

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

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Sent: 22 December 2020 23:27

To: LouthCDP

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my opposition to the plan's recommendation for the Zone 1 area, as proposed.

I believe the proposed qualifications for Zone 1 planning are far too restrictive and will not allow for the familial continuity and growth in rural areas like my own. More than ever in these times of increased working from home we have an opportunity to draw young people back to rural communities and reintroduce life and vibrancy into our communities. I believe these changes would inhibit that potential.

The proposed restrictions are too restrictive. They act as a "locals only" mask and go a step further by prohibiting native residents of the area who are not in the agriculture industry. The EU has previously labelled such restrictions illegal and discriminatory in the Commission's letter to the Environment Minister at the time in 2007. John Paul Phelan, the previous Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government up until June of this year has even said there is a need to "drop the blinkers that apply in some quarters to the issue of rural housing and recognise that, in the midst of the crisis we have had, there have been huge advantages for people living in rural areas both for themselves and their families and also for the rural communities".

I have lived in Omeath for the last 28 years. I built my family home here and I raised my children here and I think they should be able to build their own homes and raise their own families here as well, in the area they know and love surrounded by family. In my opinion, it is extremely discriminative to disallow such simply because my children aren't engaged in full time agriculture or because I do not own 3+ hectares of land.

I hope this email helps inform you of the local concerns regarding this plan.

I believe a socio-economic study should take place before any implementation of this draft to learn of the long term effects of such on the community and peoples.

Your sincerely,

Eamon Rogers

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