

'Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Austin Traynor]

Sent: 22 December 2020 09:55

To: LouthCDP

To whom it may concern

I would like to record a submission in respect of the Draft County Development Plan 2021 -2027

I have grown up in the Ravensdale area and am now living in Faughart. I am deeply concerned and worried for the future of my local communities if the draft development plan was to come into effect in its current state.

I had always hoped that my children would be given the same opportunities that I was to grow up and live in this wonderful area however this development plan will all but put an end to these hopes.

Growing up in a rural area it was often difficult as the same infrastructure as exists in towns and cities was not always there but what made it so great was the sense of belonging and deep understanding of the history and people of the area.

If local people are not able to stay and live in their own area then the heart will slowly be pulled out of these communities and an integral part of what makes our society so unique and vibrant will be lost.

For so many people who were born and raised in the countryside the only way that they can afford to settle and start their own families in these areas is if they are able to build on their own family land, or maybe that of a neighbour, which for the most part usually consists of a few small fields (these are very few large land owners) . The majority of housing developments that we have so far seen in so called village settings are simply too expensive for most "local people" and are purchased by people from outside the area. This is not necessarily a bad thing as rural communities certainly benefit greatly from new people moving into an area however where this will have a major negative impact will be if the people who have lived in an area for generations are forced to move away as they are not allowed to build a home and cannot afford to buy in a new housing development.

I really hope that this development plan is reviewed and amended so as to protect our local rural communities and the ability and rights of our children to continue to live in these areas.

Regards

Austin & Dara Traynor