

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Niamh O'Reilly []

Sent: 22 December 2020 17:14

To: LouthCDP

To Whom it May Concern,

As a resident of [] in the Cooley Peninsula, I want to make a formal objection to the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

I have lived in [] for []. My father was born here as well as many generations before us. It is our home; part of what defines us, our heritage, our identity and our culture. I can't imagine living anywhere else. It is very important to me that my siblings and I can build a home and make a life for ourselves in a place that we have a very strong connection to. I believe that is imperative to our mental health that we are close to family in a familiar place that is our home.

I am particularly concerned that in zone 1 a person cannot build next to a sibling with a disability. This directly affects me and my family as my brother has a disability. I have a strong sense of responsibility to take care of him. My family and I have always endeavored to give him as much independence as possible! If he is to live semi-independently he will need us next to him! This part of the plan would be detrimental to his independence and his future. Thus affecting his self esteem, sense of self worth and his mental health.

A strong sense of community has been proven to be vital to people's mental health. We have a thriving community in the Cooley Peninsula made up of young and old. I believe that the development plan would seriously affect this. Growing up and receiving an education in a country school with my cousins and neighbours was enriching to my development into adulthood. I greatly benefitted from the support of my community. I worry that this will be taken away for generations to come and adversely affect their health and mental wellbeing.

As well as these very personal matters, I am making my objection on the following grounds.

- As a resident of the rural community, I have not been asked or consulted on major changes to be included in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- Based on the major changes outlined in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 there seems to have been no Impact Assessment Report commissioned or completed showing the long term effects on our communities.
- During Covid-19 there has not been the availability for affected communities to meet, discuss, challenge or put forward alternatives to the Plan.

The Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 makes no provision for my siblings and I to live in the area to create a home and continue to live in our communities. We demand provisions in the plan to allow this and thus allow for our community to sustain long into the future.

Thanks,
Niamh Keenan.