

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Aoife malone []

Sent: 17 December 2020 20:30**To:** LouthCDP

17/12/2020

Dear all,

I wish to make a submission after serious consideration of the proposed development plan for County Louth. I am indigenous to Templetown with my father, grandfather, great-grandfather and many generations before living their whole life within a 1Km radius from my home.

My father bought the field my home house is currently built on from my grandfather, with the idea in mind that his children could build on his land and live close to home. Instead, my brothers and I will be forced to move into Dundalk, or other urban areas where the standard of housing and value for money is pretty poor compared to what one can build on their own in this day and age.

In a housing crisis like the one we are currently in, I cannot fathom how people who are willing to build their own home are being punished. There is currently NOT enough housing or resources available in Dundalk to accommodate the influx of home buyers that this plan will create. One resource in particular that is important to consider is childcare. Many, if not most parents in the locality depend on grandparents and other family members to childmind, do school runs etc. This is an invaluable resource for many people especially those who work full time and/or those who may not be able to afford private childminders or Creches. Childcare is one of the highest costs young parents face, thus by forcing people away from the support of their own family & community will only add yet another financial burden to local families. Lastly, it may not be realised by those who propose and support this plan, but this has put a huge amount of pressure on young people like myself in this locality, as if 2020 was not stressful enough. I have spoken with local people my own age and even younger who are worried about the prospect of having to live away from home. Many are panicking to get planning permission submitted, to hedge the prospect of additional, unattainable qualifications. People in their early 20s, at such a vulnerable time, should NOT be forced to consider where they may have to spend the rest of their lives, as spending it AT HOME will no longer be an option under this plan.

If the planning office proceed with the proposed plan it will be a catalyst for the destruction of our local, rural community. At the very least, the planners should thoroughly consider the position of those whom will be most affected, before making any detrimental decisions.

Regards,

Aoife Malone