

Foreword

As the 21st century unfolds there are new challenges facing Louth and district and with these challenges come some exciting opportunities.

Putting together a plan to satisfy the aspirations of 16,000 residents has not been an easy task. Unlike village plans, where often major objectives such as a new community hall are easily identified, Louth's needs as a service centre for a large rural area are multi-layered and more complex.

Add to this the need to fall in with plans made by the district and county councils, the East Midlands Regional Assembly, Whitehall and then of course the European Union, what is right for Louth often gets lost in mountains of paperwork. We have therefore worked to ensure that the Action Plan is achievable – and while some ideas may take a little longer to come to fruition there are many which can be introduced relatively soon.

The Louth Plan team, which I have chaired since Meridian Links took on the task, has been keen to ensure that change in the town is managed sensitively in line with the wish not to see Louth lose its unique character. Housing, supermarkets, the cattle market, tourism and parking all need very careful consideration to ensure they fit Louth's needs rather than being developer led. Progress is part of life but it is essential that the way forward does not erode the sense of community and pride of place which we are so lucky still to enjoy in the town.

Members of the Louth Plan team may have changed as the process of drawing up the plan progressed but everyone's contributions have been very welcome. We are grateful for all the hours these people have given voluntarily to help ensure the future of our lovely town is positive and vibrant and that Louth will continue to be a wonderful place for people to live, work and shop whatever their age.

Jill Makinson-Sanders
Chair, Meridian Links

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