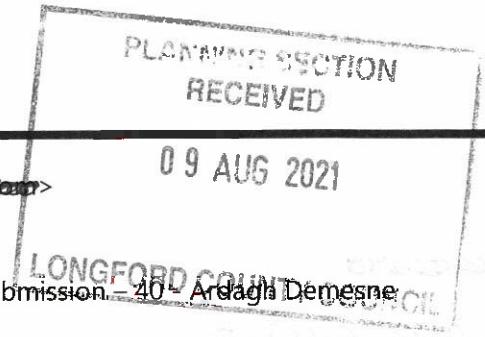


SUB 17

Anne Glancy

From: Joanna Pearman <~~jo.pearman@longford.ie~~>
Sent: Sunday 8 August 2021 22:07
To: cdp
Subject: EXTERNAL - Submission – Ref DCDP Submission – 40 - Ardagh Demesne



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From: Joanna Pearman, ~~CDP Co-ordinator, Ardagh Co. Longford, N38 1X10~~

To: Longford County Council Executives; Longford County Councillors; TDs and other elected representatives.

Longford Draft County Development Plan

In relation to the Longford DCDP I am making the following **observations**:

- The continued preparation of the Longford CDP during a global pandemic and time of lockdown for the entire world created limited accessibility and a poor customer focus on the part of the council. The project could reasonably have been put on hold or had an emergency contingency plan put in place until such time as now when restrictions are easing and movement is freeing up.
- The majority of the Longford DCDP submissions are by private individuals, with only a few very active, coordinated community groups. This in effect means the Plan is being put together by private individuals, the council and a small number of volunteers, with negligible input from the wider community. If the council had proactively run roadshows to create, guide and support village action groups the input would be balanced and reflect the entire community rather than just parties with financial interest.

Submission – Ref DCDP Submission – 40 - Ardagh Demesne

I question why the rezoning of these two areas is necessary? The property was purchased with the expectation of owner occupancy, i.e. residential, and the owner is currently carrying out agricultural, farming activities in the Demesne. It was sold as a dairy farm so why does the zoning need to change?

Ardagh House is the main focal point of Ardagh village, a planned village that is unique in Ireland in terms of retained character and built heritage. In a County where the Council has invested so much in attracting tourism, no more successfully than Centreparks; the Grand Canal Greenway; the Literary Trails; Knights & Conquests; and so many more, to risk the demise of such a significant part of built Irish history seems very negligent on the part of the Council.

Instead of enabling a gradual fall into disrepair Longford County Council should be providing support and guidance to ensure that the house and village is maintained and sustainable. Making sure services are available to visitors and allow any business generated to grow. Recognising that such an operation would need support from a local or state body as tourism alone would not provide a living income for such a business and such a responsibility might not have the required volunteer workforce.

Ardagh Neighbourhood Park, included in the folio of the demesne, would be subject to rezoning should this submission go through. As a resident of Ardagh the loss of the park, which is the only stretch of biodiverse green area in the village will significantly impact residents, the school and the various community groups. My children have been using the Park recreationally all their lives. Furthermore, it leaves the Tidy Towns choice of spaces to develop the increasing requirements of the competition very limited. The areas available for biodiversity development and other global goal initiatives becomes significantly restricted.

In short, the acceptance of the Chief Executive's recommendation and the passing of this submission would reflect a very short-sighted vision of the future potential of Co. Longford. Ardagh as a flagship heritage village should be treasured by the county and maintained accordingly, with proactive controls in place to ensure its continuance for future generations. Removing the Park and village dependence on perceived goodwill and private individual whim must be the role of the Council.

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