop a place where people can live without fear, and have places to go, and things to do?
- How do we create a place to be proud of and to belong to?
- We also need to think about equality, how do we include everyone irrespective of gender or sexual orientation, or culture, or ethnic group, or age etc.

Communities that work well also have good services and infrastructure – transport, broadband, social services etc. But the most important thing is people!

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

Emerging themes under this heading:

- Our approach/ the way we are (p.9)
- Volunteering (p.9)
- Dedicated Community Spaces & Facilities
- Support for Community Development
  - Support for communities (p.11)
  - Support for people with disabilities
  - Support for families (p.14)
  - Support for youth
  - Support for students (p.15)
  - Support for women
  - Support for men (p.16)
- Governance & Information flow
- Grants & Funding
  - Funding available
  - Conditions applied (p.18)
  - Application Process & responses
  - Necessary expertise to apply
  - Unrealistic costs/ demands for community sector organisations

- Supporting inclusion
- Accessibility & awareness (p.19)
- Education
- Communities working well together
- Transport (p.20)
  - Walking & cycling
  - Rural & out of town public transport
  - Public transport services
  - Care & parking
  - Road infrastructure (p.21)
  - Greener transport options
  - Safety
  - Housing
- Respectful community
- Night-time activities, safety & alcohol
- Activities (p.23)
- Shops & Shopping
- Simplified administration for community & voluntary groups (p.19)

CONSULTATION INPUTS

Our Approach/ the way we are
- Promote kindness
- Recognise each person's dignity and uniqueness.
- Have a good work-life balance.
- More person to person interaction.
- People are friendly (smile a lot)***
- People are really friendly, feel quite safe. Wouldn't want to be in a more hectic city. (youth)**
- *Support strong community spirit*

Volunteering
- People of Sligo have pride in locality.
- There is good volunteerism in Sligo. People show up. They support agencies with grants.*
- We have so many groups. There is a great potential for great energy and voluntary energy.*

Dedicated Community Spaces and Facilities
- Accessible, fully serviced community facilities; work spaces, co-learning, multi-purpose, sustainable spaces.
- A purpose built Sligo Family Resource Centre, perhaps in the Connaghton Road car park – to allow them to adequately deal with the needs of the most vulnerable groups in Sligo.*[1]
- Community hubs for rural areas or those affected by social and economic deprivation for classes, social activities, etc. for all ages and abilities.
- Shared community meeting spaces.
- More public meeting rooms; people to become more involved.
- More public meeting rooms. There should be a better system for groups to be able to use public meeting rooms – we pay for them.*
- Issue of shared spaces – needs to be a hub for community use*
- Daytime use of community spaces.*
- Space*
- There are no free available meeting spaces in town. This should be government led as we are doing your work.
- *Protect community sector as not valued – all at expense of tourism & economic growth which is v narrow sighted approach*
- There are no clean/ accessible public toilets in Sligo and this can deter people from coming into town.**/ provide better public toilet facilities *

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1   The centre they are using at the moment isn't fit for purpose; there are no lifts, so there are a lot of stairs to climb for various rooms. It's not wheelchair accessible or pushchair friendly. There's no dedicated car part and little privacy to deal with sensitive issues.

- (public) Seats on footpaths so that you feel comfortable walking around – I often worry if I get tired there is nowhere to rest.*/ make the town somewhere it is actually pleasant to be.**
- Bins on streets – but monitored to make sure not abused.*
- Promote drinking tap water – refill signs to refill water bottles.*
- Good scenery, especially Doorly Park which is easy to get to from town.* Fence off the playground there as it's very near the road and is dangerous for children.
- Greenways development – link tourism*
- *Safe footpaths for kids to walk to school (for health etc.)*
- *Limited access to public leisure facilities*
- *Cyclepaths*
- *Skate park*
- *Bowling alley*
- *Swimming pools*
- *Swimming facilities at Rosses Pt (& elsewhere)*

Support for Community Development

- Real resources towards addressing barriers to active participation; community groups should have a pot to pay volunteer expenses.
- A community hub/ resources for community groups to access practical support and facilities e.g. governance
- Hire more people to support the sector. Pay fair wages.
- Deliver community development across the County (e.g. support Tubbercurry, Grange, Ballymote with community development in the same way as Strandhill and Rosses Point has been).

Support for Communities

- Need dedicated community support workers in the Council – nowhere to turn.
- *Supports to families & libraries, FRCs, community groups, youth organisations, etc.*
- New library with space for parenting programmes, access visits, parenting support, incorporating the Family Resource Centre.
- Free access to counselling and therapy services.
- *Rights based integrated services and funding to ensure people can live ...???*
- Still not enough recognition of mental health as an 'illness', still a lot of sigma about it being 'in your head', 'get over it' and far more focus on crisis response than actual prevention by creating places to live that are supportive.**
- Groups such as Havin' a Laugh who make you feel welcome.*
- More jobs and less use of volunteers to take on everything community related.*
- Good networking of the community groups.*
- Volunteers are committed but cannot take on everything.*
- Collaborative approach by community groups.*
- *Community organisations (from Sligo Park Run to Volunteer Centre, Cancer Support Group & everything else, has lots to fear if do things wrong*

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Support for People with Disabilities

Understanding & Advocacy

People who do not have mobility difficulties do not think about the challenges that face people who do. There needs to be a wider understanding and thoughtfulness across society which would help ensure problems, particularly with access, are minimised either by careful design and construction or conscious behaviour to prevent issues arising. This would create greater equality and benefit everyone.

Continuing initiatives to raise awareness and understanding are important, such as the Make Way Day (Disability Federation of Ireland) and Back in 5 (IWA), as is having advocacy groups that can engage and contribute knowledge and expertise.

Access

Being able to access places indoors or outdoors, and activities that they want to take part in, when they want is taken for granted by most people. People in wheelchairs, of which there are different types, must plan ahead and cannot confidently assume that access will be possible for them. This creates work in advance to find out if access is available, to plan journeys and activities, leaving nothing to chance. There is also always the risk that circumstances will change; some new obstacle appear on a narrow pavement that disrupts a planned outing or activity. The challenges involved generally mean more limited choices for people using wheelchairs; to reach destinations, access spaces and buildings, and so on.

Transport:

Accessible community transport, particularly across rural areas, to enable access services in the city is essential to address isolation. For clients that do not drive themselves, they have to rely on others to provide transport where there is no suitable public transport. This has a huge impact on people's ability to make their own choices about where and when they travel. It was stressed that accessible transport services across the West of Ireland would generate a positive impact for the wide community and economy (for example tourism).

At present bus services are poor and vehicles are generally not appropriate for wheelchair users. An example was given of Expressway service where the buses are accessible but require the paths and curbs to be adapted to function and enable wheelchair users to board via the lifts. Bus Eireann has an agreement with the Local Authority to make these adaptations but the work has not been carried out. This means that the buses cannot be accessed by people using wheelchairs. [*I missed the reference Clare gave dated 2016*]

Parking:

For wheelchair users travelling in cars it was pointed out that parking for disabled drivers is often located at a significant distance from shops and services, which exacerbates the problems of navigating pavements and the route from the parking to the destination and shows no appreciation for the challenges of trying to carry an significant purchases. If cars are parked in order to enable people with mobility issues access to services, but not strictly in accordance with parking regulations, they are ticketed despite displaying a blue badge.

Public spaces – safe and accessible:

Challenges for people in wheelchairs and with mobility difficulties to navigate towns and villages are not well understood by others, for example the problems presented

by broken pavements, or steep slopes/hills that have to be avoided. Provision that is made, such as dropped kerbs, are often not consistent or joined up i.e. with a corresponding dropped kerb across the street. It is essential that pavements are made accessible and safe for users. There appears to be no understanding amongst those responsible for design and maintenance of public spaces of the dangers for those using wheelchairs or will mobility difficulties. One example is the provision of parking spaces for people with disabilities on streets on hills in Sligo which it is hazardous or impossible for people in wheelchairs to use. Another is problem of certain textures of pavements and the changes from one material type to another, uneven surfaces and pot holes, for people will visual impairment and mobility issues.

It was suggested that a group of people with a range of different disabilities could be invited to work with local engineers to develop their appreciation of the challenges faced by people with mobility difficulties, and to ensure funds available are used wisely to maximise accessibility. An example of where such a group did a walk around with the town engineer in Carrick on Shannon was given.

The IWA has recently published revised access guidelines for engineers and it is recommended that this become required reading and reference for Local Authorities and developers.

Litter management:
Litter creates a real impediment for access by people with mobility issues and needs to be eradicated. (see 3.16 below).

More accessible opportunities:
There was a general desire that more activities be made accessible, for example bowling.

Good access to churches is important to allow wheelchair users to worship and express their faith, and not to feel restricted or excluded.

It was recognised that there is presently limited provision for wheelchairs users at the popular Hawks Well Theatre but such venues need increased capacity for such patrons, particularly since attendance often involves considerable organisation and pre-planning that is typically arranged by groups that involve more people keen to attend than there is space to accommodate. This example also illustrates the point that there is often separate access points provided for people with impaired mobility, sometimes to the side or rear of premises and these may still requiring special assistance or attendance. This can make wheelchair users and those with other mobility challenges feel like second class citizens; there should be 1 door for everyone.

Accessibility audits, involving people with disabilities need to be carried out to identify problems like the step into the children's library, heavy doors and other challenges for people with disabilities that can be addressed.

Similarly, health and safety and risk assessments are needed as part of planning requirements for concerts and other events, to ensure ease of access to community events.

