

Draft Louth County Council Development Plan 2021-2027

katie mc guinness []

Sent: 23 December 2020 10:33

To: LouthCDP

Hi All,

This development plan cannot go ahead. I am a country person who was born and lived in the country. I moved to Dublin for 3 years and knew I had to return. This proposed development alienates an entire generation from building their homes or renovating existing ones on a discriminatory basis. This draft suggests that because the older generation have built their homes, they don't need to worry about the younger generation and what their options will be.

This country is seriously lacking in affordable housing and that will not be fixed in the foreseeable future with our current government. The chance for a young person to build their own home means they can own a home without a crippling mortgage for a small home in a town or city. By implementing this development plan you are forcing an entire generation to leave the areas they know and grew up in to find a home elsewhere, either in the North or towards Dublin. This will only increase housing prices in town as we are already viewed as being on the commuter belt for both Belfast and Dublin.

This development plan also disproportionately affects people of a certain class - farmers, land owners, country people, millennials who have moved home saving for a mortgage only to be told they can't actually live where they consider home to be now.

It is of no use for them to buy a house in town hoping by 2027 they could sell it and build, they will have families, responsibilities and less time to do what they can do and have been saving to do now.

Cooley is already considered to be a Deis schooling area with low income and low opportunities being the main factors. Imagine what will become of the region and the migration of people from the peninsula and full effected region will only further show the severity of the impact through economic regress.

I moved home 3 years ago to save for a mortgage to build my home. I live just below the border in Plaster. These 3 years have been tough as you sacrifice a lot to live at home but it has been a wonderful opportunity to save to build my own home. Now that option is potentially being taken from me? I am dismayed at any county council that could make such a decision that would have such a devastating impact on the young people of this county.

This is not about pot holes and cutting ditches, this is about the future of a generation. It is already hard enough to get planning permission, now you are removing the option for us altogether. I hope you reconsider or you will face an entire generation of people losing belief and support in their county council - those who are supposed to be their advocates.

Merry Christmas,
Katie McGuinness