

From: Melina Sharp [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 2 January 2023 22:22
To: Development Plan
Subject: Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Submission to

Clare Co. Council on the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

in connection with the proposed amendment of CDP Objective 8.14 at page 88 of Proposed amended Vol 1.

From:
Mélina Sharp, [REDACTED]

Please include into the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 specific policies that can protect the biodiversity and people of Clare from harmful mineral and metal prospecting, extraction, mining and processing. Please add a policy that would ban the use of certain chemicals as a processing agent.

Clare County Council's policy on mineral prospecting and mineral mining has become of the utmost importance to residents of Clare.

The mining extractive industry is a huge risk to surface water bodies, lakes and rivers, to the water quality much of which is already under severe stress from human activities. We know any new prospecting and mining will always lead to damage of water courses and habitats because history has shown us that polluted mine sites are a predominant factor in water quality deterioration.

As is known from local people dealing with the gold mine in Omagh, the community does not profit from foreign nationals mining in Ireland. It only will lead to illness, death and grief.

As is known from local people dealing with a proposed gold mine in Tyrone, the community faces being criminalised when protecting the water. Water! Something we simply cannot live without. Something so simple yet precious. The UN already said in 2020 that there are 3.2 billion people living in water stressed areas. This is said to grow to 700million people by 2030 because human activities will . Already every year there are 220 million tonnes of toxic chemicals like lead, cyanide, mercury, arsenic being dumped into our water systems by mining companies alone. They are destroying 64-102 BILLION litres of water every year. That means they are destroying the drinking water of 5.5 million men, women and children (with UN Human Rights recommended MINIMUM of 18,000 lts per year per person).

The fact is without safe water bodies, most species suffer, many species will die off, including humans. Humans are but one species on this wonderous planet. Just because human activities are deemed legal, even by the current Irish legal system or by the EPA, it does not mean that they do not in fact violate basic human rights or the rights of other species and it does not mean it must be allowed to continue until every last drop is contaminated. We owe it to every other single species to end these violations and to restore the water bodies of this island (at least) to their former pristine states, how we found them, safe to drink from and full of life, full of food. This is what we must hand down to future generations of children and wildlife.

Clare County Council must implement policies on prospecting and mining for strong protection of the environment and the future of our children and against the exploitation by mining companies for huge profits that would otherwise take unreasonable and unacceptable risks, using chemicals that would cause permanent harm.

The submission requests inclusion of the additional wording below for the reasons of; in order to support CDP 8.14 and to better protect Environment, Habitats and water quality from potential negative impacts of mining and extractive industries;

The use of the following chemicals as a processing agent shall not be permitted as part of any proposed processing operation located above or adjacent to surface or ground waters, or which could potentially impact such waters regardless of their location- mercury, cyanide or cyanide compounds, breakdown products of cyanide, or sulfuric acid, These present an unreasonable risk of environmental harm due to the toxicity of such chemicals and their demonstrated potential to damage to the environment

Please make County Clare the second county, taking inspiration from the leadership shown by County Leitrim, to regulate the use of cyanide, cyanide compounds, breakdown products of cyanide, mercury and sulfuric acid. And lead the way to a nationwide ban, to show that Ireland will not sacrifice it's remaining and restorable clean water, healthy soil, safe air and chooses for a sustainable and peaceful future for the next generations.

Sincerely,

Mélina Sharp.