It was suggested that organisations such as the IWA and others such as the Centre for Independent Living could act as venues for example during festivals. This would enable clients have better access to events but also encourage others to become familiar with these locations and support greater inclusivity. (See "Community

Interaction" below.)

In addition, fully wheelchair accessible accommodation in attractive destinations (e.g. at the coastal) to cater for holiday makers using wheelchairs would be much appreciated. Full access to other recreation opportunities such as the Sligo Folk Park is also needed.

Local hub
Another hub, like the Centre for Independent Living, would mean that more people in local communities could avail of services provided and the space available. Restrictions on space, exacerbated with Covid-19 requirements, means there is limited opportunities for people at present.

It was recognised that it is important to have opportunities to come together and share views, as well as to share information on what is available for people.

Ireland's Scholars and Christianity [*I missed Elena's point here?*]

Isolation
The pandemic highlighted the problems of isolation particularly in rural areas, which needs to be addressed.

Community interaction
The opportunity to introduce others to the IWA and its clients to the wider mixed communities now in Sligo would be appreciated, so that there is shared learning about one another's cultures and day-to-day living experience. It was suggested that this could be done through sharing food and other cultural traditions, perhaps through intercultural weeks and other events to learn about and celebrate diversity in all its forms. This would help foster awareness and understanding between people throughout the County.

Meaningful engagement
There must be genuine engagement with groups representation people with disabilities, leading to concrete actions that enable them to participate fully in all aspects of life in Sligo. (See 3.7 Local Government below).

Support for Families
- Hub for families.
- Hub for families*
- Baby and toddler groups; supports for children and families.
- Parent and toddler groups
- After school clubs from 2-3pm.
- Most of the people in the group have no family support & it's too expensive to hire babysitters.
- Better childcare, more affordable, accessible
- Better childcare services – more affordable.*
- Childcare costs are prohibitive to many women getting involved in the community or in policy making**

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- A kids play area in town. Indoor or outdoor.*
- Family holiday – bowling
- *Young children and families in disadvantaged areas – promote their wellbeing and reduce inequalities in our community*
- *Not just family centred*

Support for Youth
- Modern youth clubs that are self-sustaining.
- Support for volunteers working with youth.
- More things for younger people to do.**
- Nothing to do for young people.*
- Town is dead after 5pm.*
- Nowhere for young people to stay inside for free – have to pay everywhere at the minute.*
- There isn't much to do without money around here, especially if the weather isn't good. Not many shops, no free indoor spaces, restaurants/coffee shops expensive for us. (youth)**
- Some kind of one day a week discount per IT student in shops/ restaurants – let us enjoy Sligo.*
- It feels like our future (youth) is getting decided for us by people who don't understand us – and it is going to be us who lives with the mistakes****
- Mental health is a huge issue for people our age (youth)- it feels impossible to switch off and there is constant pressure – FOMO. We do know social media isn't good for you all the time but really hard to not keep looking.**
- It can be worrying thinking about college – so much to think about and organise and so expensive (youth)**
- Groups like Comhairle na nOg and Foroige are great – meet a lot of people and get to do interesting stuff - but not really sure how much we are listened to by the people in charge of the county ****
- Our futures are a bit bleak in terms of jobs – it doesn't look like we will be able to live in Sligo long term. (youth)**

Support for students
- Constant anxiety trying to find work to pay for studies.**
- [IT] really hard to get to – the college feels a bit separate to the town.
- Would be a bit unsure as to how mad I would need to feel to talk to anyone. Do I just get over it. I don't want to be seen as that weird person.**
- Activities/ Live/ Nightlife here is terrible compared to other places. That's a big deciding factor for students picking where to go.
- Not a great reputation [? IT or Sligo or both?]*
- Rough town – it's where you go to get wasted. This puts a lot of people off coming here. Parents and students would be worried.

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- Sometimes I don't want to say I go to college here as it has a bad reputation with town people for drinking, etc.*
- Walk from IT to town – I don't like doing it alone – dark and depressing.* Route needs improvement. There is very poor lighting along the route especially at the hill at the hospital.**
- From Sligo & looking to get away. Nothing in the town. Other campuses I have been to seem a lot more lively in terms of local town e.g. Galway & Mayo.*
- The library is outdated – it's too small.*
- Sligo libraries are outdated – they aren't a comfortable place to read or study properly. Sometimes this is hard at home as well – internet connection, noisy family etc (youth)***
- I am a bit worried that I might be bored on campus and seems a long way to get into the main bit of town and I have heard there is not much happening except for drink.*

Support for Women
- No dedicated support for women – a lot of judgement
- Free cervical checks for women of all ages – no dedicated health service for women.*
- A family planning centre, free for all to attend.*
- No women's health centre in Sligo*
- Better wages for women. Have them paid the same as men are for the same jobs. Equality across the board.*
- More employment opportunities for women – it still seems only part time and low paid are the options.*
- More jobs. Some are very restricted to third level only and some of the women find it very difficult to be taken seriously. One lady had a job but there were cut backs and people were laid off. She was the first to be let go even though she'd been there longer than some Irish workers. She felt this was due to her colour and background.**
- Flexible working hours. Working from home if possible. *
- Easier opportunities for training and education. It's hard to find information about courses and requirements. Child care for those wishing to do courses.*
- Regular meetings for women including movie nights, nutrition advice, meals out. A way to make friends. It can be very difficult to join existing groups and activities and very hard to engage with organisations who never take into account differences.*
- A place to cook. Introduce the Irish to their way of cooking. Maybe a café they could run.*
- More women in power and making decisions on behalf of other women.*

Support for Men
- A social group for men.

Governance & Information Flow

- Information flow is good to PPN and across members.*
- Link youth organisations with community facilities*
- We need community development support workers – more hands on support for community groups – if you don't fit in the category of 'vulnerable' then it is ard to get help.*
- We do a lot with very little financial support – and the grant process is onerous.*
- A big challenge is the age of people coming forward. Where are the youth? Organisations have not kept up to date with how to engage and communicate with young people.*
- Hard to get new directors for boards.*
- We need a special link person for smaller community groups to mento and support.*
- Communication from PPN – clarify when rules change.*
- We need young blood.*
- Same people involved in groups all the time.*
- Young people emigrating or don't want to engage in old fashioned processes.*
- Young people won't work for nothing.*
- Community directory should have names and contact details.*
- We need regular feedback with the Secretariat and be able to input/ get feedback on SPCs.*
- Rooms free for meetings.*
- Less acronyms.*/ Don't use PPN as excludes people – whole title is not very engaging*
- Newsletter is good*
- Awareness of PPN as resource gives voice*
- Time/ investment*
- We need a community directory- GDPR Check and contact numbers*
- We need evenings meetings and we would like to meet with secretariat and give feedback*
- Acronyms*
- We need rooms*
- It is difficult to get young people *
- Info flow is good*

Grants & Funding

<u>Funding available</u>

- 40plus grants available to old and young and all voluntary which is good*
- Wide variety of grants available*
- Much slower since Sligo Co Co took over Partnership*Applying for funding in time to be then told "no money" or we "ran out of money"*
- Allocate more funding*

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- Investment in Invisible Disabilities*
- Lack of finance *
- Funding is a challenge*
- Awareness- invisible disability- 3 to 4 week grant*
- Number of actual organisations- funding opportunities*
- Keep it simple regarding the spread of money*

Conditions applied
- Reduce the level of matched funding requirements for the community groups*
- It is too restrictive. It is not flexible. You need to remember we are all volunteers. We need flexible funding. *
- Frontload of grants* (make money available once approved)
- Long wait for grants – groups do not often have money up front*
- Front loading of grants*

Application process & responses
- Structure the grants system, less overlap between the applications*
- Cumbersome to apply for grants*
- We need simplified application process*
- We need to simplify thing regarding applications and small grants. €500 grant is a very complicated process*
- Keep grants process simple*
- No problem with C&V grants*
- Form Filling*
- Admin support- filling in grants*
- Once paperwork is submitted, it should be a 3-4 week deadline for a response*
- Why is the delay so significant in giving the money? applicants who have gone through the hoops completing 18 pages*
- Grants need to be more tiered- big delay*
- Faster turnaround time from project completion to payment*
- There is overlap in funding applications*
- Sligo Leader Partnership is very cumbersome to apply- they keep changing the goal posts*
- Leader is very bad for grants – the process is impossible*
- Leader- not achievable*
- Sense of Disillusionment about applying for grants*

Necessary expertise to apply
- Small monies available but the sector makes the most of the resources available*
- A lot of red tape allocated to drawing down grants*
- Professional voluntary organisations have advantage over smaller groups. Smaller groups don't have the level of expertise at their disposal*
- Support networks for grant applications*

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- Geographical spread of funding- Urban vs. Rural*
- Lack of community development support for funding applications*
- [the] Skilled application filler gets more money*
- Skilled application filler*

Unrealistic costs/ demands for Community sector organisations
- Professional fees*
- *Need more informal groups for folk to meet each other (befriend your neighbour) but paperwork for Garda vetting etc. is killing this type of initiative.*

Simplified Administration for Community and Voluntary Groups
- Grants are far too complex and demanding; need better, more up-to-date process.
- Encourage volunteering as a means of greater involvement in one's community.
- Less regulation burden on volunteers.
- Simplified Garda vetting to make volunteering easier.
- Volunteer vetting.

