

Sub 45

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

Wallace Howard ~~eliza.jane.pearman@longfordcoco.ie~~
Tuesday 10 August 2021 10:36
cdp
EXTERNAL - Submission Objection – Ref DCDP Submission – 40 - Ardagh Demesne

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From: Eliza-Jane Pearman Howard, ~~eliza.jane.pearman@longfordcoco.ie~~, ~~eliza.jane.pearman@longfordcoco.ie~~
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

This is a letter regarding the plans to rezone the Ardagh Demesne from tourism and recreation to agriculture and residential - Submission DCDP- 40

I strongly disagree with the rezoning. Ardagh House has been around for since 1730. It is of significant historical importance locally, if not nationally. The rezoning would mean the loss of that land for what? Another inefficient and unnecessary farm. There is no reason to rezone. The current owner has been farming the land since purchase, without it being rezoned, it is unneeded. Far more could be done with the site, with far more valuable results for all the locals, instead of one or two workers. Loss of the site as a tourist site would be a great loss and would basically destroy any of the village's chances to grow in terms of tourism.

Ardagh house is the main focus of the village, the addition of a farm would ruin it. Considering the sudden prevalence of tourism in the county, with things like heritage buildings in Edgeworthstown, Granard, the green ways and literary trails, Ardagh is the next logical step in terms of upgrading the tourism sites. And the house would be incredible for tourism, even if it wasn't open to go inside, just to walk through the ground, around the back of the house etc.

If the submission passes then the community would also most likely lose the Neighbourhood Park, which has been regularly used by the public since it was gifted and planted for the community over 30 years ago. At the beginning there were over 200 native trees planted in that area. I have grown up in this village, and I cannot remember a time where that park wasn't used for school outings, events with the heritage centre and just various things with the locals using the park.

I know I personally have been considering pursuing a job in historical tourism in my local area but even in the current climate, without the councils help any jobs in tourism in Ardagh would provide minimal income despite it's heritage appeal. And if the submission goes through there will be a generation unable to develop Ardagh to it's full potential because working any jobs supporting the local economy is unsustainable. Ardagh has such a rich history and there's so many opportunities for businesses. We don't need to waste time and money on a farm that, in reality, will not benefit the locals at all.

In a time where the entire world is focussing on making the world better, more sustainable, more environmentally friendly, we should not be ruining Ardagh with a farm, which are famously destroying the environment.

If this goes through I will be incredibly disappointed, the council will have made a big mistake.

In summary I strongly object to submission DCDP -40 of the draft Longford county development plan.

Sincerely
Eliza-Jane Pearman Howard