

December 2024



The People's Transition Crumlin



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Executive Summary

The People's Transition describes a model for participative decision-making that is intended to enable a community to benefit from the transition to a zero-carbon society. It aims to design climate solutions that give local people and communities ownership of the assets of transition and enhance public support for climate action by tackling inequality and raising standards of living.

The Crumlin People's Transition began in October 2023. The intention of the project was to listen to and learn from the community's needs and then attempt to design a number of climate pathways, or solutions, that would benefit the community while addressing development priorities.

The project had three phases. The first phase was the mapping phase which aimed to build a picture of the Crumlin community, outlining a geographical scope for the project that represents the people who live there. The key was understanding how people within the community could be included by assessing who was at the greatest risk of being excluded. In addition to demographics and circumstances, the area was studied to understand the distribution of institutions and organisations, such as schools, churches, and community groups, that play a significant role in the locality.

The mapping phase informed the rollout of the second phase – the community engagement phase. To gather information on community needs and priorities, participatory workshops were held with the wider community. Focus group discussions were organised with targeted groups, including young people, a men's group, an active retirement network, a parents' group, environmental groups and people in long-term unemployment. Interviews were also held with stakeholders working in community development and climate action. As the community engagement phase came to an end, an online survey was distributed in the community to ensure that the emerging picture was correct.

Across consultations, common themes emerged. Crumlin has a vibrant active citizenship. Its legacy of community development, alongside newer environmental initiatives that are emerging in the area, showcase a strong community spirit. The importance of social bonds and a sense of community is very much apparent across Crumlin. Opportunities for building on this, through improving connections between people and fostering greater cohesion across the community, were sought, including the increase of social spaces to facilitate this.

People also felt their voices were not heard in local decision-making and were keen for ways to bridge what they felt was a gap between the community and the local council. The community survey highlighted that 84% of participants felt decision-making at a community level was a priority for the area.

Inequality is an issue across Crumlin. This was apparent from both the mapping and the community engagement phases. The Pobal HP Deprivation Index (2022) shows that some areas within Crumlin are improving in terms of affluence, while others are disadvantaged. This was reflected in conversations with people. Improving community cohesion, now and into the future is of importance, including the increase of social spaces to facilitate this. Across consultations, people raised the need to have a community space or centre owned by the community, and to use this space to engage in sustainable skills sharing, collaboration and for socialising. Likewise, increased social opportunities for young people were seen as necessary.

The local natural environment was of concern to people. The importance of engaging in climate action and enhancing biodiversity in Crumlin came across strongly in the consultations. Through Crumlin's Biodiversity Action Plan and the work of Bloomin' Crumlin there are excellent opportunities in place to regenerate Crumlin's green spaces. However, having a wider network of people involved in the regeneration, maintenance and care of green spaces was seen as crucial.

People expressed frustration at the lack of access to quality housing to rent or buy. With increased cost of living in terms of energy bills, opportunities for community-wide retrofitting were important. People also spoke of the importance of reducing car travel. To support this, improved public transport, including more local routes and smaller buses, alongside walking and cycling infrastructure were seen as needed.

Solutions were co-created with members of the community at an action planning workshop, based on the needs and priorities identified in the mapping and community engagement phases. The solutions detailed in this report seek to address the priorities of the community. They also seek to ensure that climate action provides tangible benefits, highlighting the positive outcomes of a just transition.

The first proposed solution, a Community Forum, would bring together diverse groups across the community.

Forums operate as spaces for starting and sustaining collective action and are key means for people to participate in decision-making and action at a local level. They are ways for people to get together and solve common problems and meet common needs locally. Further, effective climate action requires the active engagement of communities in decision-making in their area. A forum in Crumlin would bring together dynamic community development and environmental groups and serve as a body for sustaining collective action on social and environmental issues.

The second solution seeks to increase social infrastructure through community gathering spaces. Social infrastructure supports community connections and is important in building community cohesion. People forge bonds in places with healthy social infrastructure (Klinenberg, 2019). Stronger community ties are linked to more climate-resilient communities (Mascaro, 2024). A community centre in Crumlin would provide a base for collaboration, skills exchanges, and interaction. Dublin City Council has recently adopted a Community Wealth Building model (CLES, 2022). One of the pillars of Community Wealth Building is the socially productive use of land and property. The adoption of this model by Dublin City Council could provide an opportunity for the Community Forum to explore opportunities to transfer an existing building or space in Crumlin into collective ownership, to be used as a community centre, focused on building collaboration across the community.

The third solution looks at enhancing biodiversity and green spaces across Crumlin. Improving biodiversity brings a wealth of social and environmental benefits. Green spaces support the health and wellbeing of communities. Urban green spaces also play an important role in reducing carbon emissions and combatting biodiversity loss. Bloomin' Crumlin is currently working towards this. Engaging with the Community Forum on developing a greening strategy for the area would bring in more diverse groups across the community into the regeneration, maintenance, and care of green spaces. Alongside this, improved governance relationships and a greening partnership with the wider community, alongside a cross-departmental approach with the local council, would support Bloomin' Crumlin to lead on greening initiatives across the area.

These solutions should not be considered the only possible collective climate initiatives in which the community of Crumlin could undertake. However, it is hoped that the process, as much as the proposed solutions, provokes thought about how investment in climate action can address existing development needs rather than perpetuate them.

Key Terms

Climate Action

Political, collective and individual action on climate change can take many forms. Climate action means stepped-up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts, including climate-related hazards in all countries; integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity with respect to climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. There are other challenges that intersect climate action and environmental protection, such as enhancing biodiversity and improving water quality.

Community Wealth Building

Community wealth building or local wealth building is a new people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people. Community wealth building is a response to the contemporary challenges of austerity, financialisation and automation. It seeks to provide resilience where there is risk and local economic security where there is precarity.

Anchor Institution

An anchor institution is one that, alongside its main function, plays a significant and recognised role in a locality by making a strategic contribution to the local economy. Anchor institutions generally have strong ties to the geographic area in which they are based through invested capital, mission and relationship with customers and employees. These institutions tend to operate not-for-profit. It is much simpler for private businesses to move, so there is no guarantee they will continue serving the local community in the long-term. However, there are examples of for-profit organisations playing the role of an anchor institution.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for people and the planet. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonise three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected, and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.

1. Introduction

Tackling climate change requires urgent and unprecedented action in communities all around the world. Given the interdependent nature of the crisis, if climate action is to be enduring, then it must be inclusive and equitable, ensuring that its burdens and benefits are shared throughout society. While the importance of inclusive climate policy seems to be widely understood, there are few tried and tested frameworks for the co-creation of climate policy in European communities.

The People's Transition (McCabe, 2020) attempts to address this. It is a participative decision-making model for climate action. It views climate action as an enabler of local development, giving people and communities ownership of the transition to zero-carbon societies. The model, which was developed through extensive consultation with communities and organisations around Ireland, seeks to deliver a bottom-up approach to transition that builds local wealth, enables local ownership of climate action and empowers local people. It aims to tackle inequality and raise living standards through the delivery of climate solutions, thus proactively building social approval and demand for climate action.

To transfer the People's Transition model into practice, a set of pilot projects were run in two communities in Ireland in 2021, one in Phibsborough in Dublin and the other in Ardara, a rural town in Donegal. Following the success of the pilot projects, TASC is continuing to bring the People's Transition model to life with communities throughout the island of Ireland over a three-year period from 2022 to 2025. Reports focused on Mountbellew in Galway, Enniscorthy in Wexford, the farming community in Roscommon and Larchville and Lisduggan in Waterford have been published and are available on the TASC website.

This report details the People's Transition process in Crumlin, a south-central suburb of Dublin city. The Crumlin People's Transition project began in October 2023 and ran until November 2024. The project was a partnership between TASC, Dublin South City Partnership and Bloomin' Crumlin and only possible through a strong collaboration between all sides right from the start.

Crumlin's has a long history, established as part of a network of agricultural villages following the Norman Conquest in 1170. This history and sense of identity is very much apparent today, and a source of great pride for people across Crumlin. Crumlin also has a vibrant active citizenship. Its legacy of community development, alongside newer environmental initiatives, showcase a strong community spirit. This project succeeded through the willingness of local people to give up their time freely to work to improve their area.

For a suburb close to the city centre, Crumlin has its own distinct area and village. Given its location, Crumlin is well connected to employment and transport options. Yet, excessive car use is an issue in the area, and many people feel there are little options for active travel. Inequalities also are apparent across Crumlin. Within the Pobal HP Deprivation Index (2022), at a small area level, Crumlin ranges from affluent to disadvantaged.

Crumlin has a good range of green spaces. Public green space, such as parks, trees, streams, riverbanks, sports fields and community gardens provide important benefits to the health and wellbeing of urban communities. They also provide nature-based solutions to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and biodiversity loss. There are strong opportunities to regenerate these green spaces through Crumlin's Biodiversity Action Plan and the work of Bloomin' Crumlin.

The project had three phases, leading to the co-creation of climate solutions and initiatives that seek to address the needs of the community. First, a mapping phase made use of existing geographical and census data to outline the groups of people that live in the community. This information was used to design an in-depth community engagement phase to understand different groups' and individual's needs and priorities.

Solutions were co-created with members of the community at an action planning workshop. The solutions in this report build on opportunities currently existing within the community. The solutions proposed include a community forum that would bring together representation from all groups across the area and serve as a base for project solutions, alongside the wider social and environmental enhancement of Crumlin.

The second two solutions contribute to the social and environmental infrastructure of Crumlin, fostering social ties to support a more climate resilient community. Throughout the community engagement phase, the need for a community centre was highlighted. The recently adopted framework of Community Wealth Building, by Dublin City Council (CLES, 2022) provides an opportunity to secure a suitable space for a community centre. The final solution, emerging from the action planning workshop would develop a community-led greening strategy for Crumlin. This links with the ongoing work of Bloomin Crumlin and through the Community Forum would gain greater buy in, support and ongoing maintenance for greening infrastructure.

The solutions are designed to merge community development with climate action, meeting community needs while ensuring sustainable actions are inclusive and available to all people across the community.

This report presents the findings of all three phases in a narrative that aims to take the reader through the People's Transition process to illustrate why it is important to consider climate action from a people, or community-centred approach. By listening first and ensuring that all voices are heard, it is hoped that climate action will benefit from greater social approval and thus be in higher demand.



2. Mapping: building a picture of Crumlin

The mapping phase of the project aimed to build a picture of the Crumlin community, outlining a geographical scope for the project that represents the people who live there. This included looking at the history and heritage of the area. It also involved examining anchor institutions, alongside local stakeholders working in community development and climate action. This allowed for the inclusion of these groups in the project and helped the TASC team to connect with the community and identify their needs and priorities.

Detailed secondary information was also gathered from the area using 2022 census data. This allowed for the assessment of potentially underrepresented groups to ensure more inclusive participation during the listening phase. The mapping phase also helped to identify both barriers and opportunities to participation in climate action, setting the foundation for a responsive and impactful community engagement phase.

An Overview of Crumlin

Crumlin is an area in the south-west of Dublin city, falling under the administrative area of Dublin City Council. It is within the postal district of Dublin 12. Crumlin is bounded to the north by Rialto and Dolphin's Barn, to the east by Harold's Cross, to the south by Kimmage and Walkinstown, and Drimnagh to the West.

History and Heritage

The name "Crumlin" is thought to mean curved or crooked glen, referring to Lansdowne Valley. However, another suggestion is that the name comes from 'Lake of Crom', a pagan deity, indicating prehistoric settlement (Watchorn, 2024).

For a suburb that's relatively close to Dublin city centre, Crumlin has its own distinct area, with a village centre. This reflects its establishment as part of a network of agricultural villages surrounding Dublin in the aftermath of the Norman Conquest of 1170 (McLoughlin, 2013).

The Old St. Mary's Church, a prominent feature in contemporary Crumlin, stands on the site of a much older church dating from the 12th century (Watchorn, 2024). The present-day church was built in 1817 on the original site. At the other end of Crumlin village, St. Agnes', a Catholic Church was built in 1726 on the site where people gathered in secrecy for Mass during the Penal laws (French, 2000).

In the 18th Century, large suburban houses with gardens were built along the village main street. These houses include Crumlin Lodge, Glebe House, Looceville House and Lisle House (Watchorn, 2024). By the early 20th century Crumlin village was still predominantly agricultural, with market gardens and dairy farms (French, 2000). Indeed market gardens are still present in Crumlin's revised OS map of 1936/1943. Strong tree planting can also be seen in historic views and plans of the village (McLoughlin, 2013). Crumlin Common was an important agricultural common land in the village. It was used for grazing cattle, alongside social events, such as games of hurling and horse racing. Local historian Finola Watchorn notes that up until the 1950's, Crumlin Common was still a large expanse of open land with meadows, hedges and grassy laneways (Watchorn, 2024, p89).