Supporting Inclusion
- Community preparation for including diversity.
- Support for marginalised and vulnerable; it is hard for them to integrate.
- Translation services to other languages for key documents e.g. Child First training.
- It's very hard to fit in if you live in Sligo and aren't born here. Groups like this help but there needs to be more of them.*
- Sligo needs to be more inclusive and accepting of difference.*
- Sligo Sanctuary Runners***
- Friendly people
- Some people are inclusive, especially those who volunteer with migrants but there is a lot of unintentional racism still around.*
- Would like Sligo to become stigma free – still feel like an outcast.*
- A stop to racism and secual abuse. Some of the younger women have been victims and don't feel safe walking through town on their own – it makes integrating even harder.*
- *Can be a closed mindset at times – hard for newcomers to integrate.*
- *Locals to be welcoming*
- *Encourage more integration of migrants*

Accessibility & Awareness
- Ramps for accessibility.
- Seats on footpaths.

- Chronic pain awareness. Wanting more knowledge of invisible illnesses and disabilities.*
- Ramps for accessibility need to be put in in all towns and villages.*

Education

- Better education around dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia and autism.
- Education of community on key issues – it is often too late by the time we hear about things.

Communities Working Together (incl. IT relations to town)

- Community gardens so people can learn to grow food.
- Co-operatively run community services; shop, post-office, health, café, etc.
- Shop local.
- Help each other*
- Visit the sick**/ lonely **
- More involvement in Sligo Tidy Towns*
- I think the IT is a bit removed from the community – feels separate. It would be good to do a project in the community – change the reputation of the IT – we have more to offer.*
- I have been here for years. Town ok but don't feel part of it. I can't see it being home. No connection built up. Only go into the shops/bars.*
- I wish the IT felt a bit more connected.*
- *Protect our volunteers and volunteering opportunities*
- *Support the voluntary sector who run so much in our communities keeping us connected and mentally well.*

Transport

Walking & Cycling

- Make footpaths for students to walk to school
- Make footpaths safe for students to walk to school **
- Take the route to town as a one-off project; make it more pleasant/ make it feel safe. At the minute students do not feel safe walking into town – especially when they reach the Mall where pubs are full and crowds on the street.*
- Cycle lanes are needed in country areas. For many people country roads and lanes are the only way to get exercise yet it is dangerous to try.*
- Make cycling safe for students to cycle to school**

Rural & out of town public transport

- Reliable rural transport bus networks.
- Limited transport for those living outside the town centre.*
- No public transport in the country areas.*/ improve public transport all over the County.**
- Not enough public transport around the County to areas and at times that help

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- you actually be part of things.
- More bus routes*
- Hard to visit friends and family if no transport exists. More should be put into this rather than all the roadworks for private cars.
- No way in and out of town.*
- Public transport needs to be improved.**
- Parking at IT a huge problem and nowhere nearby – not a lot of other options. Would use public transport but times don't suit.*
- No public transport so young people stay at home.*
- Quality of public transport -Bus Eireann puts bad buses on rural town routes.*
- Transport – rural bus stop amenities – closing down and suing public transport for social purposes becomes less available.*
- Hard to get to the IT without a car – against the environment and makes it out of reach.*
- Public transport is pretty poor. Hard to get around and visit friends etc. (youth)***
- *Lack of rural transport*

Public transport services
- Not enough buses & trains & they are too expensive, especially for families
- Trains and buses are very expensive, especially the train.*
- *Need adequate transport scheme especially for the elderly*

Car & car parking
- Lack of parking spaces and parking charges are expensive.*
- Parking on pavements in Sligo town needs to be stopped. It makes it impossible for wheelchairs and pushchairs to get past.**
- Parking fines if you are just 20 mins late – this puts people off shopping in own and stops you buying local which is what we are always asked to do.**
- Parking costs expensive.**/ reduce parking charges**/ parking concessions/ Over 55 reduced rate parking**
- More parking places.*/ better parking*
- Free parking to make the town more appealing**/ Free weekend parking to support local.**
- Provide elderly and those with mobility issues over 50 parking spaces around town.**
- Too expensive to run a car (tax, insurance, petrol, parking)
- *Wider car parking spaces*
- Insurance is a huge problem.*

Road infrastructure
- Decrease roadworks at work time.*
- Rural roads a problem. They are in bad condition and dangerous and makes it very intimidating for new and young drivers.*

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Transport network(s)
- Better transport connections*
- Better facilities – cars & bicycles *
- Transport infrastructure to our village*

Greener transport options
- Electric vehicle sharing.
- Volunteer "Uber type" community drivers (as in Kerry)
- More reasonably priced transport with an App. (like Uber)
- Expand Park & Ride Services*
- Map of recharging points for cars kept up to date*

Safety
- *Speed in residential areas*

Housing
- Variety of house types, e.g. to allow for down-sizing within the same area.
- Co housing (not co-living) to support an inclusive community of mixed income groups, improving wellbeing and counteracting isolation.
- Affordable and accessible houses to rent and buy, student lets, etc.
- *Lack of rental housing: (far from school, big commute, hard to get a better job)*
- More social housing availability. Private renting is too expensive and prohibitive. A better standard of accommodation, fit to be lived in; not damp or needing repair. Properly furnished with suitable items and equipment.
- Provide sheltered housing facilities in community settings.
- Too many sleeping on the street/ homeless.
- Too many homeless/ sleeping on the streets.
- Council to house the needy – take over all unoccupied houses in Sligo.*
- Abandoned buildings need to be put back in use. They need to be maintained and rented out or up for sale to encourage city living.*
- Policy development on derelict sites/ houses.*
- No nursing home.

Respectful community
- Sexual harassment and assault in bars and nightclubs is still common – and you are told to 'lighten up' if you challenge this.*
- Unwelcome comments and touching are becoming more commonplace, peers laugh it off and victims made to feel in the wrong.*
- Invite bar staff/ restaurants and nightclub venues to sign up for the Ask for Angela initiative where people who feel threatened feel that they have a safe place to go.*
- Less tolerance for unacceptable behaviours; shouldn't be just women who have to fight this.*

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Night-time activities, safety & alcohol

- Night-time culture when mixed with alcohol and substance abuse can be very intimidating in Sligo – all quite concentrated.*
- A night time venue that doesn't focus on alcohol.*
- A night time café, or something for the evenings and nights that doesn't involve alcohol and isn't too expensive. *
- More security at night needed on the streets*
- More Gardaí for security.
- More to do in town. Really unless you are going drinking there is not much to offer.*
- The scenery and nature is lovely but Sligo town itself is not that good to walk around. It's a bit scruffy looking in places and you wouldn't feel safe everywhere****
- Perception of lots of drugs in Sligo.*
- A bit scared about moving here. I have heard bad things about the town.*

Activities

- A bowling alley or something indoor that is also physically active.**
- Town needs to have more things going on – better activities.*
- Minimal opportunities for socialising unless drinking.*
- No activities to do – it's boring.
- Everything has a cost.
- We do the same thing every weekend – cinema etc.
- Sligo is a depressing place*/ lacking the excitement that a lot of other towns have*
- Town Is dead – no activity*

Shops & shopping

- There aren't a good selection of shops in Sligo Town. Too many coffee shops but very little of anything else. Also too many shops outside the centre of town, making it difficult for some people to get to.**
- (Council to organise) A car boot sale in Sligo to sell items to community.*
- Apart from Penneys there is nowhere to shop*
- No real shops – nothing to make you want to go in there.*
- Too many restaurants, not enough shops*
- Town is so derelict – nothing to make you want to come in. Some great shops on their own but the general experience is bad. (youth)***

| 1 NO POVERTY | 4 QUALITY EDUCATION | 5 GENDER EQUALITY | 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES | 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES |

Work, Economy and Resources

Money makes the world go around and we know that people need enough income to live! We know that how we earn that income and the type of work available is changing. Lots of the jobs that were common 20 years ago are gone, while many of the jobs that people do now were not even imagined then.

What are the main sources of work we have in this area? are they secure? what new opportunities are out there? Technology gives us some real opportunities for rural areas; creating real, good quality jobs, bringing income into an area – and where distance is no object. What other possibilities are there?

We also need to consider people who are not in paid work for whatever reason, maybe they are retired, or unemployed, or caring or have a disability. Are there programmes to help them to maintain their skills and learn new ones? To get involved in the community, along with their families?

For the economy to thrive we need good services and infrastructure; transport, broadband, education for all ages, shops, support for new businesses and old, and for new types of business and social enterprise, etc. What local resources and skills do we have? and how can they be managed sustainably?

All those consulted were asked how our communities can thrive economically, with good jobs, and supports for enterprise, business and for people not in work? What resources do we have and are they use effectively without causing harm to social and environmental sustainability?

