



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-312193-21- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

<b>Description</b>	ABP-312193-21 – Proposed 12 turbine windfarm, located on a 140-hectare site, Ballycar, Co. Clare		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation.		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting		
<b>Venue</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
<b>Date</b>	01/09/2022	<b>Time</b>	2:30pm – 3:15pm

### Representing An Bord Pleanála

Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)

Paul Caprani, Senior Planning Inspector

Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer

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Eimear Reilly, Executive Officer

### Representing the Prospective Applicant

Ken Fitzgerald – MWP (Agent)

Peter Barry – MWP (Agent)

John O'Connor – Ballycar Green Energy (Applicant)

Imelda Barry – Ballycar Green Energy (Applicant)

David McDonnell – Ballycar Green Energy (Applicant)

## **Introduction:**

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, 2022 and the record of this meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicants had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting; the prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

## **Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant provided a brief recap on the first meeting and said the main topics to be discussed today include an update on progress made since the previous meeting, surveys completed and community engagement to-date.

In relation to survey progress to date, the prospective applicant said all environmental assessments have now concluded. As of September 2022, there are 6 seasons of Ornithology surveys completed. The prospective applicant said baseline environmental surveys include peat stability impact assessment and archaeological impact assessment.

The prospective applicant said although the site layout design is frozen, there are a few elements yet to be finalised such as the drainage design, design of watercourse crossings and material balance calculations.

The current design consists of 12 wind turbines with an overall capacity of approximately 54-60MW, consisting of 11 turbines with a tip height of 158 metres and 1 turbine with a tip height of 150 metres. There are 2 borrow pits and 1 deposition area proposed and it was submitted that these areas will be fully reinstated once the construction phase is completed.

Two site entrances are proposed as part of this development; one located to the north consisting of a temporary entrance for construction deliveries from the nearby quarry, and one to the south consisting of a permanent entrance, and entrance for turbine deliveries. It is proposed to scale back this entrance once the construction phase is complete.

The prospective applicant said the two grid connections options are still being assessed, which are both tail-fed connections. One option is via the existing road

network and the second is over land, to connect into the existing 110kV Ardnacrusha substation.

The prospective applicant presented ten photomontages of viewpoints in the immediate and surrounding areas.

Community engagement has commenced and is ongoing, including the distribution of an information leaflet to residents in the local area, direct engagement with local representatives and community groups, direct conversations with residents who requested face-to-face meetings and a community consultation event was also held on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The prospective applicant said feedback from the community has been positive and engagement is ongoing.

## **Discussion**

The following matters were discussed:

- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant confirmed that barotrauma and collision risk will be considered as part of the bat survey analysis.
- The prospective applicant said they expect the borrow pits to reach a depth well above the water table. The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to be cognisant of this and said if the borrow pit is below the water table this would require substantial hydrogeological assessments to be carried out, to ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said shadow flicker control measures will be installed. Baseline noise assessments have been completed and the windfarm will be operated in adherence with Guidelines.
- The Board's representatives reminded the prospective applicant to include details in relation to major accidents as part of the EIAR.

- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said they are seeking a pre-application meeting with Limerick City & County Council. It was noted that feedback was received from the local authority's Heritage Officer. The Board's representatives stressed the importance of liaising with Limerick City & County Council prior to submitting the planning application, given the proposed development's proximity to the administrative area of that Council.
- The prospective applicant said residents from Limerick were invited to the public consultation event and said this event was also advertised in newspapers circulating in the Limerick area.
- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to provide additional photomontages from other settlements in the surrounding area including, but not limited to, Sixmilebridge, Cratloe and Castleconnell.
- The Board's representatives said following the Balz Judgement, the prospective applicant must have regard to the draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) alongside the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006).
- A general discussion was had around the inclusion of the replant compensatory lands as part of the assessment to be undertaken in the EIAR and NIS. The Board's representatives said the replant lands falls under separate forestry legislation. If there is a likelihood of cumulative impacts from compensatory planting in the immediate vicinity of the site, this issue needs to be addressed in the EIAR or NIS.
- In response to a query on the matter, the Board's representatives said it is not required to include the turbine delivery route within the red line boundary assuming no works are required along the route.
- The Board's representative reminded the prospective applicant to ensure it is clear in terms of documentation on what is being applied for.

## **Conclusion**

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.

*C Kellett 24/9/22*

**Ciara Kellett**

**Assistant Director of Planning**

