

From: Donal O'Kelly
Sent: Wednesday 27 April 2022 14:30
To: cdp <cdp@leitrimcoco.ie>
Subject: Ban on Gold Mining in County Development Plan

To whom it may concern,

In the light of the granting of gold prospecting licences for 47 town lands in north Leitrim, I strongly exhort Leitrim County Council to adopt a policy of a ban on gold mining in the county development plan. The ban on fracking in the County Plan was a crucial strategy in Leitrim in 2012 that contributed hugely to the eventual national ban on fracking, won mainly by sustained activism over years by Leitrim people.

It seems like the same kind of determined campaigning by local people is necessary to oppose what would be a ruinous opening up of the region to one of the most environmentally destructive industries on earth - gold mining. We know from what's already happened across the border in the Sperrins, not to mention the ecological disasters in countries such as Colombia, that water quality, agriculture, biodiversity and tourism would suffer deadly negative impact, with reluctant spillover into depressing the county economy.

At a time when the younger generation are increasingly aware of the incompatibility of extraction industry devastation with climate crisis measures, now is the time for local politicians and Leitrim county council senior officials to stand by their principles in the name of generational survival. All County Councillors have registered their opposition to gold mining. A ban on gold mining must be inserted into the County Development Plan now for local government to actually be a meaningful process.

Your sincerely,
Donal O'Kelly