Emerging themes under this heading:

- Vision for development (p.18)
- Community living (p.25)
- People involved in future planning

- Transport
  - Rail services
  - Park & ride
  - Public transport across the County
  - Parking (p.26)
  - Transport Network
  - Greener transport
- Tourism

- Infrastructure
- Business development support
- Support for those seeking/ in work, education or training (p.21)
- Training & education (p.19)
- Support for workers
- Agriculture & food
- Local economy (p.29)
- Valuing voluntary work
- Support for children
- National policy
- Local facilities

CONSULTATION INPUTS

Vision for development

- Building a "well" community to attract more employers and services.
- Movement from a growth-based economy which is unsustainable to a caring economy.
- Focus on strengths-based approach to development; what is there? what could we develop? And build a responsive community.
- Vibrant core/ urban centres with accessible, attractive and green public realms that are pedestrian centric.
- Develop green infrastructure which employs environmental scientists, ecologists, etc.
- Marine Centre / research centre focused on the sea life on our doorstep.
- Making the most of the Wild Atlantic Way to help the area to thrive economically; tourism, community activities/ projects.
- When you compare to places like Mayo and Galway Sligo is really falling behind. Would like to see a focus on creating a better economic future for us. (youth)
- *Achieve wider range of employment opportunities and wage opportunities (as on East coast)*
- *More job opportunities*
- *Scenery*
- *Investment must not spoil our natural resources*
- *Keep it small; we don't want to be overrun by tourists crowding out and polluting our amenities*

Community living

- Encourage people to live in small towns/ villages; redevelop original houses, encourage/ enhance small businesses where people can live above them.
- Use co-housing, co-working and co-learning model to have fully integrated communities with the very young to the elderly living together; handing down skills and trades, supporting neighbourhoods, sustainable communities, resource use, improved waste behaviour, etc.
- Affordable housing.
- Education and training on DIY; creating better spaces.

People involved in future planning

- Community based retirement planning and citizen assembly to discuss how we will develop new ideas to plan for retirement.
- It feels like our future (youth) is getting decided for us by people who don't understand us – and it is going to be us who lives with the mistakes****
- Groups like Comhairle na nÓg and Foroige are great – meet a lot of people and get to do interesting stuff - but not really sure how much we are listened to by the people in charge of the county ****
- *Local Government listens closely to local people. Less money spent on consultancy and more on actual growth.*

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Transport

Rail services

- Improved train services from Sligo and Longford every hour to facilitate commuting.
- More frequent Longford to Sligo trains.
- Reliable timetables.
- Address train infrastructure problems.
- More affordable fares.
- Trains and buses are very expensive, especially the train.*
- Western rail corridor extended to cover Donegal to Galway, including access to Knock airport.

Park & ride

- Park and ride schemes to use trains or other public transport.
- Expand Park and ride services*

Public transport across the County

- Have free inter-town County service e.g. facilitate towns (like Tubbercurry and Grange) with a dedicated link between village and town.
- Limited transport for those living outside the town centre. *
- *No public transport even a little distance from town*
- Need more bus routes throughout the County, including country areas, with improved buses.**
- Transport Infrastructure to our village*
- No public transport in country areas.*
- Public transport needs to be improved.*
- Public transport is pretty poor. Hard to get around and visit friends etc. (youth)***
- *Irregular & unreliable public transport*
- *evening buses to support night time events.*

Parking

- Lack of parking spaces and parking charges are expensive.*
- Parking costs are expensive.**/ Fines if you are just 20 mins later – puts people off shopping in town & stops you buying local which is what we are always asked to do.**
- *Cost of parking is a negative*
- Community Car Parks*
- Better Facilities-cars & bicycles*

Transport Network

- Better transport connections,*
- *Links to major cities, airports*

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Greener Transport
- Greenways development- link tourism*
- Map of recharging points for cars kept up to date*

Tourism
- *Seaweed baths, wellness activities and less known for stags/ hens*
- *Promote tourism*
- *Scenery to speak for itself – less reliance on W.B. Yeats to bring in visitors*
- *Not enough places to stay*
- *Locals with a "passport" get a reduction on return visits to tourism destinations, etc.*

Infrastructure
- County-wide fast, reliable broadband access.
- *High speed internet access, affordable*
- *More infrastructure*
- *Manage waste from food businesses*
- The cross-community benefits of high quality, reliable broadband services are widespread; enabling jobs and sustaining communities and activities in rural areas. It was felt that this infrastructure is important for choice and democracy, supporting remote working and increased activity across the County. It also represents opportunities for people with disabilities to engage and contribute in all aspects of life.

Business development support
- Market Sligo directly to CEOs with incentives.
- *Open to more businesses coming to town*
- *Encourage large retailers to come here and attract shoppers. It has a bad reputation as a town to shop in; 2 shopping centres are half-empty most of the time.*
- More affordable hot desks and business hubs in rural villages; to support remote workers and co-working.
- *Rents too high in Sligo – be reasonable and flexible to work with businesses to be harmonious with other needs*
- Affordable artisan/ arts workspaces, co-located to encourage collaboration.
- *Support for self-employed people who make our coffee, give us interesting hobbies, musicians, venues, etc.*
- *Jobs for the future, so our young people can stay in the place they are rooted*
- Localised currency based on models in Germany and elsewhere that could only be used in support of indigenous arts, crafts, goods and services which reduce carbon footprint and positively impact climate change.
- A place to cook. Introduce the Irish to their way of cooking. Maybe a café that they could run.*
- *5G when on boil notice for 2 years?*

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Support for those seeking/ in work, education or training

- Facilitate youth to enter the workforce without red tape.
- Better access to basic, hands-on work experience.
- Support for those who find access to education and work more challenging e.g. those with disabilities, autism, etc. Develop programmes that tap into their strengths.
- Look at Breaking the Cycle for and with families where employment and education is not a priority.
- Lack of employment opportunities unless you are highly skilled – even then it is hard for women.
- No job opportunities.
- *Jobs*
- *More & better jobs*
- More employment opportunities for women – it still seems only part time and low paid are the options.*
- More jobs. Some are very restricted to third level only and some of the women find it very difficult to be taken seriously. One lady had a job but they were cut back and people were laid off, she was the first to be let go even though she'd been there longer than some Irish workers. She felt this was due to her colour and background.**
- More jobs and less use of volunteers to take on everything community related.*
- Constant anxiety trying to find work to pay for studies. *
- Quality affordable childcare for parents who want to enter education/ training/ work.
- *Adequate childcare*
- From Sligo looking to get away. Nothing in the town. Other campuses I have been to seem a lot more lively in terms of local town e.g. Galway, Mayo.*
- *Arts poorly supported*
- *More creatives to show and make work; studios, hot desk studios, print and ceramic facilities, etc.*
- *Don't over commercialise scenery, like in Kerry – but expand business types and career diversification & attract & keep home grown talent*
- Finance issues.*

Training and education

- Relevant re-training options for people who need to change career.
- Better access to information on what is available and career guidance.
- Easier opportunities for training and education. It's hard to find information about courses and requirements. *
- Childcare for those wishing to do courses.*
- It can be worrying thinking about college – so much to think about and organise and so expensive (youth)**

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- Our futures are a bit bleak in terms of jobs – it doesn't look like we will be able to live in Sligo long term. (youth)**
- *Encourage innovation i.e. Sudbury School in county*
- *Expand education opportunities*

Support for workers
- Better childcare, more affordable, accessible.**
- Cost of childcare is prohibitive to many women getting involved in the community or in policy making**
- Better wages for women; have them paid the same as men are for the same jobs. Equality across the board.*
- Flexible working hours. Working from home if possible.*
- *Opportunities for remote working*

Agriculture and Food
- Better support (training and funding) for organic food production.
- Training for farmers to diversify their land use.
- Education on organic farming.
- A Sligo food branding initiative bringing together farmer – producer – retailer – restaurants (e.g. Fuchsia Branding style in West Cork
- Support and encourage the family farm model which is more sustainable.

Local Economy
- There aren't a good selection of shops in Sligo town. Too many coffee shops but very little of anything else. Also, too many shops outside the centre of town, making it difficult for some people to get to. *
- Apart from Penneys there is nowhere to shop.*
- No real shops – nothing to make you want to go in there.*
- Town is so derelict – nothing to make you want to come in. Some great shops on their own but the general experience is bad. (youth)***
- *Vacant shops*
- Restaurants too expensive for students.*/ too many restaurants – not enough shops*
- We do the same thing every weekend – cinema, etc.*
- Sligo is great for outdoors activities and sport – but there isn't much if you aren't into these things (youth)**
- Some kind of one day a week discount per IT student in shops/ restaurants – let us enjoy Sligo.*
- There isn't much to do without money around here, especially if the weather isn't good. Not many shops, no free indoor spaces, restaurants/coffee shops expensive for us. (youth)**

Valuing voluntary work

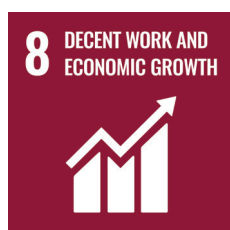- Give credit(s) to those who give i.e. volunteers.

Support for children

- Support for children and young people who are on the school roll but not attending or reaching their potential because of personal, mental, physical or family issues e.g. YESS Programme, Tubbercurry.
- Support for democratising education i.e. support for growth of Sligo's current democratic school so they can continue to support young people to thrive now and in the job market of the future. Also support training of other educational professionals in the concept of democratic education.

National policy

- Change the corporate tax to a regional system e.g. 22% in Dublin, 12% in Sligo; solves housing problem in Dublin and stops need to bring water from the Shannon to Dublin.

Local facilities

- There are no clean/ accessible public toilets in Sligo and this can deter people from coming into town.*
- Sligo libraries are outdated – they aren't a comfortable place to read or study properly. Sometimes this is hard at home as well – internet connection, noisy family etc (youth)***

1 NO POVERTY

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Participation, Democracy and Good Governance

How widespread is participation, volunteering, getting involved, "doing your bit" and encouraging others to do the same in Sligo? Does everyone here have a voice or a say in the decisions that affect them locally, as well as voting every 5 years? Are the views of all the different communities across Sligo heard and considered? and not just the ones that shout loudest or are in a so called "golden circle". It's not possible to please all of the people all of the time, but can we trust the way decisions are taken on our behalf by local government? The decisions on how money is spent? and how fair is it? Good Governance would mean that we can trust – all the way from the Dáil Éireann, to the Council, to our own group that runs a lotto, or a Churchgate collection, or a table quiz.