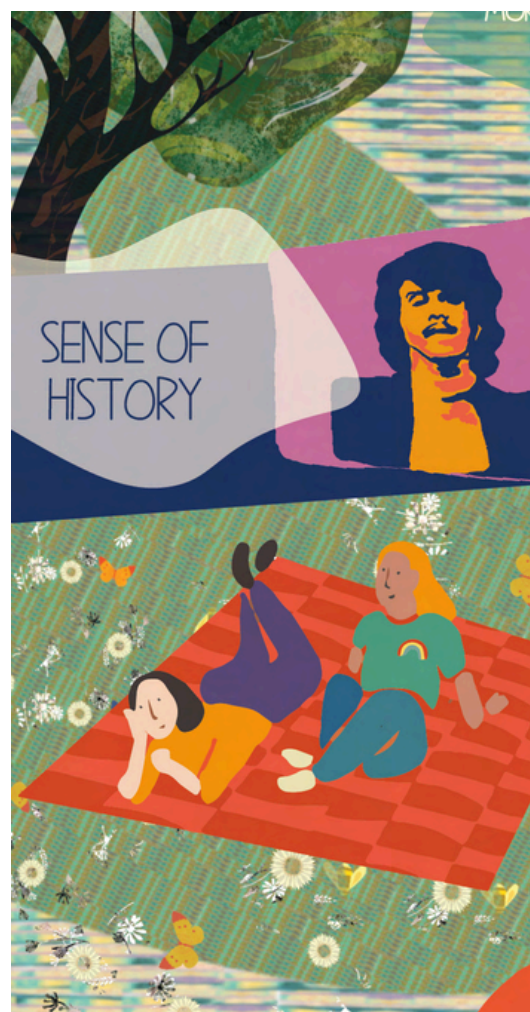
From the 1930's, Dublin Corporation led the development of housing schemes in Crumlin. Some of these were developed around large green spaces. While the suburban spread meant that Crumlin no longer retained its rural setting, these low-rise two-storey houses and open green spaces still held the small-scale character of the village. The Iveagh Trust, founded by Edward Cecil Guinness, also built 136 homes on a 30-acre site off Crumlin Road, known as the Iveagh Gardens (The Iveagh Trust, 2024).

Famous Figures

Crumlin was home to a number of pioneers, artists and leaders who have impacted the cultural landscape of the area. These include Brendan Behan, Christy Brown and Phil Lynott, among others.

Anchor Institutions

Community wealth building is a people-centred approach to economic development that seeks to harness the wealth being created at a local level. Under the community wealth building model, anchor institutions have an important role in the community due to being tied to a particular place (McAreavey, 2022). Anchor institutions are often large-scale employers who control large areas of land or assets, or are a large purchaser of goods and services in the area (Jackson & McInroy, 2017).



Examples include local authorities, libraries, education providers, large local businesses, social housing providers, hospitals or faith-based organisations (McAreavey, 2022). Research has also shown that the combined activities of the community and voluntary sector act as an anchor institution in a community (Jackson & McInroy, 2017).

Key anchor institutions in Crumlin include:

- Dublin City Council's Local Area Office in Crumlin Village;
- Financial co-operatives such as St. Agnes' Credit Union and Sundrive Capital Credit Union
- Religious centres such as St. Agnes' Church and Parish Hall and St. Mary's Church and Parish Hall;
- Educational anchor institutions such as Scoil Íosagáin, Marist School, Loreto Junior School, Scoil Mhuire Ógh, and Scoil Úna Naofa at a primary level, secondary schools such as Rosary College, Clogher Road Educate Together and Loreto College, alongside Coláiste Eoin and Our Lady of Hope. Further education institutes include Pearse College, Crumlin College and City of Dublin Adult Education and Training Board Adult Education Services;
- Sports Clubs such as Crumlin United FC, St. James' Gaels GAA Club, Crumlin GAA Club, Lourdes Celtic, Crumlin Bowling Club and Crumlin Boxing Club;
- Community and voluntary groups such as Bloomin' Crumlin, Crumlin Active Age Network, Crumlin Men's Shed, Crumlin Area and District Active Retirement Association, and St. Agnes' Community Centre for Music and the Arts (CCMA);
- The Local Development Company for the area, Dublin South City Partnership.

One of the current national children's hospitals is also situated in Crumlin, Children's Health Ireland (CHI) Crumlin. Community stakeholders have previously reached out to foster engagement between the hospital and local community but reported that traditionally, it has resulted in little engagement. The hospital will also be leaving the area, as part of the amalgamation into the single National Children's Hospital site in St. James', Dublin 8.

This information gave an idea of some of the groups and bodies, that are active across the community and could be key stakeholders in the project, alongside having the potential to act as a catalyst for project solutions.

Community data

Data from the 2022 Census and Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022 was used to build a picture of the area. Seven electoral divisions, covering Crumlin C and D and Kimmage A - E were included. The area of Crumlin covered is shown on the map below.

Figure 1. Map of Crumlin with Electoral Divisions

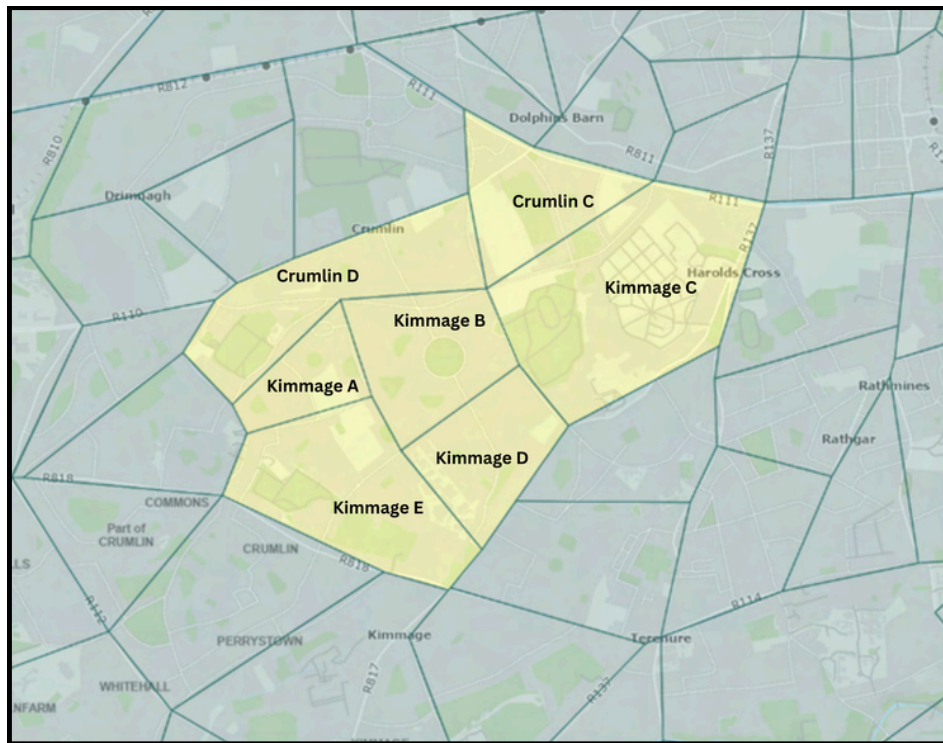
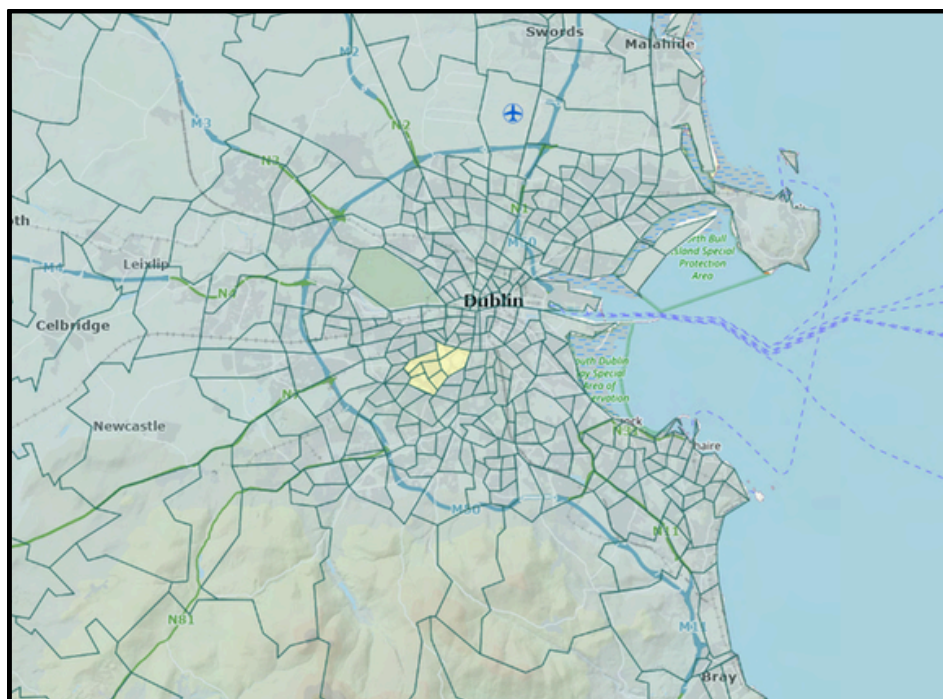


Figure 2. Map of Crumlin in relation to Dublin



Population, Age, Ethnicity and Place of Birth

A total of 21,761 people are living across the Crumlin area, comprising 52% female and 48% male.¹ Almost one in five of the population are 19 and under (19%). The majority of residents are aged 25-49 (41%). 16% of the population are over 65.

In terms of ethnicity, 75% of people in the area identified as 'white Irish', 0.3% identified as 'Irish traveller', 9% as 'other white', 1% as 'black or black Irish', 4% as 'Asian or Asian Irish', while 4% belonged to other ethnic groups. 81% of people in the area listed their place of birth as Ireland, while 83% had Irish citizenship. 91% of people were resident at the same address 5 years ago.

Homes, Housing, and Families

11% of people are living alone. Almost one-quarter of the population (24%) are living in 2-person households. 23% of the population of the area are living in 3-person households and 22% in 4-person households. 11% of people were living in 5-person households. 8% of people were living in households with more than 6 people.

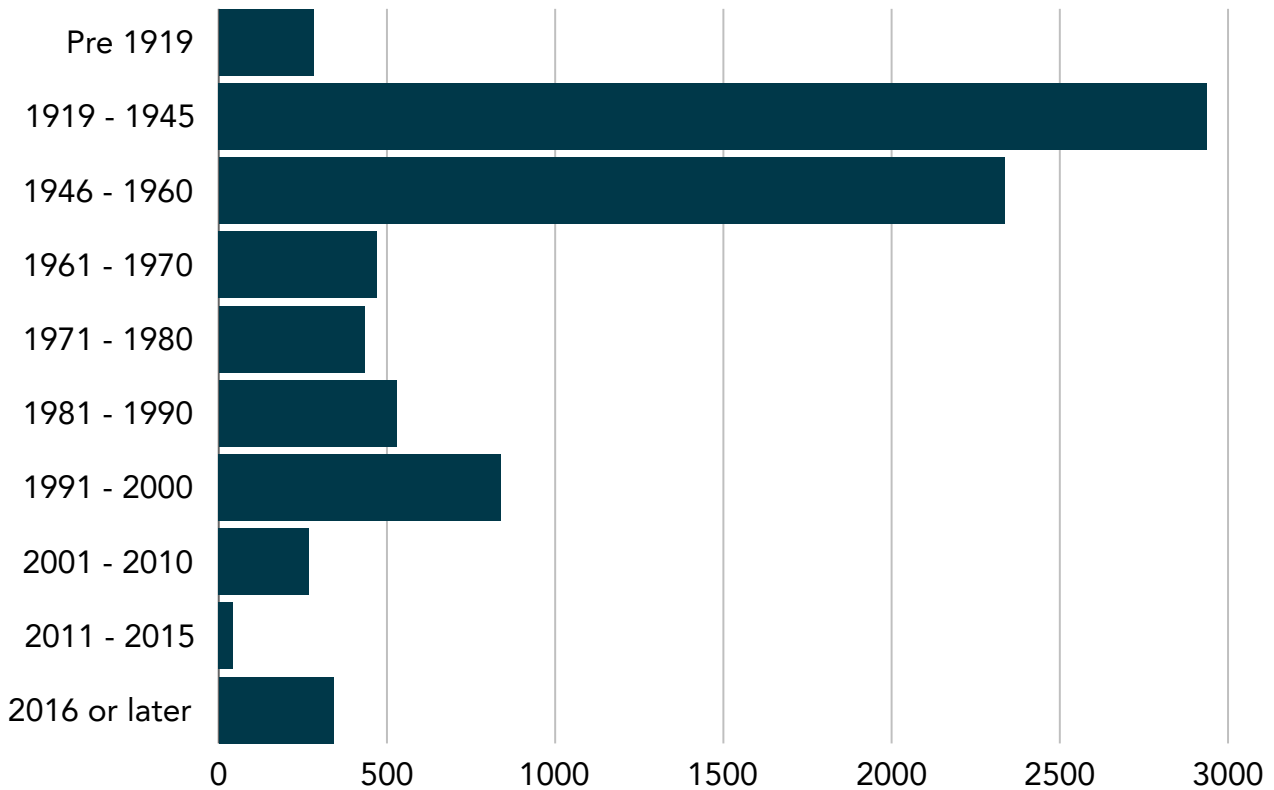
Across the area, there is a higher-than-average rate of single parent families, with 34% of families with children, single parent mother families, compared to an average across Dublin city and suburbs of 25%. 5% of families with children are single parent father, while 61% are couples. Nationally, data shows that poverty rates are highest for people living in households comprised of one adult, aged less than 65 years, and persons living in one adult households with children (EAPN Ireland, 2024).

