



Newbridge Family Resource Centre aims to respond to the needs of the community through the provision of support and services for families most at risk of social exclusion. We offer the community of Newbridge a variety of family support and community development services. We also provide a quality affordable childcare service.

Core to the work of the Centre is the provision of a friendly and accessible drop in facility where information and support is available and where, if required, we can refer to other services, we also where necessary, advocate for individuals or families.

We deliver Preparing for Life, One to One parenting supports, Play therapy, Counselling, Strengthening families, Homework club and Youth club. We also support Women's groups, Men's groups, Adult learning and a variety of other community groups.

We are a part of the National Family Resource Centre Programme which is Ireland's largest family support programme delivering universal services to families in disadvantaged areas across the country based on a life-cycle approach.

Newbridge Family Resource Centre welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to Kildare County Council County Development Plan 2023 - 2029.

### **Our Communities Vision for Kildare**

Following discussions and consultations with our community our vision for Kildare over the next 10 years is one where our unemployment rate is at a minimum, our community is connected to each other, to services, businesses and recreational amenities in their locality, and one where our community is a supportive and inclusive place for all.

Newbridge Family Resource Centre is based in Dara Park, Newbridge, Co Kildare. We have identified great potential to partner with statutory, community and voluntary agencies to reach the potential growth in many of the recommendations listed below. Our centre is an ideal location for looking at developing to facilitate community development, family support, youth development and childcare. We have a vision of what is required to meet the needs of our local community here in Newbridge Co Kildare. Our vision involves Newbridge Family Resource Centre being central to any developments in this area. Our links with the community of Newbridge allows us to access to the voice of our community to create 'Nothing

about Us Without Us' approach to developing services. Here at Newbridge Family Resource Centre we plan for the most vulnerable in our community and this in effect benefits all.

*In order to achieve this vision we recommend the following;*

- A more linked up approach to education, training and employment opportunities within each community such as; expansion of the local employment drives to include and target young people. Including education and training pathways to careers available locally will allow people to upskill or retrain in order to fill the gaps in local employment.
- Communication between community members and local services, businesses and amenities could be improved by developing a localised mobile app, which would include up to date information. The app is broken down into sections such as sports and recreation which would include all the community and private sports clubs and facilities in a local area with information on how to contact them, community services such as MABS, FRC's, mental health supports etc and information about what each service does and how to get in contact. It can also cover businesses in each local area. This will act as a local directory for new and existing community members who wish to find out more about their own local area.
- Existing community services and facilities to be supported by investment to retrofit and expand, post covid, to allow for increase in service provision and social distancing.
- Community Call to be supported to continue post Covid to support vulnerable community members.

### **Healthy Placemaking: People and Places**

Our vision for Newbridge in the next ten years is to have places where our community members can go to help them be happier and healthier. This comes at a time when we have been in our environment a lot of the time and a poor environment can have an effect on a person's health and well being. The people of Newbridge should be able to have availability and opportunities to have exposure to a healthy environment with social interaction for all of its community members. To lead a healthy life the community needs an environment that can make this possible.

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*With regard to Healthy Placemaking we recommend;*

- A Community garden allotment could provide a space for social interaction as well as educational opportunities, mental and physical health and help people in our community feel a sense of place.
- A playground in the local area for the children to play as there is not one in the area
- A playground suitable for children with disabilities
- A playground suitable for all ages to have an area suitable for teenagers, to have an area for ample parking, seating, lighting and to be easily accessible

## **Economic Opportunity; Innovation, Enterprise and Employment**

Persistent long term unemployment and most particularly youth unemployment presents as a challenge. Newbridge has many opportunities for work in some big companies. There is a need for the easy accessibility of the knowledge of what skills are needed to work in these companies. There is also a need to teach young people different skills and to provide opportunities to gain experience in different areas of employment. Being able to provide more opportunities for experiential learning allows individuals to identify their interest and open up new opportunities.