But does this accountability mean that we are drowning in paperwork and people are put off getting involved in committees or joining community groups? What do we need to restore trust in our charities and voluntary organisations, and keep them vibrant?

Everyone who engaged in a consultation was asked what is necessary to ensure that our local government structures support the wellbeing of our community for this and future generations? What do we need to ensure that we have a voice in the decisions that affect us, and that all voices are being heard? And that we can get involved and contribute within our communities?

Emerging themes under this heading:

- Local Authority (p.32)
    - Elected representatives (p.32)
    - Consultation & participation
    - Planning
    - Services
    - Training (p.33)
- Community & voluntary groups
    - Governance & Red Tape
        - Support for community & voluntary groups
        - Insurance
        - Risk assessment
        - Garda vetting
        - GDPR
    - Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Recruiting volunteers (p.35)
- Community directory
- Community facilities
- Grants & funding
    - Availability
    - LEADER
    - Application process
    - Funding (p.35)
- Youth
- Education
- Support for citizens
- Inclusive
- National & EU level (p37)
- Security

Local Authority
- The Local Authority requires corporate pride.
- Social contract between the people and the Council.
- Local Authority need to communicate its decisions to all.
- More transparency with the Council in everything.
- Local government should include all state agency and should be accountable.
- Access to democratic decision-making – relevant communications via the Internet.
- Lack of Local Authority communication with other government departments.
- Training for customer service in the public sector.
- Groups like Comhairle na nÓg and Foroige are great – meet a lot of people and get to do interesting stuff - but not really sure how much we are listened to by the people in charge of the county ****
- We don't feel connected at all really to politicians or local council. There is a huge generational gap. (youth)

Elected Representatives
- Move the Councillors' meetings.
- Trust in and transparency of elected representatives including non-elected people in responsible positions.
- Cost of childcare is prohibitive to many women getting involved in the community or in policy making**
- More women in power and making decisions on behalf of women.*
- It feels like our future (youth) is getting decided for us by people who don't understand us – and it is going to be us who lives with the mistakes****

Consultation and Participation
- Everyone must have a voice.
- Consultation at local village community level is hardwired into the psyche of people.
- Citizen assembly for Sligo would be real participation in democracy.
- Provide information about events.*
- *Poor communication by Council – e.g. water treatment plant and bike park*
- *Local Authority listen closely to local community – less money spent on consultants and more on projects.*
- it is vital that engagement with groups representing people with disabilities by all groups and agencies such as the County Council is not tokenistic but leads to concrete action and financial investment, with a clear recognition of the benefits for wider society from this.

Planning
- Build on mini plan so wellbeing and good governance consultation – leading to enhanced mini place which can be used as a tool for funding.
- There aren't a good selection of shops in Sligo town. Too many coffee shops but very little of anything else. Also too many shops outside the centre of town,

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making it difficult for some people to get to.**

- Provide seats on footpaths so that people are comfortable walking around and have somewhere to rest if they get tired. Makes town a more attractive place.
- Council to take over all unoccupied houses in Sligo.*
- Decrease [permission for] roadworks at work times.*
- Take the route to town as a one off project- make it more pleasant / make it feel safe. At the minute students do not feel safe walking into town – especially when they reach the Mall where pubs are full and crowds on the street.***
- Town is so derelict – nothing to make you want to come in. Some great shops on their own but the general experience is bad. (youth)***
- Sligo is great for outdoors activities and sport – but there isn't much if you aren't into these things (youth)**

Services

- Parking on pavements in Sligo town needs to be stopped. It makes it impossible for wheelchairs and pushchairs to get past.**
- Parking fines are excessive & deterring people from shopping in Sligo town.**/ provide concessions (e.g. over 55s)/ free parking**
- Provide clean, accessible public toilets in Sligo town.**
- Provide more public meeting rooms, There should be a better system for groups to be able to use public meeting rooms – we pay for them.*
- Sligo libraries are outdated – they aren't a comfortable place to read or study properly. Sometimes this is hard at home as well – internet connection, noisy family etc (youth)***
- Public transport is pretty poor. Hard to get around and visit friends etc. (youth)****

Training

- *Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for all leaders and clerical officers)…???*

Community and Voluntary Groups

Governance & Red Tape

- Community activity is meant to be good for wellbeing – but with all the red tape and hoops to jump through it has actually begun to cause more stress and many are leaving as a result. [We] Know there was bad practise with some groups but feel we are all being punished as a result – taking all the goodwill out of community activity*
- Administration overload; no time to enjoy.
- Insurance and new governance requirements is closing groups.
- Less red tape and bureaucracy.
  Support for community & voluntary groups
- Governance/accounts/red tape- we need support with funding applications and cash flow*

- We need community development support workers – more hands on support for community groups – if you don't fit in the category of 'vulnerable' then it is hard to get help.*
- We need a special link person for smaller community groups to mentor and support.*

Insurance
- Insurance is challenging*
- Insurance*
- Insurance costs*
- Rising cost of insurance*
- Insurance costs*
- Good insurance rates*
- Paperwork and insurance is an issue*
- I suggest insurance comes under Sligo Co Co insurance*
- Insurance and risk- lobby for small organisations to get cover*

Risk assessment
- Be Smart Tool- to create Risk Assessment*
- Besmart.ie- Risk assessment*

Garda vetting
- Garda vetting for multiple organisations*
- There is pressure on voluntary groups- GDPR & Child Protection etc*
- Non transference of garda vetting*
- Single card log in for garda vetting*
- Single card garda vetting*

GDPR
- GDPR- Texting and garda vetting is very slow*
- GDPR*

Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Communication from PPN – clarify when rules change.*
- We need regular feedback with the Secretariat and be able to input/ get feedback on SPCs.*
- We need evenings meetings and we would like to meet with secretariat and give feedback*
- Less acronyms.*/ Don't use PPN as excludes people – whole title is not very engaging*
- Acronyms*
- From workshop no feedback from PPN.

Recruiting volunteers
- A big challenge is the age of people coming forward. Where are the youth?

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Organisations have not kept up to date with how to engage and communicate with young people.*
- We need young blood.*
- It is difficult to get young people *
- Young people emigrating or don't want to engage in old fashioned processes.*
- Young people won't work for nothing.*
- Hard to get new directors for boards.*
- Generational transfer of community groups…??
- Same people involved in groups all the time.*
- Short video communications for future generations – for greater guidance….??
- People to become more involved.

Community directory
- We need a community directory- GDPR Check and contact numbers*
- Community directory should have names and contact details.*

Community facilities
- Rooms free for meetings.*
- We need rooms*
- youth organisations with community facilities*
- Time/ investment*

Grants & Funding
Availability
- Allocate more funding*
- Applying for funding in time to be then told "no money" or we "ran out of money"*
- We do a lot with very little financial support – and the grant process is onerous.*
- Small monies available but the sector makes the most of the resources available*
- Reduce the level of matched funding requirements for the community groups*
- Geographical spread of funding- Urban vs. Rural*
- Keep it simple regarding the spread of money*
- Investment in Invisible Disabilities*
- Awareness- invisible disability- 3 to 4 week grant*
- Grants need to be more tiered- big delay*
- Number of actual organisations- funding opportunities*

LEADER
- Leader is very bad for grants – the process is impossible*
- Much slower since Sligo Co Co took over Partnership*
- Sligo Leader Partnership is very cumbersome to apply- they keep changing the

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goal posts*

Application process
- A lot of red tape allocated to drawing down grants*
- Professional voluntary organisations have advantage over smaller groups. Smaller groups don't have the level of expertise at their disposal*
- Skilled application filler gets more money*
- Admin support- filling in grants*
- Lack of community development support for funding applications*
- Form Filling*
- Support networks for grant applications*
- Cumbersome to apply for grants*
- We need simplified application process*
- We need to simplify thing regarding applications and small grants. €500 grant is a very complicated process*
- Keep grants process simple*
- Structure the grants system, less overlap between the applications*
- There is overlap in funding applications*
- Once paperwork is submitted, it should be a 3-4 week deadline for a response*
- Faster turnaround time from project completion to payment*
- Long wait for grants – groups do not often have money up front*
- Why is the delay so significant in giving the money? applicants who have gone through the hoops completing 18 pages*
- Front loading of grants*
- Frontload of grants*
- It is too restrictive. It is not flexible. You need to remember we are all volunteers. We need flexible funding. *

Funding
- Lack of finance *
- Funding is a challenge*
- Professional fees*

Youth
- Local youth participation guidelines to be used by statutory agencies (on CYPSC website)
- Comhairle n nÓg working well.

Education
- Teach awareness of decision making to all children.

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- Teach collective decision-making in school to all children.
- Run our schools in a democratic way. One person – one vote; young people actually have a say.
- Constant anxiety trying to find work to pay for studies.**

Support for citizens

- Wellbeing, housing, mental health, education, work, etc. need to be planned for and integrated *together*.
- More support for groups/ people on the margins.

Inclusive

- Some people are inclusive, especially those who volunteer with migrants but there is a lot of unintentional racism still around.*

National and EU Level

- The EU is disconnected with Ireland. So every decision should be submitted to a citizen assembly.
- Decentralise the cabinet to the regions.

