

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

aaron rogers []

Sent: 22 December 2020 23:58

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 extremely 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 and be detrimental to many communities in this area.

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 my whole life. I was born and raised here. My mother was born and raised here. And so too, was her father. My friends and family all live here. I play football with the local club here. My grandfather is buried in the graveyard here. My whole life is here in Omeath. Despite all this, I will not be eligible for planning permission IN MY HOME PLACE, simply because I am not a farmer nor do my parents have the luxury of owning 3+ hectares in the area.

I want to be able to live in a rural setting in the area I know and love. I want to be able to live near my elderly granny so I can care for her as she continues to grow more fragile which I would be severely disadvantaged in doing if I cannot live in the area. I want to be able to live near my parents and raise my own family in future years, happy in the knowledge that my family and support system is nearby.

Part of the reasoning of my choice to study in Dundalk Institute of Technology was that I did not want to leave home, especially when I had the opportunity of quality education on my doorstep. Furthermore, the idea of living in an urban setting is desirable for me. I like the open, fresh air, and the strong sense of community in Omeath.

I dream of one day building my own home in OMEATH, raising kids in OMEATH, and living close to family and friends in OMEATH!!

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.

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

Your sincerely,

Aaron Rogers