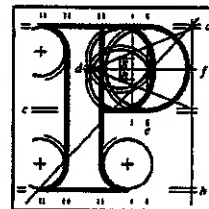


**Our Case Number: ABP-314602-22**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Susanne Duerr  
Tir na Meala  
Co. Cork  
P12PA40

**Date: 18th November 2022**

**Re: Wind farm development of 14 turbines with 110kV electrical substation and all related site works and ancillary development.**

The townlands of Cahernacaha, Gortnabinna, Derryfineen, Gortyrhilly, Rath West, Derree, Fuhiry, Derreenaculling and other townlands, Co. Cork and Derryreag, Cummeenavrick, Glashacormick, Clydaghroe and Cummeennabuddoge, Co. Kerry.

Dear Madam,

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 Kerry 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](http://www.pleanala.ie).

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

Tell  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Lálthreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel  
LoCall  
Fax  
Website  
Email

(01) 858 8100  
1890 275 175  
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[www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
[bord@pleanala.ie](mailto: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,



Doina Chiforescu  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737133

PA04

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

<b>64 Sráid Maoilbhríde</b>	<b>64 Marlborough Street</b>
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<b>D01 V902</b>	<b>D01 V902</b>

To An Board Pleanala,

My name is Susanne Duerr, I live at Tir na Meala, Coolea, Co. Cork, P12PA40 which is less than 1 km off the planned Gort Ui Rathaille Wind Farm and I would like to hereby make an observation concerning this Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The new development of 14 exceptionally high wind turbines would prove to be devastating for the area. As it stands we are already surrounded by 208 wind turbines and this community endured enough disruption and change not to mention the environment. The heritage of the community would be changed forever. Old bridges and picturesque little country roads gone. Security fences going up and making the place look like a prison. Valuable bog sites filled with concrete. The unsightly presence of huge wind turbines with their ongoing noise. The artificial light pollution at night. It is a lot to ask from people who get nothing but disadvantages as a return.

To bring the enormous wind turbines to the site does make it necessary to widen and straighten a lovely country road. This road is lined by a long stretch of mature hedgerow which is desperately needed for wildlife and would all have to be taken down. It is the habitat of the red squirrel which is often seen by us crossing the road and which is protected under The Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. The road is also very frequently used by people for walking or cycling. One of the residents is using this road to get their severely handicapped child out on his wheelchair. Once this road is widened and stripped off its natural beauty it will only be used by cars.

Further up a completely new road would have to be build, also just for the purpose of bringing the rotor blades to the site. Destroying even more valuable nature and landscape just to bring something from A to B.

The installation of the electric cables will destroy another area and the finished site itself will be maintained from yet another completely different admission. A site for a new windfarm that needs to destroy so much valuable land in order to get access does not seem to be a strategically good place for such an enormous development.

Another aspect of my observation is the big effort that is undertaken in the last two years to develop the Muscraí Gaeltacht for tourism and this place has real potential. The longest hiking trail Ireland's the Beara Breifne Way is leading through Gort Ui Rathaille. What tourists are looking for is nature, peace and the real Irish culture that is very much alive in Coolea. Wide roads big construction sites and even bigger wind turbines are not on their agenda. I myself have been hiking this summer up the hills in Gougane Barra and once I was all the way up and had a magnificent view over the whole scenic area all I could really take in were the hundreds of wind turbines around. It completely destroyed what I would otherwise have described as a magical experience. The area lost a lot of its flair and attractiveness for tourists already due to too many windfarms. In order to keep the place open for tourism there needs to be investment in nature and hiking trails. The Gort Ui Rathaille Windfarm with its massive construction would end tourism for this area for good.

On a personal level the project proves to be absolutely devastating for me and my family. Tir na Meala is a 5 bed B+B with mainly guests from abroad who spend their holidays in Ireland, relax in nature surroundings and enjoy organic food for breakfast. We keep ponies, dogs, cats, hens and ducks. We also have a fine size vegetable garden and try to manage the place as natural as possible and therefore have a lot of wildlife in our garden. I can assure you that my long standing customers will not come again once the digging and destruction starts. This year I turned 61 and my plan was to

keep going with the B+B as long as I am able to do so. Now I am facing a sudden end of my business. This is effecting me from the moment on I heard about this new windfarm last year as I cannot invest in my future anymore. Our daughter is living in the next house and operating her own business from there and our granddaughter just started secondary school in Ballyvourney and is very happy in this place.

When we bought Tir na Meala in 2008 we were sure that there won't be any wind turbines build in close proximity due to a megalithic tomb that is situated up the hill behind our house. I am wondering if this is not relevant anymore.

The main reason we moved out here is that I am [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when exposed to ongoing motor noise. How I will survive this oncoming ordeal I have no idea. This will most certainly have a massive negative influence on my health and my family's wellbeing. Already I have [REDACTED] of the destruction all around our little piece of heaven as my guests like to call the place.

Another point that I want to make which is relevant for this and any other development of this kind is the unfair method wind farm developers are availing of. They come in talk to the people whose land they want to use and offer them a lot of money for letting them use the land. Some of these landowners do not even live there themselves. The rest of the close by population will only hear about the project when it is already in planning and the landowning neighbours are looking forward to their generous compensation. These companies know exactly what they are doing because now they have two kinds of people living in the area and it is extremely hard to keep your peace with the landowners if you are opposing such a development. In other words the company is destroying the community and good neighbourhood that is so important in rural Ireland and is very much enjoyed by us and much admired by my foreign guests.

To make myself clear I am not against green energy in general. Clearly we will have to do whatever possible to stop global warming. This community however did suffer its fair share to achieve this goal and it cannot be that the burden of windfarms is unfairly loaded on the shoulders of a few who pay the price by having to live in an unrecognizable hostile place with an unsustainable community.

Personally I feel totally insignificant and worthless. My life as it stands turned around by others and left with no options for a positive outcome.

Therefore I sincerely hope that you will come to the reasonable conclusion that there are enough windfarms in this region already and spare us from the construction of Gort Ui Rathaille Windfarm.

Yours sincerely

Susanne Duerr