Crumlin has an ageing housing stock. As Figure 3. shows, the majority of housing (64%) was built before 1960, compared to a county of Dublin average of 28%. 34% of housing was built between 1919 - 1945 and 27% between 1946 - 1960. 16% was built between 1961 - 1990, with a further 17% built between 1991 - 2022.

14% of houses are rented from the local authority compared to the national average of 8% and a 10% average for Dublin. 26% of houses are owned with a mortgage or loan and 33% are owned outright. 20% are rented from a private landlord while 2% are rented from a voluntary or co-operative housing body.

¹ The 2022 Census offered only two options (male/female) to the question "What is your sex?"

Figure 3. Number of houses built by year



In terms of energy use, fossil fuels were the main heating type, with 80% of households using fossil fuels. Three-quarters of households in the area use natural gas (75%), while 4% use oil and 1% of households use coal. 13% of households were using electricity to heat their homes. 7% of households had a source of renewable energy, lower than the average of 12% across Dublin city and suburbs.

Health

Regarding health statistics for Crumlin, 78% of people described themselves as in “good or very good” health in the census. This is lower than the national average of 83%. 27% of the population of Crumlin described themselves as having a disability, defined as a “long lasting condition or difficulty to any extent”(CSO). Of these, 45% are men and 55% women. This is higher than the Dublin city area average of 21%. EAPN Ireland highlight that those most at risk of poverty in 2023 were unable to work due to long-standing health problems (2024). Research has highlighted the link between health inequalities and living in areas of disadvantage (Pobal, 2024). People living in areas of deprivation are more likely to report poor health or disability (Pobal, 2024). Nationally, 5% of people living in affluent areas report not having good health (Pobal, 2024).

Education and Employment

In terms of education, 39% of people have attained education at 3rd level, 15% have achieved up to upper secondary level and 10% have a technical qualification or apprenticeship.

Almost three out of five (59%) people were “at work”. 30% of males were at work and 29% of females. The majority of these were working in professional or technical occupations at 35%. The second most common category of occupation was administrative at 11%, followed by elementary occupations at 10%. Elementary occupations are positions that require the lowest skill levels and are the least well-paid jobs. These workers are at greater risk of poverty and deprivation, more likely to be in receipt of social supports and often fall into the category of the working poor (TUC, 2008). The high level of professional and technical occupations, alongside a relatively high level of elementary occupations highlights inequality in terms of wages and job security in the area. Research also highlights that those in low-skilled positions have less career progression opportunities than in the past (Nugent, 2017).

Figure 4. Persons at work by occupation

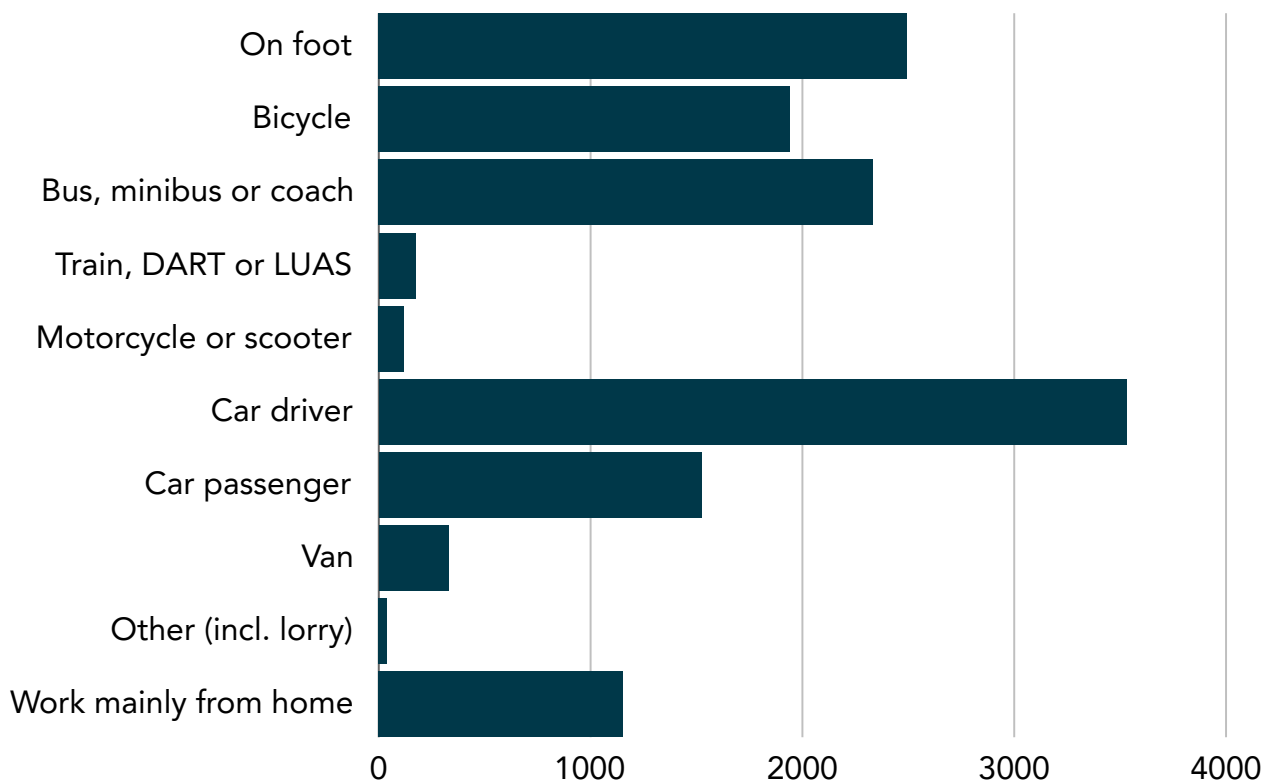


16% of the population were retired, 6% were unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability and 7% were students. The rate of unemployment across the Crumlin area was 9%, higher than the national average of 8% and a county of Dublin area average of 8.3%. 5% of the population are carers. Almost nine out of ten carers are female.

Sustainable Travel

Car ownership is at 64% across Crumlin. 28% of homes have no car, this is higher than the county average of 24%. 17% of people commute on foot to school or work, similar to a Dublin average of 18%. 13% commute via bicycle, higher than the Dublin average of 7%. 16% commute by bus and 1% take the train. 24% commute by car, similar to a county average of 25%.

Figure 5. Method of travel to work, school, or college



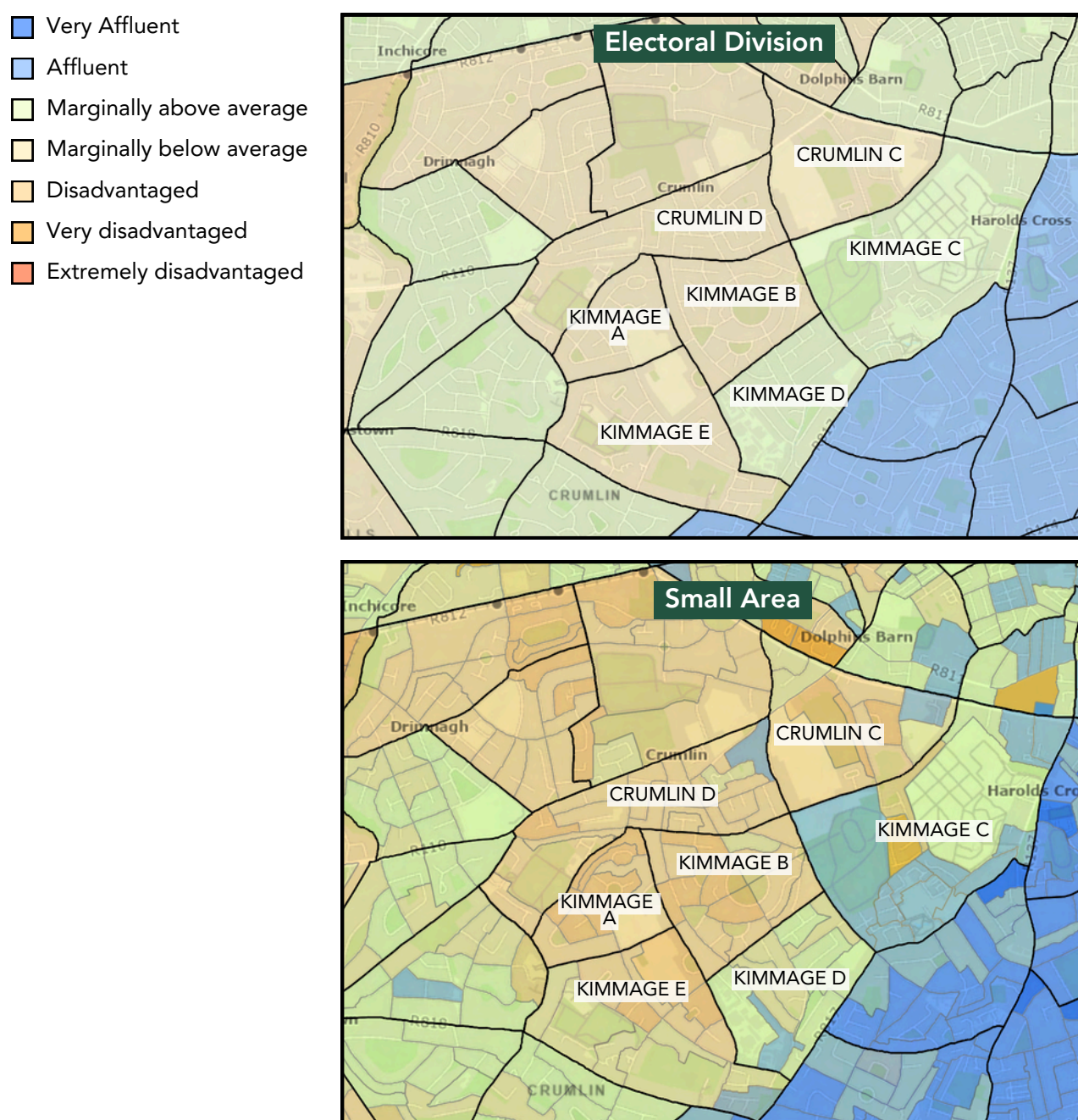
Pobal HP Deprivation Index

The Pobal HP Deprivation Index provides a single indicator to show the overall affluence and deprivation of areas. This is based on a combination of three dimensions: demographic profile, social class composition and labour market situation (Pobal, 2024).

The 2022 Pobal HP Deprivation Index highlights that the gap between Ireland's most disadvantaged areas and the national average, has increased. Disadvantaged areas are now further from the national average (Pobal, 2024). Urban areas are shown to contain more extremes of both highly disadvantaged and highly affluent areas. Greater socio-economic disparities can exist side by side in urban settings, more than in other parts of the country.

In the Pobal HP Deprivation Index (2022) five out of the seven electoral divisions of the Crumlin area are “marginally below average”. This is Crumlin C and D and Kimmage A, B, and E. The remaining Electoral Divisions, Kimmage C and D are “marginally above average.” Kimmage D is the only Electoral division with a change since 2016, increasing from “marginally below average” to “marginally above average.” However, looking at data at the small area² level, instead of the larger Electoral Division level, the area ranges from “affluent” to “disadvantaged”, with one small area “very disadvantaged.” This shows that while improvements can be seen on a larger scale for the Crumlin area, within the community, there are greater levels of inequality and disparity.

Figure 6. Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2022 of Crumlin at Electoral Division & Small Area levels



² Small area level ranges from households of 50-200 in size:
<https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022smallareapopulationstatistics/>

Active citizenship

Crumlin has a strong legacy of community development and active citizenship. The importance of volunteering and the role of community groups is central in building resilient communities. Sports clubs, music groups, youth groups, environmental groups, residents' associations, social groups and community development organisations contribute to a vibrant community and voluntary network in the area.

The Crumlin and Walkinstown Historical Society works to highlight the rich history and cultural context of the area. The group research and record local history, archaeology, folk-life and folklore of Crumlin past and present.

Youth groups such as Brú Youth Service and the Clay Youth Project provide supports, services and social outlets for young people in the area. They often work in tandem, with other services, such as addiction recovery, with Addiction Response Crumlin and the Community Policing Unit of the local An Garda Síochána.

The D12 Autism Parent Support Group works to support parents with autistic children. The group successfully lobbied for the opening of a school for children with autism in the area.

