

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Mary-Kate O'Reilly [

]

Sent: 23 December 2020 00:30

To: LouthCDP

To whom it may concern,

My name is Mary-Kate and . I was lucky enough to be born in Glenmore and I grew up living beside my cousins and friends. I am writing this letter on behalf of not just myself, but my friends, family and neighbours.

In the Draft Development Plan, Glenmore along with the majority of the Cooley Peninsula and surrounding areas has been zoned into Zone 1. This will mean that if the draft comes into effect in 2021, many of us who are from this area and have plans to build, will be denied that. It will push many of us away from our families, away from rural communities and into urban areas, against our wishes.

This will have a devastating impact on the community, our elderly parents, our families with disabilities, our friends and family. It will have a massive impact on our local sporting clubs and the local businesses in the area. This criteria set out in the draft plan is far too strict. People who are from these areas in the proposed zone 1 have a right to live where they were born and brought up.

In zone 2, they have criteria allowing people who need to be close by to look after elderly relatives or a person with a disability but there is nothing about this in zone 1. This is completely unfair, why is a zone 2 family more important than a family zone 1? I feel strongly about this, I have a brother who has special needs. He is in full time employment locally but unfortunately he can't drive. This means he is reliant on others to go to work five days a week. Thankfully he has the help of our family to aid him in doing so. This is just one example I can use to demonstrate the importance of all siblings being able to build beside him or in the area, one sibling would not be able to do this 5 days a week along with having to manage their own life. In order for someone with a disability to go to work everyday, they require help from family members. Something me and you take for granted every single day. Routine and familiar surroundings are so important to these people. moving them away from their environment would have serious implications on their well being and overall health. The needs of these people needs to be included in zone 1.

We have seen devastation on families that land can cause and asking a family to choose what two of their children have the right to build on land they own, is simply unethical. And why should having at least 3 hectares of land entitle anyone to build in this area in comparison to people who do not meet this criteria. I feel as a woman this plan is not in our favour, as the majority of land are left to sons as they have taken over the farm, therefore being the chosen ones to build.

This draft plan will create demand for housing in our area, where already housing prices are high. As a young person in my twenties I know from talking to my peers the difficulties in prices of rental property and the price of houses in our area. This plan will only add to the chaos of the housing market.

This plan does not just affect me, it affects my generation, my family, my friends, my community and all the organisations I was lucky to be involved with growing up and others to come.

I ask for time and consideration, time to talk to others in the community, consideration for our community who see a future here, something we haven't had a chance to do due to the ongoing

pandemic. I ask for a chance to be able to build a house where I have always dreamed I would. I find it hard to express the seriousness of the implications of this, I don't feel like any submission letter quite captures how everyone is feeling who is affected by this plan.

We want to work with you, we want to engage to try and create the best version of this plan.

Yours sincerely,

Mary-Kate O'Reilly