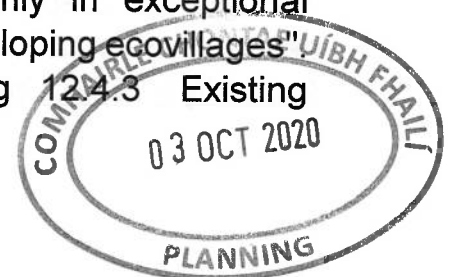


Hello, Below you find some suggestions and requests. My requests are specific to a few of the chapters I have been able to read, but generally, I ask you to include in this plan a path towards developing ecovillages and low-impact clustered houses on or near to agricultural land, where we can grow our own food by practicing small scale regenerative agriculture, live in a more sustainable way, bring jobs and capability to live in rural areas through creating coworking hubs near our homes, offering workshops/trainings in educational centers, etc, as we move towards living in an ecovillage. Definition of Ecovillage: An ecovillage is a "human-scale, full-featured settlement in which human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a way that is supportive of healthy human development, and can be successfully continued into the indefinite future." Robert Gilman Below you find several suggestions for places that ecovillage (or simply clustered housing in the countryside) could be included in these policies. Ecovillages attend to most of the human needs outlined in these policies and descriptions. As we face climate change, it is vitally important that we create settlements that can be "successfully continued into the future". I also ask you to create a pathway for creating "mixed use" zoning, like agricultural land near to residential areas and coworking hubs, community buildings, educational centers, etc to cultivate ecovillages. So many of the plan's goals and strategies can be attended to by an ecovillage. If there can be an ecovillage in Tipperary, why not in Offaly? Thank you Selene Aswell Volume 1 Chapter 9 "CLÁR programme provides funding for smallscale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline. CLÁR aims to support sustainable development in identified areas by attracting people to live and work there." Suggest including "clustered housing in the countryside" or "ecovillages" as a strategy to attract people to live and work here." 9.5 Community Facilities The term 'community facilities' covers a variety of amenities which are responsive to and meet the needs of individual communities. The Council will seek to ensure that an appropriate range of community facilities is provided in all communities taking account of the county's young and growing older population and growth targets identified in the Core Strategy of this County Development Plan. In order to prevent the loss of community facilities, the Council will discourage their change of use tonon-community uses. " Please include allowing projects like ecovillages to build community facilities (such as a library, garden learning center, etc) in the countryside, possibly on small portions of agricultural land. "9.6 Educational Services Central Government, through the Department of Education and Skills, is responsible for the delivery of quality educational facilities and services. The Planning Authority's role in education provision is in ensuring that adequate



serviceable land is available in appropriate locations to meet current and envisaged future requirements beyond the Plan period. Optimally, schools need to be located along sustainable transport corridors (i.e. walking, cycling, public transport). " Please include ecocommunity based schools, forest schools, or home schooling. 9.7 Other Education/Skills Training/Third Level : Please include the option for ecovillages to offer skills training and high level education (such as apprenticeships, environmental education, sustainable living skills, horticulture, permaculture, interpersonal communication skills, etc). Please include supporting ecovillages in meeting this aim. 9.9 Co-Working Hubs + SICCDP–23: It is Council policy to support and facilitate the establishment of co-working/ remote working hubs and creative hubs as either standalone facilities themselves or ancillary to public buildings, libraries and community centres or in towns and village centres as appropriate. Please include supporting building coworking hubs on agricultural land to contribute to the development of ecovillages (so that people can work remotely and live in the community). Or, include ecovillages in the list of where co-working hubs may be. 9.14 Older People : please include developing and living in ecovillages as a strategy for many of these themes (social inclusion, housing, civic participation and employment, etc) 9.15 Universal Design : Please include ecovillages or clustered housing in the countryside as an option to "The Council will support the provision of appropriate housing accommodation for people with disabilities and older people. Such facilities should be integrated wherever possible into established areas in towns and villages, where residents can avail of reasonable access to local services by walking." In an ecovillage or clustered housing situation support and services could be just outside your front door. 9.17 Health and Well Being: "The places in which we live, work and play can affect both our physical and mental well-being." Please include developing local ecovillages as a strategy for physical and mental well-being in the places where we live, work and play. Please add "ecocommunity or ecovillage" to your list: "The Council considers that medical practices should be provided for within town, village, or neighbourhood centres, preferably in purpose built premises and in locations which should have minimal impact on residential amenity." 9.25 New Residential Developments : Please consider including "sustainable neighborhoods and developing ecovillages" Social Inclusion, Community and Cultural Development Objectives: Education SICCDO–01 "It is an objective of the Council that the provision of new educational facilities are located within existing settlements and thereby out-of-town locations are considered only in exceptional circumstances" Please add "existing settlements or developing ecovillages" Please include bolded items: Chapter 12: Zoning 12.4.3 Existing



Residential This zoning allows for the conservation and enhancement of the quality and character of existing residential areas, to protect residential amenities and to allow for small scale infill development which is appropriate to the character and pattern of development in the area, ****including tiny homes or small clustered housing for ecovillage development.**** Existing residential zoned land may also provide for small scale home based employment uses where the primary residential use will be maintained.

12.4.3 New Residential This zoning shall be taken to primarily include the use of land for new residential units. It may also provide for a range of other uses particularly those that have the potential to foster the development of new residential communities, for example, schools, childcare facilities, ****ecovillages****, open spaces etc.

Volume 2: Ferbane 1.5 Strategic Aims for Ferbane 5. Promote and support innovative housing models including live-work units, ****urban ecovillages,**** special needs housing and housing for older people in Ferbane Town Centre and ****rural ecovillages in surrounding areas.****

4. Residential Strategic Aims: Promote permeable, healthy sustainable communities that focus on place making and sense of well-being to ensure Ferbane **** (and the surrounding areas) **** is an attractive place to live and work;



