

An Bord Pleanála



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2016

Cork County

Planning Register Reference Number: 15/06587

An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: PL04.246824

APPEAL by Noel Collins of Saint Judes, Midleton, County Cork and by others and by Ardglass Windfarm care of Fehily Timoney and Company of Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork against the decision made on the 16th day of June, 2016 by Cork County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to the said Ardglass Windfarm Limited.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: 10-year planning permission for development consisting of the construction of a wind farm of up to seven wind turbines with a maximum ground to blade tip height of up to 140 metres, upgrade of existing tracks and provision of new site tracks, three borrow pits, all associated drainage, construction of an electrical substation including a control building with welfare facilities, electrical infrastructure, fencing and landscaping, one number construction site compound, underground electrical cabling, underground grid connection electrical cabling, one number permanent meteorological mast up to 90 metres in height, permanent signage, minor junction accommodation works for the proposed turbine delivery route and all associated ancillary infrastructure, all in the townlands of Ballyogaha West, Peafield, Portavarrig, Oldcourt, Ballynona North, Walshtown Beg, Walshtown More (West), Shanavougha, Glenreagh, Glenawillin, Ballyreardon, Ballyatrasna, Rathgire, Oldcourt East, Templenacarriga South, Knocknamouragh, Ballymacsliney, Ballyedmond and Carrigogna, County Cork.

DECISION

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- (a) Policy Objectives GI 7-2 and ED 3-5, as set out in the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 – 2020,
- (b) the location of the proposed wind farm on a rural elevated upland plateau within an open and exposed landscape, without any landcover or significant features capable of visually absorbing the scale of the development proposed,
- (c) the “Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities” issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in June, 2006,
- (d) the scale and height of the proposed turbines, and
- (e) the pattern of development in the vicinity and the planning history of the subject site,

it is considered that the proposed development would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area, and would, therefore, be contrary to certain

criteria set out in Policy ED 3-5 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 – 2020. Furthermore, it is considered that the proposed development would have an adverse impact on a designated Scenic Route, that is, Route S44, which it is an objective to protect in accordance with the Cork County Development Plan 2014 – 2020, and would, therefore, be contrary to Policy GI 7-2 of the Development Plan. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the provisions of the “Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities” issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in June 2006 and would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

**Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.**

Dated this day of 2017.