Security

- More Gardaí for security*
- The scenery and nature is lovely but Sligo town itself is not that good to walk around. It's a bit scruffy looking in places and you wouldn't feel safe everywhere****

Culture, Values and Meaning

This heading explores the things that make us who we are? What identifies us as a community? Our heritage and our history, our past and our present. What brings us together? What do we do when we gather; sport, music, drama, arts and crafts, spirituality, cards, dance, food, etc. It might be the cup of tea and the chat, the sociable pint, the theatre and drama, the music and song, the neighbourliness that happens when there is a crisis.   What is it about our communities that emigrants will get tearful about in the pubs of New York or Sydney?   How will this look in the years to come? How would we want it to look?

All those that participated in consultations were asked what is needed to ensure that everyone feels, and actually is, included and valued, and that our different values and cultures are respected and nurtured? What are the important parts of our culture that we want to hand on to future generations?

Emerging themes under this heading:

CONSULTATION INPUTS

Inclusive, Multicultural Community
- What about a positive scheme to integrate people?
- Supported inclusive volunteerism across cultures/ ages.
- Sligo needs to be more inclusive and accepting of difference.*
- That people from other cultures continue to be included in Sligo.
- It's very hard to fit in if you live in Sligo and aren't born here. Groups like this help but there needs to be more of them.*
- Would like Sligo to become stigma free – still feel like an outcast.*
- Celebrating similarities as well as difference.
- People from other cultures can bring something here; mythology, etc.
- Challenging fake news and fear about other communities.
- Regular meetings for women including movie nights, nutrition advice, meals out. A way to make friends. It can be very difficult to join existing groups and activities and very hard to engage with organisations who never take into

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account differences.*
- Better cultural services – one stop shop to get information about learning English and up-skilling those who attend.
- *More inclusive*
- *Encourage more integration of migrants**
- Recognise and preserve the positives of our church communities.

Planning for Communities
- Mixed co-housing development including different cultures, ages, etc.
- Space for mixed use; ground floors that are commercial units that are affordable and multi-purpose, accommodation above, etc.
- Rural regeneration to bring life into small communities.
- Walk from IT to town is dark and depressing. The route needs improvement. There is very poor lighting along the route especially at the hill at the hospital.**
- It feels like our future (youth) is getting decided for us by people who don't understand us – and it is going to be us who lives with the mistakes****

Putting People First
- Job swaps for public sector workers to walk in the shoes of other agencies/ people to gain an insight.
- Empathy and compassion training in large organisations in Sligo.
- Person-centred approach in agencies.
- Meaningful engagement.

Landscape, History and Heritage
- Promote the positives of our landscape.
- Preserve, promote and protect the landscape, archaeological sites, etc.
- Working with Sligo Institute of Technology to understand more of Sligo's history in a modern context.

Cultural Facilities
- Cultural facilities are maintained and developed e.g. theatres, etc.
- Develop museums; Armada, Sligo town, Sligo gaol, etc.
- *Affordable*
- *Protect and grow the arts scene*

Arts

- Central point/ site/ portal to pull together all the Sligo Happenings.
- Expand dance as a social outlet in rural communities, local halls, etc. and intergenerational too.
- Promoting Sligo's written and visual arts scene.
- Develop youth theatre and music generation; north Sligo, Tubbercurry, etc. not just Sligo town.
- More murals and public art that means something.
- *Support for arts*
- *More studio spaces & facilities*
- *Understand the power of the arts to attract tourism*
- *Individuals (artists) ignored in favour of (poor) festivals*

Youth

- Involving youth in drama, music, volunteering, etc.
- Communication skills and learning to co-operate amongst young people.
- Citizen's Assembly at local level for young people.
- That we value and respect in a "real" way children's voices. (e.g. democratic schools)
- More things for younger people to do.*
- Nothing to do for our young people.*
- Town is dead after 5pm.*

Reducing Isolation

- Community cafés (use community halls) to reduce isolation across ages, cultures, etc.
- Value of communication between people; from [call] into your neighbour scheme.
- Encourage technology free zones for community connections.
- Provide information on events.*
- I think the IT is a bit removed from the community – feels separate. It would be good to do a project in community to change rep of IT, we have more to offer.*
- Minimal opportunities for socialising unless drinking.*
- I have been here for years. Town is ok but I don't feel part of it. I can't see it being home. No connection is built up. Only go to the shops/bars.*
- I wish the IT felt a bit more connected.*
- I'm a bit worried that I might be bored on campus and seems a long way to get into the main bit of town and I have heard there is not much happening except for drink.**

Supportive & Caring Place to Live
- Still not enough recognition of mental health as an 'illness' – still a lot of stigma about it being 'in your head', 'get over it' and far more focus on crisis response than actual prevention by creating places to live that are supportive.**
- Would be a bit unsure as to how bad I would need to feel to talk to anyone – do I just get over it? I don't want to be seen as that weird person.**
- Lack of inclusion; it's hard to be able to fit in. Not many things to get involved in and difficult to find out what's on or what agencies are out there. For example, some of the coffee morning attendees go to an occupational therapy group but the majority had never heard of this group. So, can all those going through mental health issues be given the same information? Or could there be a department who oversees these issues?**
- Parking on pavements in Sligo town needs to be stopped. It makes it impossible for wheelchairs and pushchairs to get past.**

Value and Support for Older People
- Respect for the elderly and vulnerable; meals on wheels, etc.
- Supported living for the older generation; keeping them visible, support intergenerational interactions, not forgotten in homes!

Equal society
- No dedicate support for women – a lot of judgement
- More jobs. Some are very restricted to third level only and some of the women find it very difficult to be taken seriously. One lady had a job but there were cut back and people were laid off, she was the first to be let go even though she'd been there longer than some Irish workers. She felt this was due to her colour and background.**

Value Volunteering
- Ways to value the contribution of volunteers.
- People to become more involved.*
- Help each other*
- Help the sick**/ lonely**

Safety and Security
- Community Alert schemes

Night time culture
- Night time culture when mixed with alcohol and substance abuse can be very intimidating in Sligo – all quite concentrated.*

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- A night time café or something for the evenings and nights that doesn't involve alcohol and isn't too expensive.*
- A night time venue that doesn't focus on alcohol. *
- Lots of drinking and drugs.
- Sexual harassment and assault in bars and nightclubs is still common – and you are told to 'lighten up' if you challenge this.*
- Unwelcome comments and touching are becoming more commonplace, peers laugh it off and victims are made to feel in the wrong.*
- Invite bar staff/ restaurants and nightclub venues to sign up for Ask for Angela initiative where people who feel threatened feel that they have a safe place to go.*

Zero tolerance
- Less tolerance for unacceptable behaviour – shouldn't be just women who have to fight this.*
- A stop to racisms and sexual abuse . Some of the younger women have bene victims and don't feel safe walking through town on their own – it makes integrating even harder.*

Safe spaces
- Make cycling and walking safe for students travelling to school.*
- Take the route to town as a one-off project – make it more pleasant/ make it feel safe. At the minute students do not feel safe walking into town – especially when they reach the Mapp where pubs are full and crowds on the street.***

Improved reputation & appearance
- Not a great reputation.*/ rough town, It's where you go to get wasted. This puts a lot of people off coming here. Parents & students would be worried.*
- Sometimes I don't want to say I go to college here as it has a bad reputation with town people for drinking, etc.*
- Perception of lots of drugs in Sligo.*
- A bit scared about moving here. I have heard bad things about the town.*
- Sligo is a depressing place*/ lacking the excitement that a lot of other towns has*
- The scenery and nature is lovely but Sligo town itself is not that good to walk around. It's a bit scruffy looking in places and you wouldn't feel safe everywhere****

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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Health (Physical and Mental)

Being healthy is more than not being sick, it's about being safe and secure, it's about being able to have good clean food, to be able to get out and about. This heading asks us to think about all the aspects of our lives that allow us to live healthily and well. We know that getting out and about and taking exercise all helps not just our physical but also our mental health, as does having people you can talk to and a place you belong, and space to relax and be calm. But our health can't always be perfect, and sometimes we do need to be able to get professional help. We can't have a hospital at every crossroads, so what makes sense to build a healthy community? What would it look like?

All those consulted were asked how can all members of our community enjoy the best possible physical and mental health? What about people with special needs, older people and carers?

Emerging themes under this heading:

- Be the best we can be (p.43)
- Health services
  - Locally available
  - Cultural awareness (p.44)
  - Women's health
- Mental health services
  - Services for youth
  - Access to services as needed
  - Recognition & inclusion
- Community planning & housing

- Community initiatives (p.45)
- Accessibility
- Transport
- Support for youth
- Wellbeing in Schools
- Education & information
- Addiction & rehabilitation
- Carers
- Recreation (p.47)
- Safety

CONSULTATION INPUTS

Being the best we can be
- A community where success is based on the health of the community rather than our response to ill health.

Health Services
- Better healthcare that is more accessible.
- The health care system needs a total revamp.
- Long waiting lists
- Very expensive if you don't have a medical card. Some of the group find it cheaper to fly to their birth country to access health care.
- More training for doctors and consultants and actual jobs at the end of training.

- Better, free healthcare for all members of society. Cut down on waiting lists and waiting times. Access to all medical needs, including mental health.*
- *Long waiting lists*
- *Like 3rd world (or worse)*
- *Improve services*
- Develop a social prescribing scheme.

Locally available services

- Responsive, integrated health services based in community centres, fully equipped and staffed to meet population needs.
- A broad range of primary health car services localised to villages and towns e.g. X-rays, as opposed to heading to Sligo Hospital.
- Health centres to include various disciplines and holistic care and alternative therapies; doctor, dentist, acupuncture, etc.
- More medical centres with X-ray, MRI, breast check, etc.
- No Caredoc facility outside Sligo town
- (A family planning centre, free for all to attend. Below)*

Cultural awareness

- Having people in the healthcare system who understand the migrant background beliefs, etc. Who the woman can feel comfortable dealing with.

