

I wish to object to policies LA1, LA2, LA3 & LA4 with particular regard to the inclusion of the Slieve Croob area within a Special Countryside Area.

The proposed policies will have detrimental affect on small scale farmers located in upland areas. This will also impact on farmers abilities to comply with the Nitrates Directive where farmers are required to maintain the natural landscape which is often a condition of the new Farm Sustainability Transition Payment which is crucial for small farmers in these area.

A minor adjustment is proposed to allow for small scale agricultural buildings and where a need can be demonstrated a farm dwelling as an exception within this area alongside telecommunications and renewable developments. The Slieve Croob DEA has had a modest and steady level of single houses granted (typically 30 per year) and most of these are granted in the southern part of the DEA. This area lies outside of the high Mourne and farming is still primarily the main source of employment and this falls outside of a main Tourist area. It is proposed that a modes adjustment is made for existing farmers.

Prematurity should not be applied to applications in this area until submissions have been fully considered through the relevant statutory processes.

I support measures to restrict speculative one-off dwellings and also restrictions on 'infill' dwellings fracture and sterilise agricultural lands.

Happy to discuss in more detail

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]