Reading the ‘Rural Housing Directives’ it seems to be inferred an applicant’s **Grandparent’s**, must be from the area. This is contrary to the EU ruling known as the ‘Fleming Decree’. From the January 2021 press release, we understand the department is engaging with the EU commissions on proposal to bring development plans in-line with EU law. Currently the EU commission has initiated infringement proceedings against Ireland for the ‘Locals only’ rule.

Bearing in mind the above, Section 1(c) of RH2 seems very vague and at odds with all other section of RH2. It is somewhat missing leading given the concise reading of the remaining sections I would feel more precise examples should be given as a lot of time can be put into preparing preplanning applications, which have no chance of success.

As it stands a Farmer is the only person who may only consider apply for planning permission. There are 2 issues here.

1. There are fewer and fewer farmers as time goes on.
2. Leaving aside a person’s right to choose, the policy is forcing people into cities which are unaffordable and neither have the capacity or infrastructure to accommodate people.

From our own experience of this, it is clear despite a person been involved both in the equine industry & wider community for many years will not be considered for a permanent home, thereby forcing the loss of an equine facility.

We would support the aims of the development plan to protect rural areas & communities under pressure from Urban generated development, but the over application of ‘RURAL LINKS’ (i.e., Locals Only) within Objective RH2 is to narrow and there is a failure to integrate/facilitate the EQ1 policy objective with the Policy objective of Rural housing. If the council was genuine on promoting rural Ireland, enterprise, and activities which support and sustain rural communities, then RH2 needs to be broadened to consider all instances of permanent housing needs and established links.