St. Agnes' Community Centre for Music and the Arts (CCMA) provides music educational activities to all age groups, from babies, to young people and adults across Crumlin. It aims to create, maintain and develop positive opportunities and experiences for the local community through music and the arts.

Numerous sports clubs are highly active in, and important to, the area, including Crumlin United FC, Crumlin GAA Club, St. James' Gaels GAA Club, Lourdes Celtic FC, Crumlin Boxing Club, Guinness Rugby Club, Crumlin Running Club and the Transport Club Crumlin.

Environmental groups, growing groups and Men's Sheds such as Bloomin' Crumlin, Crumlin Community Cycles, Crumlin Men's Shed, Change Clothes, Pearse Park Community Garden and the Kingfisher Project lead on environmental action and repair skills across Crumlin.

Community development organisations such as Dublin South City Partnership provide a range of support for social wellbeing and inclusion, mental and physical health, education and employment opportunities, enterprise and social enterprise, as well as community

engagement and cohesion across the area. Their head office is located in Crumlin village and as such, they may be considered an anchor institution in the area.

All of these groups and organisations have a strong history of place-based community development. With such a variety of groups and clubs in the area, the absence of a community centre or community space for all groups is notable and an element that groups struggle with when trying to coordinate meetings and activities in the area.

Climate action in Crumlin

Bloomin' Crumlin is a vibrant environmental group with over 150 members, leading on community climate action in Crumlin. Starting in 2018 as a community clean up group initially, Crumlin Community Clean Up organised litter picks and clean ups every weekend. The volunteer run group, now called Bloomin' Crumlin focus on enhancing street spaces, green infrastructure and biodiversity across Crumlin. Wider members of the community are consulted in projects and play a key role in implementation. Bloomin' Crumlin won the Community Digital Award in 2022, and 2nd place in the Pride of Place Awards in 2022.

Beta Bajgart and Olga Tiernan's short film 'Not My Bag' examines the impact of climate change in Crumlin. The film highlights the link between individual, government and corporate responsibility to reduce the use of single-use plastics and enable more sustainable food choices.

Change Clothes is a growing community-based clothing reuse hub that started in Crumlin in 2022 as Change Clothes Crumlin. It aims to provide training and employment in reuse and repair. Change Clothes supports community building through enabling sharing, caring and repairing across a community of clothes swappers, borrowers and upcyclers.

The Bike Hub engages the local community in bike related projects. It provides training on bike safety and basic bike repairs and maintenance. It also acts as a hub where cyclists can meet, maintain and plan cycling activities.

Pearse Park Community Garden provides a space in Crumlin for growing crops for distribution to both members and the public. It also hosts community events at certain times throughout the year.

Other positive local initiatives in the area of biodiversity are evident in the Kingfisher Project's work in the Sundrive area, which sits on the fringes of Crumlin.

Crumlin's Biodiversity Action Plan: A Biodiversity Action Plan was developed for Crumlin on behalf of Bloomin' Crumlin in 2023. This established a set of actions over a five-year period to maintain and enhance biodiversity in Crumlin. This includes landscaping for biodiversity in local parks and gardens, improving awareness of biodiversity locally, networking with wider groups and organisations to support implementation of the plan, and carrying out research on biodiversity in Crumlin.

The Biodiversity Action Plan states that the Grand Canal, green spaces around the River Poddle and a wildlife trail around Pearse College allotments are of high value to biodiversity, alongside smaller features in local parks. However, aside from this, public green space in Crumlin is currently of low value for biodiversity. These spaces have the potential for improvement and redevelopment to support green infrastructure and are well supported by an engaged and informed community group. The plan also recommends drawing on lessons from other greening initiatives in other parts of the city, and to ensure that both the community and park management take the opportunity to work together towards this.

Local Policy

The **Dublin City Development Plan** (2022 – 2028) sets out a plan for Dublin to achieve sustainable development objectives. The main strategic approach is to develop a city that is low carbon, sustainable and climate resilient. It highlights the importance of enhancing the quality of Dublin city's natural assets. This plan sees green infrastructure as essential to the conservation of biodiversity and the creation of a healthy, low-carbon city. It also recognises the importance of green infrastructure in improving social opportunities and community cohesion.

Dublin City Council's second **Local Economic and Community Plan** (LECP) 2024 – 2029 is currently in the consultation phase and will set out the city's local economic and community development goals to support local and community development in Dublin, alongside supporting economic development for the city.

Dublin City Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 is Dublin City Council's strategic framework for action. It recognises climate action as 'the most pressing issue of the moment' (Dublin City Council 2020, p12). Taking action to adapt to and mitigate the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change is stated as a key priority for the City Council in the plan. The seven strategic goals of the plan include a green, low carbon city; safe thriving neighbourhoods; a strong diverse economy; compact growth with connected infrastructure; active inclusive communities; and a vibrant cultural life.

Climate Neutral Dublin 2030, Dublin City Council's Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 sets out the actions that Dublin City Council is taking to prepare the city for the impacts of climate change, including flooding, sea level rise, extreme weather events and droughts. It also details how Dublin City Council will mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to limiting global warming to below 1.5°C.

The **Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 – 2025** is the third Biodiversity Action Plan for the city and establishes Dublin City Council's strategy for the conservation of the city's biodiversity. Its objectives and actions are set around the following five themes; maintaining nature in the city; restoring nature in the city; building for biodiversity; understanding biodiversity in the city; and partnering for biodiversity.

It was clear that any suggested solutions emerging from the People's Transition would need to complement rather than duplicate existing efforts in the area. It was also apparent that the future success of the proposals from this People's Transition project would rely on its adoption by a wide range of community groups.

The initial mapping phase of the project highlighted information that was to form the foundation of the second phase, the community engagement phase. Understanding community dynamics, underrepresented groups and demographic data allowed for the development of an inclusive engagement phase, built on existing community relations and an understanding of the social fabric of the area. This community engagement phase then set out to understand the needs and priorities of the community.



3. Community engagement: what we heard from the community

The community engagement phase of the Crumlin People's Transition was designed to identify community needs and priorities and ran from November 2023 to June 2024. Community engagement in this phase included participatory workshops with the wider community. Focus group discussions and targeted workshops were organised with groups, including young people, a men's group, an active retirement network, a parents' group, environmental groups and people in long-term unemployment. Interviews were held with stakeholders working in community development and climate action. An online survey ran from April to May 2024 and received a total of 193 respondents.

Overall, the community engagement phase consulted with 320 people across Crumlin.

Supporting an inclusive vibrant community

Sense of community

People spoke of a community spirit and a strong, tight-knit community across Crumlin. A sense of community was seen as a key strength of the area, with people helping each other out and "feeling connected to people" in the area. A sense of community is understood as a sense of being part of a mutually supportive network of relationships (Sarason, 1974). People spoke of supporting neighbours and looking after older people in the area, "we still have a lot of neighbours who were there when I was born and are still there. They would do anything for you. They look out for each other." The importance of these social interactions and relationships with neighbours and people who live in the area was highlighted across consultations. People who lived in the area and their social relationships were seen as what made Crumlin unique.



The physical infrastructure supported this. People reflected that the density of Crumlin was "really nice that you can actually bump into people as you walk around" and the houses are at eye-level, rather than at the end of gated lanes.

The term community has long been understood as made up of individual people, with different interests and wider networks. Yet, opportunities for social engagement, connection and shared communal practices in a place-based community are really important to how people live their lives (Studdert & Walkerdine, 2017). Active community involvement has been shown to nurture a sense of belonging, and contribute to well-being in a community (McAreavey, 2022). In thinking about a just transition, the importance of social networks is key in building resilience to both adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change (Mascaro, 2024).

However, not everyone's experiences of community were the same. Young people spoke of the frustrations of racism that they had experienced in Crumlin and how people would casually make racist comments to them. Some of the young people reflected that this was an attitude of an older generation. They said they found these racist comments upsetting but dealt with it by trying to ignore these comments. Another girl stated that she would confront the person who was making racist comments, to make them stop and think about what they were saying.

Changing times

People reflected on the importance of the history and heritage of the area. The long history of the village, stretching back to the 12th century, was seen as crucial to its identity today. Alongside this, people talked about the history of agriculture in the area, and how this is seen today in large market gardens that some houses still maintain, "there's lots of big gardens. When people moved from the town, these houses were built with big gardens, so people could grow their own vegetables."

People spoke of a "legacy of community development and volunteerism" in the area, and how there is so much experience among people of "how to get things done." This was linked to a "sense of pride going back generations."

People reflected on the changes they had seen in their lifetimes:

"You don't see the woman pushing the trolley down to the shops anymore. You don't see the two women stopping to have a yap anymore. That's what we grew up with, that was our community."

The recognition of a “sense of history” and “people who went before” was seen as important when people reflected on changing demographics in the area, “the age groups and the cohorts of people who live in the area are changing, and there are new people moving in, and people have moved out.” People stated it was important to “connect the older working-class community with newer people that have moved in.” “Maintaining that legacy of voluntary action and community groups, so it's still quite strong in the area”, was seen as important to build community cohesion. Participation in community initiatives and recognition of the history and legacy of the area were seen as key to connect groups across Crumlin.

Across the board a need for “breaking down barriers” was highlighted. People spoke of the “potential and openness to growth” in Crumlin but also the need for a recognition of the culture of the area, “there is a good sense of openness once people are kind of mindful and respectful of Crumlin as an area with a bit of history and the communities that exist within it.”

Inequality

In conversations, people talked about growing inequality within the area, “there's probably more of a division now between people that might have more than others.” Crumlin still has “social and economic disadvantage and pockets of severely deprived people.” This reflects the unequal levels of affluence and deprivation in the Pobal HP Deprivation Index (2022), as highlighted in the Mapping phase of the project. People reflected on “inequality compared to other parts of Dublin, especially in terms of access to education, higher-paid jobs, and access to things like green space, and recreational and sports facilities.”

Integration

Several people commented on issues concerning international protection applicants. Over the consultation period, anti-asylum seeker sentiment and protests were occurring in the wider Dublin area. In Crumlin, some people reflected a wariness in terms of how derelict buildings would be used to house international protection applicants. Other people, commenting on this, noted that rising inequality in the area, and a lack of access to decent services have the possibility to fuel concerns around potential international protection applicants moving into an area, and people’s perception of access to services further declining. One participant noted that people were all living in “the same place and we need to work together, understand each other better, not cause further division.”

The need for integration opportunities was highlighted. This could be “informal English classes for new arrivals to the country, who are paired with local people volunteering as tutors.”

Activities

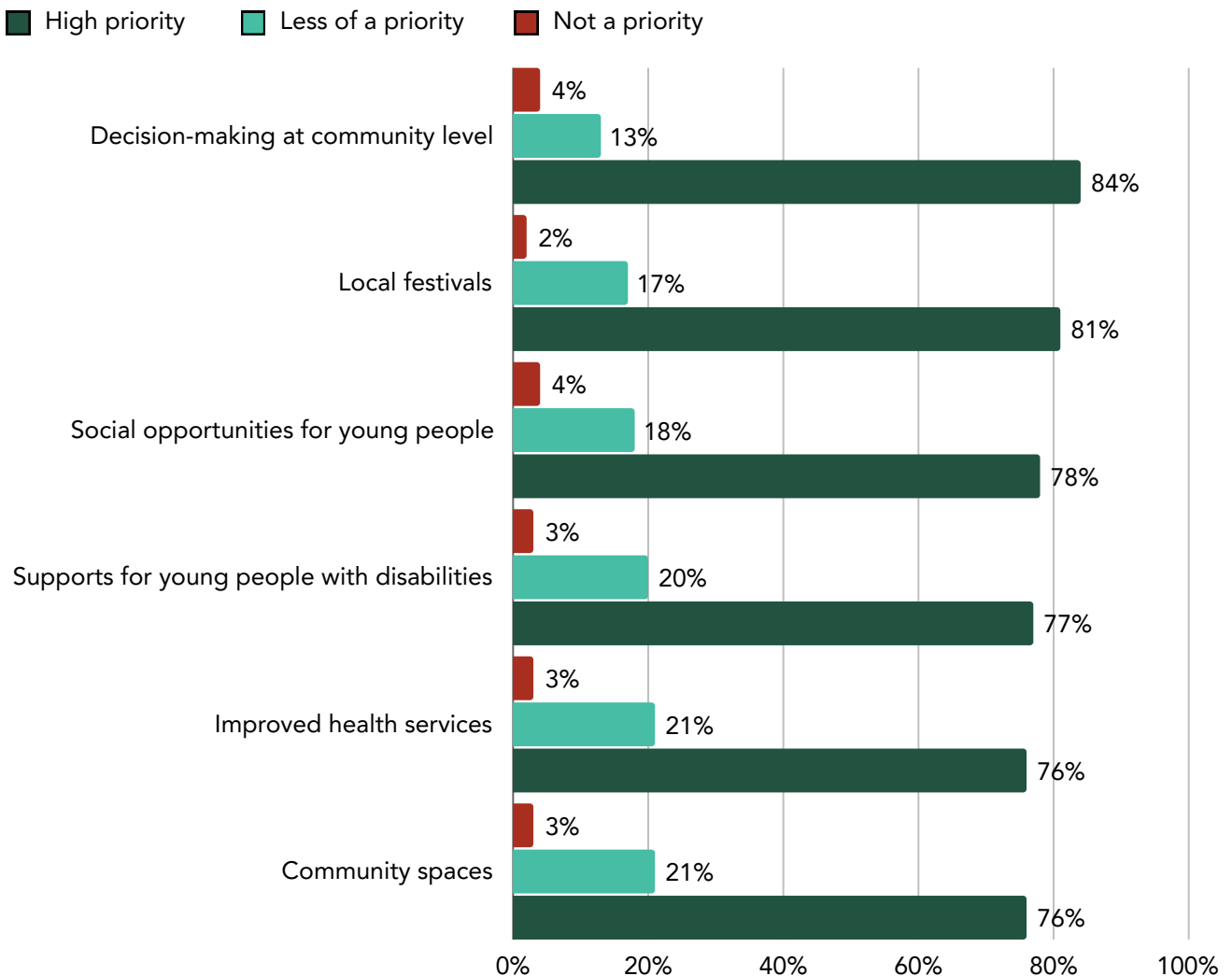
Many people talked about the diverse activity groups in the area, with “vibrant musical and drama groups” and youth clubs. The variety of sports clubs was seen as a strong advantage of Crumlin, with GAA, boxing, soccer and rugby strongly represented across the community.

