



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018

Planning Authority: Galway County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: 17/1538

APPEAL by Soleirtricity Limited care of John Spain and Associates of 39 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin against the decision made on the 13th day of June, 2018 by Galway County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.

Proposed Development consisting of a 20 megawatt solar Photovoltaic farm comprising photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames, four number single storey inverter/transformer substations, one number single storey substation and transformer, 40 number single storey one megawatt battery storage containers (in battery storage area), internal tracks, closure of existing and provision of new operational access onto R348, fencing, CCTV/lighting and all associated ancillary development and landscaping (including berms) works. Temporary construction access from the existing farm access road on the R348 located within the townlands of Toberroe, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun and Rathmorrissy, Athenry, County Galway.

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

Having regard to the location of the proposed development in proximity to the M6 Motorway, the M17/18 Motorway and the Rathmorrissy three level Motorway to Motorway Interchange, where particular driver vigilance is required, it is considered that the proposed development, by reason of glint and glare, would endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard and distraction of road users and would interfere with the safety and free flow of traffic on the road network. Furthermore, the proposed development would adversely affect the capacity, safety and operational efficiency of the national road network in the vicinity of the site, which would be contrary to national policy to protect the capacity of national routes. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

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

Dated this day of 2019.