

# County Clare 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 Clare 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 our plenary meetings and in a series of online workshops in each of Clare's four Municipal Districts, 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.



# Participation, Democracy and Good Governance



**Communities across Co Clare are actively involved 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.

Genuine public consultation is an integral part of the 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. Participation is fostered through local 'town hall' style meetings and community-level forums.

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

Community organisations are also transparent and accountable and are supported to meet reasonable governance standards.

# Economy, Work and Resources



**Clare 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 serve local needs and keep money in the community. Remote working hubs, broadband and other high-quality infrastructure allow people to work locally, revitalising communities and creating strong local economies.

Tourism policy targets the domestic market and environmentally-friendly tourism. There is support for co-operatives and community-owned businesses, farms and cafes.

Workers' rights and conditions are protected, including those of disabled people who wish to join the workforce, including family-friendly, flexible hours, affordable childcare and a decent living wage.

Excellent training is available, especially for people who are involuntarily unemployed.

# Social & Community Development



**We are a county that embraces diversity and promotes social inclusion. People of all ages and backgrounds feel involved and integrated in the community. We work together to ensure everyone is valued and supported to realise their potential and to secure the best possible outcomes for all.**

Everyone in Clare has a suitable home in a safe and well-connected community. The county is open to all through free or affordable public transport. Safe, well-serviced public spaces and social settings are accessible to all.

The contribution of voluntary and community groups is valued, and they are resourced for their work in creating and maintaining inclusive communities. The voices of all in our community are sought, listened to and valued equally, including youth, older people, migrants, LGBTQ, people living with disabilities and others.

People with disabilities are facilitated and supported to live active lives as full members of the community.

# Environment and Sustainability



**Clare's unique natural environment, 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 food producers a decent living.**

Sustainable farming and organic food production for local sale are supported. People are educated and encouraged to grow their own food. Our electricity is generated from renewable sources. Policy favours community-owned wind energy and micro-generation, and all projects have community consent. All homes and public buildings are energy efficient.

Car dependency has been greatly reduced through investment in public transport, cycling

and walking routes. Consumption and waste are reduced through use of shared resources. Re-use and recycling are encouraged.

Biodiversity is protected and promoted through the planting of native broad-leaved trees, banning harmful pesticides and herbicides, reduced use of chemical fertilisers and public green spaces being left unmowed.

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



# Health (Physical & Mental)



**Everyone in Clare has access to a high standard of affordable, locally-available healthcare – both physical and mental. There is understanding and support for those dealing with mental health difficulties.**

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

There are policies and resources to reduce isolation and promote inclusive and supportive communities, including more non-commercial social spaces and access to free rural transport.

Healthcare provision in Clare is locally informed and evidence-based. 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



**Clare is an open and welcoming community, a place from which many have emigrated and that welcomes migrants. Inclusion and belonging are core values; the value of diversity is promoted. Pride in Irish culture co-exists with a respect for all cultures.**

Our community prides itself on a strong culture of volunteering and neighbourliness. Active learning between generations, cultures and identities is acknowledged and valued.

Community activities are inclusive and promote equality and interaction between groups. Festivals and celebrations bring together people from different backgrounds and cultures and allow for cultural exchange.

Traditional Irish culture, including language, music, dancing and storytelling, is valued and celebrated. Traditional crafts and skills are promoted and all aspects of our Irish heritage are recorded and celebrated.