

10 January 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing in response to the planning services request for discussion on the draft plan for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

As stated in your Preferred Option Paper, the average age of the population in the area is increasing which will increase demand for old age friendly communities. These need to be specially designed to take into consideration the transitional requirements of the older generation. As they age there is a range of requirements to be facilitated in your development plan, traversing from normal accommodation fluidly to fold style monitored shared homing.

Having a fluid solution to these different homing solutions on an extended site would allow family units to move within the development as their needs change during aging. This would reduce the trauma of having to move to different facilities, in a different area and the loss of community spirit and friendships and the potential development and associated Healthcare cost of mental illness due to changing environments.

Within a development plan, special consideration would need to be given to provide recreation facilities, not only of the senior community but for the overall area allowing the development to be integrated into the overall community.

We believe we have the perfect site for such a community. We control a site of 50 acres on the edge of Dromara. The site extends from the edge of Dromara along the left hand side of the Rathfriland Road until the Castlewellan Road. This band of land extends back towards the Dundrum Road and includes a small stream, fed from Begney Lake, which has been identified as a possible recreation facility for Dromara in previous planning documentation. We have included a map of the proposed site (Figure 1).

This site has been disadvantaged in the past as it was not within the Lisburn/Belfast area plans, being part of the Banbridge council district. This has changed with the new council boundaries and this site would be the natural extension for future development within the Dromara area.

Bespoke location is adjacent to but not in Mournes area:-

- Environmentally friendly due to carbon footprint as adjacent to leisure area – Mournes
- Elderly friendly as adjacent to recreational area
- Substation across road
- Downpatrick area hospital close
- Water access good
- Existing bus route
- Dromara capable to accommodate additional people

In summary, we would like the land that we have identified to be considered for future inclusion in planning zone for residential development.

Yours Faithfully,



Figure 1 Proposed Development land