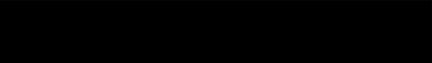


Submission to Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027

Paddy Buggy,   


Date: 27/02/2020

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to make the following small submissions to the Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027.

Housing: I have several suggestions to make here

- 1) In order to attract business to Laois, there will be a desire by the decision makers of those businesses to have low density housing available. Therefore sections of land designated for housing needs to be deemed low density to allow for more up market housing with gardens.
- 2) At the other end of the scales to help sort out the housing crisis for the low to medium salary workers serviced sites should be provided where log cabins can be built. Log cabins can be purchased for under €100k which will allow people get on the property ladder at an affordable cost. A ground rent should be charged for these serviced sites.
- 3) Derelict Houses in towns and villages need to be rejuvenated however ownership or lack of ownership can be a problem so CPO of such properties should take place. These can then be renovated.
- 4) To take advantage of the tourism potential of the Slieve Blooms, log cabin holiday homes in small clusters should be permitted with shared septic tank per cluster of 3 or 4 cabins.
- 5) Derelict farm houses and hay sheds too should be eligible for conversion to housing. The demolition of old damp houses should be permitted to allow new houses to be built on the same site. Once there is a dwelling there the planning process should be more stream line with perhaps a selection of pre canned modern build designs, which are sympathetic to the original dwelling or the area can be fast tracked through planning.
- 6) Do not force high density living as this will lead to excessive social and health problems.

Urban biodiversity:

- 1) The planting of more trees in towns and villages
- 2) The planting of fruit trees and bushes in towns and villages
- 3) Wild meadow grasses sown by the edges of streets

- 4) More hedgerows encouraged instead of concrete walls in front of houses
- 5) Perhaps where old houses are being redeveloped grass roves can be used instead of slates or tiles

### Energy

- Each village and small town to have their own power generation capacity through
  - Anaerobic digesters being fed by local food waste and waste from surrounding farms
  - PV cells on the roves of houses
  - Wood chip
  - Local solar farms specifically supplying a local need rather than feeding the main grid.

### Rivers

These need to be dredged as the viability of communities is in question from constant flooding. Failing this then designated controlled flood mechanisms such as creating lakes in the Slieve Blooms to hold the water and release it more slowly are required. Also areas of bog land can be turned into lakes to store water and then used to create aqua tourism and or and alternate “grey water” for watering gardens, use in toilets hence reducing the need to generate “clean” drinking water for human consumption. This of course would require dual water systems in houses but the technology is there. Certainly this could be applied to the villages and towns closest to these man made reservoirs.

### Urban Transport

- Portlaoise requires an internal bus service just servicing the town and which feeds in from the housing estates to both the schools and the main retail and industrial sites. This service should stay within the confines of the town as it now has the critical mass to sustain such a service which could be supplied under licence by a private operator (s).
- Improved bus links are required between Portlaoise and the other towns and villages.

Kind Regards

Paddy Buggy