

“The Local Development Plan aims to meet the needs of all the people of the district by creating sustainable communities within the context of a healthy, well planned, natural and built environment.

The Shared Values and Principles which underpin the Vision and cut across all of the themes and outcomes to be achieved are: • Openness, accountability and transparency • Equality, inclusivity and diversity • Addressing deprivation • Prevention and early intervention • Sustainability • An evidence based approach • Effective engagement • Continuous improvement • Working collaboratively.

### **Responding to Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Re the Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy**

December 2018

We are writing this submission in response to Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy issued recently by FODC.

We write therefore to request that the area of the Sperrin’s AONB already indicated as having no capacity for wind energy development is extended to include the area proposed to become an ASAI (Area of Significant Archaeological Interest) as an extension of Beaghmore ASAI. This area includes the townlands of Aghascrebba, Crock, Carnanrancy, Keerin, Teebane East and Muninamale.

The introduction of turbines would have a distinctive negative visual impact on the setting of the unique features of cultural heritage and high scenic value of this unique landscape.

That this scenic historic landscape is unsuitable for wind development has been recognised by the planning authorities in recent years when various applications for turbines were refused.

In making this response we are requesting that FODC ensures that the character of this historic landscape is preserved by including the proposed ASAI within the area that has no underlying capacity for wind development.

Not alone do wind turbines have a detrimental effect on the visual amenity of this historic landscape they also are impacting on the health and wellbeing of residents, *no human being should feel endangered or under threat*. The studies, the complaints and the objections can no longer be ignored.

**You say The Vision for 2030 is of a welcoming shared and inclusive Fermanagh and Omagh District where people and places are healthy, safe, connected and prosperous, and where our outstanding natural built and cultural heritage is cherished and sustainably managed.**

Why are we traumatised by the inhumanity being shown towards our community? We have the basic right to live in our own home, in our own peaceful surroundings where silence is priceless, surrounded by the beauty of our landscape. There are industrial companies, absentee Landowners, and local Landowners already committed to destroying our home and the area we live in, they do not care what this is doing to us or our family or to any of families in this parish and indeed the surrounding areas around us and, they have no respect for human life or do they think of how people are suffering as a result.

With all due respect we are the ones living here and have done so for many generations. Is it because these applicants and some of the Landowners do not live here that they really do not care what is going on in this parish? We know when there is something wrong. Who has allowed this to happen? Our rights have been taken from us as these Planning applications take over our lives not to mention our health

As residents of this country who has the responsibility to protect our health, safety and welfare? Who is granted that power? Whose duty is it? This travesty must stop, and it falls squarely at the feet, of those who started this mess and it is their mess to clean up, we as citizens have went way above and beyond our responsibilities to give the information requested and it is time for those whose duty it is to stop pushing us off to Next Era and stop SSE, Dalradian, Brookfield, NIE and numerous other unknown companies hiding behind agents PR companies not *forgetting landowners from hurting us. Who needs to stand up and do what is right and admit that those in authority are human and can make a mistake? The measure is how one fixes those mistakes!*

*Whose responsibility is it to ensure that no human being should feel endangered or under threat?*

It is impossible for residents to go through this Draft plan in detail, especially as it is not available in Local Community Centres. However, the proposals such as the Doraville Windfarm and the Gold processing plant will have devastating consequences on not alone the landscape, the protected habitats, drinking water for both human and livestock consumption, but every human being of all ages.

#### Draft Policy L03- Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV)

It is unbelievable that no areas of High Scenic Value have been identified in Tyrone. This proposal has to be examined again. The Sperrins AONB has been recognised by National Geographic as being in the top one hundred most scenic drives in the world yet FODC can't recognise it!

#### Draft Policy MIN01-Minerals Development

Evidence from many countries worldwide shows that mining for precious metals, like gold and silver, 'has an unacceptable adverse impact upon:

the natural environment,

the landscape & natural amenity,

the historic environment,

the water environment,

public, human health & amenity of people living nearby or working in the mine, &

road safety & inconvenience of road users'

as well as a host of other negative impacts.

