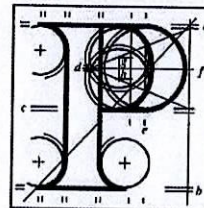


**Our Case Number:** ABP-309770-21

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Michael and Gael Lawlor  
3 Carlanstown  
Finea  
Mullingar  
Co. Westmeath  
N91 E7D2

**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](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

**Tell**  
Glao Áitiúil  
**Facs**  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

**Tel** (01) 858 8100  
**LoCall** 1890 275 175  
**Fax** (01) 872 2684  
**Website** [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
**Email** [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

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

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

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Case reference: PA25M.309770:

AN BORD PLEANÁLA  
LDG- 039917-21  
ABP- 309770-21  
14 MAY 2021  
Fee: € 50.00 Type: cash  
Time: By: Hand

Townlands of Camagh, Carlanstown, Coole, Clonrobert, Clonsura, Doon, Monktown, 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.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Michael and Gael Lawlor of, 3 Carlanstown, Finea, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91 E7D2 wish to make a written submission/observation in relation to the above-named Planning Application (Board Ref: 309770).

We hereby recommend that An Bord Pleanála refuses Planning Permission for this proposed development for the reasons outlined below.

When choosing where to live and building our homes many regulations control the effects of our life's investments on those already living in the area, this is to ensure buildings have minimal impact on people's health and promote a healthy environment for us all to live in. It is extremely concerning that these turbines whose specification is not fully disclosed will dominate the area we live in. Whilst this will undoubtedly reduce the value of our homes it also poses a threat to our health. Several cases are documented in Ireland and globally where the effects of wind turbine operation damages children, adults, and animals. There is a reason that minimum distances must be complied with between turbines and homes, yet this seems to be ignored in the submissions or obfuscated. The lack of clarity and obvious issues with turbine proximity, impact to local infrastructure, construction noise, debris, traffic, and dust harmful to our respiratory systems given the effects of CoVID on recovering people leaves little or no confidence in the human centric aspect to this supposed "Green" project. The suggestion that I could close my blinds to avoid seeing these gargantuan and imposing industrial towering turbines only serves to confirm that placing any element of trust in Coole Wind Farm Ltd. is grossly misplaced and at the expense of all generations. There are many successful projects where such farms are located away from populated areas, offshore and indeed more discrete installations.

1. Conflict with County Development Plans/Policies.

- a. We feel this development conflicts with the appropriate management of conserved peatlands policy PTL2.
- b. This is not a sustainable land use in line with policy PTL4
- c. The proposed development plans to damage a key carbon sink (i.e., the role of peatlands in carbon sequestration) in the name of Green Energy. This flies in the face of Objective PTL6
- d. This application is in **direct violation** of the P-WIN6 policy stating that turbines greater than 150metres must be more than 2000 metres from a residential dwelling.

2. Environmental Impact Issues.

- a. The location selected requires 175metre high turbines to avail of wind streams. This would place those turbines as amongst the highest points in the area and as such impose themselves on every view.



- b. As a "Green" based project this development plans to pour tons of concrete (High Carbon footprint) into a natural habitat millennia in the making.
  - c. The additional traffic and vehicles on the road networks will degrade surface quality and escalate subsidence, affecting tourism and local community use.
  - d. This region is within the 15km buffer area of the LIFE Irish Raised Bogs project such as Ardaguillion Bog SAC and Garriskill Bog SPA
  - e. The drastic changes proposed to this area will most definitely affect the local flora and fauna, this makes the ecosystem vulnerable to invasive species as per [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)
3. Adverse effect on the Local economy.
- a. Tourism plays a major role in the local economy due to the outstanding local beauty, tranquillity and facilities provided. The impact of the proposed turbines will damage this crucial industry.
  - b. House prices will plummet even further, leaving us in ever worsening situations. Alterations to our houses to mitigate noise and flicker effects will take more from the economy as households will be further stretched.
  - c. The inevitable depopulation will yet again sweep this area if our representatives yield to large money projects offering little local development/support for all members of our communities.
4. Health and welfare issues raised by the Windfarm submission.
- a. Flicker due to blade rotation and light has been well documented and adjudicated locally and internationally hence the prescribed distance between turbine and residential dwelling.
  - b. Noise pollution has also been acknowledged legally as a negative factor in health and wellness.
  - c. Both these de facto health issues that affect humans and studies have shown livestock, we be actively added to our environment should this project proceed. Will all livestock be 2km away from all turbines, our house is less than 2km away from the nearest proposed turbine. Who would be liable?
5. Negative impact on archeological and natural environment.
- a. The location of this development also encompasses the "Old Bronze Age Road" which will likely endure further destruction at the hands of project.
  - b. The surrounding lakes host much wildlife, specifically ducks, geese, and swans. We are concerned as to the impact the turbines will have on them.

We trust that you will take due consideration of our submission/observation prior to making your decision on this Planning Application.

Should you have any queries in relation to this submission, or should you require clarification on any part contained therein, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We enclose €50.00, it being the 'prescribed fee' for making this submission/observation.

Yours sincerely,



3 Carlanstown  
Finea  
Mullingar  
Co. Westmeath  
N91 E72D