Yet, increased social options are needed in the area. People felt that there was a lack of activities outside of sports, saying “when you’re not in sports there isn’t anything else to do. Sometimes there are music and drama classes, but they are very small.”

Community Spaces

When asked “what would you like to see more of” in the community survey, 76% of respondents said community spaces, such as meeting spaces and drop-in social spaces, were a “high priority”.

Figure 8: What Crumlin residents would like to see more of in their community: the 6 highest results out of a list of 25



Community gathering spaces foster increased wellbeing and belonging across a community. In conversations, participants noted the need for more social spaces to interact in the area, reflecting that there was a “lack of places where people can meet” that are “age friendly”, where all “social groups could go”, with different activities or space to sit and relax. People also talked about the importance of having a variety of social options, “not just a bookies, a pub or takeaway”, but ways to meet and “engage in things in a positive way.”

People described the need for a place “where people can actually come together and make things instead of sitting in the pub.” A social space where young people could socialise freely was seen as important. People felt that increased social options provided safe and sustainable pathways for young people, “we need options for young kids not to hang around, be bored, get into drugs and then end up mentally unwell and never enter the workforce” and more “things for kids to stop them hanging out on the street.”

Local festivals that celebrated the area, in terms of culture, food, arts, sports or heritage were also seen as important, with 81% of survey participants stating that this was a high priority for the area.

Young people highlighted the lack of social spaces outside of organised activities. They were frustrated at not being able to socialise freely outside their homes. While it was noted that there were good sports facilities across Crumlin, young people spoke about a lack of social opportunities outside of sports clubs, saying there were “a lot of sports clubs, but not much to do if you don’t like sports.” Across focus groups, interviews and workshops, the absence of activities for young people was noted, “There’s not enough on offer even just for older kids that aren’t into the sports that are here. There is just boxing, football, GAA so the offer is quite limited.”

Envisioning a Centre

The need for a community centre was highlighted across the board. People talked about the importance of a community centre to bring people together and “age friendly social spaces, where people can kind of just be themselves and meet other people.”

The frustrations of trying to hold meetings, rehearsals and classes in spaces that were too small or that belonged to schools and churches, with limited availability and restricted use, was discussed by groups across Crumlin, “anyone you talk to will say where do I go? We don’t have a community hall that’s open to the public” and “what the area is missing is a room that’s not owned by a school or council or something, that is a community space run by all groups.”

Participants envisioned an informal drop-in space that was accessible to all ages and abilities and enabled interaction and sharing skills across the community. This would have rooms for “kids to play Lego” or to hang out so “kids are getting out and communicating with other kids.” “Drop-in classes where you could teach cooking, knitting, crochet, sewing, painting, whatever people want in the area” or where people could “watch telly or a movie club if you want to sit and watch a film,” were also seen as key to a community space.

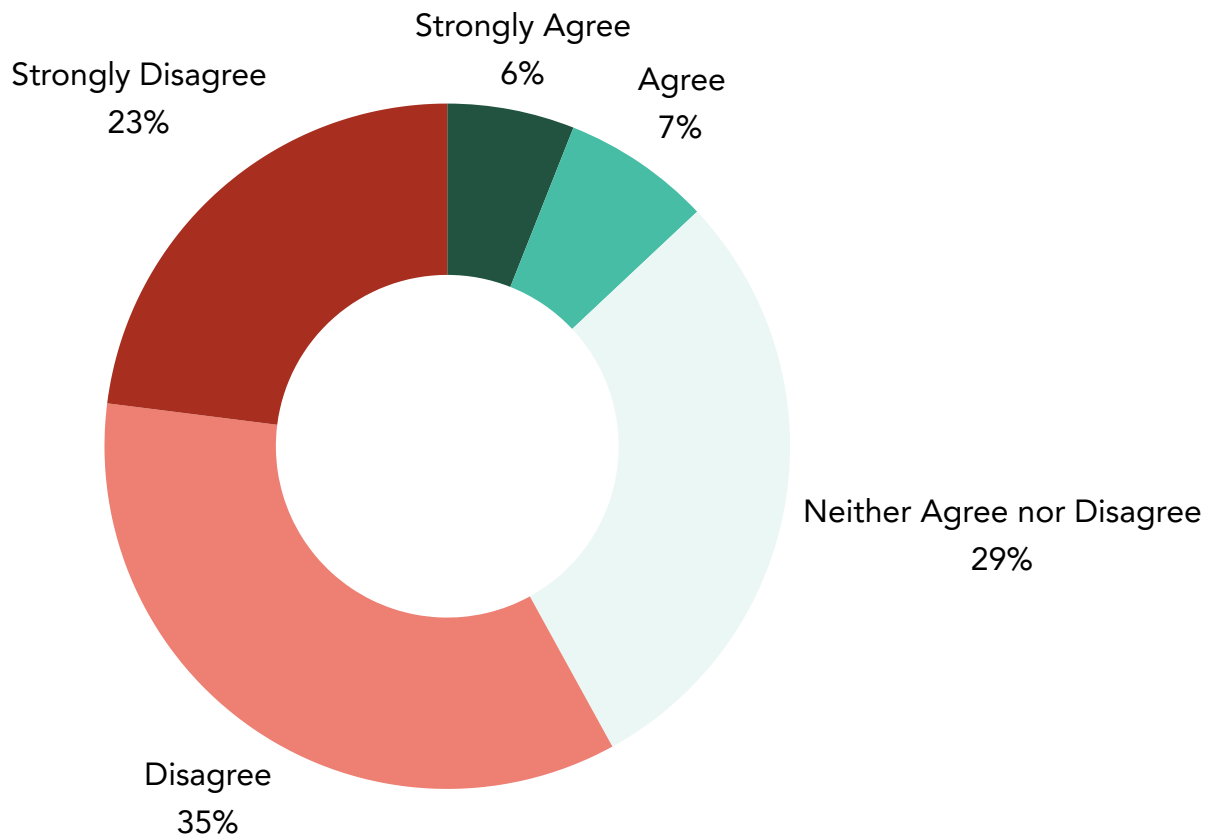
Alongside the need for social infrastructure and third spaces that could be used by the community, people expressed frustration at derelict buildings in the area, which were not in use, but had the potential to be used by the community. These were seen as too often being used for private investment opportunities. This was described as “all down to greed” and “not reflecting community priorities.” People said “Glebe House could have been redone if the council bought it, it could have been a community centre.” Other buildings, such as units within Crumlin Shopping Centre were described as having the potential to be developed as a social space. People were frustrated that these units have been idle for many years now, yet could provide significant benefit as community spaces.



Having a voice in local decision-making

In the community survey, people were asked what they would like to see more of in Crumlin. The highest response, at 84%, was more “decision making at a community level.” Alongside this, a total of 58% of people felt they did not have a voice in local decision making. 23% strongly disagreed and 35% disagreed that they, or those close to them “have a voice in the decisions that are made locally.”

Figure 9: Results of Community Survey Question “Do you agree or disagree that you and those close to you have a voice in the decisions that are made locally?”



Similarly, across conversations people talked about the need for collaboration and consultation between local authorities and the community. People felt they were not informed about government initiatives “we only hear about it when it gets to the very late stage” and “we only really heard about it once that has been set in stone by Dublin City Council, and we’re invited then to a meeting, to kind of push back against it. But it’s already happened.” People also felt there was a gap between people and the local council, where they are “a few steps away from the community.”

Community groups were noted as a good bridge between the council and the community, serving to build up credibility and trust between both parties, “translating residence’s requests and packaging it and sending it to the council.”

However, it was commented widely that these groups need consistency of funding and resources, with salaried staff in place, given the level of initiatives and projects that community groups are often expected to deliver, “all the stuff that’s been done here is all volunteers”, “it just takes a lot and people get burnt out as well.”

Community-led solutions

In talking about the need for a just transition to a more sustainable economy and society, people felt that community voices “need to be given a vital role at the table in terms of the design of things going forward” as communities have the solutions themselves for what works, but need adequate support.

“Every community needs people that are coming up with solutions that are supported by the government in realistic ways”

Participants felt that people themselves have solutions for their own communities, but they need to be supported in meaningful ways. People reflected that this support was:

“not just to cover capital costs, but also people costs as well. There’s huge expectation from government and local councils for people to work for nothing, to do it voluntarily. It kind of feels like they’re expecting the whole volunteer force to transform Ireland overnight, but that’s not possible, if you want people with the skills and experience that are actually going to deliver on things.”

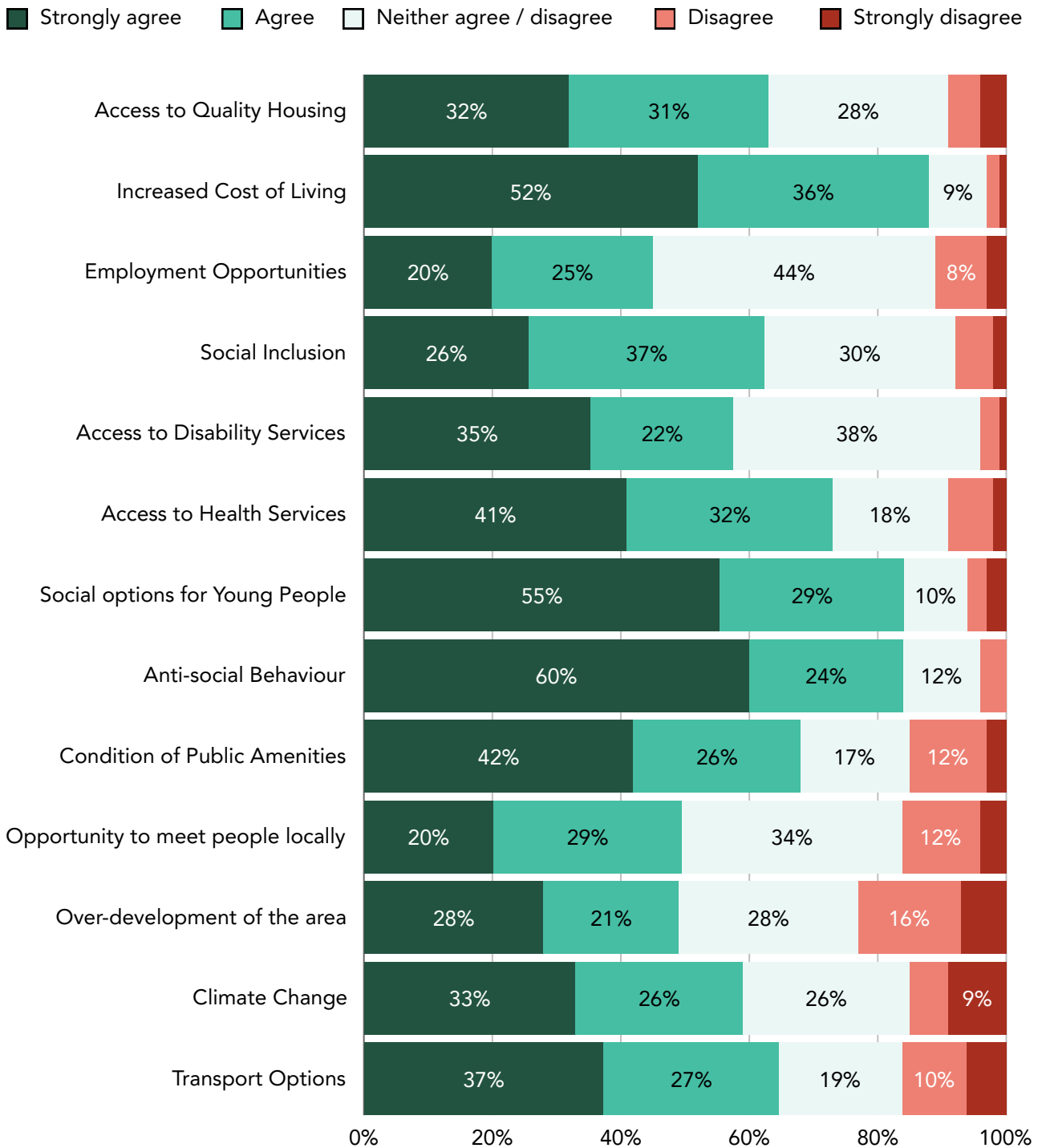
Change was seen as needed at a government level, in terms of financial support and policies, to create an enabling environment, “if you don’t have the backing of the government or the council, change is not going to happen.”