Women's Health

- A women's health centre in Sligo.
- Universal access to reproductive health and rights.
- Free cervical checks for women or all ages – no dedicated health service for women.*
- A family planning centre, free for all to attend.*
- No women's health centre in Sligo*

Mental Health Services

Services for youth

- Mental health and wellbeing service across the County for young people; reference youth mental health initiative "Mind your Head".
- *Lack of CAMHs service in region*

  (Free GP care for under 18yrs was proposed but was not agreed.)

Access to services as needed

- There are long waiting issues and the service is particularly bad for those waiting for mental health appointments. Some waiting for counselling are not referred unless they agree to be on medication first. A lack of empathy from those in the mental health services, too much emphasis on things that have

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worked previously for other people, rather than looking at the person as an individual.

Recognition & inclusion

- Still not enough recognition of mental health as an 'illness'. Still a lot of stigma about it being 'in your head', 'get over it' and far more focus on crisis response than actual prevention by creating places to live that are supportive.**

- Lack of inclusion, it's hard to be able to fit in. Not many things to get involved in and difficult to find out what's on or what agencies are out there. For example, some of the coffee morning attendees go to an occupational therapy group but the majority had never heard of this group. So, can all those going through mental health issues be given the same information? Or could there be a department who oversees these issues?**

- Would be a bit unsure as to how bad I would need to feel to talk to anyone – do I just get over it? I don't want to be seen as that weird person.**

- (Access to all medical needs, including mental health -above)*

- *Combat loneliness*

- For everyone in the community, recent experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for us to come together, across the generations, to learn from one another and appreciate one another. This is extremely important for mental health and reducing isolation, and needs to be encouraged and supported.

Community Planning and Housing

- Incorporate de-congregated communities into local community.

- Effective co-housing, with people living <u>near</u> others. Using future proofed building design that creates the opportunity for adaption or to sell the empty nest and live (better) but in the same community. This leads to less depression and mental health issues and provides supports from other residents.

- *Access to housing as needed*

Community Initiatives

- Drop into your neighbours scheme.

- Visit the sick.**

- Visit the lonely**

- Groups such as Havin' a Laugh, who make you feel welcome.*

Accessibility

- Disability audit on public spaces and public accessed spaces.

- Fully accessible, inclusive, community where all aspects of life are addressed and supported.

- Safe, pedestrian-centric communities for all ages and abilities.

Transport

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- Expansion of Local Link and rural lift services but geographically and frequency of services/ scheduling.
- Free, responsive transport to connect people with services.
- Make footpaths for students to walk to school**
- Make cycling safe for students to cycle to school**

Support for youth
- Mental health is a huge issue for people our age (youth)- it feels impossible to switch off and there is constant pressure – FOMO. We do know social media isn't good for you all the time but really hard to not keep looking.**
- It can be worrying thinking about college – so much to think about and organise and so expensive (youth)**

Wellbeing in Schools
- Freedom of movement (physical health) and choice (mental health) in all schools.
- Develop a centre of excellence in Sligo's democratic school to enable training and understanding and wide outreach to children in the community. Choice is linked to positive mental health.

Education and Information
- Education re. wellbeing, nutrition, physical and mental health, starting at school level and extending throughout our life cycle.
- Education of community on key issues – it is often too late by the time we hear about things.*
- More anti-bullying and mindfulness workshops in schools.
- Chronic pain awareness. Wanting more knowledge of invisible illnesses and disabilities.*
- More information on the services available and contact numbers needs to be provided, for example for the Samaritans, acupuncture treatment, in museums, libraries and hubs like the Centre for Independent Living in Sligo.

Addiction and Rehabilitation
- Drugs and drink an issue.
- Support for return to work after injury/ accident

Carers

- Respite for carers.
- Recognition of all carers do.

Recreation
- More interlinked cycling/ walking/ recreational insfrastructure.
- *Open space and sport for north of Sligo town. All are linked in the one area around the sport ???? at C....?*
- A bowling alley or something indoor that is also physically active.*

Safety
- Invite bar staff/ restaurants and nightclub venues to sign up for the Ask for Angela initiative where people who feel threatened feel that they have a safe place to go.**

| 1 NO POVERTY | 2 ZERO HUNGER | 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION |

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Environment and Sustainability

If you live in a poor environment, everything else suffers. Environment is not just nature and wildlife and waterways (though they are very important), it's also our buildings and streets and towns, our housing. This heading aims to get us thinking about how we manage our natural resources, so that we leave enough for the generations to come. We hear a lot about climate change, and how it is the cause of a lot of the extreme weather we have had. The fact is that we are going to have to change the way we live; moving to renewable energy, making less waste and using less resources to survive in the long term. How do we plan for this in a way that sustains the communities?

All those involved in consultations were asked about how we value our natural environment and our man-made heritage? What can be done to conserve, protect and restore these? How can we interact with the environment in a sustainable way and hand it on to the next generation in a better state?

Emerging themes under this heading:

- Ambition   (p.49)
- Attitudes
- Wastes
- Reduce

  - Recycle   (p 49)
  - Management
  - Planning
- Community facilities
  - Design & protection
  - Reuse & maintenance of buildings
    - Sligo town   (p.51)
    - Other parts of the County
    - Rural areas
    - Joined up thinking
- Historic sites
- Transport
- Cycling & walking

- Public transport   (p.52)
- Cars & parking
- Greener transport options
- Transport & access for people with disabilities
- Energy   (p.55)
- Minding nature & resources   (p.55)
  - Water
  - Biodiversity
  - Landscape
- Valuing our environment
- Scenery & access to the outdoors
  - Walking & cycling
  - Activities
  - Activities for youth
- Work & business
- Community action   (p.56)
- Education & consultation
- Other

CONSULTATION INPUTS

Ambition
- Make Sligo the most environmentally friendly town in Ireland *
- We are more and more concerned about the environment – it feels like people don't care because it won't affect them directly so nobody is really committing to anything here and it will be up to us. (youth)

Attitudes
- Respect for property owners by visitors.
- Respect for visitors by property owners.
- People to be responsible for cleaning up after themselves and their pets; leave zero footprint.

Waste

Reduce
- Zero waste society; manage our waste production to reduce this rather than focus on recycling.
- Sligo to be the first County in Ireland to ban excess food packaging.
- Reduce the use of plastics.
- Reduce plastic waste by bringing back public drinking water fountains.
- Sort "wet" from "dry" waste, eliminate "wet" waste (FWD and compost to produce biogas), then focus attention on reducing "dry" waste, resulting in less weight and carbon dioxide from garbage trucks.
- (Council) run car boot sale in Sligo to sell items to community*
- Promote drinking tap water & provide refill signs to refill water bottles.*

Recycle
- Recycling facilities in towns and villages (no bins for plastic barrels at present for example).
- Free and expanded recycling facilities.
- Have a monetary return service for recycling; the European model where young people get money back for cans, bottles, etc.
- Recycle facilities in towns and villages have no bins for plastic barrels for example. No recycling programme was ever introduced for South Sligo, even though people have been forced to drink bottled water for 2 years because the tap water is not fit for consumption.
- Better recycling.
- Better recycling processes in town and county.
- Community education on recycling.
- Transparency on where recycling is going.

Management
- Design to avoid illegal dumping.
- Improved and more accessible waste management, more locally based and 7 days/week.
- Bins on the street.
- Town needs to be cleaned up – depressing to go into.
- Litter along country roads or pavements represents an obstacle for people in power wheelchairs, who may be unable to lift or move the rubbish themselves and who find their way blocked. A similar situation arises where bags of waste are left out for collection effectively block sidewalks and make them impassable for wheelchairs. This must be addressed to enable access by people with restricted mobility.
- *Dog fouling*

Planning
- *Planning permission*

Community Facilities
- Ramps for accessibility need to be put in in all towns and villages.**
- Seats on public footpaths so that people feel comfortable and have somewhere to rest if they get tired walking in town. Make town more pleasant place to be.**
- Bins on streets – but monitored to make sure not abused.*
- Provide more, clean and accessible public toilet facilities.*
- Clear ivy and bushes blocking footpaths.
- Need more footpaths around towns and make existing ones safe.
- Take the route to town as a one off project – make it more pleasant/ make it feel safe. At the minute students do not feel safe walking into town -especially when they reach the Mall where pubs are full and crowds on the street.***
- *Less pointless bureaucracy – like cutting down trees before building*

Design and Protection
- Harmonious built society with old and new.
  Re-use & maintenance of buildings
- Re-use of existing structures instead of new builds.
- Abandoned buildings need to be put back in use. They need to be maintained and rented out or up for sale to encourage in city living.*
- Investment to restore old buildings of Sligo.
- *Old buildings add a lot of character to the town but many are in a terrible state of disrepair. Make it easier to develop these as houses/ businesses.*
- *Provide money for urban regeneration & renovate beautiful old houses & steets. This revitalises the town & urban life & encourages tourism.*

Sligo town
- Sligo town is tired and depressing; don't need more cafés for tourists, need more core retail for locals.
- *Protect town centre as nice amenity for people to wander around – pedestrianise*
- Town is so derelict – nothing to make you want to come in. Some great shops on their own but the general experience is bad. (youth)***
- Greener (linked) streetscapes and urban cores; on-street trees, shrubs and green space.
- County is lovely but the town is depressing.
- Town needs to have more things going on -better activities.*
- Nothing to make you want to spend more time here.
- No public indoor space for us to enjoy.
- Purpose built Sligo Family Resource Centre, perhaps in the Connaghton Road car park to allow them adequately deal with the needs of the most vulnerable groups in Sligo.*
- *More trees, greenery*
- *Regenerate the town*

Other parts of the county
- Town/ village-based development to strengthen communities/ services.

