

>> To whom it may concern.

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>> My submission concerns rural Ireland and us not allowing enough people to build in the country. It seems that we will only allow farmers or landholders to dwell in its beauty. Living in cities, towns and small villages is fine, if you want to reside there but discriminatory policies against one off rural houses shouldn't be allowed. Ribbon development clause is also discriminatory towards rural folk.

>> Living in the countryside is good for folk and their health and indeed the health of the country. You don't have the social problems which may exist in denser populations.

>> We don't seek too much in rural Ireland and indeed put up with a lot; a lot of cut backs, a lot of reduced services and revenue but we are still strong. The NPF can define or deflate rural Ireland. It can ensure the continuity of our schools, our post offices, our shops and our Garda stations but I feel it is choosing to ignore growth in this area and hence serving its death knell.

>> Please reverse the thinking. I have said this many a time at Comeragh and plenary level in Waterford. I have even made a more passionate plea at our most recent SPC planning meeting.

>> Get rid of terminology such as area under urban pressure and stronger rural area terminology in county development plans and furthermore the condition to exhibit housing need. Leave people who want to build in rural Ireland build in rural Ireland and this will reduce the congestion in Dublin and other cities, reduce the price of housing, reduce homelessness, give a better quality of life to those living in urban areas too. It will also address the imbalance of people living on the eastern seaboard vs the remainder of the country.

>> All this should be premised on getting high speed broadband to all rural areas and letting people, businesses or multi nationals work from wherever they choose to in the state, then and only then will rural Ireland be on an equal footing to the rest. I would promote a bottom up approach in lieu of a top down one. If we plan for rural Ireland, we plan for the entire country.

>> Regards

>> Cllr Michael J. O'Ryan

>> Comeragh Waterford City & Co Co.

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