

Retention of the rural population.

The most vocal adherents for a less restrictive planning environment argue on the basis of retaining population in the countryside. Away from the main town environs, the main concern of the planners is to restrict ribbon development on roads in order to protect the character of the countryside. The planners seek to encourage those in rural areas who want to build houses to come together and build on the one location (like the old style clochans), so that only one access point is needed onto county roads and more sustainable sewage systems can be used. There is no agency/community body matching the people who want to build houses so that they do it together. An option that might be considered in the forthcoming County Development plan is the zoning of specific smaller areas in/near villages for housing development.