Rural areas
- *Protect rural environment from too much development*
- *Protect landscape*
- Fewer signs in sensitive areas.
- *Protect seaside villages & provide transport to them*
- *Roads need upgrading but it's a shame so much devastation was done along the N4*
- *Traffic speed*

Joined up thinking
- Preserving the landscape and making it accessible while respecting those who own and maintain it.

Historic Sites
- Preserve and protect heritage sites, organise conducted tour guides system to aid such locations.

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- Listed buildings review; many properties are not looked after because of limitations/ expense of "listed" structure status when they do not necessarily meet the criteria.

- *Protect archaeology*

Transport

- Priority to sustainable types of transport.

<u>Cycling & walking</u>

- Proper cycle paths kept and maintained.

- Pedestrian / cycling focused communities.

- Cycle lanes are needed in country areas – for many people country roads and lanes are the only way to get exercise yet it is dangerous to try.*

- Make cycling safe for students to cycle to school.**

- Make footpaths for students to walk to school**

- Walk from IT to town – I don't like doing it alone – dark and depressing.*/ walk from IT to town is dark and depressing. The route needs improvement. There is very poor lighting along the route especially at the hill at the hospital.**

- Greenways development- link tourism*

- *Collaney Bike trail grand example*

<u>Public transport</u>

- Public transport is pretty poor. Hard to get around and visit friends etc. (youth)****

- Improve bus services throughout the county and quality of vehicles.**

- Better transport connections **

- Public transport needs to be improved.**

- No public transport so young people stay at home.*

- Parking at IT a huge problem and nowhere nearby = not a lot of other options. Would use public transport but times don't suit.*

- Transport- rural bus stop amenities- closing down and using public transport for social purposes is becoming less available*

- Transport Infrastructure to our village*

<u>Cars & parking</u>

- More parking places.*

- Free parking/ reduced cost/ concessions to make town more appealing.**

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- Provide parking for over 55s with mobility issues around town.*

- Decrease road works at work time.*

- Really hard to get to – the college feels a bit separate to the town.*No way in or out of town*

- Hard to get to IT without a car – against environment and makes it out of reach.*

- Rural roads a problem. They are in a bad condition and dangerous and makes it very intimidating for new or young drivers.*

- Insurance is a big problem.*

- Community Car Parks*

- Better Facilities-cars & bicycles*

- *Speed*

- *Safety*

- *Narrows on bends*

Greener transport options
- Expand Park and ride services*

- Map of recharging points for cars kept up to date*

- *Need available electric car charging points*

Transport and access for people with disabilities *(also included under Social & Community Development)*

Being able to access places indoors or outdoors, and activities that they want to take part in, when they want is taken for granted by most people. People in wheelchairs, of which there are different types, must plan ahead and cannot confidently assume that access will be possible for them. This creates work in advance to find out if access is available, to plan journeys and activities, leaving nothing to chance. There is also always the risk that circumstances will change; some new obstacle appear on a narrow pavement that disrupts a planned outing or activity. The challenges involved generally mean more limited choices for people using wheelchairs; to reach destinations, access spaces and buildings, and so on.

Transport:

Accessible community transport, particularly across rural areas, to enable access services in the city is essential to address isolation. For clients that do not drive themselves, they have to rely on others to provide transport where there is no suitable public transport. This has a huge impact on people's ability to make their own choices about where and when they travel. It was stressed that accessible transport services across the West of Ireland would generate a positive impact for the wide community and economy (for example tourism).

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At present bus services are poor and vehicles are generally not appropriate for wheelchair users. An example was given of Expressway service where the buses are accessible but require the paths and curbs to be adapted to function and enable wheelchair users to board via the lifts. Bus Eireann has an agreement with the Local Authority to make these adaptations but the work has not been carried out. This means that the buses cannot be accessed by people using wheelchairs. [*I missed the reference Clare gave dated 2016*]

Parking:

For wheelchair users travelling in cars it was pointed out that parking for disabled drivers is often located at a significant distance from shops and services, which exacerbates the problems of navigating pavements and the route from the parking to the destination and shows no appreciation for the challenges of trying to carry an significant purchases. If cars are parked in order to enable people with mobility issues access to services, but not strictly in accordance with parking regulations, they are ticketed despite displaying a blue badge.

Public spaces – safe and accessible:

Challenges for people in wheelchairs and with mobility difficulties to navigate towns and villages are not well understood by others, for example the problems presented by broken pavements, or steep slopes/hills that have to be avoided. Provision that is made, such as dropped kerbs, are often not consistent or joined up i.e. with a corresponding dropped kerb across the street. It is essential that pavements are made accessible and safe for users. There appears to be no understanding amongst those responsible for design and maintenance of public spaces of the dangers for those using wheelchairs or will mobility difficulties. One example is the provision of parking spaces for people with disabilities on streets on hills in Sligo which it is hazardous or impossible for people in wheelchairs to use. Another is problem of certain textures of pavements and the changes from one material type to another, uneven surfaces and pot holes, for people will visual impairment and mobility issues.

It was suggested that a group of people with a range of different disabilities could be invited to work with local engineers to develop their appreciation of the challenges faced by people with mobility difficulties, and to ensure funds available are used wisely to maximise accessibility. An example of where such a group did a walk around with the town engineer in Carrick on Shannon was given.

The IWA has recently published revised access guidelines for engineers and it is recommended that this become required reading and reference for Local Authorities and developers.

Litter management:

Litter creates a real impediment for access by people with mobility issues and needs to be eradicated. (see 3.16 below).

Energy
- Community energy projects; village windmill, solar PV field.
- Local/ community green energy schemes and advice, support and funds for these.
- Improve quality of fuels being burned in estates.

Minding Nature and Resources
- Protect/ safeguard Sligo's landscape and natural resources.
- *Protect natural assets*
- *Stop rubbish/ pollution*

Water
- Excellent water quality for drinking, in lakes and the sea.
- *Clean water/ potable**
- Address air pollution in urban areas.

Biodiversity
- Reforestation with native woodland.
- Encourage restoration of native plants.
- Rewilding of derelict and unused areas.
- Incentivise famers to practise biodiversity through grants, providing information on how to do it (possible with study option available at Sligo IT).
- *Protect landscape & wildlife*
- *Conserve wildlife*
- *Native trees*
- *Protect our environment*

Landscape
- *Keep it unspoilt*
- *Protect landscape*

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Valuing our environment

- Green / sustainable requirement for grant funding.

- What is the environmental saving? Put a monetary value of it.

- Recognition and awards ceremony for people who offer an example or template of sustainable living or work benefitting the environment.

- Make it easier to do the right thing; make it difficult to do the wrong thing.

Scenery & Access to the Outdoors

Walking & cycling

- Walks

- More marked walking routes.

- More greenways needed* (Sligo – Athenry)

- Cyclepaths – allow people choose to use bikes safely

Activities

- Promote wellness for mental health – of being outdoors, seaweed baths, etc.

- Non-alcoholic activities

- Outdoors skate park

- Bowling alley

Activities for youth

- More things for younger people to do*

- A kids' play area in town*

- The scenery and nature is lovely but Sligo town itself is not that good to walk around. It's a bit scruffy looking in places and you wouldn't feel safe everywhere****

Work and Business

- Remote working, especially in leaders' organisations that set policy.

- Thriving green businesses and tourism sector linked to our clean air, water, soil, etc.

Community Action

- More grants for community gardens.

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Education & Consultation

- Climate stuff is good but it's really frustrating that we are not listened to. How do I get our issues to be taken seriously?

- Groups like Comhairle na nOg and Foroige are great – meet a lot of people and get to do interesting stuff - but not really sure how much we are listened to by the people in charge of the county ****

- *Education so young people …..?*

Other

- Reduce carbon footprint by not having logos on all applications forms – nobody pays attention to branding overload

- Reduce the paper used in things like grant applications

- Weather – just all rain

Appendix A: Specifics identified as positives in Sligo within the inputs received

- Lovely people who are friendly, volunteers, a sense of community, good neighbours, people who care;
- Pride in locality;
- good volunteerism;
- Calmer pace of life and not too overwhelming;
- Outdoor amenities & location (sea, beaches, mountains, lakes, forests, inspirational & beautiful landscape, etc.),
- there are lots of outdoor recreation opportunities, good walking opportunities providing ways to relax, etc.;
- Incredible scenery, especially Doorley Park which is easy to get to from town;
- Safe and clean place to live;
- Proximity to hospital;
- Craic – the arts, Theatre Hawks Well, ;
- Good information flow to PPN and between members, with a good PPN newsletter;
- Awareness of PPN as resource gives voice [to the community];
- Wide variety of 40+ grants available to old and young and all voluntary sector which is good;
- Sligo Sanctuary Runners as an important asset;
- Ask for Angela campaign;
-- Nazareth House;
- parent and toddler group;
- Heritage, culture, history;
- PPN provides good information flow to/ from member groups, great newsletter & gives community a voice
- Institute of Technology has good range of courses and good reputation;
- good transport to Leitrim and Cavan.