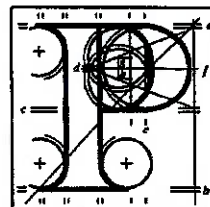


Our Case Number: ABP-309770-21

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Mairead and Jimmy Kiernan
Coolure
Coole
Co. Westmeath

Date: 24 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,

PP Eimear Reilly

Eimear Reilly
Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737184

BL50A

Tell	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaos Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	040014-21
ABP-	
17 MAY 2021	
Fee: €	50 Type: cash
Time: 15.45	By: hand

Coolure,
Coole,
Co. Westmeath.
12/5/21.

Submission to An Bord Pleanála

Case : PA25M.309770

Re: Proposed erection of fifteen
wind turbines in North Westmeath.
- COOLE WINDFARM

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to object to the construction of a windfarm in the Coole area of Co. Westmeath. Coole is a beautiful village and is part of the Irish Midlands landscape. The landscape is generally flat with undulating hills and the highest point in this area is the Hill of Mael at 240m above sea level. The average wind speed in this area is 13.7 kph. In fact Mullingar has the third lowest windspeed in the country. In my opinion wind farms should be constructed along the coastline (or out at sea) where the windspeed is much higher and the power production would be greater. The power generated on the East Coast of

2

Wexford would be four times that generated in Mullingar.
The centre of Ireland is not the place to erect industrial wind farms.

In addition to this the proposed turbines for the Coole area would be 175m which is ten times higher than the highest local landmark - The Hill of Mael. This would have a detrimental visual impact on the area.

The turbines are clustered together and connected to each other visually. The natural landscape here is green and brown - with the turbines it would be grey and white!!

In the proposed Coole Windfarm, fifteen residences are situated between 700m and 1,000m from one or more turbines. Two residences are situated less than 700m from a turbine... a health consideration for some.

The visual impact for these families has not been assessed and the proposed development will impact visually on several areas of high amenity, example Loch Sheelin, Loch Lene, Lough Derravaragh, Lough Bone (with its crannóg) and

Lough Ennel and Lough Owel.
Surely we should be promoting
tourism in our area and
not bringing lorries of concrete
through narrow roads!!

We would much prefer to
enjoy a walk in Mullaghmen
forest and admire the
beech foliage than look across
at a wind turbine.

I'm also very concerned
about the impact on the boglife
and natural peat habitat
of all this development.

What will happen to the
marsh fritillary and the non-volant
animals during the construction
and operational phase of the
wind turbines? Surely there is
a need to preserve our
certain bogs for future
generations.

I understand that
Westmeath County Council had
proposed extending the Westmeath
Way through this area.

They had talked about developing
the Bronze Age Walkway on
the Muckfarnham road. Surely
this would be unlikely if
Cool Windfarm goes ahead.

I'm genuinely concerned about
the narrow roads which would
have to take lorries with concrete

and cement as well as diggers, tipper trucks and construction traffic. I know that it has been proposed to construct Cable joint pits 2.5m wide X 6m long every 500m along the Coole to Mulltyfarnham road. This road isn't wide enough for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. Our lakes and rivers are a joy to behold and draw lots of anglers to our country. All drainage from the windfarms, field drains, main drains and settlement ponds will run into the River Inny or the Glone river. We already had a situation during the winter 2020 when the River Inny burst its banks with extensive flooding in low lying areas. Any rise in water levels by excavation work on the wind farm, pollution by excess peat, concrete leakage or other chemicals would run through the Inny Basin into Lough Derravaragh and Garri's kill Bog. This would have a direct impact on the structure of the bog and water quality of L. Derravaragh and surrounding streams and

water systems. Lough Derravaragh is considered at risk from acidification and it would be worse if large quantities of peat are disrupted and moved during construction of the windfarm. Wind Energy might be the way forward but not in the Midlands!! Put the turbines along the coast or out at sea. Solar energy might be a better option for Co. Westmeath.

We live in a quiet, rural area with no industrialisation. We want to keep it that way for our children, our livestock and our natural habitat. Please re-consider this option now for all our sakes and also for the health of the most vulnerable of people who have epilepsy or autism. The night flicker won't help them anyway.

Yours sincerely,
 Máiréad Kiernan.
 Jimmy Kiernan.
 (MÁIRÉAD KIERNAN
 & JIMMY KIERNAN)