Volunteerism is an important dynamic, bringing positive benefits to both volunteers and communities, and sparking grassroots initiatives. However, it is important to recognise that volunteering ranges from a form of leisure to unpaid work. When all forms of volunteering are considered the same, this hides the fact that some forms of volunteerism are actually work (Overgaard, 2019) and as such, need to be adequately resourced.



“What concerns me most in Crumlin is...”

Figure 10: Responses to Community Survey Question “What concerns me most in Crumlin is...”



The survey highlighted that 82% of survey respondents said that change was needed in their area. What concerned people most in Crumlin was anti-social behaviour (60%), a lack of social options for young people (55%), increased cost of living (52%) and the condition of public amenities, such as parks and green spaces (42%).

Community safety

Anti-social behaviour is a broad term that can include behaviour ranging from what is considered uncivil and inconsiderate, to non-aggressive rule-breaking, to criminal and dangerous (Adams & Millie, 2021). Acts around substance misuse, aggression and higher risk behaviour are at the upper end of the continuum of anti-social behaviour and can be threats to public health. Further, the occurrence of these greatly impacts people's perceptions of safety in an area and how they use public spaces. In community consultations, people highlighted that in certain parts of Crumlin they felt unsafe, "I would not go near there late because it is too narrow, and you can't see the lights."

Other people described how "anti-social behaviour had improved", but "still around Halloween, the Bonfire with a lot of fireworks when they start somewhere and ruin the green. There can be a huge amount of antisocial behaviour." This also impacted on how people use green spaces, which came across strongly, "a lot of people won't go near the parks because you have a lot of people drinking" and "gangs picking on young people."

People also highlighted how drug dealing in the area was of concern. Drugs were seen as "too available" and visible, "you'd see drug dealing in plain view. Not that hiding it would be any better. The visibility of that and the normalization of that, I struggle with that."

"Even in the summer, when all the kids are there training at eight o'clock, there is drug dealing."

Some felt that this visibility resulted in young people becoming more susceptible to drug taking. People also talked about the importance of alternative pathways to prevent young people from engaging in dangerous forms of anti-social behaviour. This included intergenerational sharing of skills and applied training courses that might appeal more than formal education.

A perception of safety also impacts how young people use public space in Crumlin. Young people spoke of feeling intimidated or harassed in parks and green spaces. This included being targeted by drug dealers or people mistaking them for drug dealers. Young people also spoke about how they felt standing around in groups, chatting to friends in public areas, was seen as hostile, by business owners and Gardaí. Research has examined how moral judgements can determine what is considered anti-social behaviour with behaviours such as standing in large groups seen as anti-social (Walsh, 2019). This greatly impacts young people's opportunities to meet friends in public spaces. As mentioned earlier, it also contributes to a sense of a lack of social options outside of organised activities.

Cost of living

In the survey, 52% of people strongly agreed that an increased cost of living was a concern. Rising costs such as food, energy and accommodation were a key challenge. In conversations, people talked about how hard it was to ensure they could cover all their household costs. Some people talked about difficulties in meeting basic needs, saying it was “very hard. Trying to put something aside every month. It’s a struggle” and “energy bills are increasing” and they were “getting less for their money.”

It was highlighted that for older people the cost of living was a “challenge for pensioners with inflation.” Several older people living alone described how they were just heating one room of their house with electric heaters. Some people reflected that government supports, such as the cost-of-living lump sum payment or fuel allowance, helped, while others highlighted that “government subsidies didn’t help.” In response, people were “cutting down on leisure” and reducing their socialising.

Improving infrastructure and services

Housing

The cost of accommodation was raised repeatedly. Survey results show that 63% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that access to quality housing, both to buy and rent, was a key concern in Crumlin.

The need for more affordable homes was highlighted. 72% of respondents in the survey said that “affordable housing to buy” was what they would like to see more of in Crumlin. In conversations, people talked about how hard it was to get a mortgage and the lack of decent accommodation to rent. The challenge of accommodation was seen as “a universal issue in Ireland. For a lot of people it’s really a struggle. That’s no different here in Crumlin.” Crumlin, in fact, was seen by some as an “affordable part of the city”, with people saying Crumlin was “what I could afford within the M50.” Others, however, highlighted that it was “too hard to get a mortgage” and people talked about living at home with their parents, “it’s just impossible, I’ll never be able to move out. Even if you have the money, there is nowhere to go.” Opportunities to downsize but stay within their own neighbourhoods was something that people also looked for. However, this was seen as lacking in Crumlin.

The need to improve household energy costs was noted. Many people talked about the importance of improving the energy efficiency of their homes, and the challenges in heating less efficient housing. 51% of survey participants considered community-led renewable energy projects a high priority for the area. However, retrofitting was seen as very expensive. People highlighted that there are “not enough qualified tradespeople and it’s really hard to make that transition.”

“Something that I think gets ignored, but not specifically for Crumlin is this huge push for retrofitting - there are not the qualified staff in Ireland for it to work. They can put as many grants they want and encourage and enforce it, but I think it will be really hard to make that transition, even for people who want to, and the fact is, it’s expensive”.

The challenge in getting staff for smaller retrofitting jobs was noted, it was seen as “hard to get someone for smaller jobs.” One person commented that “a friend was doing a small job on her garden, but she couldn’t find anyone when they heard the budget.” People felt that if opportunities existed locally for cross-community retrofitting, “all the small houses collectively would have a very big impact.”

Transport and active travel

Many participants talked positively about Crumlin’s central location, how it was well connected, both close to the city centre and the M50 “it’s really easy to get to places. I’m not too far from city centre.” However, 64% of survey participants were concerned with transport options in Crumlin. This was reflected across interviews, focus groups and workshops.

People spoke of excessive car use in the area, the speed of cars and noise pollution from cars, which was described as exceeding city limits. “There are small speed bumps, but cars just fly 70 kilometres an hour on average. So I find it hard to sleep because we’re in front of them.”

Participants also highlighted frustrations with public transport. People talked about how disruptive changes to bus times and routes were, with bus “routes not going into the village.” More localised bus services around estates with smaller buses in use, were suggested.

Older people or those with mobility issues struggled due to indirect bus routes:

“You would see all the older women coming over, and they’d wait at the bus stop to get the number 18 bus up to the village to get their pension, and now they don’t have a bus that brings them up that way anymore”

“I even find myself taking a few of my older neighbours to mass in the mornings”.



Other people, however, found the new bus routes an improvement, “things are getting better. The realignment of the bus routes has helped because it’s much easier now to get from here to town or to get somewhere else, you have far more options.”

A lack of opportunities for active travel was highlighted, with people saying there are “no safe spaces for cyclists or pedestrians” and the area has “very poor cycle infrastructure.” “We usually take the bike but it’s quite dangerous because the speed of the cars is very high and there are no actual cycling paths.” Poor visibility on roads was cited as a deterrent to cyclists. People described how it was not safe to walk or cycle, particularly for young people going to school, saying “it would be a challenge for me as a parent to allow my children to cycle more through the area.” The dangers of badly parked cars outside schools were also raised which resulted in low visibility of children.

The surface of roads and footpaths was seen as an issue in the area. Footpaths were a key hazard for those with mobility issues, with people saying, “there’s very little wheelchair accessible paths” and “footpaths are in a bad state for elderly.”

“Bringing people with you”: climate action and biodiversity

Biodiversity and green spaces

A total of 59% of survey participants said that climate change concerned them the most in Crumlin. 53% said a local response to climate and biodiversity issues was a high priority to them. 67% considered access to nature and green spaces a high priority.

The importance of biodiversity in an urban area was reflected by participants. People stated “we need to change our relationship with the natural world.” People said the natural environment was a “communal resource” for future generations and we need to “allow nature to do its job.”

While there was once “terrible problems with litter in the area”, “overflowing bins” and “dumping in laneways”, through the litter clean-ups organised by Bloomin’ Crumlin the condition of litter was seen as “transformed.” It was noted that improving litter for children was a key motivator. One person said “I didn’t want my children to grow up between rubbish or the glass. It’s actually easy to fall on these little balance bikes right into the glass.”

The green spaces and parks in Crumlin were seen as remarkable for an area in the city, “not many places in Dublin would have that space where you can get your hands dirty. For that we’re actually really privileged, and I don’t think many people realise this as much as we should.”

The importance of increasing greenery was highlighted across workshops, focus groups and interviews, with people saying we “need more trees on the street” and there is a “lack of greenery around houses” and “green spaces are devoid of biodiversity.”

People also reflected on the perception of rewilding green spaces:

“There’s an expectation that green spaces are just mown this high and ‘isn’t that lovely, it’s so short and green, and there’s nothing in the way of the view.’ Or even with wildflowers, which other people would say, ‘Oh, that’s terrible, there’s so many weeds’, but, you know, you can appreciate that actually, they’re playing a great role in the ecosystem. I think there’s probably a generational, or just a more traditional mindset, that everything has to be kept really tidy and manicured and then it looks cared for and if its left to grow some people might think they’re just neglecting that.”

People stated that there needed to be more tree cover in the area, “this is one of the areas all over Dublin with the least tree canopy.” People also spoke of the frustrations in trying to increase tree cover as “we have now started in the last few years to plant trees, but it seems that still the council is removing more trees than putting them in” and “we can’t do this on our own.” Trees that were planted were also “not maintained well because they didn’t get the water they needed.”

The challenges that exist in moving to more biodiversity rich green spaces, were discussed. People reflected that it was important to engage all members of the community in this, “bringing people with you” and “doing things in steps”, “rather than going from a green grass field to native wildflowers and a biodiverse area, because you have to take people with you. And I know there’s a biodiversity crisis, but sometimes it’s actually the path of least resistance, whereas if you do something that is totally different, it can isolate people or annoy them.”

Education around biodiversity was identified as important “teaching people how to plant trees, or to give them the native plants or fruit trees for their own garden, would be helping towards increasing biodiversity in the area, but also getting people to take their own action.”



Inclusive sustainability

The need for sustainable actions to be inclusive and available to all groups across the community was reflected across the board in community consultations.

Some people spoke about the challenges in transitioning to a more sustainable economy as “being out of reach.” The importance of sustainable actions being affordable to everyone was seen as important, “it’s the affordability” and “it doesn’t seem achievable a lot of the time to live more sustainably.”

People also said that if there were “less costs on climate change then people wouldn’t have a problem. People are struggling at the minute, with the price of electricity, and with gas, fuel, the whole lot, people can’t afford to be spending an extra 20 cent to do the honourable.”

The difficulty of engaging in climate action, when trying to meet basic needs was highlighted regularly:

“Large families who are shoved into houses that aren’t fit for purpose, where people’s basic needs aren’t being met. So it makes it hard to come at people with more high level stuff, or even very basic stuff, like how they manage their waste and things like that on a day to day basis.”

People felt that environmental action was “all up to the individual.” This focus on individual responsibility only contributed to “making people feel guilty.” More opportunities for collective action, such as “group retrofitting schemes” or “growing food in a social space” were seen as positive and welcome.

People reflected that it is important to make sustainable actions available across the whole community, “the important thing is to make it relevant.”

“There’s a disconnect, but that’s a bridge that can be met, it’s just how can you make it easier for people that they have time or maybe the headspace to think about these things but to make it easier for them as well.”

Making sustainable actions work for people and relating it to their lives was seen as a crucial issue. “Everyone should have the opportunity to live sustainably. We need to relate climate actions to people’s daily concerns “for someone who might not be on a huge income and has a family to feed, it’s how do you reduce your energy bills, so that’s going to reduce your emissions associated with your house.”

Sustainable skills

People reflected on the need for education in sustainable skills, such as in repair and upcycling. Participants talked about the importance of making items, such as furniture or repairing items themselves and coming back to “skillsets that were lost” and the “sense of satisfaction that comes with making items.” The opportunity to link young people to this learning as an alternative to formal education pathways, outside of the traditional leaving certificate was discussed, “there are so many colleges and community colleges in Crumlin but maybe there is a lack of looking at the curriculum and having other support or services for training funded” that built skills in repair and sustainable practices.



