

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Emer Lynch []

Sent: 14 December 2020 21:06

To: LouthCDP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to outline my observations and concerns about the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2017. In particular, I want to reference the 'Qualifying Criteria Rural Policy Zone 1'. I live in zone 1, and my elderly parents also live in this zone. I understand the area is of significant landscape value, however, this should not mean that our children in future years can not remain as part of our community. I am currently helping to look after and care for my parents who live closeby. I would not be in a position to do this if I didn't get the opportunity to build in the area. I worry that the Draft plan will mean that, in future generations, our children will not be able to be part of our community. The Draft plan would exclude my children from building their own houses in the area. It will be detrimental to the community if future generations are unable to live close to and help care for members of their family and community.

The Draft plan discriminates against those who are not engaged in full time agriculture. I have lived in the area most of my life. My family have been involved in agriculture for generations. If the Draft plan is put in place as it stands, future generations of my family will be precluded from building here. I do not own 3 hectares nor am I engaged in full time agriculture. Therefore my children, and other children whose parents are not landowners and engaged in agriculture in the community, will not be in a position to build their homes here. It will decimate our community.

For the past 10 years been an active member of the Parent Association of Mullaghbuoy National School. I have also been a parent representative on the Board of Management of Mullaghbuoy NS for six of the last seven years. The Board of Management and the parent association have worked and continue to work very hard to build the school community and make improvements to the school. The school has been extended to include a 3rd classroom - an upgrade from the prefabricated units which were in place since the 90's. If the people currently growing up in the area are unable to build their homes and raise their families in our community the school attendance will drop. If this happens there will be a risk that the school could close and we will lose out on the enrichment the school brings to the area and the community as a whole.

I would ask that any further action on the Draft plan be postponed until the residents of this area can hold public meetings to discuss the implications of the changes proposed in the plan. Delaying the plan would give residents in the area a chance to have their say and possibly suggest changes that would not be so detrimental to the community and families living here.

Yours sincerely,

Emer Lynch