

## Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

To whom it may concern,

We wish to submit our objection to the Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 and in particular to the designation of two rural policy zones, the harsh qualifying criteria for rural policy zone 1 and the proposed application of this to such a large area of the North Louth region.

I (Francis), have lived in Glenmore all my life, as have generations of my family before me and generations of neighbours' families. We cherish the wonderful rural community that is built on this heritage as we cherish our rural surroundings where we live and we are deeply concerned and aggrieved about the implications of the draft plan's proposals to this rural community. There will be no means for our children and future generations to live and raise families in this area as they will not meet the stringent 3 hectares land requirement and the draft plan will effectively terminate our social and cultural heritage, which our community so strongly values, resulting in the closure of local education, sporting and cultural facilities and ultimately, the displacement of communities in North Louth. We urge Louth County Council not to be responsible for the termination of this heritage.

We believe it is a basic, fundamental right of every citizen and not just of one or two per family, to be able to build in their local area. We also think that families should have the right to have their younger members live nearby to care for and support their elderly members. While we support initiatives that help sustain a long term ecological and environmental future for our community, we don't believe the proposed qualifying criteria for rural policy zone 1 is the answer. We think the proposed qualifying criteria is unethical, unfair, unequal and discriminatory towards residents living in this area.

We wish to ask you to postpone the implementation of the plan as it is extremely unfair to have a public consultation process during a global pandemic with our country under levels of restrictions which has prevented communities from being able to meet properly – we don't consider video calls on platforms such as Zoom suitable or adequate for this process.

Yours sincerely,

Francis and Lorraine McCann