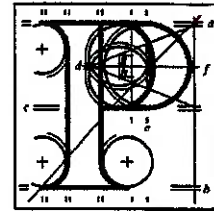


Our Case Number: ABP-312606-22



An
Bord
Pleanála

John O'Sullivan
Brookpark
Rathcoole
Mallow
Co. Cork
P51 KWX0

Date: 8th April, 2022

Re: Wind farm development of 20 turbines with 110kV electrical substation and all related site works and ancillary development.

Townlands of Annagannihy, Aughinida, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Bawnmore, Caherbaroul, Carrigagulla, Carrigduff, Clonavrick, Derryroe, Drishane More, Dromagh, Drominahilla, Dromskehy and other townlands, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir,

An Bord Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above- mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

The Board will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

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 Cork County Council and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Tell
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

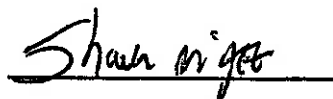
(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7250

Tel
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 Maolbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG- <u>050441-22</u>	Brookpark,
ABP- _____	Rathcoole,
21 MAR 2022	
Fee: € <u>50</u>	Type: <u>URGENT</u>
Time: _____	By: <u>Post</u>
Co. Cork. P51 KWXO	
15/03/2022	

An Bord Pleanala Ref: 312606 - Ballinagree Wind Farm.

A Chara,

I am part of a group from my locality who are vehemently opposed to this development due to the adverse effect it will have on our quality of life and on our community.

Please see our web site www.musherawindaware.com and our Facebook page Mushera Wind Aware.

It beggars' belief that developers can come in to an area and establish wind farms with minimal consultation or respect for the wishes of the majority of those that have to live with them.

Currently we are in the midst of a pandemic which the World Health Organisation are guiding us through. If anyone was to suggest that their advice be side-lined or ignored they would be ridiculed [and rightly so] but the advice and warnings that they [The WHO] have issued with regard to the dangers of wind farms continues to be ignored. We are way past the time when planning authorities and those in power can claim that they "didn't know". The damage that these developments cause and their un-reliability has been documented world-wide. Every community that they invade suffers as a result.

To say that consultation takes place is a joke. In our case the farmers involved had already been tied into contracts – **amid great secrecy** - before the community at large became aware of the proposals, yet by the developer's own brochure "general ecological studies" began back in July 2017. This is not consultation, this is an attempt to achieve a "fait accompli". Our area is an area of particular scenic beauty and we do not want it desecrated by these eye-sores. By their nature they are located on elevated ground and visible from huge distances. We know that people have the right to use their land as they please [within reason] but that right ends at their property line.

The developers state in their application to have this development classified as a SID that there was no planning history on the pre-application site. This is incorrect. I refer to planning application PL 04.239775 to An Bord Pleanála.

I must also object in the strongest possible terms regarding the manner in which surveys are carried out. It is not good enough that the developer commissions these surveys and the planning authorities accept them at face value. At a minimum the surveys should be commissioned by the planning authority and the planning authority be reimbursed for the cost of doing the survey. The old saying is very relevant here - "he who pays the piper calls the tune".

In our instance surveys were carried out during a time of lockdown when people were not meant to travel. During this time a person was seen trespassing on the property of the O Sullivan family, Knocknagappul by a neighbour. When this person was challenged he claimed that he was from the EPA. This was quickly proved false as the result of a phone call. When this person was again challenged [by the land-owner this time] he again claimed to be from the EPA. When advised that a phone call had been made which proved this untrue he declined to reveal his reason for being there but denied that it was for the developers of the wind farm. He was then advised that the landowner had seen Ballinagree Wind Farm literature on the passenger seat of his vehicle - proving him a liar. This is typical of the disregard with which the locals were treated. The O Sullivan family would be in very close proximity to a number of turbines if this project was to go ahead. They depend on a well for their source of water for both the household and farming activities. At no time were they contacted or reassured about the continuing security of their water supply.

In their "Community Report" section of the planning application Fehily Timoney make much of their commitment to "community involvement, transparent dialogue, two way dialogue on key issues and empowering local communities". It looks so good on paper. Where exactly do the lies, denials and misinformation fit into this.

We attempted [before lockdown] to hold a public meeting in the local school in Ballinagree. This was to be our first meeting. A representative of the developers contacted the school principal to inform her that we could not hold a meeting in the school as we didn't have a properly formed committee and as such we would not be covered by insurance. He further informed her that she would

have a personal responsibility should anything happen. This is typical of the bully boy tactics and **lack of community consultation** that has taken place.

This application is for the construction of 20 wind turbines but in the community report they talk of the "initial 24 turbine layout". Is this application just a means of opening the door for more????? This would fit in with the ever expanding perimeter of the wind farm. Every brochure by the developers sees it expanding.

It has been impossible in the present climate to hold public meetings to rally the troops to provide an effective opposition to this development. For this reason alone this development should not be approved.

There are 3966 pages in the application. It has probably taken years to compile. Yet the community that will have to live with the devastating effects of living so close to the development are given weeks to respond. How is this a level playing field?

The area involved is an important habitat for the hen harrier and it is accepted that the blades of the turbines are particularly dangerous for young hen harriers as they fly at a higher level than the adults.

The application also refers to "wildlife corridors". This is a non-sense notion.....wildlife do not follow "corridors". It is also a fact that migrating birds change their route because of wind farms.

