

Planning

From:
Sent: 06 November 2020 16:44
To: Planning
Subject: Draft Local Development Plan - consultation response

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Regarding the draft LDP, I would like to make some observations.

As a result of Covid-19 we need to rethink urban centres. Much more consideration needs to be given to the shape and detail of urban centres, such as Derry. There will need to be more space for pedestrians as well as support for cafes, bars and restaurants operating outdoors in space next to their premises. This will need careful but fast work. Consideration will need to be given to the implications for traffic management, for example whether roads should be pedestrianised, part-pedestrianised, made one way and possible reprioritisation of traffic lights, to support the free flow of people.

Despite Covid-19, we need to ensure that urban centres remain viable and sustainable. This means that Derry city centre must remain the heart of local retailing, with limitation on out of city retailing that threatens the city centre. It also means that efforts are needed to build the city centre residential population. This may include 'living over the shop', new build apartments and conversion of disused existing city centre properties into apartments.

I would like consideration to be given to the Bishop Street car park in the city becoming an urban green park, or 'urban lung'. I believe that there are other locations that could be used for car parking - such as providing another storey at William Street. However, neither the Quayside or Foyle side car parks are regularly full, so there is an argument for saying that the city may have more car parking capacity than necessary.

A permanent food market would be a desirable additional facility. The old Cathedral school on London Street would be a good location for this.

Regards,

