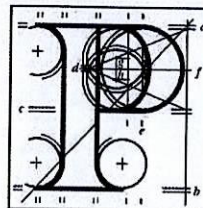


Our Case Number: ABP-309770-21

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Andrew Fagan and Others
Newtown
Carlanstown
Finea
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath

Date: 19 May 2021

Re: Proposed development of up to 15 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid, and all associated site development works
Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monktown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your observation or submission in relation to the case mentioned above and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the Local Authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

For further information on this case please access our website at www.pleanala.ie and input the 6-digit case number into the search box. This number is shown on the top of this letter (for example: 303000).

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Reilly
Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737184

BL50A

Tell
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

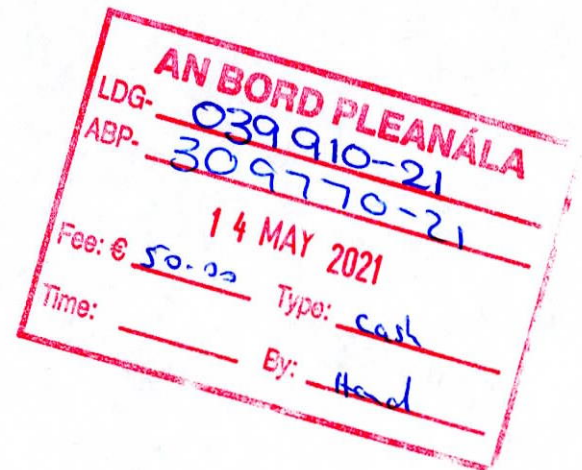
Tel (01) 858 8100
LoCall 1890 275 175
Fax (01) 872 2684
Website www.pleanala.ie
Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

Postal address

Carlanstown, Finea,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath.

To: An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St
Dublin 1.



Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Residents of Carlanstown Finea Mullingar Co Westmeath

Wish to make a written submission in relation to case number:

Case reference: PA25M.309770:

Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monkstown, Mullagh, Newcastle and other townlands, Co. Westmeath.

Proposed development of up to 15 wind turbines with a tip height of up to 175 metres and laying of approximately 26km of underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid, and all associated site development works.

We urge that this Strategic Infrastructure Development Application be refused for the following reasons:

Unsuitable development - P-WIN 6

Our community is located in beautiful north Westmeath from our low lying bog lands to the rolling hills of the Rock of Curry, Mael, and Mullagmeen. This development is not suitable what so ever in this area due to the fact all of the local communities are elevated over this development including Castlepollard, Finea, Granard. There was recently a wind farm development refused in Granard due

to concerns over tourism development in the area. This demonstrates this development is not suitable in this area.

We are in very close proximity to this windfarm development. The turbine located at Carlanstown is of particular concern to the residents in Carlanstown as it is located so close to family homes. It has also extended the wind farm onto farm land which is in contravention to Westmeath county council current county development plan which if goes ahead gives no protection to family homes.

The plan also states policy p-win 6 which requires a separation distance of 2km. We believe that it is time that legislation and guidelines are introduced in relation to wind turbines to protect people all across the country.

As we all live in a country that is not densely populated and not a very high energy user and our close proximity to the ocean we should follow other countries and place all wind farms in off shore, and not in low lying areas of the country that are clearly unsuitable for wind energy production.

These locations have being chosen primarily for the financial gain of others and not the environment.

Lack of proper Community Consultation

The level of community consultation in relation to this development has been a total disgrace. As far as our community is concerned very few people had been informed about the true impact of this development. . The area that this development is going to effect and harm is huge from all of north Westmeath, Longford, Cavan and Meath.

Effect of population decline in our area

This development will further depopulate our area that is already in decline. We have recently lost our Garda station, our post office in Finea and our schools are struggling with numbers. This development will not encourage house building or for young people to stay in our area. It will devastate our communities.

