

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Breen Doris []

Sent: 18 December 2020 12:58**To:** LouthCDP

To whom it concerns at louthcdp@louthcoco.ie;

I wish to lodge an objection to the current Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

The adoption of this Draft plan specifically in relation to the new Rural Development Plan and the designation of the majority of the Cooley Peninsula, within the Dundalk Carlingford Electoral area as Rural Zone 1. It appears that close to 80% of Rural Policy Zone 1 is within the North Louth Area.

With the stipulations being proposed for this zone, this will have a long term negative effect on the rural community in this area, and result in the closure of long standing rural schools, diminish our sporting clubs, close local shops and small businesses and banish the future younger generations to what are overcrowded sprawling urban centers within the county and country as it stands. In the years to come It will lead to an aged rural population in isolation from their families and siblings without any support, creating a negative impact on society and rural living in these areas. It will also lead to further strains on our health system and the supports required to sustain home living for the elderly in the area, as they will have no family in close proximity or neighborhood's to support their needs.

- The conditions being proposed within Zone 1; that the applicants or their parent must own 3 hectares of land to allow the applicant to apply for one off housing is discriminatory. The majority of land holdings in this area are small holdings that rely on other incomes to supplement and support their families.
- The proposal that criteria differs between Zone 1 & Zone 2 with respect to allowing planning permission for an applicant who needs to be in close proximity to look after an elderly family member or relative with a disability within Zone 2 and not in Zone 1. This is discriminatory against families in Zone 1.

We appreciate that this Draft Policy is guided by National & Regional Planning Policies & Guidelines as well as true Governance from the Regulator, but there is capacity to amend the details so as to protect our Rural communities into the future. With the imminent discussions and review of National Rural Housing Policy in early 2021 we should not be imposing further restrictions on our rural communities in North Louth in advance of this.

I urge you to review the Draft policy with respect of the points raised and reconsider the conditions relating to 3 Hectare of land, to a minimum of 1 Hectare.

Also if these proposals in relation to Rural Development are to be upheld, I ask you to consider the need to zone further lands within our rural village settings, which is supported by National and Regional policy, such as Bellurgan, Lordship, Faughart, Ravensdale, etc; so that these lands can be used to provide housing for the younger generations of our communities who can demonstrate a local need to the area at an affordable level. This will ensure that the area will not be decimated and force our younger generations away and leave an ageing population without family support.

Yours;

Mr. Breen Doris