

As outlined in the introduction of the plan

'The Draft Plan sits within a new hierarchy of national and regional plans which promote a departure from the 'business as usual' pattern of development.'

"It is a blueprint for development in County Louth and is the over-arching strategic framework for sustainable development in spatial, economic, social and environmental terms".

Within 90 minutes from Junction 18 on the M1 there is a population of 1.5 million and as a result there is no imagination to promote the wonderful scenery on our door step. In the plan the proposal is to allow only land owners or practicing farmers to build new houses, however if you are to sustain communities this plan fails, the decisions made today will impact communities for the next 20 years. An example of this is if landowners want to improve their income from tourism eg glamping or log cabin (as tourists require somewhere to stay) nowhere in the plan is this referred to. Farming income is dropping where is the support for landowners to compliment their income within the plan!

Another example is the potential of offshore wind which will happen has any port within Louth been identified as being a support base for same this would have a large economic spin off for a local community.

The country side should be protected and yes new housing needs to change however for young people trying to get a starter home if they can't build on their own land what is the solution to their needs! New communities or clusters should be identified that match the new environment of electric vehicles, park and ride family requirements.

Within the county currently there is a shortage of industrial units for the SME sector at affordable prices. The potential is there to provide a lot of employment however this plan does not appear to cater for this potential of future needs.

Is what we are building today fit to deliver what we require in the future? electricity, water, local electricity generation, Public transport, health and education housing.

The Cooley brand and its history has not been promoted to its full potential, the ability to live, work and enjoy the beauty of the area could bring economic benefit and wellbeing for future generations. There is potential to open more greenways across the mountains which if done correctly with engaged citizens would benefit all. This plan currently does not address the potential Louth has economically nor is it in step with future community needs.

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