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Participant Information Sheet

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to support the development of a Place Plan for Clonmore, a small rural village in County Armagh, Northern Ireland. The study aims to highlight the challenges and opportunities of rural living and to explore issues such as housing needs, lack of services, and community life. The findings will help shape local planning recommendations that reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

Why have I been chosen to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you are a resident or have a connection to Clonmore or the surrounding area through work or volunteering. Your views and experiences will help bring real-life insight to this study, particularly regarding what it's like to live in this rural area or as someone observing these issues. Your contribution is valuable in ensuring the Place Plan reflects the voices of local people.

What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to participate in a short, informal interview or discussion, guided by 5 pre-determined questions. Alternatively, you may choose to complete a brief community survey. The focus will be on your views about local issues and how life in the rural area of Clonmore could be improved.

Will my participation be kept confidential?

Yes. All information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous. Your name will not appear in any reports or publications. Data will be securely stored by the researcher and deleted when it is no longer needed. Only the researcher will have access to identifiable information, if provided.

Do I have to give consent to take part?

Yes. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form (or tick a consent box if completing the survey online). Taking part is entirely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without any consequence.

What are the possible disadvantages to my taking part?

We do not anticipate any risks or disadvantages to taking part. The questions are non-sensitive and relate to your general views and experiences of life in Clonmore. You are free to skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

What are the possible benefits?

By taking part, you will help inform a community-led Place Plan for Clonmore and contribute to wider research on rural living and spatial planning in Northern Ireland. Your input could help shape future decisions and improvements in the village and similar rural communities.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The findings will be used in the researcher's MSc Planning and Development final project at Queen's University Belfast. The Place Plan will be shared with local stakeholders and may be used to support funding bids or planning applications.

Who is organising and funding the study?

This study is being carried out by a student on the MSc Planning and Development programme at the School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast. The work is supported by Clonmore Regeneration Group, a local community organisation set up to support the development of the Clonmore Community.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed and approved by the Research Ethics Committee of Queen's University Belfast.

What if there is a problem?

In the first instance please contact supervisor Neil Galway on +44 (0)28 90240588; n.galway@qub.ac.uk, postal address: School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen's University Belfast, David Keir Building, Stranmillis Road, Belfast BT9 5AG.

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet.