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Planning Department
Clare County Council
New Road
Ennis
County Clare

25th March 2022

RE: Submission on proposed revisions to development plan, 2023 through 2029.

Dear Sir/Madame,

In respect of chapter 4 of the proposed plan dealing with *Urban and Rural Settlement Strategy*, I note that the areas designated as being of "special control" as indicated on map number **4B**, are considerably increased in extent from those contained in the previous plan, 2017 through 2023.

The total of the areas of special control now constitute some 80% of the land area of the county. They can hardly be considered to be "special" when they in fact constitute the great bulk of the county.

In addition, those small few areas which are left within the County as not being areas of special control are further delimited by the presence of scenic routes or national primary and secondary routes.

No explanation is given as to why the areas of special control have been significantly increased since the deliberations of the last plan, 2017 through 2023.

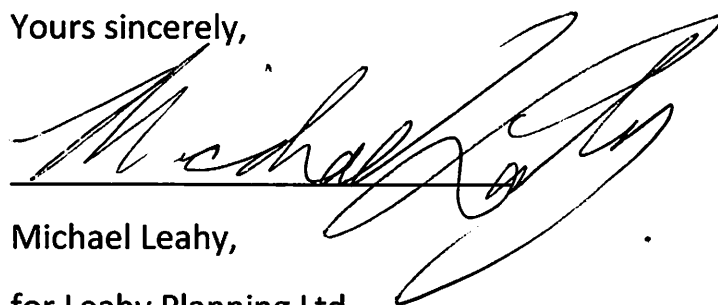
Those areas which are left outside of these special control areas are generally areas which are unsuitable for housing given elevation, remoteness and lack of accessibility.

There does not seem to be a recognition within the development plan of the important tradition of dispersed housing within the County. Further, the proposed extension of the zones of special control will significantly increase the difficulties of ordinary Clare people in seeking to house themselves in areas to which they may have had significant cultural and historical attachment.

I request that the areas of special control return to the same geographic areas as those which were delineated in the 2017 to 2023 plan.

I trust that you will take this submission into account, and I would be obliged if you could acknowledge receipt of this submission quoting an appropriate reference number to the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Leahy', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Michael Leahy,

for Leahy Planning Ltd.