

Board Order PL 09.249348

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2017

Planning Authority: Kildare County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 17/388

Appeal by Soleirtricity Limited care of John Spain Associates of 39 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin against the decision made on the 7th day of September, 2017 by Kildare County Council to refuse permission.

Proposed Development: A 10 megawatt solar photovoltaic farm comprising photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames, one number single storey inverter/transformer station, one number single storey switchgear and associated transformer station, internal track, security fencing, closed circuit television/lighting poles, widening of an existing entrance onto the Southgreen Road and all associated ancillary site development and landscaping works at Southgreen Road, in the townland of Loughandys, County Kildare.

Decision

REFUSE permission for the above proposed development in accordance with 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

The site of the proposed development is located in the Chair of Kildare, Special Landscape Character Area as indicated in Chapter 14 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 which has a low capacity to accommodate uses without significant adverse effects on the appearance or character of the landscape having regard to special sensitivity factors. Having regard to the open, exposed and elevated nature of the site, and the scale, nature and design of the proposed development, it is considered that the proposed solar farm would form a prominent and obtrusive feature in the landscape, which would be highly visible in views from its environs and which would adversely impact on the character of the local setting. The proposed development would seriously injure the visual amenities of the area and would conflict with this development plan objective which seeks to protect the landscape. The proposed development would, therefore 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

2018

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