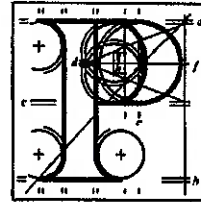


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Aisling O'Rourke
13 Market Hill
Ballymore
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath

Date: 27 April 2023

**Re: Renewable energy development comprising 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure.
Umma More and adjacent townlands, County 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,

Kevin McGettigan
Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737263

BL50A

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13 Market Hill,
Ballymore,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Case Ref: 316051

Re: proposed Ummamore Renewable Energy Development (Ummamore Wind Farm).

To whom it may concern

This is a letter of observation from our household in 13 Market Hill. We are in the village of Ballymore and just outside the 2km radius of households that were to be informed about this development. However my parents' home address is Ballinacurra, Ballymore and that is where I grew up. I have many concerns about the aforementioned development.

Firstly, myself and my partner intend to seek planning permission in the future to live in Ballinacurra and we have concerns around the height of the proposed turbines and also around the flicker effect they will have as well as the noise. They will also have a severe visual impact on the beautiful valley in which they are proposed to be placed. This is also a low wind area as I know from spending my childhood in those fields and this proposed area is absolutely preposterous for these turbines. It would be an absolutely shocking waste of time and resources to pursue such a venture. We are supporters of renewable energy developments but not when they will be in a place unfit for purpose.

Secondly we have major concerns around the implications for the wildlife in the area. There is a river that flows along the boundaries of our land which is home to numerous species. We are aware of a family of otters that inhabit the river bank. They will be displaced if construction were to go ahead

and this would be highly concerning given that they are a protected species. There are numerous water fowl on the river as well that would also be disturbed and displaced. There are also badger setts on the adjoining fragments of land. It has been observed that disturbances such as construction (specifically wind turbines) have caused mass movement of badgers and as badgers are carriers of TB, this will cause the spread of the bacteria which will result in TB breakdowns in the surrounding farms which is a huge public health concern as well as an economic burden on affected farms. As a household that has a keen interest in wildlife and has a Veterinary Inspector and an aspiring Technical Agricultural Officer under our roof, we are acutely aware of the consequences brought by the construction of wind turbines in this particular area.

As someone who stands to inherit these lands I have thought a lot about this issue and I'm burdened by the above stated facts. As a household we are strongly against this project. We would hate to see our beautiful countryside and the protected animals that inhabit it be negatively affected.

Yours sincerely,

Aisling O' Rourke