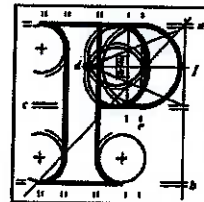


**Our Case Number:** ABP-309770-21

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Jeroen Holtkamp and Mary Mulvey and Others  
Gilbertstown  
Castlepollard  
Co. Westmeath  
N91 H2F8

**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, Monkstown, 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](http://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

<b>Tell</b>	<b>Tel</b>	(01) 858 8100
<b>Glaao Áitiúil</b>	<b>LoCall</b>	1890 275 175
<b>Facs</b>	<b>Fax</b>	(01) 872 2684
<b>Láithreán Gréasáin</b>	<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
<b>Ríomhphost</b>	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

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

An Bord Pleanála,  
61-64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Submission

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	039918-21
ABP-	309770-21
14 MAY 2021	
Fee: €	50.00
Type:	Cash
Time:	
By:	Hand

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Ref: Planning Application Appeal No: PA25M.309770

Project location: 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.

Submitters:

Jeroen Holtkamp and Mary Mulvey  
Gilbertstown,  
Castlepollard,  
Co. Westmeath  
N91 H2F8

Jim Mulvey and Helen Mulvey  
Gilberttown,  
Castlepollard,  
Co. Westmeath  
N91 XR68

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am appalled by the fact that yet another planning application has been made at the address of An Bord Pleanála for the same monstrous wind turbines in our locality while previous attempts for exactly the same locations have failed for the same reasons. The law in Ireland clearly is in favour of the wealthy.

1) With regards to the turbine size no actual turbine has been selected. They want it put out to tender only after the planning is granted. How can planning be granted on an installation that has not been fully disclosed. I have to state my plans and full dimensions up to the most insignificant detail and finish on domestic housing in order to have just an extension to my house granted.

2) It is not right that you are considering planning permission for this project while the planning permission for laying the grid has been refused by Westmeath County Council in 2020.

3) First of all, people will have to move house as a consequence of the environmental impact on the area. Especially people with special needs such as persons with autism or on the higher end of that spectrum, people with Asperger syndrome, are very sensitive to the shadow flickering as a consequence of the proposed high-impact wind turbines at Mullagh and Camagh. In the locality of Mullagh people reside that are known to be vulnerable to the effects of shadow flickering as that is part of their well-documented autistic spectrum disorder. It is almost general knowledge, mind you. There are living 4 individuals with autism within the blast site. With respect to this issue one family is involved and they will certainly object as well. Also a dwelling of the Muiriosa Foundation is very close to the proximity of the proposed wind turbines. They all will have to move house to avoid increased suffering of the people they are caring for.

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2) In general, it will be a burden on the home owners as they understand that no one would like to live in close proximity of one of these 274 meters high monsters. As a result, the value of their property will be reduced and as a consequence other financial objectives for a later stage, such as their pension, will be in jeopardy. Also farmland prices will fall considerably as no one would like to find out the possible effects of stress on their animals themselves. Especially horses are very prone to it. Would you make an effort to invest in land if that is likely the case or would you invest in land somewhere else? I bet you would look for an opportunity somewhere else.

3) What bothers me a lot is the noisy machinery that is used for quarrying the materials for the foundations. As it seems roads need to be reconstructed as the machinery is too wide to move on our lovely lane ways. This requires too much effort for just a few wind turbines in an area where there is relatively little wind if you compare it to the prime coast locations near enough to the important industrial areas in this country. As an effect of the noisy machinery close enough to a primary school on the townland of Mullagh, we feel that that is very disadvantageous for the teaching of our children as they have to cope on a daily basis with the noise that can be heard loud and clear in the whole area affected. As a consequence some of those children certainly will fail their tests or worse even will not be able to attend at all as their concentration level is highly compromised. What would you do with your child in such conditions? Would you prolong their education just for one year like parents here would do as well? Or is this just a rhetoric question?