It is a nesting & breeding area for the skylark which is in decline in recent years and also of the grouse. It is an area of great archaeological importance – which includes Standing Stones, Fulacht Fias, Stone Circles, Boulder Burial sites, Megalithic Tombs, Holy Wells and much more – please refer to the attached map and the items of interest highlighted in green.

The area is recognized as having the greatest density of archaeological monuments in Europe.

King Mahon was the older brother of Brian Boru and King of Munster when he was assassinated in 976AD on Musherah Mountain at a place traditionally marked by "Mahon's Rock".

The famous **Butter Road** from Kerry to Cork, which was used to take produce to the Butter Market in Shandon Street, Cork goes right through this area - Millstreet to Rylane (Route L1123 – L2751).

Natural water wells on the mountain would be polluted or destroyed forever.

Loss of / interference with mobile phone and TV reception. The developers claim to have contacted the major providers and are dismissive of concerns in their application but wind turbines have had a detrimental effect in other areas. Why should they believe that ours will be the exception.

Destruction of our beautiful mountains – Musherah and the surrounding areas are well used by walkers, cyclists, bird watchers, wildlife enthusiasts and many more, due to its unique beauty. With the wind farm proposal, this wild and beautiful space, as well as its archaeology, wildlife and holy wells, will be lost-replaced by an industrial landscape.

Wind turbines are particularly detrimental to the health of those with epilepsy or autism and cardiac issues. In our area there are quite a number of people in the immediate vicinity who would be directly affected because of health issues.

We also have two households in the immediate vicinity who have already had to move house because of their proximity to another wind farm.

The guidelines [and they are only guidelines, therefore not set in stone] state that a wind turbine should be kept a minimum of 500 meters from a dwelling. The developers are suggesting a set-back of 750 mtrs. This is totally inadequate. This does not even begin to examine the problem of infrasound which independent studies have shown can effect people up to 20 Kms. from the wind farm.

Currently wind turbines are actively producing electricity for approximately one third of the time. While they are inactive the developer is being reimbursed for "his loss". This works against public interest in two ways.... 1.] It creates zero incentive for the developer to make the existing turbines more efficient and 2.] It encourages the developer to put up as many turbines as he possibly can. Another issue with wind energy is the impossibility to forward plan due to their unreliability – the wind may blow today but it may not blow tomorrow.

What do you do with the blades at the end of their life? They cannot be recycled so they have to go to landfill!

We would also have concerns regarding peat slippage as occurred in Donegal and other wind farm sites.

In our case the developer - according to their own brochure – “will have a Community Benefit Fund attached”. This should be renamed a bribery fund. If a development has to resort to bribery as opposed to standing on its own merit, this speaks volumes.

Because of the vast sums of money involved the “powers that be” [and I include planning authorities in this] have become complicit with the developers in inflicting these monstrosities on communities. But more and more communities are fighting back and they are winning [in the Courts]. To my knowledge it hasn’t happened yet, but it is only a matter of time before planning authorities are named as co-defendants with the developers in legal proceedings against them. What is their defence going to be?

Consultation with a community should begin right from the start not a couple of years down the line.

Cork County Council in their Public Consultation Document seem very proud of the fact that County Cork currently provides 15.4% [approx. 600 MW] of the country’s overall wind energy and that further development proposals currently in the planning process could potentially deliver an additional wind energy capacity of 200MW. This would mean that County Cork would be delivering approximately 20% of the National Wind Energy [our neighbours in Kerry supply a further 20%] **But at what cost to the people of the locality in which they are situated?** Only those that do not have to live with them see them as a positive. An Bord Pleanála acknowledge that there are 5 active wind farms and 1 approved wind farm within 6 kms. of this proposed site.....and now you are considering inflicting another one on us??? **At what point does the time come when you call a halt.**

You only have to read the papers to see the divisiveness and strife that they cause within a community. They are a blight on the Irish countryside and an attack on rural Ireland. They devalue the price of houses and properties within their radius.

There are many areas well removed from human habitation where these wind farms could be sited. One of the reasons that this is not happening is

accessibility. The extra cost is just something that the developer should have to take into account. People's health and well-being and welfare is more important. **There are no circumstances** in which they could or should be sited so close to a residential area [rural or urban] that they adversely affect the people living in that area.

Currently planning authorities are working under 2006 guidelines. In 2006 the average height of a turbine was 50 mtrs. Today that average is **three and a half times that height**. Where is the logic in that? Until such time as new guidelines are put in place, no further grants of permission should be allowed anywhere. 2006 guidelines have become totally irrelevant with regard to the scale of what is happening / being proposed now. The proposal say that the "proposed layout would meet the noise requirement set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines of 2006. What comfort can the local community take from the fact that outdated and irrelevant guidelines will be adhered to.

They dismiss concerns about health, noise and property values with the stroke of a pen.

People living in the environs of these wind farms must be consulted at the earliest possible stage. They must be allowed to have a voice and their voice must be heard. Nothing less than full transparency right from the start is acceptable.

I object to the granting of this application in the strongest possible terms. You currently have the power to block it.....use that power for the benefit of the local community!!!

Yours sincerely,



John O Sullivan.



PS. My postal address is rather deceptive. I am living less than two miles from the perimeter of the proposed wind farm. Mallow postal area extends from the Waterford border near Tallow to the Kerry Border at Knocknagree.

Cheque for €50 attached.

