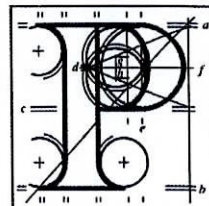


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Dominic and Mary Ledwith
Mullenmeehan
Ballymore
Co. Westmeath
N91 X781

Date: 03 May 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

Tel
Glaó 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 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough St.
Dublin 1
28 April 23

Observation on Ummamore Renewable Energy Development. Case Reference 316051

Dear Sir/Madam.

We would like to make our observations known to An Bord Pleanála on the planning application lodged by Umma More Ltd (the Applicant) for the development of 9 wind turbines with a tip height of 185 metres in Ummamore and surrounds in South Westmeath.

We do not believe that the site is suitable for the size of the turbines that are planned .

We will try to keep our observation as clear and concise as we can for the Board/Inspector. Given the level of information that has been submitted by the Applicant we can appreciate that there is a lot to get through.

Proximity to our home

We love where we live as it is so peaceful our home is identified as house 94 and is 1400 metres from T7. We have worked hard all our lives and we take great comfort in the silence that the environment around our home offers to us during our leisurely time off. We do not want to face into a future where our garden and home is subjected to over 20 minutes of shadow flicker daily and the noise of the over-sized turbines. I love going for a daily walk and love to walk the Ballynacorra boreen which is a lovely peaceful walk with uninterrupted fabulous views, should this development go ahead this will be no more as the landscape will be destroyed by over-sized turbines.

We have land adjacent to the proposed wind farm and if it goes ahead the value of the land will go way down and so will the value of all houses in the area.

Community engagement

We would like to make it known that the Applicant's engagement with us has been limited. The applicant did approach us to see if we would sign up for a turbine on our land but we declined as we are totally opposed to wind farm of this magnitude in our beautiful rural setting. Since that we have received a few bits through the letter box and we find that completely unsatisfactory given the size of the development.

We have been informed by other locals that the community report submitted by the Applicant is largely copied and pasted from an application that they made in Slieveacurry, Co. Clare a few years ago. This is absolutely disgraceful and it should not be accepted by the ABP. It is not fit for purpose and makes a mockery of community engagement.

The applicant was found to spread misinformation in this area about the effects of wind turbines as far back as 2019. Only for one local resident noticed these unsubstantiated claims and reported them to the Advertising Standard Authority of Ireland we would probably have believed what the Applicant had to say, as it transpired the Applicant was found to be untrustworthy.

The Applicant also erected a wind measuring mast which fell to the ground on two occasions with this in mind how can we believe they can erect 185 metre wind turbines in a safe and secure manner.

Conclusion

The wind farm is unwanted by the majority of people living in our community. If this monstrosity goes ahead people will be forced to retreat inside their homes with windows closed and blinds pulled down for large parts of the day. This is no way to live. We cannot be expected to say nothing and allow this development to proceed unchallenged.

We would argue that the site is too small and too low for the development that is being proposed. The turbines are too big and the proposed wind farm would visually dominate our homes and our landscape. It would injure the amenity of properties in the vicinity. It would have a serious impact on the quality of life of local inhabitants. It would be a complete intrusion and would dominate this low lying landscape. The Applicant has not taken into account many aspects of the Westmeath County Development Plan or the Wind Energy Development Guidelines. The proposed development would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

We request that An Bord Pleanala refuse permission for this development.

Yours faithfully,

Dominic & Mary Ledwith

Mullenmeehan

Ballymore

Co. Westmeath

N91 X781