

## **Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.**

### **Submission to Louth County Council**

My name is Michael McCann, I live in Glenmore, I have lived here all my life. My father and his father before him and their families have also lived in this townland of North county Louth. Our family tree has been very much associated with this community and the area for over a hundred years.

My daughter and son and their families live in the local area and their children attend our local Mullaghbuoy national school and Bush post primary school.

Based on the criteria of the present development plan my youngest daughters will not be able to build in this area or raise their families here, it also means that none of my grandchildren will ever be able to build in the community thus killing off an entire family tradition of living, working and supporting a rural community through schools, sport, church and voluntary organisations.

We stand to lose our local school, community centre, church, athletic club and football club if this plan is implemented as written.

It also will discriminate against an ageing population, the joy of having a son or daughter build beside them to support them in their old age.

I am writing this submission as a grandfather and long term resident to request that Louth County Council reconsider the criteria in the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

### **Questions and observations I have for Louth Co Council**

1. It is extremely unfair to proceed with a deadline of Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> during which a Covid level 3 and level 5 situation existed, this has had a major impact on the opportunity for the local population to meet to highlight the major failings of this plan, and on the long term effect on the wider community of the area. Please extend the submission time to at least June 2021.
2. Was there a social study carried out on the economic and community effects of the plan?
3. Why was the original environmental area changed to just two dedicated zones from the previous plan of five zones?
4. It just seemed that somebody basically decided to colour the North of county Louth to the left hand side of the Ballymacscanlon to Carlingford road “green” without any informed criteria. Please explain on what basis this was decided?
5. This plan as written will have a devastating effect on rural life and development from Ravensdale to Glenmore to Omeath and the townlands in between.
6. At the very least, the criteria used for a local residence living in zone 2 should be the same criteria for residences living in zone 1.

7. It is important for the culture and heritage of this area of North Louth that we have diversified economic activities, which includes those that extend beyond agriculture, to set a criteria that is based on land ownership, is extremely short-sighted and discriminatory.

The Draft Development Plan sets out that it “recognises the importance of facilitating people with a strong economic or social link to their local rural area – and that the ‘local rural area’ is defined as being a radius of 6 kilometres from the qualifying family residence”. The criteria set out for Zone 1 does not align with this intention. The criteria as it is currently written is regressive and discriminatory and will in fact push those that have a strong economic and social link to their rural area, out of the community. It is vitally important that a social study is carried out before this plan is approved.

I could write a long submission, but I am hoping that this will not be necessary, it is so important for persons in positions of authority to understand the implications to communities and the well being of people in making necessary long term plans.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCann