

Draft Development Plan 2021-2027

Barry O Reilly.]

Sent: 22 December 2020 13:59

To: LouthCDP

To Whom It May Concern,

I email you on behalf of my sister; Susan O Reilly. She resides in Carlingford and has been a resident all her life. The purpose of this submission is to highlight the challenges facing my sister; Susan and my family regarding this proposed plan should it come into effect in 2021.

The entire family reside and work in Carlingford. Our extended family also reside in the locality. All the O' Reillys were all educated in St Oliver's school and strive to be an integrated part of the local Community.

In 2019, our parents; Ross and Elizabeth O Reilly provided a site for Susan in South Commons, Mountain Park, Carlingford which was purchased over 30 years ago with the sole purpose of building a family home for her and to accommodate our elderly parents aging needs. All legal fees and stamp duty were covered by Susan.

Our brother; Ross and his family live directly next to the site. He built a family home there in 2015-2016. During this period, he organised for an entrance to be designed to Susan's site in the hope of future planning of a proposed dwelling. He also arranged for an ESB connection to the site. It was envisioned that the family network would be strengthened living side by side to provide support for our parents. The proposed site is of no use to any other member of the public.

Since 2019, Susan has applied for planning permission under the Current Country Development Plan (2014 -2020) however she was advised that she does not meet the criteria to qualify based on the Zone of the site (ZONE 1). She advised that the purpose of the planning application is to provide care for her elderly father who requires support following previous health issues. Dr John Mc Keown supported her application for housing and provided written documentation. Furthermore, I believe that she would qualify for planning should we as her parents possess 3 hectares of land? Where is the distribution of fairness to those that do not fall under this category? For this reason her application was denied.

Under this new proposed draft plan (2021-2027) building in rural areas will effectively be demolished. Building on Zone 1 will not be permitted unless she engages in full time agriculture or our parents have 3 hectares of land. Where is the equality for people who fall outside these criteria? How do you propose to accommodate a housing need for people who have ownership of sites but are refused planning permission based on criteria that discriminates her?

I strongly oppose this proposed draft plan. In my opinion such a plan will suppress communities and family life by the demolition of new builds. Populations will decrease, forcing the younger generation to move away leaving an aging population to be supported by a health and social care system already under tremendous pressure. This will also impinge on schools, community clubs and local facilities regarding funding and expansion due to the diminishing population. Therefore the socio-economic status of the area decreases which will also limit tourism and hospitality sectors.

The introduction of this new Draft Plan has caused profound stress to the area; specifically those in the Cooley Peninsula directly or indirectly affected by same. We are living in strange and unsettling times as a result of Covid 19; the global pandemic. The introduction and implementation of a fair and balanced new Development Plan would provide stability and opportunity to our Community and County.

Such a plan would accommodate housing needs for those residents living in the area who wish to build a family dwelling on their own property for the purposes of raising a family regardless of their parents financial status.

I urge you as a public service advocate to listen to the public on this matter and consider the basic needs of the people and the best interests of the Community.

Regards

Barry O'Reilly