

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this submission with grave concern as a native, mother, daughter, grand-daughter, sister, friend, neighbour, parishioner, past student, sports person . . . the list goes on. . . I live in Zone 1, if this plan goes ahead as is, you will basically wipe out all of the above as we do not own 3 hectares nor are we engaged in full time agriculture. Therefore our children, and other children whose parents are not landowners and engaged in agriculture in our community, will not be in a position to build their homes here. There would no longer be a tie to our family lineage (and indeed many families especially in Zone 1) on the land where we were born and on which our offspring may wish to live to continue this legacy. Our family have a long ancestral history in Glenmore. It is the people of a community that make a community! Our ancestors before us worked tirelessly hard to make a path for us. We continue to carve this path for those that we love and they in turn will make our community even better for future generations.

The issue is, we are not all large land owning families, this plan 'the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027' will decimate our lineage in the community we come from and is simply DISCRIMINATORY! I am writing this submission to request that the Council:

- 1.) Delay this plan until the community can meet at a safer time - due to the pandemic.
- 2.) Reconsider certain criteria in this plan, namely: that the criteria for Zone 1 should be revised to align with criteria #3 set out for Zone 2 which specifies the following:
"Landowners including their sons and daughters who are native residents of the area. A native resident is someone who has resided in the rural area of Louth for at least 18 years prior to any application for planning permission. Any applicant under this category must demonstrate a rural housing need and shall not own or have sold a residential property in the County for a minimum of 10 years prior to making an application."

This plan has caused GREAT upset and worry in our community. Even the children in the school are talking about it and are really worried... This is simply not right. It is NOT RIGHT to strip our children's future away from them or us.... Children should be looking forward to Santa coming this Christmas and playing with their friends in their pods at break time. They should not be standing around, deeply worried, discussing that they wont be able to live beside their family or friends when they are older like they have dreamed of and also they should not be very upset going to bed at night trying to work out what they are going to do and where they are going to live when they are older instead of listening to fairytales.... This plan, if it were to go ahead, WILL CAUSE SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES! Some children and indeed adults need the certainty of routine and security. They really need the comfort and help of their family and extended family and friends around them to get through life best they can. Some more than others may actually physically or mentally need to live in a very close proximity to their families and may always need this help... What child/person, disability or not, should be denied the right to live in the place they come from, the place their families have always lived, the place they know as home..... This also applies for parents and neighbours, if this plan wont allow most natives to build here... who will look after us when we need it? It is inhumane.... It is simply unrealistic and is utterly unfair and is socially discriminative. I cannot see this working the other way round. Do you think city or town folk would gladly move to a country setting and be happy about it, I think not.... because it is also unrealistic, they would not survive in a setting that is not culturally appropriate for them. I ask you, who is reading this submission to imagine if it were to happen to you and your family.

This plan actually reminds me of the horrific nature of how the English gained our land during the famine... and drove thousands upon thousands of innocent families off their land... the place

they knew as home. This plan is also trying to drive innocent families off their land. I just cant see how someone can think this is okay...

If this plan were to go ahead, most grandparents would not be able to look forward to seeing their grandchildren call after school and look forward to hearing all about their day. There would not even be a school for the lack of children. They would lose out on helping to raise their grandkids and being an extremely important part of their lives. It is a way of life in the countryside for family and friends to drop in on eachother and to help eachother just as it is in towns. If this plan were to go ahead, there wont be many families building here and thus nobody to look out for older people or for those who live alone. Loneliness is one of the biggest killers and would again cause serious mental health issues! This draft plan is economically and socially discriminatory and would strip grandparents of their divine right to live close to their children and grandchildren in the community they were freely born.

With an ongoing pandemic it is impossible for us to meet as a community, therefore it is unjust to let this draft plan be passed, it has serious repercussions for local people and needs to be revised at a safer time for people to meet.

It is imperative and would be greatly appreciated that you take the issues raised in this submission into consideration.

Regards
Michelle and Liam McMahon

21st Dec. 2020