

Mr. Liam Conneally,
Proposed Amendments to Draft Clare Co. Dev. Plan 2023-2029,
Planning Department,
Clare Co. Council.
New Road,
ENNIS.



Dear Sir,

A Government T.D. said some time ago that “Clare had reached capacity in terms of accommodating Ukranian refugees”. Matters have escalated rapidly since then, at least here in Lisdoonvarna.

Lisdoonvarna has a population of approx.. 350 local residents. Being a tourist town for many hundreds of years now, we are well used to an influx of thousands of visitors for a few months of the summer annually. All those are short-stay holiday makers. We have never had the capacity, facilities, or ability as a small town to accommodate a 300% increase on longer terms. Most Ukranian refugees here have come from large cities. They have none of the facilities here that they were used to at home. We simply DO NOT have the facilities, the ancilliary supports, the G.P. capacity, the increased Garda presence (which we were promised when they first came), the shopping facilities, schools capacity etc. etc. For their comfort during this terrible period in their lives, for the most part they should have been accommodated in our larger cities where they would have constructive ways of passing their time, instead of aimlessly walking their dogs around in an effort to fill in their days. There is no

employment opportunity here for the locals or for them even if they wished to take up employment, there is no industry.

The subject matter of the changes to the Development Plan 2023-2029 regarding the Residential & Strategic Residential Reserve Zones is, therefore, a cause of grave concern and, for many reasons, very questionable. Done, as it was, in a very calculatingly hidden way without any consultation with locals. What is to be seen now at the Library is far removed from what was presented to us at the public meeting in the Pavillion less than a year ago, where it was clearly stated that “ any proposed development must protect the EXISTING residential amenity of the Rooska area”. It is crystal clear that what is now being foisted on us is the taking over, underhand, of almost six acres of this site for the construction of modular homes for those unfortunate people displaced by war. Our community here is already bursting at the seams in 2022. The situation is dangerous and unsustainable. For the most part, Rooska estate of fifty five houses, is occupied by O.A.P’s who, if this development goes ahead, will have no option but to leave where they have made their homes with fifty or sixty years, reared their families mostly in difficult economic circumstances, and who now surely deserve to live out their days in security and safety.

Signed: Mary Clohessy

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