



Your Ref: LDP-PS-REP-131

My Ref: Misc

21st January 2021

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

BY HAND & EMAIL

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: LDP-PS-REP-131 (Gortnessy)

I wish to respond to the above representation as follows:

- There is no need to create a new balance of mixed communities in Gortnessy as we already have a healthy and diverse community (see my LDP-PS- REP-109).
- I agree that Gortnessy was historically a place of settlement, but this was due to the strong agricultural population where people **had** to live in the area, not because they wanted to as is the case today. Farms then were small, numerous, and needed to be readily accessed – today they are large and accessed by Tractor from outlying areas.
- Gortnessy would NOT be suitable for further development, as breaking out from the existing historic mature tree belt would destroy the unique ability of the cluster to absorb the existing development from surrounding vantage points. Further development would just make it like anywhere else and be a 'blot' on the landscape.
- Connections to the A6 and Foyle Bridge can only be undertaken by car (or bicycle for the hardy) – the nearest bus service being over a mile away. Lettersandoney, Tamnaherin, Eglinton & Drumahoe all have good Translink direct bus services.
- The recently completed new water main, referred to, was to replace a 1930's failing asbestos water main – it was not installed to increase capacity.
- There is no Mains Sewage infrastructure within a mile of Gortnessy – there are currently 10 Septic tanks / Treatment plants in Gortnessy all discharging to the stream – it can't take any more. Rivers Agency confirmed some years ago that the local stream is overloaded

with treated sewage effluent & storm drainage, they are on record as stating they will not approve any more. Major infrastructure would be required to remedy this.

- Gortnessy is not ideally placed to reach 'a major centre' – major centres are ideally located to reach major centres! The local roads are narrow and twisting – carving out the hedges / boundaries to facilitate improved visibility splays & forward sight distances (Roads Service issues) would further erode the unique character. Street lighting would destroy the black sky – a phenomenon cherished by only a few other communities.
- There most certainly is a Flood Risk to Gortnessy, as evidenced by the severe flooding on 22nd August 2017 and my successful Emergency Flood Grant from Council at that time.
- Walking & cycling is naturally occurring already (as in many other areas) – this does not justify additional housing in Gortnessy. We are not adjacent to any Tourist attractions.
- There are **NO** Job opportunities within a 4 mile radius of Gortnessy – jobs are only accessible by car and home working is impractical due to the poor Broadband reception – some families have even moved back into the City for this reason. I have no Broadband at home but I savour the ability to escape the trappings of the Internet – why shouldn't it stay that way?
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- Lettershandoney can satisfy any desires to live in the area (for many years to come) by virtue of the 90+ private dwellings currently under construction there – the same applies to the expanding villages of Tamnaherin, Eglinton & Drumahoe.
- Gortnessy should and can thus remain as a unique compact cluster. When I came to Gortnessy in 1986 (to restore my 200 year old cottage, which nobody else wanted) there were only 3 habitable dwellings – today there are 12 – that's a 300% expansion in 30 years – Gortnessy needs time to digest this expansion, never mind contemplating short sighted and catastrophic further expansion – once it's gone, it's gone. Indeed I believe it should be designated as a Conservation Area (like a smaller version of Gracehill, Co. Antrim, for example) a shining example for Council to be proud of (forever)?

Yours faithfully