

Draft Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027

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To: LouthCDP

I wish to object to the draft development plan 2021-2027, specifically referring to section 3.17 - Housing in the Open Countryside, which redefines rural policy zones and the qualifying criteria for local needs.

The qualifying criteria/conditions attached to zone 1 & zone 2 pose a number of considerable challenges.

The restrictions mentioned in these zones are arbitrary and subjective and will have huge implications for all residents other than from farming occupation. People who are brought up in the local area who fall outside these conditions will have no right to build a house/home in their own area, regardless of the availability of family land upon which to build or the means to purchase suitable land.

I also object to having to own more than 3 hectares in order to qualify as a landowner, this position needs to be grounded in objective and transparent criteria so as not, amongst other things, cause a conflict of laws with respect to the meaning of a landowner.

It has been shown multi generations living in close proximity can be a huge benefit to all of the said generations reducing the need to access public services,

As a result of the current pandemic work trends will be more disposed to people working from home which will have a major benefit on commuting and related transport and infrastructure needs. It will also have a positive impact on the local economy retaining key services and livelihoods in the community.

Given that there are so many options for sustainable development I feel that with good consultation both the requirements of those wishing to build and the planners can be achieved.

Kind regards

Niamh Mulholland
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