



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting

ABP-321814-25

Case Reference / Description	Proposed Development of Grid Connection. Located at Ballyfasy Wind Farm, between the villages of Listerlin, Mullinavat, Glenmore, and Slieverue, County Kilkenny		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	24 th February 2025	Start Time	12:00 am
Location	MS Teams	End Time	12:35 am

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Una Crosse, Assistant Planning Director, Chair
David Ryan, Senior Planning Inspector
Ellen Moss, Executive Officer
Ellen Matthews, Administrative Assistant
Jonathan Dune, Administrative Assistant
Sinead White, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Sinead O'Malley, Future Energy
Sandra Kelly, Future Energy
Allison Murphy, Tobin
Yolande McMahon, Tobin

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 29th January 2025, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant's presentation, which is on file, outlined the location and context for the proposed development which comprises a proposed grid connection to connect the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm, which subject of a separate pre-application consultation request under ABP-320900-24, to the National Grid.

The prospective applicant provided information on the grid connection options being examined. The prospective applicant outlined the consultation undertaken with the local authority and the policy provisions related to wind energy in the current County Development Plan. It is proposed to submit an EIAR with the application. Community engagement was outlined as was a brief overview of why the proposed development should be considered to be SID. Timelines and design flexibility was also addressed.

Discussion:

The Boards representatives advised that the environmental assessments to be undertaken should comprehensively examine all environmental factors, all potential impacts and any cumulative impacts which might arise across those factors.

The Boards representatives sought clarity on whether the substation referenced is additional to that included in the permitted Castlebanny windfarm development. The prospective applicant advised that it is additional infrastructure. The Boards representatives requested that following the meeting, updated mapping to include the location and layout of the substation referenced, be submitted for the Board's information.

A discussion was held in respect of the Design Flexibility provisions under Section 182F. The prospective applicant outlined the current status of the electricity infrastructure permitted as part of the Castlebanny windfarm application.

The Boards representatives stated that if the prospective applicant wished to seek a design flexibility opinion that the instant pre-application process should remain open.

A general discussion was held in relation to the new Planning and Development Act, 2024.

The Boards representatives gave their preliminary view that the proposed development would appear to come within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development, but the prospective applicant is reminded that the final decision will be made by the Board.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Board's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime and that the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 12:35.



Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning