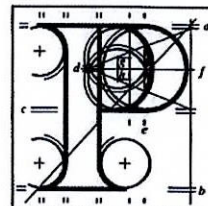


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Katie O'Rourke
Ballynacorra
Ballymore
Co. Westmeath

Date: 25 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 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 Westmeath 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. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

PA04

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Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

April '23

Ballynacorra,
Ballymore,
Co. Westmeath

I Katie O'Rourke, (house number 54 on planning application map & number 56 on shadow flicker map) am writing an observation in objection to the Ummamore Wind Farm, reference number 316051.

Although there are plenty of people with more knowledge on this topic than me, I know people can raise issues from an economic, engineering, scientific & most importantly environmental point of view. I can only speak in laymans terms & from my heart & appeal on a normal human level.

I moved home to Ballymore from Australia pregnant with my first child wanting to start a family in rural Ireland on land that generations before me have walked on & enjoyed. I want my children to take nature walks with there grandad & learn about species of fish in the river & the sounds of different birds over head.

I was fully ignorant to the issues arising from wind farms until it was on my own doorstep. At first all I could think was "not here"... somewhere else." But on further investigation & talking to people alot more educated on the subject

to me, I have come to the conclusion developments of this scale have no place on the island of Ireland at all. We reside in such a small island that relies on rural scenic beauty for tourism & agriculture as an industry I can't see how erecting turbines that are not fit for purpose in a low wind area are a solution. I am not opposed to progress and renewable energy. I think turbines of this size belong in the Atlantic ocean.

I worry if this development is allowed to happen, my family will grow up on the outskirts of an industrial estate, that the birds, bats, fish & otters will leave and I may as well have stayed overseas to raise my family in a city. I find it so disheartening that people who don't live in the area can sign land over to wind energy companies and locals suffer the consequences. I have no doubt in my mind that this area was targeted for this reason.

Our home was designed and built following all planning guidelines & is rated A+ energy efficient. If this development goes ahead it won't be in keeping with guidelines, so this raises a huge issue of double standards.

This objection is against the Unnamore development as I fear about the future of my local community, our environment & the health of my family. But it's also to plead with the powers that be not to inflict turbines of this size on mainland Ireland. It saddens me that individual areas are fighting the same battles all over the country. If Ireland as a country/nation unite (from regular citizens to planners at a county council level all the way up to yourselves at an bard pleanála) we can look at facts, agree & insist government go further to protect our lands. They need to be shown that developments like this one are not viable. An area as vast as the Atlantic ocean could provide more than enough energy. It would leave rural areas intact and unharmed for generation to come to benefit from.

The more developments like these that are allowed to happen means we rip apart a huge part of rural Ireland, our identity, our heritage & our communities. By turning our landscapes into industrial areas, it destroys areas that house our wildlife & destroys memories of generations gone before us, thus robbing future generations of theirs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,
Katie O'Rourke.