

## Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

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**Sent:** 22 December 2020 20:18

**To:** LouthCDP

**Attachments:** Louth-Timetable.pdf (255 KB)

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To whom it may concern,

In relation to the Draft Development plan I would ask the Planners to consider

1. How the changes will affect those wishing to remain in the locality of their upbringing and are unable to purchase a house locally.

I am writing specifically to the Cooley Peninsula area as I grew up in Feede Mountpleasant and my husband grew up in Bellurgan. We had hoped to purchase an existing house within the area of Gyles Quay, Lordship, Bellurgan , Ravensdale to Feede .

We looked at all houses over a 9 years period whilst we rented in the area noted above.

As a first time buyer with a limit on mortgage due of 3.5 times our combined salary , both employed locally we were unable to obtain a house. We bid on over 9 houses from run down farm houses which we hoped to renovate using sustainable solution to 1960's /1970's houses. Each time we were out bid by purchasers from Dublin, Drogheda and urban areas.

I would urge the planners to consider that whilst this policy is displacing locals from their communities to urban areas, it is allowing those from outside the locality to move in due to higher wages and means to purchase houses in these communities.

Luckily in 2019 we found a site for sale at a very reasonable price which allowed us to purchase and we are now building our home this year.

With the new regulations we would not have received planning and would no doubt be in a position where we would have to move our children ( 9 and 7) from local schools and purchase a house outside of where we ourselves grew up.

2. How will the changes affect local businesses and the rural village economy?

Locals shop local, I buy from the same local shop for over 30 years . They are a 3rd generation shop. If I had not been able to obtain planning, the shop would lose the custom of our family of 4 for another 30 years. This is just one family.

My husband's business is also local depending on the families in the area. If this policy goes ahead, this will have knock on affect to him also.

3. Whilst I agree with the sustainability and with reducing carbon emissions, I would ask why our area has one bus route using diesel buses. Surely given the existing population a sustainable transport system should be implemented . The area is currently served by Bus eireann whose service to Ravensdale and areas such as Feede mountpleasant is severely lacking.

Whilst I am not familiar with the RFI Local link referenced (Chapter 7 Movement section of the Draft plan) and noted as sustainable transport option, from the RFI local link website timetable attached, it does not cover the Ravensdale , Bellurgan , Feede mountpleasant area?

If the shops and local businesses remain and are supported to promote further enterprise in local communities, the current population can still shop local and not need to drive in their cars to towns.

I believe instead of displacing local people and closing more businesses, sustainable rural villages consisting of local people who grew up with each other, know each other, support each other are the solution with the aid of with the promotion of country market and shops and community based renewable projects.

When our children grow up, I hope still have the option to travel the world and return to their community, friends and family under the current strategy and not the amendments proposed in this draft plan for 2021-2027.

Thank you.