

'Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Lloyd Byrne []

Sent: 21 December 2020 12:04

To: LouthCDP

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of my children to express my shock that Louth County Council through their "Draft Development Plan 2021-2017" appear to be discriminating against my children because they were not born in the locality. A place they have called home since they were three and five years of age respectively.

Ireland is a small nation and the movement of people in and out of our communities has always been in place.

Many people down through the years may have left the locality and indeed reared their families in a different part of the country. Their children or grandchildren may one day want to return to this area but Louth County Council are denying them that opportunity and in turn denying our community it's ability to survive into the future.

You may be aware that in the mid to late 1840's there was a famine in Ireland that was used to the advantage of the British Government to move Irish people off the land and into towns (Workhouses). There were specific clauses, the "Gregory Clause" that has many similarities to this draft development plan, essentially trying to push the landless and small landowners off the land.

Or maybe you are familiar with the policies of the German Government of the 1930-40's that tried to rid the country of non-natives. I had thought we had moved away from these policies but Louth County Council seems to be unaware that we now live in a free society where as a people we are free to live in a place of our choosing. Our homes we have built at our own expense, putting in services, water and sewerage again at our own expenses, all under the guidance of an already very adequate planning system. The planning system works fine, people can support or object to each building application as it arises.

Louth County Council appear to want to take away our right to live in a place of our choosing. Our rights however are protected by European Law where the "Flemish Decree" a case judged by the European Court of Justice stated that the requirement of specific conditions such as being a local or having family from a locality were in breach of Article 43 of the EU Treaty.

It would appear that Louth County Council are ignoring European Case law in their writing of this development plan.

Finally I would like to point out that communities are made up of people. It is the people of the Cooley Peninsula that give the locality it's value. That can be seen in the vibrancy of it's local GAA and Athletics Clubs, Tidy Towns and Heritage Committees, the work done by people coming into the area to develop industry and employment opportunities for people living in the area and the great farming and entrepreneurial traditions of the area. If you take the people out of a community you take away it's very ability to regenerate, survive and thrive into the future.

For those who have written this plan the maps are mere lines, for us the people of the Cooley Peninsula and particularly those of us living in the upper lands (Zone 1) these are living landscapes made alive by our ancestors who were forced to make a living from small holdings. Our children and grandchildren have the right to that heritage earned by the toil and sweat of our forefathers and mothers.

I urge you to take into consideration the future of our children and our communities.

Please acknowledge receipt of my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd and Kinga Byrne