The Draft LDP fails to acknowledge that this Omagh Sperrins is an area identified by GSNI as high in radon gas. We are very much aware of this high reading as we are building new homes at present and its here we must add that we are restricted to height one of us is 6m the other is 6.5m yet the one restricted to 6m is 500m away from a proposed wind turbine at 64m high.

Mining for gold in such an area would release more radioactive contaminants into the air causing additional cancers. Therefore, FODC should completely forbid gold mining in the Council area.

It is disingenuous of FODC to talk about Areas of Constraint on Mineral Development!

People reading it would initially think that these are Areas where the Council would protect the environment from mining, but unfortunately this is not the case - they are Areas where the

Council would allow vultures in, to plunder our natural resources, ruin our beautiful landscape and damage our health, water and air. Mitigation is not acceptable as these companies will promise the sun, moon and stars in order to get their way, but the Council will be left with the clean-up bill forever more - see the Superfund sites in USA which are costing the authorities 150 years post mine closure. There should be absolutely no mineral development in ACMD or any part of the Council District.

Does the Geological Survey Northern Ireland? take any consideration of the unique landforms of the Sperrin's, the rainfall levels and the regular occurrences of dramatic and damaging storms? These storms create conditions which cannot be mitigated against and there are no proposals presented to do so.

#### Radiation and Soils

The Sperrin's were seriously affected by the fall-out from the Chernobyl explosion in 1986. A substantial portion of the High Sperrin's was affected, and many farms were restricted from selling sheep. We don't see where this draft plan has indicated any consideration of the impact from that incident. We note that there are no comments on issue.

Draft Policy PU02 Overhead Electricity lines. The Policy should specify that overhead power cables and pylons carrying heavy duty electricity lines should not be permitted in the Sperrin's AONB.

SPPS 6.249 states;

1. In relation to power lines current Government policy is that exposures to power- line Electro Magnet Fields (EMFs) should comply with the 1998 International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines. A voluntary Code of Practice Power Lines: Control of Microshocks and other indirect effects of public exposure to electric fields A voluntary Code of Practice (DECC, July 2013) has been agreed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Department of Health, the Energy Networks Association, the Welsh Government, the Scottish Government, and the Northern Ireland Executive. It sets out what is regarded as compliance with those aspects of the EMF exposure guidelines that relate to indirect effects as far as the electricity system is concerned. Further Government policies relating to EMFs from overhead power lines, advise that as a precautionary measure they should, where reasonable, have optimum phasing. This is the subject of a companion Code of Practice "Optimum phasing of high voltage double-circuit power lines". This Code of Practice applies in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

SPPS 6.250 states;

1. Any proposal for the development of new power lines should comply with the 1998 International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Furthermore, such proposals will be considered having regard to potential impact on amenity and should avoid areas of landscape sensitivity, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

#### Draft Policy TOU02- Tourism Development

Although the Tourism Strategy states that promotion of the Sperrins will result in increased visitor numbers and demand for tourist accommodation, the policy seems to be against self-catering accommodation in the countryside, which, I believe, should be promoted because this is what many visitors want.

Clarification request: What does 'ancillary to' mean in relation to tourist provision? Page 117  
What does 'the Plan's Growth Strategy' mean in 4.58 ? Page 117

Why is the annihilation and ruination of the Sperrin's AONB area by major industrialisation corporations even considered? Rural communities are currently being subjected to robbery of all its current assets and it beggars beyond belief that Dalradians application for Gold mining processing plant could even be considered.

#### **The Proposed Gold Mining Plant**

Where would you even begin,

The proposed location is in close proximity to the village of Greencastle and to its primary school, playing fields, community centres, churches and homes, and will have inevitably damaging effects upon the health and wellbeing of local residents, my own generation and especially children.

How many million litres of diesel will this use and what effect will this have on the air that we breathe? Consequently, impacting on health of the local communities.

Mercury Pollution, Acid Mine Damage, the toxic waste and the very fact that cyanide is even being considered is just incomprehensible.

