

Fw: Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

Briege Clifford [

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Sent: 23 December 2020 09:18

To: LouthCDP

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to put on record my formal objection to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 as published.

This plan is completely unfit for purpose and unacceptable to the rural people of Louth as a whole, but in particular the Cooley Peninsula. The restrictions imposed in this plan are completely discriminatory and excessive and if they proceed will have a detrimental and effect on rural communities which will further deteriorate over time.

Main points of objections:

- This plan is heavily weighted against the non-landowning rural population. Within Zone 1 which is effectively 80% of the landmass of the Cooley Peninsula, the restrictions are so severe that basically only landowners or those involved in agriculture or forestry will be able to build. Why should a landowner be treated more favourably than a non-landowner who lives next door? Two children could grow up next door to each other but only the one with landowning parents will be able to build a house for themselves in their home area and the other must move away? This is completely discriminatory and unacceptable.
- I sit on the Board of Management at Rampark National School which draws its pupils almost entirely from Zone 1. This plan if enacted, will see the gradual decline in enrolment numbers due to the fact that over time there will be reducing numbers of children in the area as people are unable to build in their locality and are forced to move. You may be aware that if enrolment numbers for a school decline, then teachers are removed, and this will continue until the school will no longer become viable.
- While not as draconian as Zone 1, the Zone 2 restrictions are also completely unacceptable. Again landowners receive preferential treatment and non-landowning locals are subject to excessive and

unacceptable restrictions. For example, if a person moved to Dundalk for a few years for work or college, they cannot sell their home in Dundalk and return to settle down in their home area as they will have owned a home within the county in the past 10 years. Similarly, returning emigrants cannot build a home if they have sold a home within the last ten years.

- Ultimately this Development plan will cause a population decline in rural areas in Louth which will see schools, clubs and businesses impacted and even lost completely – which in itself will cause a reduction in quality of life and further population decline.

This plan in its current form must be scrapped as it is completely unacceptable, unnecessary and discriminatory to the rural people of Louth. It cannot be allowed to proceed.

Kind regards,

Briege Clifford