

Sub 44

PLANNING SECTION
Deirdre Skelly
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Sent: 10 AUG 2021
To:
Subject:
LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

James Howard ~~Community Development Officer~~
Tuesday 10 August 2021 09:18
cdp
EXTERNAL - Submission on Longford Draft County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

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From: James Howard, ~~Community Development Officer~~
To: cdp@longfordcoco.ie, Planning Department, Longford County Council.
Ref: Objection to Submission DCDP-40 of Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 - Ardagh Neighbourhood Park - Third Stage Consultation

As a planned estate village Ardagh is unique in the county and rare in Ireland and Ardagh Demesne is the centrepiece of this village. If there is to be any attempt to foster tourism in the area, it is vital that the demesne remain zoned for tourism to maintain the built heritage for future generations.

The current submission requests that the use of the land be returned to agricultural use thus paving the way for the development of slatted sheds, dairy processing and other infrastructure that is entirely out of character with the area and would impose heavy traffic, unwanted odours and general nuisance on the historic village centre. In addition, converting the estate to intensive agricultural use in this time of climate crisis and with a need to drastically reduce carbon emissions appears very short sighted. There is also an urgent need to safeguard the small area of native woodland that makes up Ardagh Community park and that is included in this agricultural rezoning request.

Furthermore, it is difficult to see how returning the main house to residential use can safeguard its future. The house is vastly out of scale for residential use and it is difficult to see how it could economically be put to use as a primary residence.

It is my belief that the council needs to work with the landowner, with tourism agencies, heritage agencies and the local community to develop a sustainable plan for the future of the house as the centre and jewel in the crown of the award winning village of Ardagh. Such planning and engagement has been notably lacking over the last 17 years in which I have lived in the parish.