

Shannon Municipal District Vision for Community Wellbeing for this and Future Generations

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Clare  Public
Participation
Network



What is a Vision for Community Wellbeing?

A Vision for Community Wellbeing describes the kind of life that people in **Shannon Municipal District** want for this and future generations – a community in which all people can thrive.

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

This shared vision for the future was created through a process that began in October 2020. Clare Public Participation Network consulted with the public via an online survey in which we asked people to think about what would make their area the best it could be for this and future generations.

We then discussed the results with our members at Clare PPN plenary meetings and two online workshops in Shannon Municipal District, after which this Wellbeing Vision Statement was drafted and adopted.



This vision will be used to guide the work of Clare PPN and its representatives on committees of Clare County Council. It will also be help to inform Clare PPN submissions to local and national policies. This Wellbeing Vision Statement will remain an ‘open’ document that can be reviewed annually so that it remains relevant and open to input from new member groups.

Vision Statement for Co Clare

Clare is a county that values, protects and restores its unique landscape, environment and biodiversity, where sustainable livelihoods are prioritised for this and future generations and where citizens, migrants, ethnic minorities and people of all abilities, age groups and genders can reach their potential in an atmosphere of support, respect and inclusion, and where Local Government is open, transparent, accountable and committed to reducing poverty and marginalisation within the County. Our vision is for a County to be part of and a County to be proud of.



Shannon Municipal District

Shannon Municipal District is located in southeast County Clare, stretching along the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary from the Newmarket-on-Fergus area in the west to the border with County Limerick in the east. The Municipal District has a population of 26,797 and encompasses a large area of the key Limerick-Shannon-Ennis economic corridor.



Participation, Democracy and Good Governance



People and communities in the Shannon MD are actively involved in the democratic process and in the decisions that affect their lives. People are equipped and encouraged to participate meaningfully in local government and other decision-making structures.

Local government is well funded, fully transparent and accountable. Meetings of Clare County Council, both plenary and committee, are live-streamed over the internet. The Local Authority and state bodies are accountable and make decisions in public and willingly share information with each other and their communities.

Constituents have the opportunity to engage directly through town hall style meetings or

forums with their elected representatives and the executives of state bodies and organisations.

Genuine public consultation is an integral and fundamental part of Clare County Council's mission. The views of people and community organisations in Clare are actively sought, listened to, valued and incorporated in policy-making. People are well-informed and equipped to understand democracy and participation, through the school curriculum and also public education.

Democratic structures favour the interests of people and communities over those of business, where they differ, and also ensure that minority voices are represented.

Economy, Work and Resources



Shannon MD is a dynamic, attractive place to live, work and visit; sustainable livelihoods are prioritised; workers' rights are protected; and there is high-quality infrastructure, education and amenities.

Locally owned businesses are supported to serve local needs and keep money in the community. People are supported to work locally, through remote working hubs, high-speed broadband, quality public transport and other infrastructure, resulting in revitalised communities and strong local economies.

Shannon MD communities work together with multinational businesses to take advantage of the goodwill available from them towards their host community. This translates into diverse employment practices and local engagement by staff in

projects that benefit the community. Supports for small, medium-sized and start-up companies are prioritised locally. Nationally, fair taxation policies ensure there are funds available for local development.

Shannon Airport is an important connection point for tourism and industry in Ireland.

High quality, sustainable housing is available, and planning encourages long-term settlement. There is strong protection for workers' rights and conditions, including family-friendly working hours, affordable childcare and a decent living wage. Excellent training opportunities are available, especially for those who are involuntarily unemployed.

Social & Community Development



Shannon MD embraces diversity and works to combat isolation and loneliness. People of all ages, backgrounds and genders feel involved and integrated in the community.

Safe, well-serviced public spaces and multi-purpose community buildings are accessible to all and served by public transport.

Everyone in Shannon MD has a suitable, well insulated home in a safe and well-connected community. Sustainable social housing is provided in sufficient quantities and is maintained to a high standard.

The MD, County Clare and Limerick City are open to all through free or low-cost public transport. From well-resourced pre-schools to third level and apprenticeships, every level of lifelong learning is

catered for. Community policing works with and for the community and people feel safe in their homes.

Young people from all communities are valued and respected and there are engaging events, activities and entertainment available for them within the MD.

There are opportunities for intergenerational connections and the full participation of women, disabled people, migrant communities, those marginalised through their sexuality, economic status or ethnicity is sought and facilitated in all community activities.

The contribution of voluntary and community groups is recognised and valued, and they are supported and resourced for their work in creating and maintaining inclusive communities.

Environment and Sustainability



Shannon MD's natural environment, waterways, wetlands, biodiversity and heritage are valued and protected. Land use and farming are organised in a way that produces affordable, nutritious food, protects the environment and gives farmers and food producers a decent living.

Organic food production for local sale is supported. People are educated and encouraged to grow their own food. Biodiversity is protected and promoted, by planting native broad-leaved trees, banning harmful pesticides and herbicides, reduced use of chemical fertilisers and public green spaces being left unmowed.

A plan is in place to protect and restore the Shannon Estuary. Flood relief plans consider rewilding areas prone to flooding and allowing flooding to take place as well as building flood defences. Clare County Council has dedicated Heritage, Archeology, Biodiversity and Climate Change Officers.

Our electricity is generated from renewable energy. Policy strongly favours community-owned wind energy and microgeneration and all projects have community consent. The history and heritage of Ardnacrusha is used to promote renewable energy. All buildings are energy efficient.

Car dependency has been greatly reduced through major investment in public transport, including a rail spur to Shannon and the reopening of Cratloe train station, and cycling and walking routes. Consumption and waste are reduced through the use of shared resources.

People are empowered to take responsibility for their natural environment through education and initiatives such as community clean-up days. The climate and biodiversity crises are front and centre in all local authority policy and strategy documents.

Health (Physical & Mental)



Everyone in Shannon MD has access to a high standard of affordable, locally-available healthcare, both physical and mental.

There is awareness, understanding and support for those dealing with mental health difficulties and addiction. A system has been put in place so that there is 24-hour and weekend access to emergency mental health supports.

The role of the natural environment in promoting good health is recognised, and outdoor activities are promoted, including through dedicated cycle and walking paths across the county. Everyone has access to quality recreational facilities and affordable exercise classes to suit all ages.

There are policies and resources are in place to reduce isolation and to promote inclusive and supportive communities, including more non-commercial social and meeting spaces and access to public transport connecting these spaces to all areas of the MD.

Healthcare provision in Clare is locally informed and available to all. It is accessible by public transport.

People with disabilities and special needs are provided with appropriate services and can fully participate in society. Carers are valued and supported to maintain their own quality of life.

Values, Culture and Meaning



Shannon MD is an equal and diverse community where every person matters. Inclusion and belonging are core values; the value of diversity is promoted. Pride in Irish culture and heritage co-exists with a respect for and acceptance of all cultures and an openness to change.

Our community prides itself on a strong culture of volunteering, community groups and neighbourliness. There is active learning between generations.

Community building and community development opportunities are well supported and resourced and this helps to ensure that each generation will have the opportunities

to lead fulfilling lives and support themselves through decent work.

Festivals celebrating Irish heritage and culture as well as intercultural celebrations are organised to bring together people from different backgrounds and cultures.

Traditional Irish culture, including language, music, dancing and storytelling, is valued and celebrated. Traditional crafts and skills are promoted and our Irish indigenous, emigrant, and inward migrants' cultures and heritage are recorded and celebrated as we build the future of Shannon Municipal District together.