



# Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027

## Submission on the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027

Submission Date: July 2, 2021 12:45 PM

**Name**

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**What is the topic of the submission?**

Towns and Villages (including zoning), Rural Development and Natural Resources

**Submission**

**Or**

**Attached Submission**

CDP submission 2021.pdf, 0.05MB

- **Landscape character assessment**

This document promises the preservation and enhancement of identified areas of the county, and then only mentions enhancement on a couple of occasions and on these occasions is only concerned with the view from specific viewpoints.

- I submit that given the reality of 'shifting baseline' syndrome\*, the document should address the preservation, enhancement **and restoration/regeneration** of all of these those areas. Without this, these areas which have already lost so much of their 'character' value are 'preserved' in an already deteriorated condition. Integrating the concept of restoration into the document will provide true and rich landscape character of co, Roscommon for present and future generations.

\*A **shifting baseline** (also known as **sliding baseline**) is a type of change to how a system is measured, usually against previous reference points (baselines), which themselves may represent significant changes from an even earlier state of the system.

- **Landscape character area 29**

Key recommendations

- I submit that a key recommendation be a policy of lake, river and turlough water quality monitoring and protection, and the protection of existing, and regeneration of the lost/removed hedgerows that are so characteristic of this landscape.

- **CH 5 Rural development & natural resources**

5.4 & 5.5

Diversification options and country markets are not enough to counter the industry led export focussed agricultural trap that many farmers and producers find themselves in.

Roscommon county council would be very wise to take a step forward and provide innovative supports and infrastructure for farmers and producers to collaborate in ways that can get over many of the hurdles presented with 'diversification': unfeasible product/food safety requirements, high insurance obligations, unsustainable workload, limited market reach all need to be accounted for.

- I submit that the CDP include a section (5.5a) on supporting local farmer/producer-led and consumer led local co-operatives, collectives, community supported model farms, food hubs, and other initiatives that will enable the realistic and achievable regeneration of a thriving local food

production economy which can enable farmers/producers to easily and sustainably 'diversify' without the barriers of these heavy financial and bureaucratic overheads.

Given our acknowledged climate and biodiversity (and social) crisis' in the county, country and globally, this CDP needs to be addressing the needs of famers

- How will RCC 'encourage' these initiatives?

It is misleading to suggest that farming and farm diversification can be carried out only in a negative or neutral environmental light. While 'conventional' input based farming that is tied by the nose to mismatched subsidy payments is inherently destructive to all areas of the environment, there are forms of farming that have a positive impact on their environmental surrounding both locally and globally.

A meaningful CDP should put resources into supporting best practise models of this type of agriculture (known as regenerative agriculture, high nature value farming, agro-ecology, and farming for nature).

- I submit that there be a stronger focus on resourcing these farming methods as a policy objective.

## 5.6 Forestry

### RD 5.7

I Submit that

- the CDP detail more about how it will 'encourage' private forestry developers to provide access.

### 5.8

- the CDP detail more about how it will 'encourage' more mixed plantings
- that there be an additional RD (5.9) providing significant supports for the planting and management of community owned and publicly accessible biodiverse woodlands near to village and town settlement centres.

## ● **Town and Village area plans**

### Strokestown

#### ST8 & ST4:

Strokestown's vibrant community spirit is limited by the lack of an indoor community building/space for non-sporting events and voluntary community group initiatives. In order for the plan to provide 'services, amenities and facilities for local community'-

I submit that:

- The draft CDP include provision for a shared venue for the numerous active community groups around the town without having to beg & borrow and pay for the use of private enterprise spaces. Such a space could be set up as a community owned social enterprise. The renovation of an existing building for example the old 'Mushroom factory' would be ideal.

ST 9:

I submit that

- The draft CDP include and provision for provide for linked up off-road walkways & cycleways linking the town to it's hinterlands to enable car free local travel and safe local outdoor trails without having to walk on a busy and frequently used 2km stretch of main road (r363) or any other main road.
- The draft CPD provide adequate and accessible spaces for Community garden(s) and public/community woodland spaces/parks for community use (outside of Strokestown House) for recreation, community food production, community events, etc