

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Gearoid O'Neill []

Sent: 22 December 2020 20:29

To: LouthCDP

To whom it may concern,

I wish to raise my objection to the draft development plan issued recently for Louth. I have particular issue with the proposed changes to planning rules in the Cooley Peninsula.

From my reading of the proposed plan, one must be engaged in full time agriculture in order to build a house. I ask if the County Council has done a count on the number of young people engaged in full time agriculture? I count 3 in Glenmore, myself being one of these and we all have completed building our houses. Does this mean that no further houses will ever be build? This would mean the end of local schools and a gradual aging of the population as there would be new young families coming into the community.

I take issue with the Councils view that the area I have grown up in should be viewed as an area for others to enjoy socially. The Cooley peninsula is a beautiful area of the country however it is also our home. My family has been living here for generations, it is the area that provides my income and while I have no issue with urban dwellers enjoying our area I don't see why this should be done at the expense of my children building on my family land. If young families are not allowed build any houses that go for sale on the open market will be bought by wealthy retired individuals who bring very little to the community.

I also have issue with the proposal that only 2 children of a family can build houses. This is totally unfair and enforces a dictator type society whereby 3rd children onwards are forced to live the area.

I believe new builds should have to prove their local needs as is now normal, I believe an extra effort should be made to encourage recycling of older buildings, an incentive for locals to purchase houses locally as opposed to being priced out of the market by strangers (that is if they are not allowed build) this could be done via stamp duty.

I believe that the current trend of houses in Cooley being converted into Airb&b's as opposed to being habituated by local families needs to be dealt with. These houses where granted planning to be private dwellings- not makeshift short term rentals. In closing I would say that I accept that changes should be made to the last development plan, the proposed changes are too extreme and are not at all in the interests of the rural community and would cause long lasting damage to the fabric of our society.

Regards,

Gearoid O'Neill

Sent from my iPhone