Summary

The community consultation phase highlighted key concerns across the community. People felt their voices were not heard in local decision making. The importance of social bonds and a sense of community were important in the area. Opportunities for improving connections between people and building cohesion across the community was sought, including the increase of social spaces to facilitate this. Likewise, social opportunities for young people were seen as necessary. Pathways for young people outside of formal education were also something that could bring a lot of positivity. Access to quality housing to rent or buy, alongside community retrofitting opportunities were important. The local natural environment was of concern to people. The importance of engagement in climate action and enhancement of biodiversity across Crumlin came across strongly in the consultations. The need for improved public transport, including more local routes, smaller buses, and a reduction in car travel to contribute to safer roads, alongside walking and cycling infrastructure were also key issues for people.

The next chapter looks at how these needs and priorities can be shaped into actions that will have a positive impact for community development and climate action in Crumlin.

4. Solutions: co-creating sustainable pathways

Following on from the community engagement phase, an action planning workshop was held with community members to co-create solutions for the project. In focus group discussions, interviews and workshops, people were asked how they would like to see Crumlin in 2050. A visual image of Crumlin was created by artist Becky Hatchett³, based on the community engagement data. This information was presented at the action planning workshop, alongside an overview of data from the community consultations. Participants then worked in groups to identify pathways to achieve that vision.

Based on the action planning workshop, in this section we put forward three community-led solutions for climate justice. Each solution aims to accelerate climate action while responding to local priorities that emerged in the community engagement phase. These include connecting people across the community through a community forum; a multi-purpose drop-in centre that could serve as a basis for community exchange and sustainable skills training; and fostering green spaces across Crumlin.

These three actions complement each other and serve to further build the social and environmental infrastructure across Crumlin. These actions support connection and solidarity both with people and the natural world. The work of care and repair of neighbourhoods, communities and green spaces is essential for transitioning to sustainable futures (Carr, 2022). It involves creating opportunities for communities to meet and collectively work to address, alongside local government, issues of importance in the area, and it is about creating spaces and resources that enable this to happen.

Advancing collective action through a Crumlin Forum

At the action planning workshop people highlighted the importance of the need to improve connections, information sharing and local action planning across the community. One group proposed a cross-community network or forum as a way to support this.



³ <https://www.beckyhatchett.me/>

What is a community forum?

Community organising is the work of bringing people together to take action around common concerns and address injustice. Forums are an important means of coordinating collective action. They enable people to share ideas and cooperate. Gilchrist (2019, p78) highlights that for community development, networks or forums are important, as they provide resilient and dispersed communication channels; facilitate collective action and alliances; underpin multi-agency partnerships; support citizen engagement; promote community cohesion and integration; and create opportunities for reflection and learning. Social cohesion is long understood to develop through repeated human interaction and joint participation in shared projects (Klinenberg, 2019).

Forums operate as spaces for starting and sustaining collective action and are key means for people to participate in decision-making and action at a local level. They are ways for people to get together and solve common problems and meet common needs locally.

Participation

Participation in local decision-making can be government-led, where government shapes when and how people participate. It can also be people-led, emerging from the bottom-up, by the community themselves. For successful people-led participation in local governance, real opportunities are needed to set priorities, make decisions and be part of the implementation of local-level initiatives. An accountable citizens' group is central to breaking down barriers to participation (Arnstein, 1969).

The Working Group Report on Citizen Engagement with Local Government states that *"it is important that open and participatory systems are developed through an open and participatory engagement with interested parties...It is important to ensure that local people and other stakeholders are genuinely engaged in shaping the decisions that affect them"* (in Watson, 2019, p7).

Community Forums and Just Transition

Research from the Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy (MaREI) has highlighted the importance of moving from awareness raising to action on climate change, and in doing this, providing supportive frameworks to enable people to take action (Watson, 2019). Effective climate action requires the engagement of communities in decision-making in their area. While climate action would not be the sole focus of the Community Forum, it would be one of its mandates. Local communities are often the primary site of climate mitigation and adaptation action, yet can be excluded from decision-making and

implementation processes (Restrepo-Mieth et al., 2023). This can often be due to a lack of means or spaces for cross-community organising and local decision-making.

A forum in Crumlin would bring together dynamic community development and environmental groups and serve as a body for sustaining collective action on social and environmental issues across the area. At the solutions workshops, people highlighted the importance of a community forum that would bring together representatives from all voluntary and community groups, clubs and organisations across the wider Crumlin area. People felt living in Crumlin wasn't just about having a house there, but being actively involved in the community and what was happening in the area. The idea of a Community Forum was seen as a network consisting of representatives of all groups in the area and the people who live there. This would provide an opportunity for everyone to hear what is happening and to be involved in decision-making at a local level. This could affect regeneration and enhancement of the area socially and environmentally, alongside acting as a link between the community, the local authority and national policy. Realistic resources need to be provided by state agencies to support local people to take action (Watson, 2019). A coordinator in a paid position of some capacity would appear to be essential in managing such a Forum.

Some of the more challenging work in forging community networks and bringing about change collectively is the challenge of differing opinions and priorities, and managing tensions internally among the group and with external stakeholders. This involves emotional sensitivity and interpersonal skills (Gilchrist, 2019). As the community consultation section shows, this interpersonal negotiation between different groups is already a feature of voluntary work in the area.

Community networks have already been established in neighbouring suburbs of Drimnagh (Dynamic Drimnagh) and the Kilmainham Inchicore Network (KIN).

Case Study: Dynamic Drimnagh

Dynamic Drimnagh is a network that was launched in 2021. It consists of voluntary groups and individuals living and working in the area, supported by a part-time liaison officer in a paid position. The Dynamic Drimnagh Plan sets out the body of work of the network over a ten-year period to address "community deficits and enhance its enormous positive assets", to create a "cohesive community with improved infrastructure." Its vision is "a strong, inclusive, creative, and caring Drimnagh where the community play a leadership role in managing development and transformation" (Dynamic Drimnagh, 2022).

Dynamic Drimnagh's Mission is to "implement the Dynamic Drimnagh Plan and proactively advocate and support, encourage and facilitate the community of Drimnagh to apply influence on matters that impact on its wellbeing."

Five strategic pillars set out the base for the Dynamic Drimnagh Plan:

1. A Cohesive Community in Drimnagh
2. Community Centred Development including Housing, Planning and Safety
3. Heritage, Green Spaces, Waterways and Environmental Challenges
4. Lifelong Education and Learning for the Community
5. Health, Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture

Dynamic Drimnagh see climate change as central to the plan in terms of reducing emissions and in making sure housing, infrastructure, access to services and health are resilient in light of future changes in climate.

Community notice board

To further develop communication across Crumlin, an electronic community noticeboard, powered by renewable energy was suggested at the action planning workshop. This could serve as a prominent communication tool for the Community Forum to update local people on its actions, alongside wider community news and events.

Community Forum

To get the Community Forum up and running, representatives of all community organisations across Crumlin would be invited to an explanatory meeting. Groups could then make an initial commitment and an inaugural meeting could be organised to establish the forum formally.

An executive committee would then be established that represents the diversity of population demographics and the range of community interests and groups across Crumlin. The committee would then develop a mission statement, relevant and appropriate terms of reference and strategic goals for the forum.

An initial community meeting of the forum would then be held, from which a plan and strategy would be brainstormed around securing sustainable funding and physical resources, including a space to operate in and a coordinator.

The Terms of Reference of the Crumlin Forum could focus for example, on enhancing sustainability and community development in Crumlin. This would serve also as a bridge between the community and local authority, by establishing a formally recognised mechanism for community-led input into local challenges and solutions. Key mandates for the Forum may include the procurement of a space to serve as a community centre for the area and an official greening strategy for Crumlin.

Building social infrastructure with a community centre

Social infrastructure describes the physical places and spaces that support community connections. This includes libraries, schools, playgrounds, community centres, parks, sports pitches, swimming pools, alongside footpaths, courtyards, community gardens and other green spaces (Klinenberg, 2019). Social infrastructure fosters contact, mutual support and collaboration among neighbours and communities (Klinenberg, 2019). People forge bonds in places with a healthy social infrastructure. When social infrastructure is degraded however, it inhibits social activity, leaving families and individuals to fend for themselves.

Community gathering spaces are key forms of social infrastructure. The Climate Resilient project refers to community gathering spaces as spaces where people meet up in a community (Mascaro, 2024). These are also referred to as third spaces. They are places for people to connect in their communities to build relations, foster belonging and a sense of wellbeing. Stronger community ties are linked to more climate resilient communities. Community gathering spaces are loosely defined as places that:

- People visit or engage with on a semi-regular basis;
- Where people meet up with friends to casually hang out but could also feel comfortable going alone;
- With low or no barriers to entry; and
- That are/feel safe and welcoming for all kinds of people (Mascaro, 2024).



Community Wealth Building and a Community Centre

Across consultations, people raised the importance of having a community space owned by the community. People were very clear on how they would like to use this community centre as a space where people could meet and exchange skills, ideas and items, and spend time together. This involved:

- Informal skills sharing: shorter or once-off drop-in classes where community members share their skills (i.e. cutting children's hair, intercultural cooking etc.)
- Sustainable skills training: opportunities to train both young people and adults in sustainable skills in reuse and repair. This could link in with sustainability training offerings provided by the City of Dublin Education and Training Board Adult Education Services
- Sharing items: a library of things
- Sharing sustainable ideas: opportunities for groups to use the space for meetings and collective planning
- Space for informal hanging out (free tea/coffee), including a space where young people can socialise freely (with newspapers, TV or occasional film screenings)
- Hub for information on local climate actions: raising awareness of local biodiversity and climate initiatives

The community centre would provide social and ecological benefits. Drawing on solidarity economy and circular economy principles, this space would be grounded in cooperation, sharing, network building, reusing and repairing (Kawano, 2018, Government of Ireland, 2022).

Identifying a space

One of the challenges in supporting collective action in Crumlin is that there is no space that belongs to the community. Several halls or meeting places are owned by different groups and accessing these on a collective basis is a challenge. Alongside this, there are derelict and underused buildings in the area that have the potential to be used by the community. Drawing on Community Wealth Building, this solution would see that one of the actions of the Community Forum could be to work closely with the council to identify a suitable space to bring into collective ownership.



Community wealth building and commons

Socially productive use of land and property is one of the five key principles of Community Wealth Building (Lacey-Barnacle et al., 2023, CLES, n.d.). Local land and property assets represent a base from which local wealth can be accrued through equitable forms of ownership, management and development. A huge amount of wealth is held through the land and property assets of anchor institutions. However, in recent decades, more and more public land has been sold off to private interests (CLES, n.d.).

Local authorities are often under pressure to sell off land and property assets rather than investing in their social, economic and environmental value for the local community. Rather than seeing land as a commodity, Community Asset Transfer would see land directed towards achieving social well-being and environmental sustainability with the financial return going to local communities (CLES, 2019). Community ownership of land and assets allows land value to be retained locally. It also provides protection for the community from increases in costs and rents. Central to community asset transfer is the principle that land and property ownership is a means of empowering local people to help themselves and make sustainable improvements to their communities (Smith, 2010). This is part of an Asset-Based Community Development model which sees that formal and informal associations and networks have the potential to mobilise assets within a community (Smith, 2010).

In Crumlin, Community Asset Transfer policies could be developed to support a period of transition firstly with sites transferred into management and then into community ownership. By operating in stages, this would provide opportunity to assess risk at each stage, identifying advice, support and training requirements along the way (Smith, 2010).

Dublin City Council and Community Wealth Building

The Community Wealth Building model was adopted by Dublin City Council in 2021 (CLES, 2022, Dublin City Council Finance Strategic Policy Committee, 2022). Dublin City Council has engaged CLES to assist in the implementation and mainstreaming of Community Wealth Building. A Working Group has been established to:

- Champion Community Wealth Building as a strategic approach to the Council's work;
- Map existing initiatives of Community Wealth Building in the City and evaluate potential for future development;

- Start a conversation about how a Community Wealth Building approach can be mobilised to change and improve outcomes for city council residents;
- Think about the delivery of new initiatives through a Community Wealth Building lens (CLES, 2022).

An implementation plan has been co-created with the City Council's cross-departmental Community Wealth Building working group. The plan recognises the importance of creating productive local economies and highlights how Community Wealth Building provides an opportunity to think differently about land and assets in the city and to consider how the flow of wealth from land and property assets can support local people.

“Adopting Community Wealth Building (CWB) as an integral part of the City Council’s corporate strategy gives voice to the idea that the City’s wealth should be shared. Through CWB, Dublin City Council will use its economic role to influence wealth flows around our capital city in the best interest of local communities. A strong connection to the locality is a key driver for CWB.” – Cllr. Séamas McGrattan, Chair of the Finance SPC. (CLES, 2022)

The adoption of the Community Wealth Building model by Dublin City Council provides an opportunity for the Community Forum to explore opportunities to transfer an existing building or space in Crumlin into collective ownership, to be used as a community centre. Alongside this, one of the mandates of the Community Forum could be to support Dublin City Council to implement Community Wealth Building locally.

