

Antrim & Newtownabbey Local Development Plan Strategy 2030

18th Sept 2019 Response to LDP 2030

I welcome the council's commitment to involve public consultation on a plan / Strategy looking forward. With that said and having read through the Plan which is very comprehensive and detailed, I do not believe that it will attract the general public's interest to respond, which I would have thought was a primary objective, not a criticism of the council but a fact of life in that the general public are generally only interested in what's on their plate at a given time such is the way we live.

However it is vital that you do seek and **listen** to general public views and concerns.

Infrastructure. I have lived in Antrim for over 30 years and seen a massive growth in private residential property, however the design and layout in recent years appears to be clinical, no doubt a very high standard of build but lacking in character being tarmac jungles with few trees or green spaces. A competition to see how many units can be squeezed into a given space. A massive problem continues to grow with traffic congestion both on our roads and within housing developments with cars parked on pavements. We have a rail network without connectivity, lack of "halt's" and beyond belief in 2019 we still do not have a rail link to the International Airport. The carriage way at Junction One / Stiles Way Antrim is a pedestrian nightmare with little thought given to anyone on foot let alone cyclists or the disabled. Poor design. These issues look set to increase unless radical change takes place.

Place Making Good Design. Can we see more business / industrial units built on the same principles of the Technology Park Antrim whereby a blend of units / trees and green pasture, fuse together in a pleasing manner, with less aluminium road frontages that detract from the countryside beyond.

Natural Heritage. Or what is left of it, I am appalled that the 18th / 19th Century's industrial heritage of Antrim Doagh and Ballyclare has been airbrushed out of existence, we have a Water Wheel on the Race Trail Moylinney Banks that is being left to collapse back into the ground, Mill buildings burnt and demolished and irreplaceable "Ancient Woodland" being felled to accommodate 3 storey Blocks of flats as I speak. The plan purposes to protect, restore and enhance these assets. Let's hope so, time will tell, but why wait, a lot has been already lost.

Environment. At present a fundamental that appears to sit at the bottom of priorities, with pollution of all three natural resources "vital" to us all Air, Land and Water with litter being the most obvious and yet with little done to address the problem, Air pollution is it even being monitored? and as for water, with continual pollution of our natural rivers and streams from poor sewage disposal, industrial discharges and agricultural impacts. With our indigenous wildlife being continually displaced and in many cases eradicated. Under this plan what is being done to protect and enhance restore those creatures and plants that were here long before we invaded? We are extremely lucky to have a natural "Green Way" in this borough that has been taken for granted and under developed, in the Six Mile Valley, the plan talks about communities, heath, wellbeing, tourism and employment, environmental resilience and protection. Well here is a natural foundation that needs developed for the protection of the above especially wildlife that relies on us so heavily for their existence.

We need a "Rivers Policy"

Finally thank you for the work and effort that went into this draft and for the opportunity to respond. Time will tell if the objectives come to fruition, I assume a final Plan will follow in due course with time framed objectives set .

Regards

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