

I am planning to move to Ferbane in the coming months so I am very interested in this County Development Plan. I see the importance of creating small rural communities which would be interlinked with each other and the wider community. They would help to keep the countryside alive and maintain and increase biodiversity within the natural areas. With the move from peat production this feels like an important time to create jobs within the natural surroundings that will sustain and develop the land rather than deplete it. I would like to see a place for small eco communities with low impact housing to be created to assist with making Offaly a sustainable and environmentally friendly county. I also see these communities as having great benefits to the health and well-being of the people both physically and mentally by bringing people closer to nature and to more traditional and earth based activities. They would reach out to the wider community and be centres of education and wellbeing.