*With regard to Economic Opportunity we recommend;*

- Education opportunities for young people, more training options
- Expanding the youthreach service that is in place in newbridge
- Develop links between the apprenticeship and education areas
- Skills based training for young people and information around the local big companies and what skills would be needed to work in them, more opportunities for young people to be apprentice in these companies
- Replicate the crane project centre
- Social enterprise in the local area to develop the Newbridge Family Resource Centre to host social enterprise
- Expansion of our centre, social cafe,employment CE,training etc.
- Youth cafe, hub,youth space
- Skills based learning for people who want to reenter the workforce
- We highly recommend the expansion of youthreach support in the area and scope to expand what is already available.
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## **Climate Action: Environment, Climate Change and Adaptation**

The climate is changing and the weather is becoming more severe each year, stronger winds, rain and hotter summers and colder winters. There is an increased need for the increased resilience of roads and transport infrastructure. Nature has a significant role to play in climate change. Biodiversity and ecosystem services help to adapt and mitigate climate change and are a crucial part of the effort to combat climate change.working with nature and protecting it will bring multiple benefits .

*With regard to Climate Action we recommend;*

- Need more waste bins in the town
- Dog waste bins with bags around the area
- Community recycling centre
- More awareness of climate change in the business community
- Provide awareness to the community in how to address fuel poverty issues, minimise carbon emissions, improve air quality and improve the health of the community

### **Sustainable Mobility: Movement and Transport**

Transport plays an important role in an area's environmental performance and the sustainability of its development. It has many effects on human health as well as the environment. Some of the negative effects transport can have are air pollution, noise, congestion and accidents.

*With regard to Sustainable Mobility we recommend;*

- A railway link from newbridge to maynooth for access to the university
- Commuter zone, high cost of train from newbridge to city centre
- More direct links to the maynooth university
- More links from rural towns into Newbridge
- Changing eyre street to a one way system and connecting it to the main street
- Bike lanes around the town, connect the new builds to the town
- Cutlery road needs to be one way facing the other way
- Make the junction outside Michael Murphy's safer from dara park, zebra crossing, lights etc.

## **Creative Places: Social, Community and Cultural Development**

There is a big need for the community of newbridge to have spaces where they can be social and come together to be creative and help the people of newbridge thrive and develop. Newbridge should be accessible to all who live and work in the community.

*With regard to Creative Places we recommend;*

- Newbridge is in need of a big space for children, young people, families and older people with a sports hall, meeting rooms, kitchen facilities,youth cafe, drop in centre.
- A central hub that can facilitate the diversity of the community, large gym,hall,toilet facilities, kitchen area,coffee dock, hoists in bathrooms, public toilets
- Shared art space for the community, studio, give them a space and a time to show their work
- Community creche facility,low cost,to be subsidised. Include breakfast club, after school service
- Indoor softplay area for children
- Public indoor swimming pool
- Affordable community gym
- Wheelchair accessible atm
- The impact of Covid on our communities is not fully known yet, investment in the resourcing of holistic services for children, individuals and families is going to be key to supporting society through the trauma of this Pandemic.

## **Enhanced Amenity and Heritage: Landscape and Green Infrastructure**

Heritage plays an important role in maintaining a high quality of life by promoting biodiversity ,providing areas of interest and giving character and identity to our community. It can include the rivers, buildings,trees and landscapes. There is great social benefit for the community due to the enhancement of amenities and heritage of Newbridge, such as the creation of jobs, more integrated transportation, enhanced tourism, better health and well being and better recreation opportunities.

*With regard to Enhanced Amenity and Heritage we recommend;*

- There is a vast green area around our family resource centre in dara park. We recommend a walking track,lights and fairy garden for children.
- To make the paths around dara park safer they currently have roots from the trees sticking out making it dangerous for people to walk having to walk out on the road.
- Need of upgraded of paths especially in the older estates around newbridge so people can go for a walk and make it wheelchair friendly and safe
- More street lights to make walking in the evening safer, the lights are all out in most of highfield street
- Enhance what we already have great scope to expand the community services especially the family resource centre

### **Making it Happen: Infrastructure, Energy and Communication**

The infrastructure, energy and communication in Newbridge is of great importance to enable societal living conditions and to maintain the surrounding environment. There is a growing number of new houses being built in the Newbridge area and there are not the amenities required to sustain the rising population numbers. As stated previously there is a great need for better transport as this can be a barrier for the community, stopping someone from getting to education, employment and health services to name a few.

*With regard to Making it Happen we recommend;*

- *Better use of buildings that are available in the area that are already under the council, great spaces such as the town hall*
- *There has been a great increase of houses in the town, so there is a major need for more schools, better transport and local amenities*
- *A new secondary school is greatly needed as there is not enough places for local children to attend and they have to travel outside of the area, which causes great pressures for families in the area*