

Louth County Council  
Crowe Street  
Dundalk  
Co Louth

**RE: Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027**

A Chara,

I welcome the addition of the following condition to the Draft Development plan:

13.9.43 Backland Development "*Backland Development will only be considered in Rural Policy Zones 1 and 2 where the applicants' site has been owned by the family for at least 15 years and the landholding is at least 1.5 hectares. Only one dwelling will be permitted per landowner.*"

This is an important condition that will ensure rural communities are not fragmented and it is important that this condition remains.

**Section 3.17** of the Draft Plan states: "*This Draft Plan recognises the importance of rural life and the rural economy to the County and will strive to support the continued growth and development of rural areas. It is important that a balance is achieved that will allow the countryside to be preserved for future generations whilst also facilitating the growth of the rural economy and rural communities.*"

To further this commitment to rural life I would request an addition of a policy to positively accommodate applications for one off rural dwellings in certain circumstances.

The plan should seek to positively accommodate people who have lived all their lives in a rural area and make reasonable allowance for those people to continue to live in their rural community. Under no circumstance should someone who has for all their life contributed to the character and community of a rural area be forced through restrictive planning guidelines to move from that area to an urban area, especially where a suitable site is available in their area.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Is Mise le meas,

Brian Gargan