While identifying and transferring assets into community ownership to create a community centre may take some time, drawing on the idea of ‘meanwhile spaces’ could be an option. The term ‘meanwhile spaces’ refers to disused sites that are loaned for a period of time to community groups or small local enterprises, by the public sector or developers. These sites might be vacant or under-used shops, buildings, open spaces or land. Temporary contracts would allow community groups to use these spaces for local initiatives, generating social value (Gattupalli, 2024). This could involve first a mapping of potential third spaces across Crumlin.



Case Study: Community Wealth Building & land ownership in Scotland

The Scottish government has adopted the approach of Community Wealth Building. Its Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement sets out a framework for land reform in Scotland for owning, managing and using land in a fair way and for supporting land transfer to communities. This states “More local communities should have the opportunity to own, lease or use buildings and land which can contribute to their community’s wellbeing and future development” (Scottish Government, 2022). A set of protocols help to support putting this statement into practice, including on negotiating the transfer of land to communities. Community Right to Buy legislation gives communities a pre-emptive right to buy land when it is offered for sale (Community, Ownership Support Services, n.d.). Drawing on this supportive governance framework for community land ownership, the community-based organisation New Cumnock Development Trust,⁴ negotiated the purchase of a former department store that had been derelict for 20 years in New Cumnock town centre. The group gained funding for acquisition from the Scottish Land Fund. A Re-use Hub has been created that operates as a social enterprise, developing sustainable skills and creating jobs.

Finding a space in Crumlin

The Community Forum would aim to work directly in cooperation with Dublin City Council to identify potential current areas of land or premises that may be adapted or obtained, to establish a community centre for Crumlin.

An initial mapping and analysis of potential sites and premises in the area could be conducted to establish the above aim. A shortlist of high-potential opportunities would then be drawn up, clearly outlining to the local authority the merits and community benefits of utilising them as a community centre. If necessary, multi-agency negotiations and planning, including representation of the community through the Forum, should take place with developers and the local authority, around the possibility of purchasing a suitable site or premises to transfer to community ownership.

The next step would be to identify secure funding and means (i.e. part crowd funded, part institutional funding) for the above, as well as the long-term running of the centre. This could be part of the Community Forum’s work in securing long-term funding and resourcing.

⁴ <https://www.ncdt.org.uk/>

Community-wide regeneration, maintenance and care of green space

Improving greenery and biodiversity across Crumlin was one of the solutions that emerged from the action planning workshop. This is closely linked to the ongoing work of Bloomin' Crumlin.

Nature-based solutions

Public green space, such as parks, trees, green roofs, streams, riverbanks, sporting fields and community gardens provide important ecosystem services in urban areas. In addressing the climate crisis, these spaces also offer nature-based solutions to climate change, disaster-risk reduction and biodiversity loss. Nature-based solutions are ways of using nature to solve the current and future challenges within our societies, such as climate change adaptation and the mitigation of the loss of biodiversity (Raymond et al., 2017). Nature-based solutions improve cities' livability and resilience towards extreme weather events associated with climate change (Cucca, et al., 2023).

What are nature-based solutions?

The UN Environmental Assembly defines nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development as: "Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits," while also adhering to social safeguards for local communities and Indigenous Peoples (UNEP, 2022).

Urban green spaces have a key role in regulating the carbon cycle and reducing carbon dioxide emissions (Zhao, et al., 2023). Dublin City Council's Green Infrastructure strategy emphasises the value of multi-functional green spaces which can produce food, support flood alleviation, capture carbon, while acting as non-motorised transport routes and an amenity (Dublin City Council, 2022b).

While green spaces also support the health and well-being of communities, greening is often an after-thought within a developer-led planning system (Clavin et al., 2021). Further, green space is not always evenly distributed across urban areas (Clavin et al., 2021). More affluent areas tend to have greater green coverage. Bloomin' Crumlin's current work on mapping tree cover has highlighted that this is an issue across the Crumlin area.

Looking at the revitalisation of marginal green spaces in Crumlin, O'Connor (2021) identified that these spaces are currently underutilised by the community and need improvement. O'Connor (2021) highlights that regeneration can be carried out using a cultural ecosystem services approach to provide recreational opportunities, aesthetic benefits and social opportunities, transforming them into dynamic active places.

In greening strategies, recognising the differing needs and interests of people across the community is crucial to avoid marginalising certain social groups and leading to unjust social outcomes (Lane and McDonald, 2005).

“Just Green Enough”

While green spaces make neighbourhoods healthier, research has highlighted that at times the unintended effects of greening (green gentrification) and nature-based solutions can lead to negative social impacts such as rising house or rent prices (Cucca et al., 2023, Wolch et al., 2014). A ‘just green enough’ strategy (Curran and Hamilton, 2012) that is community-led can go towards counteracting this. This involves designing green space projects shaped by community concerns, needs and desires. It also involves weaving natural function into small, underused sites, or initiatives linked to local concerns, such as health, food and building urban agriculture. As part of this, opportunities need to be created for differing groups across the community to articulate their greening needs and to generate greening plans that are appropriate (Clavin et al., 2021).

Crumlin is well-placed for this, with a strong community-focused environmental group, Bloomin’ Crumlin and through the other solutions in this report, the Community Forum, would bring in more diverse groups, alongside the potential of community land ownership. As the action planning workshop highlighted, the need for a community board to push initiatives “driven by the community, for the community” and to be collectively listened to by the council. Rather than, as participants raised at the action planning workshop, the council hearing just one person complaining and stopping the greening initiative.

Case Study: Collaborative community greening in Dublin 8

Mapping Green Dublin undertook a community co-creation approach to greening in the neighbouring suburb of Dublin 8 from 2019 - 2021.

The project collaboratively identified existing community green assets; looked at neighbourhood scale deficits to identify greening interventions that were responsive to local needs; and proposed interventions with social and cultural value to the community (Mapping Green Dublin, 2021). In engaging with the community, the project organised focus group discussions and workshops to listen to the community and reframe plans accordingly. A participatory mapping initiative engaged local people in mapping green spaces across the area (Clavin et al., 2021). A Greening Forum was established to bring together different groups to develop inclusive approaches to greening. The Forum identified ten projects around inter-generational greenspaces (greenspace improvement on Devoy Road, intergenerational private gardens, bench project), Canal and walkway activation (a pilgrim path/camino in Dublin 8, FUNAFLOAT, a water-based activity for young people) and parklets and pocket forests (Mapping Green Dublin, 2021). The project also identified pathways to greening action for policy makers and practitioners.



Bloomin' Crumlin are currently leading the way on greening Crumlin, increasing space for biodiversity, re-using vacant plots and ensuring community engagement in green infrastructure, alongside implementing the Crumlin Biodiversity Action Plan. Since July 2024 the group have been engaged in mapping tree cover in the area, working with researchers from University College Dublin and mobilising volunteers across the community to be part of this. As raised at the action planning workshop, the ongoing maintenance of enhanced green spaces is important, as relying on just one group of volunteers is not sustainable. Cross-community involvement in the regeneration, maintenance and care of green space was seen as necessary. Alongside this, improved governance relationships and a greening partnership with the wider community, alongside a cross-departmental approach with the local council, would support Bloomin' Crumlin to lead on greening initiatives across the area.

The Community Forum and Bloomin' Crumlin could collectively engage a consultant to develop a community-led greening strategy that is co-managed by the Community Forum, Bloomin' Crumlin and Dublin City Council. The greening strategy would build on the substantial work undertaken by Bloomin' Crumlin already. Through the Community Forum, there would be deeper engagement across the community, as well as a wider group to support implementation and maintenance.

Data from the community engagement phase and the action planning workshop highlighted some green infrastructure that people in the local area would like to see in Crumlin. This list is included in Annexe One. However, as the Crumlin People's Transition had not started with the intention of creating a greening strategy, this list is not comprehensive, and the community engagement phase did not explore the full range of community priorities and input around greening.



5. Conclusion

The model described in *The People's Transition: Community-led Development for Climate Justice* (McCabe, 2020) aims to systematically include people and communities in the design, implementation and ownership of climate action such that communities would begin to see the benefits of sustainable development in their lives and thus would support a rapid deep decarbonisation push towards zero emission societies. It also recognises that public investment in climate action, if directed towards community-led initiatives, could provide a boost for local development across Ireland and could address issues of inequality that exist on the island.

But theory is one thing and practice is another. Thanks to the support of AIB, TASC has been able to work with the community of Crumlin for more than a year to bring the People's Transition to life.

Key enabling factors for the project were an active community and voluntary network in Crumlin. TASC was conscious that this report tapped into the good will of the community and the deep interest of local people in improving their area. This made the community consultation phase easier and is a strong base to take forward the project solutions. Alongside this, the close working relationship between Bloomin' Crumlin, Dublin South City Partnership and TASC, throughout the process, was invaluable.

There are challenges. In the mapping and community engagement phases, several issues came to the fore. Many people felt their voices were not heard in local governance structures and looked for opportunities for community-led decision making. Inequality is an issue across Crumlin. Improved affluence in the area, sits alongside disadvantage. Enhancing community cohesion, now and into the future is of importance, including the increase of social spaces to facilitate this. In consultations, people raised the importance of having a community space or centre owned by the community. Increased social options for young people is also much needed for the area. Exploring pathways for young people outside of formal education, through sustainable skills training, was also seen as important.

The local natural environment was of concern to people. The importance of engaging in climate action and enhancing biodiversity in Crumlin came across strongly in the consultations. Through Crumlin's Biodiversity Action Plan and the work of Bloomin' Crumlin there are excellent opportunities in place to regenerate Crumlin's green spaces. Having a wider network of people involved in regenerating green spaces, alongside the ongoing maintenance and care of these spaces, was seen as crucial.

People expressed frustration at the lack of access to quality housing to rent or buy. With increased cost of living in terms of energy bills, opportunities for community-wide retrofitting were important. People also spoke of the importance of reducing car travel. To support this, improved public transport, including more local routes and smaller buses, alongside walking and cycling infrastructure, were seen as needed.

The solutions detailed in this report seek to address some of the key priorities of the community. They seek to ensure that climate action provides tangible benefits, highlighting the advantages of a just transition.

The first proposed solution, a Community Forum would bring together diverse groups across the community. Forums operate as spaces for starting and sustaining collective action and are key means for people to participate in decision-making and action at a local level. Further, effective climate action requires the active engagement of communities in decision-making on their area. A forum in Crumlin would bring together dynamic community development and environmental groups and serve as a body for sustaining collective action on social and environmental issues across the area.

Social infrastructure is important in building community cohesion. People forge bonds in places with healthy social infrastructure (Klinenberg, 2019). Stronger community ties are linked to more climate resilient communities (Mascaro, 2024). The second proposed solution, a community centre in Crumlin would provide a base for collaboration, skills exchanges and interaction. The adoption of the Community Wealth Building model by Dublin City Council provides an opportunity for the Community Forum to explore opportunities to transfer an existing building or space in Crumlin into collective ownership, to be used as a community centre. Crumlin is also well placed to act as a case study on Community Asset Transfer in Dublin.

Improving biodiversity across Crumlin brings a wealth of social and environmental benefits. Enhanced green spaces support the health and wellbeing of communities. Urban green spaces also play an important role in reducing carbon emissions and combatting biodiversity loss. While Bloomin' Crumlin is currently working towards this, there are many green spaces still underutilised and in need of improvement. Engaging with the Community Forum on developing a greening strategy for the area would bring more diverse groups across the community into the regeneration, maintenance and care of green spaces. Improved governance relationships and a greening partnership with the wider community, alongside a cross-departmental approach with the local council, would support Bloomin' Crumlin to lead on greening initiatives across the area.

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7. Annex One

Community consultation data on greening in Crumlin

Environmental and social infrastructure:

- Healthy Streets: close roads to cars and create a pocket park with a play area and seating, as in Stoneybatter's Greening Strategy for Halliday Road (Tubridy et al., 2020)
- Intercultural cooking pop-up (using produce from community garden): new communities sharing historical recipes mixed with Crumlin/Dublin historical recipes
- Community Festival on local sustainability and heritage;
- More equitable distribution of trees across both affluent and disadvantaged areas of Crumlin

Underused/Derelict sites

- Green underused urban infrastructure, such as back alleys, laneways, derelict sites.
- Increasing tree cover: Trees lining streets and pocket forests. New roads and paths designed to accommodate tree growth.
- Planters as a stepping stone to more trees in the ground.
- Replacement of trees that have been removed: people expressed frustration about trees cut down and not being replaced.

Active travel corridors/traffic calming measures

- Increase tree planting near schools as a traffic-calming measure. This would build on current progress through existing initiatives such as the Safe Routes to School Programme
- Greenery built into developments (i.e. transport plans like Bus Connects)
- Improve permeability and connectivity for active travel

Vertical greening:

- Greening vertically: lampposts, electric wire etc.

Care and Maintenance:

- A maintenance programme for all green infrastructure in the area (led by neighbourhoods)

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