Seainin Hanna

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Alice Mcglone

Sent:

21 September 2020 22:31

To:

Seainin Hanna

Subject:

Re: Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy

Dear Seainin,

Re. response MUDPS/123, I wish to amend my representation previously submitted.

I have serious concerns about Policy TOU3 – TOURISM ACCOMODATION in respect of its allocation of Traád as a Tourism Opportunity Zone (page 162) of the draft Local Development Plan Strategy. These concerns relate only to the land owned by the Council and in particular that which formerly belonged to the University of Ulster. In the 20 years or more since this land transferred to the former Magherafelt District Council from the university, it has become a wonderful, wild haven for wildlife and in particular, bird life.

Opening the area to tourism in anything other than a very tightly restricted way, for example, via tightly controlled guided wildlife tours, risks destroying valuable habitats especially those of nesting birds. There is also a wildfowling club on the site which rents a bothy from the Council and benefits from a Service Level Agreement for management of the land and funding from the Council for undertaking this work. It is difficult to see how this use is compatible with tourism on the site. The transfer of the most valuable areas of habitat to an organisation like the Ulster Wildlife Trust, or its protection by the Council as a local nature reserve, would be preferable.

I would also contend that it is important that the land remains in public ownership either by the local authority or other public body. This would be preferable to any form of community asset transfer as there are many vested interests which might not guarantee the land would be ultimately managed for the public benefit.

Thank you for the opportunity to further amend my response to the draft MUDPS.

Best Regards,

Alice McGlone

----Original Message----

From: Seainin Hanna

To:

Sent: Thu, Jul 16, 2020 10:28 am

Subject: Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy

Please see attached correspondence regarding the Local Development Plan 2030 Draft Plan Strategy.

Kind regards,

Seainin Hanna

Planning Assistant

Mid Ulster District Council



Tel: 03000 132 132

Web: www.midulstercouncil.org

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