

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

Brian Mc Ateer []

Sent: 23 December 2020 08:17

To: LouthCDP

A chairde

Please find as part of this email a submission from Omeath Community Alert raising our concerns about the Draft Plan. I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this submission.

> Omeath Community Alert would like to object to certain aspects of the Louth County Development Plan. The new criteria for new builds is wrong and ill thought out. The implications for rural life are far reaching and it is our view that it will increase isolation especially for older people as families may be forced to live, not beside their parents as they would wish.

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> A decline in school numbers could lead to their closure. Sports and community based social life could be affected by dropping numbers of younger people participating. We do not agree that a blanket ban on new house builds, which there is a need for, can be met by development in say the Village of Omeath, unless there is a plan for a dramatic increase in social or affordable housing. To date there is no such plan.

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> Finally 2020 was a year where everything was delayed. COVID made us change the way we carried out our lives. Deadlines came and went. We believe that the December 23rd closure for submissions should be extended. There has been no proper consultation, no public meetings with only limited virtual meetings. All objective data shows that rural Ireland is disadvantaged due to poor access to broadband. Also many of the people living in Omeath and hinterland are older and have not used computers.

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> We would urge Louth County Council to extend the deadline and bring forward a plan that supports families housing needs in Omeath and it's townlands.

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> Is mise,

Brian McAteer

Cathaoirleach