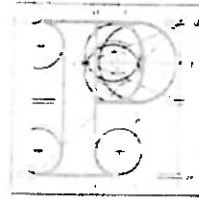


Our Case Number: ABP-316178-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Rob Deane
The Old School House
Ballymunnelly
Bellacorick
Co. Mayo

Date: 13 November 2023

Re: Proposed development of Oweninny Windfarm Phase 3 consisting of 18 no. wind turbines.
Within the townlands of Laghtanvack, Croaghaun (also known as Croaghaun West), Moneynieran,
Corvoderry, Shanvolahan, Dooleg More, Shranakilly, Bellacorrick and Shanvodinnaun, Co. Mayo.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this 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 the local authority 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 or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Murphy
Lauren Murphy
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737275

PA09

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Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
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D01 V902	D01 V902

6-11-2023

Care of Lauren Murphy Executive officer An Bord Pleanála.

Case number: ABP-316178-23

Proposed Development of Oweninny Windfarm Phase Three consisting of 18 no. Wind Turbines.

AN BORD PLEANALA	
LDG- 068069 -23	
ABP- 316178 -23	
13 NOV 2023	
Fee: € <u>N/A</u>	Type: <u>Post</u>

To the members of An Bord Pleanála, and whom ever this may concern.

As most of you area aware, Bord Na Mona, have been harvesting peat since the Late 1940s, In the Late 1940s and early 1950s Bord Na Mona began purchasing land in north mayo for peat extraction, much of this land is based near Bellacorick in North Mayo where this wind farm is being developed.

Bord Na mona lied to and coerced the local people by telling them that they were purchasing the land for peat extraction only and that the land would be returned to the original owners once the peat had been extracted and that this would take 20 - 30 years, however for the majority this never happend.

A case was taken by some of the landowners and there descendants in recent years and a small amount of land was returned to them as compensation.

If anyone goes onto google maps, and zooms into north mayo from a long way out the site at Bord Na Mona Bellacorick is easily Identified due to the total devastation caused By Bord Na Mona.

Bord Na Mona strip mined nearly 5,000 Ha of peat over a 50 year period polluting many rivers near by that were once abundant with trout and salmon, while now hardly any remain.

All of the natural and native flora and fauna have been removed, and may never return.

Anyone that Visits the site at Oweninny wind farm near Bellacorick can see that it is a barren waste land that will take hundreds of years to improve and it will never truly recover.

When Bord Na Mona finished Peat extraction at the site, they effectively locked the gates behind them and walked away, no real comprehensive restoration works have ever taken place at the site.

A few drains and dams were blocked over the space of a few weeks and that was the height of there restoration works.

The Site now at Bellacorick has over 150Ha of peatland under concrete and road infrastructure and phase three will add another 83Ha bringing the total to over 230Ha this is a huge amount of protected peatland to be destroyed and removed from the ecosystem permanently.

At the Oweninny site near Bellacorick, Bord Na Mona have allowed millions thats correct millions of invasive pine trees, mostly lodge pole pine and rhododendron to invade and spread throughout the site.

The site is also a breeding ground for Red Deer, and these Deer take shelter on site during the day while grazing locals farmers land by night, damaging fences bales and other property in the process.

The number of Deer on site is in the thousands and are out of control, and no control measure has been put in place.

During the construction phases of Phase 1 and Phase 2 where ever the peat and soil was disturbed more trees grew and spread.

These Trees are now changing the structure of the site and causing the peat to dry out and degrade and release more Carbon into the atmosphere year on year, also the huge amount of needles that are dropped each year from these pine trees are causing and will cause a huge amount of pollution and eutrophication to the local waterways.

As Mentioned in Tobin Consulting Engineers report, there are already several functioning wind farms in the area including Phases one and two at Oweninny, but there are also several more large scale wind farms proposed for the area, including Sheskin wind farm.

Proposed Sheskin South Wind farm and Proposed Kilsallagh Wind farm.

These other listed wind farms are much better suited for development than Oweninny phase 3, and this area has already had its fair share of wind turbines and the disturbances caused by them, both in the construction phase and in the long term.

Also mentioned in Tobins report in Chapter 7. Shadow Flicker.

7.3 "It is not possible to comment on flicker from the phase one and phase two wind farm development."

The set back distances in Phases one two and three are the same, atleast 4 times tip height, and shadow flicker was repeatedly addressed in public meetings with Bord Na Mona management, and they assured locals publicly that should shadow flicker occur, then those turbines would be switched off immediately, however this has not occurred, and video evidence from local residents can be provided to show this.

I am urging all those involved in this decision, to please decline and reject this developments planning application, as this is an entirely unsuitable site and location, as mentioned on several occasions in there own Environmental Impact Assessment

This site is on and adjacent to a whole list of SACs and SPAs and there is an abundance of protected species and birds on the site and using the site, including Badgers, Bats and multiple bird species including, the Hen Harrier, Kingfisher, Barnacle Goose, Marsh Harrier, Corncrake, Whooper Swan, Peregrine, Red-Throated Diver, Breeding waders, and the Golden Plover, just to name a few.

Very few areas in Ireland have such an abundance of protected sites on and in such close proximity to the site, such as: Lough Dahybaun SAC, Owenduff/Neiphin Complex SAC, River Moy SAC, Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA, Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA, and Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA.

These sites are of vital importance and should be protected at all costs, especially under the Water framework directive, a project of this size and scale will undoubtedly damage and impact these sites, and some of the mitigation factors listed in the (EIA) are entirely unsatisfactory.

The management of the site so far by Bord Na Mona has been nothing short of disgraceful, it has all been about profit extraction and to hell with the environment, the local rivers or the rare flora and fauna on the site. The local peoples concerns have not been addressed.

The local peoples concerns have not been addressed on many topics, and they are often fobbed off and ignored.

I trust that AN Bord Pleanála will be competent and impartial in making this decision and that they will make the correct decision.

Kind regards
Rob Deane

The Old School house Ballymunnelly,
Bellacorick
Mayo.