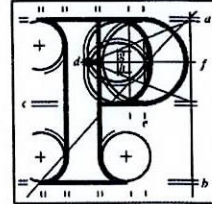


Our Case Number: ABP-316051-23

Planning Authority Reference Number:



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Susan & John Carroll
Mullenmeehan
Ballymore
Co Westmeath
Co. Westmeath
N91 R896

Date: 25 April 2023

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

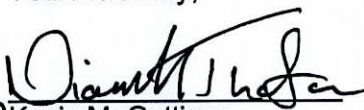
Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your 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,


PP Kevin McGettigan
Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737263

BL50A

Tel
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

Susan & John Carroll
Mullenmeehan
Ballymore
Co Westmeath
N91 R896

Date: April 2023

The Secretary
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
DO1 V902

CASE Reference: 316051
Ummamore Renewable Energy Development (Ummamore Wind Farm)

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make an Observation on Case Reference - 316051
I have enclosed the fee of €50.00

My home is located 1km from the site boundary where I live with my husband and son. We have serious concerns about the impact of this windfarm on the local area and on my home and family. We would like to make the following Observations:

AT 185m, these turbines will totally dominate the local landscape. This is a rural, scenic area which is known for its wildlife and sense of peace and quiet. The landscape will be severely damaged by industrial structures which will be among the biggest in Ireland and more suited to an offshore location. They are simply too tall to be situated in Ballymore and Drumraney.

Apart from the impact on designated scenery those of us living locally will suffer VERY SIGNIFICANT VISUAL IMPACTS. We will no longer live in a peaceful rural area but rather an industrial landscape. These turbines will have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in this area; on a daily basis we see Buzzards, Barn Owls, Birds, and Bats. All of these rare protected species will be at risk from these turbines.

Our local roads cannot support the volume of traffic which has been totally underestimated. The impact of the removal of Forestry and Hedgerows to the wildlife and environment.

Also I refer to the Shadow Flicker (house 39 on Shadow flicker map) of these turbines and the impact this will have on me and my family. I already suffer from ill health and these shadow flickers will only add to any ongoing health issue I have. The shadow flicker caused by spinning blades will also block sunlight.

The existing low background noise level will have an impact on this quite rural area. The noise pollution emitted by these industrial turbines will destroy the positive quality of our local environment. Due to the new and unnatural noise, we are very likely to experience annoyance and/or sleep disturbance which will also have a serious effect on my health and my family.

The 2006 guidelines being used for planning of these windfarms are grossly outdated. They are relevant to small domestic lower scale turbines, not the 185m industrial size ones planned for the proposed Ummamore wind farm. The current Irish Planning guidelines for wind farm rely on the UK noise assessment model that dates back to 1996. This model is widely recognised as not fit for purpose in light of the vast increase in turbine size and power.

The applicants are obliged to comply with CPO 10.147 of the County Plan, when monitoring the noise generated by the development as follows:

Ensure the proposal for energy development demonstrates that human health has been considered, including those relating to the topic of:

NOISE, (including consistency with the World Health Organization's 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the Europeans Region). Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027 CPO 10.147.

It should be noted the applicants has failed to present this noise assessment in accordance with the requirement of these W.H.O. guidelines

Finally I would say that while we received leaflets/letters for Ummamore, we do not feel we were properly consulted. We did not have any real understanding of the scale of the turbines until our own local group showed us a scale model of the house and size of these turbines. We were not asked for our opinion or made aware of the possible impacts on our homes and our lives but simply informed of Ummamore plans. Consultation should be a two way street where local people are listened to and their views are considered.

I ask the Board to take my points into consideration and to refuse planning permission in order to protect both the local environment and the people who live here.

Regards

Susan & John Carroll

Susan Carroll

John Carroll