



## **INCLUSION IRELAND**

**National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability**

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### **Submission to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027**

Inclusion Ireland is a national, rights-based advocacy organisation that works to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability. The vision of Inclusion Ireland is that of people with an intellectual disability living and participating in the community with equal rights. Our work is underpinned by the values of dignity, inclusion, social justice, democracy and autonomy and we use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to guide our work.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is clear in its message that people have the right to live independently in the community, and it is important that the right supports are in place for people to realise these rights. It has been brought to our attention, that the proposed housing planning regulations for Rural Zone 1 in the Draft Louth County Development Plan, may have the unintended consequence of curtailing these rights for people with an intellectual disability who are native residents in Rural Zone 1.

In particular, under the regulations as proposed, a person with a disability who is currently resident with their family or other relations in Rural Zone 1, on a property of less than 3 hectares, would not have the right to apply for permission to build a property adjacent to their current home, where they could live independently, while continuing to have close contact with and support from their family or other relations and friends. In order to redress this, we are proposing that a clause similar to clause 6 below for Rural Zone 2, should be added to the regulations for Rural Zone 1.

*6. Native residents who are providing care for an elderly person(s) or a person(s) with a disability who lives in an isolated rural area and who does not have any able bodied person residing with them. Any application shall demonstrate why the existing property cannot be extended or modified to provide residential accommodation for the carer. One*

*house only will be allowed on this basis and the site must be adjacent to the dwelling in which the elderly person(s) or person(s) with the disability resides.*

We hope that you will give due consideration to these concerns when you are reviewing the draft plan as proposed.

Yours Sincerely,

Barry Lynch,

Advocacy Project Worker

promoting rights, independence, dignity and equality

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