

**From:**  
**Sent:** 05 November 2020 14:29  
**To:** Local Development Plan  
**Subject:** Emailing: LDP 2032 GORTNESSY PS REP 71  
**Attachments:** LDP 2032 GORTNESSY PS REP 71.pdf

LDP-PS-REP-71 ( Gortnessy )

Please find attached my revised submission for the above.

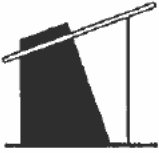
Regards,

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

LDP 2032 GORTNESSY PS REP 71

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POI-939-29-901



Your Ref: LDP 2032 – PS – REP - 71  
My Ref: Misc

5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Planning LDP Team,  
D.C. & S.D. Council,  
98 Strand Road,  
Derry

Hand Delivered & by email

Dear Sir / Madam,

**LDP – PS - REP – 71                      - Gortnessy**

Gortnessy Lower is a small cluster of 12 Dwellings, a Presbyterian Church and Church Hall – all the existing buildings are contained within a strong belt of mature trees. Extending the cluster beyond the trees and the introduction of street lighting, urban road details, etc., would be catastrophic to it's unique discreet rural character – it must be preserved at all costs. You cannot compare the Urban sprawls of Tamnaherin or Lettershandoney with Gortnessy Lower in any shape or form.

In his previous statement ( August 2018 )                      claimed that the residents of Gortnessy are in danger of being 'polarised' and claimed the Church to be an established Community building thus warranting additional housing. In response to                      representation, I decided to carry out a survey amongst the 10 households in Gortnessy Lower ( in April 2020 ) and they **unanimously** agreed that Gortnessy should not be expanded for the above reasons ( see attached copy of blank survey and completed survey ).

Gortnessy is in fact quite diverse with a healthy mixture of occupations, religions and sexual orientation and is thus in NO danger of polarisation -

Unlike in previous generations ( when locals lived off the land ), nobody who currently lives in Gortnessy NEEDS to – they 'choose to' and thus have to commute to Work, Schools, Health Centres, Shopping, etc. This is not a criticism, just a fact. There is no Public Transport in the immediate area and thus no justification for additional housing here – it just doesn't make 'eco' sense.

Yours sincerely

**RESPONSES:**

**GORTNESSY LOWER RESIDENTS :**

You may be aware that the Area Plan for Derry & Strabane is currently up for review. This affects all Planning decisions and Zonings until the year 2032 and will affect you. Council are recommending that Hamlets & Villages be allowed to expand to promote the economy in Rural areas.

The Planners are now accepting responses ( rebuttals ) to statements lodged last year – it is now too late to lodge new statements.

( who own most of the farmland around Gortnessy Lower ) have made a formal recommendation that Gortnessy Lower be opened up for Development land. They did this for the 1996 – 2011 Area Plan, seeking to build around 30 new dwellings and they were refused at the subsequent Public Enquiry. Amongst other things they now claim ( via their Architect ) that the

I propose to object to their renewed attempt to destroy Gortnessy, but I thought it would be prudent for me to hear your views:

	YES	NO
New Housing around Gortnessy will bring with it alien Urban detailing such as Street lights, footpaths, concrete kerbs, – is this a good idea?		✓
All the existing dwellings in Gortnessy are currently absorbed within a strong mature planting boundary – is it a good idea to break out beyond this?		✓
New housing will bring much additional traffic & noise – is this a good idea?		✓
There are no shops, schools or employment in Gortnessy so journeys to them will inevitably be by car – is it a good idea to increase this commuting?		✓
Is it better to allow Hamlets ( which have access to amenities such as Tamnaherin, Eglinton, Maydown, etc ) to expand rather than Gortnessy?	✓	
The compact and unique character of Gortnessy will be irreparably damaged ( in my opinion ) with additional housing – do you think this is a good idea?		✓
Gortnessy suffered significant flooding in August 2017 – the existing culverts and streams cannot cope with additional storm drainage – do you agree?	✓	
Do you believe that Gortnessy already has a diverse community mix and thus is not in danger of being Polarised?	✓	
Any other comments you may wish to make, please do so below: NEW DEVELOPMENT WOULD TOTALLY RUIN THE UNIQUENESS AND BEAUTY OF GORTNESSY / INCREASED TRAFFIC / NOISE / NATURE CONSERVATION / ADDITIONAL FLOODING (AN EXISTING PROBLEM).		

You may wish to remain anonymous but if not please put your address below ( In my response to the Planners I will only use statistics, not names – i.e. "the majority of residents feel....." ):

UNANIMOUS  
 Nr. \_\_\_\_\_ KILNAPPY ROAD / CROCUS ROAD ( cross out which does not apply )

Please return your answers to me ( before Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Comments were to be returned before the end of April 2020 but this has now been extended.

## BLANK SURVEY :

### GORTNESSY LOWER RESIDENTS :

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There are no shops, schools or employment in Gortnessy so journeys to them will inevitably be by car – is it a good idea to increase this commuting?		
Is it better to allow Hamlets ( which have access to amenities such as Tamnaherin, Eglinton, Maydown, etc ) to expand rather than Gortnessy?		
The compact and unique character of Gortnessy will be irreparably damaged ( in my opinion ) with additional housing – do you think this is a good idea?		
Gortnessy suffered significant flooding in August 2017 – the existing culverts and streams cannot cope with additional storm drainage – do you agree?		
Do you believe that Gortnessy already has a diverse community mix and thus is not in danger of being Polarised?		
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