4) The end product of this initiative to get the materials from a local quarry to be is that it will leave a massive scar in the landscape for generations to come. And I feel that this is exactly what we do not want in this area as so many here would have different ideas about the future of north-Westmeath as it is steeped in history and therefore still has a huge potential if only we were better able to request for support to make it all happen. As it happens one of our ancient sites in Camagh, Newcastle Castle, would be in very close proximity to the proposed wind turbines. As a consequence this pride of the area will lose inevitably its grandeur and of course its appeal to the potential tourists to this area. This will result in a loss of potential to the tourist industry and of course the employment it will bring to the local area; long term employment in compare to the timespan reserved for the quarrying of the materials for the foundations of the proposed useless money-spinners (wind turbines) for the state only.

5) Castlepollard was recently awarded almost €500,000 for regeneration and restoration with tourism very much in mind. The town is less than 7km from the proposed windfarm. Westmeath County Council comments as follows on this funding, emphasising the exploration of North Westmeath. It says that the award is:

*"To regenerate Castlepollard, building on the unique architectural heritage of the Town Square and Green, creating space for the community and visitors alike, restoring the Market House and delivering a Town Park, establishing Castlepollard as base, from where, visitors will explore the many sights of North Westmeath, enhancing the towns critical role as an economic driver for the region".*

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This application for the installation of giant industrial-scale wind-turbines into the landscape of north Westmeath will damage the context, detract from the interpretation and destroy the character of the archaeological and historic sites of the area. It will run contrary to the Council's wish to see people explore the many sights of North Westmeath.

Coilte's long-established forest recreation area at nearby Mullaghmeen was selected recently as the Irish Time's' Westmeath hike of choice for Westmeath. Mullaghmeen is an isolated area of forest, comprising the largest beech plantation in Ireland, rising above farmland to a height of 258m above sea level. This forest features on all hiking and outdoor sporting websites, such as Sport Ireland, Coilte and Visit Westmeath. A few km to the west, the proposed 15-turbine wind farm will reach to almost the height of the Mullaghmeen summit. The turbines stand on land that is 75m above sea level. The turbines are 175m high. The turbine tip will therefore reach 250m in height above sea level. This intrusion cannot be reconciled with strategies to develop tourism.

6) Building these wind turbines would be wasting our money. I feel it is sufficient to say that you use taxpayers money to install one of the tallest types of wind turbine in an area where there is indeed a relatively little wind and most of all a very little hard ground. This has the consequence that the proposed wind turbines all need massive amounts of concrete for their foundation. Concrete is alkaline and leaches into the soil the bog is acidic. Will it change the fundamental structure of the bog? Compare construction in the bog to if they were to be erected elsewhere near the coast preferably near industrialised areas as well; Dublin for example which is rich in rocky soil. In that case it would reduce the costs considerably, because besides the reduced amounts of concrete for the foundation also the height of the wind turbines could be decreased as there would be more wind to generate the same amount of electricity. So really the government is pursuing at this stage the most expensive option over our backs.

7) Last but not least I would like to introduce you to an option of welfare and prosperity for this area north-Westmeath where there is plenty of enthusiasm to work towards a sustainable and especially all inclusive way of living by coming together in groups and unite our forces through sincere listening. As a result we will be able to show you what sustainable living is with all energy needed in the area generated in the area. And above all we would be able to create our own system of distribution of vegetables and other crops produced in the area for the sake of being less dependent on food imports from abroad which to my amazement is nearly 75% of all the food consumed in Ireland. Where will that leave us that for the future if we are not willing or able to provide food for ourselves except of course for the potatoes which will grow anyway?

If you have any further queries do not hesitate to call us at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Kind regards

Jeroen Holtkamp

Co-signed:

Mary Mulvey

*Mary Mulvey*

Jim Mulvey

*Jim Mulvey*

Helen Mulvey

*Helen Mulvey*