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Louth County Council
Comhairle Chondae Lughai
"Opening doors to a brighter future"

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

County Hall
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Millennium Centre
Ionad na Milaoise

Dundalk
Dún Dealgan

Dr John Beard,
World Health Organisation,
Department of Ageing and Life Course (ALC)
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland.

26th April 2010

Dear Dr Beard,

Application for Membership of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

On behalf of Louth County Council in Ireland, I am very pleased to submit our application to join the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities.

As you are aware, Dundalk, one of two primary urban centres in County Louth, very actively participated in the WHO's initial Global Age-Friendly Cities project, and I was delighted to attend the formal launch of the report in Canada House in London in October 2007.

Since then, the project has continued to grow in depth and breadth in line with our Council's increasing efforts to make County Louth a wonderful place to live for people of all ages. I'd like to draw your attention to a few significant developments over the past 18 months that we believe will underpin our commitment to sustainable age-friendly development:

- The formation of a multi-stakeholder 'Age-Friendly Alliance' to provide a collaborative governance framework within the Louth County Development Board structure
- The formation of an Older People's Forum to ensure that older people in the county are both a voice and a participating resource for change
- The formation of an Age-Friendly County Office to coordinate and support both the Alliance and the Forum
- The agreement to a strategy and action plan with short, mid and long term objectives
- Progress and delivery of several flagship projects, of which the Great Northern Haven is an example, delivering impact on older peoples' quality of life as well as acting as a catalyst for broader collaborative service and infrastructural improvements.
- The close connection of our local actions to evolving initiatives at central government level, fostering a national commitment to age-friendly communities and environments within the context of our emerging National Positive Ageing Strategy.

As you will see in the attached documents supporting our application, County Louth is committed to being Ireland's first age-friendly county. Our team here in Louth are very excited about the prospects of participating in the WHO's Global Network both for what we can contribute and for what we can learn. The Global Network will be a rich resource to guide improvement plans for everyone involved and we look forward to participating as very active members.

On behalf of Louth County Council,

