

Submission By

Joe Harney

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February 2024

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Re: Submission to Athlone Monksland Joint Urban Area Plan.

Please refer to the enclosed submission, presenting the wide array of aspirations from the esteemed community of Monksland. Prepare yourself for an engaging glimpse into our submission, inviting you to explore its contents further. The identifying of and zoning or rezoning of suitable land to facilitate such development is paramount to bringing it to fruition.

Regards

Joe Harney

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Monksland Joint Urban Area Plan: Shaping Tomorrow's Destiny

Empowering Monksland's Vibrant Community

In the pulsating heart of Monksland, where dreams and aspirations converge, residents are seizing the opportunity to wield their collective influence in the ongoing public consultation for the joint urban area plan. From the echoes of a comprehensive 2017-2018 survey, a resounding call for change has emerged, louder than ever before. Today, the power to sculpt Monksland's future lies in the hands of everyone within its community.

Survey Snapshot: Monksland's Dynamic Tapestry Unveiled

Delving into the demographic fabric, the survey conducted from April 2017 to October 2018 reveals a community predominantly composed of working-age individuals, with 66% aged between 26 and 45. Noteworthy is the housing landscape, where 58% of respondents are renters, underlining the need to address concerns such as social, affordability and tenure security in the upcoming urban action plan.

Community Pulse: A Symphony of Satisfaction and Challenges

Monksland residents take pride in their community, with an overwhelming 93% expressing enjoyment in living here. However, the survey illuminates areas for improvement – only 47% find satisfaction in community activities, and 39% in community facilities. Uniting against challenges, the call for enhanced awareness and opportunities echoes through the report.

Education, Employment, and Youth Dynamics

Boasting a well-educated population, Monksland faces a call to action for the 25% unemployed. Despite high connectivity (97% with computers and 99% with internet access), there's a surprising lack of awareness about available education and training options. The report also emphasizes the need for accessible and well-publicized community activities for youth.

Residents Speak: Visionary Recommendations for Monksland's Evolution

Residents are not just identifying challenges; they're offering solutions. The following recommendations, put forward by the residents of Monksland, stand as a testament to their commitment to strengthening our town:

Community Recreation:

- Community Green Area with Playgrounds
- Football Pitches
- Astroturf and Running Track
- Skateboard Rink
- Full-Size Astroturf Pitches
- Walking Track
- Benches
- Supermarkets

Youth Engagement:

- Youth Clubs

- After-School Programs
- Scouts/Girl Guides Centre
- Summer Camps
- Drama Spaces/Dance Club
- Running Club
- Music and Art Classes
- Playgrounds
- Drop-in Centres

Educational and Cultural:

- Modern Community Centre
- Monksland College Campus
- Classes (Art, Yoga, Cooking, Language)
- Photography and Woodwork Workshops
- Adult Education
- Partner Campus with TUS (Athlone)

Sports and Fitness:

- Sports Facilities (Rugby, Running)
- Affordable Gym and Outdoor Equipment
- Organized Sports Activities
- Swimming Classes
- Cricket Club
- 400m 8 Lane Running Track.

Social Hubs:

- Pub and Café
- Social Clubs (Men's Sheds, Women's Groups)
- Drop-in Centres
- Doctor's Office
- Childcare Services and Preschool
- Music Facilities

This is a defining moment for residents and planners to ignite transformative change in Monksland, shaping its future by forging a dynamic town centre that will serve as the catalyst for unparalleled growth.