

**Sinead McEvoy**

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**From:** Veronica Lynn [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 April 2019 13:16  
**To:** DevelopmentPlan@midulstercouncil.org  
**Subject:** Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy

Dear Sir/madam

Re: Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy

We refer to the above and on-line consultation form and representation forms on your web page and wish to submit the following comments by email as an alternative as they appear to only allow comments on the soundness or unsoundness of the Strategy.

We are submitting the below information in order to insure the best interests of our club and also to the lands surrounding Traad Cottage is not negatively affected by the introduction of a new area plan and its polices. We would request that as a Club conserving a highly sensitive wildlife habitat that we are communicated to in all future consultation processes. This will ensure that we can contribute positively and help provide a good basis for developing the new area plan within Mid Ulster District.

Traad Wildlife and Conservation Club (TWCC) have been based at Traad Cottage and has been leasing the sporting rights on the fore-shore from Shaftesbury Estates for over 45 years. The Conservation Club strives to maintain and promote habitat and biodiversity in the area and a lot of effort and resources is put into doing this by the Club. As a Club we want to ensure that the new policies within the plan do not damage or promote extensive development in an area that has been protected in the past.

We have for some time enjoyed a service level agreement with Mid Ulster Council and its predecessor and throughout this period we have undertaken significant works to ensure the area is protected. One such example was following the flooding in 2015 the club undertook major restorative and remedial works to ensure the area was cleaned up for the benefit of the wildlife that inhabits the area. This works involved removing debris (trees, branches, soils, rubbish) that was preventing access to the lands and the lough. Other maintenance TWCC undertakes is regular litter lifts along over a mile of the foreshore and has recently been undertaking sycamore and laurel control through removal of targeted trees and saplings.

The ground at Traad Point is managed by TWCC for its nature conservation interest, taking account of its ASSI and SPA designations and all of the above works ensure these designations are maintained at all times. TWCC undertakes a range of conservation management activities including invasive species control e.g. Himalayan Balsam Giant hogweed and Mink, these destructive species have been reduced in the area to ensure harm will be reduced to native species and the Lough in general.

Additionally TWCC produces 50 to 100 bird boxes annually for dispersal across the site and through local schools as part of an educational outreach scheme and this also illustrates how the area and region in general can be used to provide knowledge and understanding about our local wildlife to the districts young people. Much of this work has been ongoing since the club was founded and has had a significant positive impact on the environmental health and status of the site and has particularly benefited the breeding bird population especially great crested grebes.

TWCC would be keen to ensure that this arrangement remains in place in the future and that their efforts and resulting outcomes are taken into consideration where future development of the site is proposed.

TWCC would request that the designation of ASSI and SPA are maintained in the area and that these should continue to take precedent over the area plan, this is in an aim to ensure the area is protected for future generations as an educational and recreational site.

We would request that any new polices that will affect planning applications at the site are considered in a sensitive manner in an aim to only promote development that will benefit the site and users of the site. This will ensure the further added protection to the designated status given to the lands.

With all the above stated we would request that Mid Ulster District Council considers the protection of the area with keeping in mind some development in the area to promote the educational and recreational implements be enabled with the new policies. Such proposals will need special consideration and status at the planning application stage.

Yours faithfully

John Lynn  
Chairman, Traad Wildlife and Conservation Club