

Draft County Development plan Leitrim County Council.2023-2029

With reference to the above I wish to acknowledge my thanks to all persons involved in its preparation.

The draft county development plan will, as always outline the procedures and policies' that will ensure the economic, social, environmental and life quality standards are maintained for the people and environment of County Leitrim.

The minister Mr Ryan decided that it was in the best interest of the people of Leitrim and its environment to grant a prospecting licence that will have a huge effect on the people in North Leitrim and its surround's.

As a resident of North Leitrim, I am at a loss as to how Mr Ryan came to this conclusion, I do accept that he has access to much more information than I, I simply live here.

So based on my interaction with my community and its environment I now ask if it is possible that you can include my concerns in the county development plan going forward.

My concerns are primarily in relation to the prospecting licences granted and the possibility of full mining in the future.

Carbon Footprint

Does Leitrim have a carbon footprint calculated for the county? If not, can Leitrim Co Co initiate the calculation of same.

Having estimated the carbon footprint can Leitrim Co Co calculate or insist on the calculation of the carbon footprint of mining and associated activities in the county.

In 2019 Ireland declared a climate and biodiversity emergency.

How is this included in the county development plan and does it include prospecting and mining activities.

Water Resources.

Good quality water is essential to the earth, the environment, biodiversity, industry and indeed we humans as well.

We all accept that once water is contaminated, the cost of decontamination far exceeds the cost of prevention in the first place.

Do the aquifers in the region of north Leitrim that has been granted a prospecting licence feed into L Gill, the R Shannon or the sea.

These water bodies are a source of potable water for a region that extends beyond county Leitrim.

How will they be monitored in relation to the prospecting licence granted and indeed how will they be monitored if mining does go ahead. Will the county development plan call on international experts to advise on the monitoring programmes that would be required and

will funding be made available for same? How many years will the monitoring be required and how will the prospecting companies be held accountable if deuteriation of the water quality arises.

Biodiversity

In relation to the development plan how will the effect on the biodiversity be monitored in relation to the prospecting licences granted and any mining that might take place in the future. How many species will be monitored and what will they be monitored for. Most of our current guidelines are for activities above ground and we have little experience of the effect of prospecting and mining on the local ecosystems. Will the county development plan include the provision of a panel of international experts to advise Leitrim county council in relation to the prospecting and mining activities.

Traffic Management, Noise, Hours of Operation, Services

The above have been very comprehensively outlined and implemented in all previous county development plans and no doubt in this draft also.

With particular reference to the granted prospecting licences and the possibility of mining how will the above be addressed. I have no doubt there will be effective and clear limits and controls outlined, however I ask that this is such a change to our day to day lives that the county development plan would include the setting up of a task force to investigate any complaint's effectively and immediately. We are a small rural community and do not have the large volume of voices that would normally lead to action and, the staff of Leitrim Co Co already have a full workload.

Community Cohesion.

Every aspect of the county development plan will have at its heart community cohesion.

There are reports that the mining company that has been granted the prospecting licences and possible mining in the area, have had a very detrimental effect on the local community both when active on site and for many years after. I have read the reports on social media so I can not say they are true, however if there is a possibility of the same happening to our community can the county development plan include the provision of a task force of experts to actively work in the community to ensure that damage to the complex, social cohesion is not damaged in any way.

I hope my submission assists in your work and supports the intention of the development plan to support the social, economic, environment and the future of the people of Leitrim and the small part of planet earth we are so lucky to inhabit.

Kindest Regards

Madeleine Kelly