Health

With turbines 175 meters high never constructed in Ireland before, we don't know what health issues could arise since no actual turbine has been specified. This development could affect the health of us and our children. We would be very concerned for children due to the fact that these turbines create infrasound and shadow flicker. we would also be concerned for any person suffering with a heart condition that the infrasound can affect pace makers etc. Planning permission sought without full details of the proposed development

Damage to our environment

As a community we are greatly concerned with the potential impact this development could have on our local area. The river Inny flows right through this development which flows into Lough Derravaragh. The protection of the whole Shannon river system must be taken into consideration in this development, as the river Inny is part of the Shannon river system this development potentially could affect all of the Shannon river system. The river Inny has come under intense pressure in recent years due to the fact that the local bogs are being harvested for peat. This proposed development will further increase pressure on the river due to the fact of creating huge foundations and associated works in the construction of the proposed development.

We would be concerned that the correct impact statements have not been carried out what so ever in relation to this development as was the case with the mud slide at the Galway wind farm.

In the first application to Westmeath county council for this proposed development Westmeath county council requested 46 items of further information we are very concerned that these issues have not been fully addressed in the submission..

Deficiency in assessment of impact on birdlife including Lough Derravaragh

There are serious deficiencies in the submission's assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the birdlife. There are serious questions with regard to the statistical analysis of the potential number of collisions. Also the use of a non-scientific paper produced in 2003 to assess the magnitude and significance of the potential impact.

Lough Derravaragh is an important site for wintering waterfowl, and is of particular note as a site for geese, swans, diving duck and Wigeon. There are also populations of Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Whooper Swan, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Coot all of which are of National Importance. We also have numerous Buzzards which nest at the rock of Curry and owls in our area. This development would affect the flight path of these birds as it is located between the lakes of Lough Sheelin and Lough Derravaragh.

Negative impact on our peat lands

Our peat lands need to be protected not destroyed. Referring to the scoping document from the Irish peatland conservation council. Reads "IPCC is seriously concerned that the proposed development could have a negative impact on the nearby designated peatlands resulting in them becoming CARBON SOURCES rather than carbon sinks".

As the maps submitted for planning show the proposed location of the turbines. It shows that no consideration has been given to the future of the bog land as the turbines are located in a position so as all future milling of peat/peat removal can continue. As we are all aware these local bogs have had a huge environmental impact due to the continued stripping of these bog lands. There have been many attempts by environmental groups to have this practice stopped in the courts but have all been quashed due to bad governance and the financial strength of these companies.

This development will be another huge blow to our environment due to lack of governance/planning laws and strength of companies to manipulate the environment due to financial gain. Peat extraction is contrary to national policy

Damage to the Infrastructure

The damaging works infrastructure that will happen to the villages of Coole, Street, and Multyfarnham and all associated roads will be devastating. The roads are currently in a bad state of repair without laying cables from this site to Mullingar.

The safety of our local children will be put at serious risk as this development will create increased amounts of trucks, cranes etc to be passing our local schools and private houses.

Adverse environmental impact of Borrow Pit

The borrow pit (QUARRY) located at Mullagh, will cause massive disruption for our locality with continuous rock breaking and crushing and associated works. This will also increase the dust particles in the air. The noise levels from this quarry is of major concern also.

For the above reasons we as a family, urge that this application be refused, as this development will alter and affect our daily lives, our environment, our local beautiful landscape, our children and our future generations.

SIGNED

ANDREW FAGAN

Name

Andrew Fagan
DAWN FAGAN

Newtown Carlanstown
Finca Mullingar
Co Westmeath N91K718

Name

Dawn Fagan

Newtown Carlanstown
Finca Mullingar

Name

Anne Flynn

Co Westmeath N91K718
Carlanstown Finca
Mullingar

Name

Richard H Roundtree

Co Westmeath
Carlanstown House
Finca Mullingar

Name

RAYMOND WILKS

May Cottage, Carlanstown
Chapelstown Finca
MULLINGAR
Co Westmeath N91K 53

Danene Helen Wigg

Name D.H. Wigg

Ben Mrs Byrd

Name Charles Reynolds

Name Margaret Reynolds

May Cottage, Canionstown
Capleton Finca
MULLINAR

Co Westmeath NAI FK53

CARLSTOWN
CASTLETON FINCA
Co. WESTMEATH

CARLSTOWN
CASTLETON FINCA
Co. WESTMEATH

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