

20 December 2020

To: Louth County Council

**DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027**

To Whom It Concerns,

Representing  
communities in:  
Annagassan  
Ardee  
Baltray  
Blackrock  
Carlingford  
Castlebellingham  
Kilsaran  
Clogherhead  
Collon  
Drogheda  
Dromiskin  
Dunleer  
Dundalk  
Grange  
Greenore  
Kilcurry  
Kilkerley  
Knockbridge  
Louth Village  
Omeath  
Reaghstown  
Stabannon  
Termonfeckin

Louth Tidy Towns Together is pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission on the draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and we would ask that the following be addressed in the final plan:

(1) **Derelict Sites.** We propose that there should be a requirement in the Plan for a standardised type of screening for derelict sites and derelict properties and that the screening should be of a high quality and of a design that properly screens the site in a way that the unkempt nature of such sites is not visible in their immediate surroundings. We understand that the primary objective of such screening is for Health and Safety reasons, but we would submit that aesthetics should also be taken into consideration so as to limit the negative visual impact of a derelict site or property in its local environment. We submit therefore that a quality and design of screening should be specified for use to aesthetically and safely screen such sites, and that the style of mesh screening in evidence at the moment that allows full view of the site should be prohibited.

(2) **Unoccupied Properties.** We propose that the Plan should include provision to enable the local authority to compel owners of unoccupied (as distinct from derelict) properties and sites to ensure that these properties are maintained to a reasonable level of external presentation.

(3) **Commercial Signage.** We propose that consideration be given to specifying a standard of commercial signage that would be of high quality and traditional design, and that plastic and neon signage should be prohibited in the Plan. We understand that this provision has been included in the County Mayo draft Development Plan and recommend that County Louth includes the same condition.

(4) **Landscaping for Residential Developments.** We propose that Landscaping Plans for residential developments should be required to place an emphasis on native Irish trees and low maintenance pollinator friendly perennials to assist in meeting the national objectives of increasing the number of native trees and also meet the objectives of the National Pollinator Plan.

Mary Murtagh (Chairperson)  
Larry Magnier (Vice Chairman)  
Louth Tidy Towns Together