

Knockmealdown Active
Middlequarter
Co. Tipperary

knockmealdownactive@gmail.com

To: The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

31 July 2023

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| AN BORD PLEANALA | |
| LDG- | 065498-23 |
| ABP- | |
| 02 AUG 2023 | |
| Fee: €50 | Type: scps |
| Time: 13:50 | By: H. J. L. |

An Bord Pleanála Case Reference: ABP-317265-23

Re: Construction of Dyrick Hill Wind Farm comprising 12 no. wind turbines and related works:

Application to An Bord Pleanála by Dyrick Hill Wind Farm Limited, in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for planning permission for a period of 15 years, for development comprising the construction of a wind farm and related works in the townlands of Ballymacmague North, Ballymacmague South, Ballynaguilkee Lower, Ballynaguilkee Upper, Broemountain, Carrigaun (Mansfield), Castlequarter, Clooncogaile, Colligan More, Colliganwood, Corradoon, Dyrick, Farnane Lower, Farnane Upper, Garryclone, Garryduff, Killadangan, Kilcooney, Knockaunnaglokee Langanoran, Lickoran, Lickoranmountain, Lisleagh, Lisleaghmountain, Lyrattin, Mountaincastle South, Scartmountain, Sleadycastle in County Waterford.

Fee of €50 enclosed

To the Members of the Board:

The Knockmealdown Mountains are one of Waterford's greatest tourism and assets recreational assets. The Proposed Development will compromise Saint Declan's Way as well as a number of other important walks, cycle routes, scenic drives and viewpoints. It will irretrievably damage a precious and vulnerable landscape and environment, and the impact of this will be felt economically by businesses large and small and hinder development and growth in the area. We ask the Board that the area's designation as a 'wind exclusion zone' defined by the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028 is respected and upheld.

Saint Declan's Way. (Summer season attracts 200-300 walkers per month.)
Based on the Zone Of Theoretical Visibility maps created by the Developer (Figure 11.9),
"10-12 turbines" (as defined in the ZTV map legend) at Dyrick Hill Wind Farm will be visible from St. Declan's Way.

Saint Declan's Way is a modern pilgrim walking route linking Cashel in County Tipperary and Ardmore in County Waterford. It follows the route that Declan took when going to Cashel to meet Saint Patrick in the fifth century. It is the way that Pilgrims have taken to visit Saint Declan's monastery, holy well and grave in Ardmore for the past one and a half thousand years. It has taken a great deal of public and private funding, and an incalculable number of voluntary hours to develop this trail to this point in time where the route is approved and insured by Sport Ireland as a waymarked long-distance walking trail, and it is listed on the National Trails Register.

Since the path was officially opened by Heather Humphreys, Minister for Community and Rural Development at a ceremony held in Mount Melleray Abbey, on September 29th 2021, thousands of walkers have walked this trail contributing to additional consumer spend along the length of the trail. While that spend is difficult to quantify, the profusion of accommodation providers has exponentially increased in the last few years, primarily to provide accommodation for those walkers.

While the trail begins at the carpark of the Rock of Cashel passing through Cashel, Cahir, Ardfinnan & Goatenbridge in South Tipperary, it then crosses the Knockmealdown Mountains into West Waterford going through Mount Melleray, Lismore, Cappoquin, Aglish and finishing at St. Declan's Monastery in Ardmore, Co. Waterford. The stage where people traverse the Knockmealdown Mountains, either heading North or South, is the most scenic stage, and it is the stage with more off-road walking, and because of this, it is the most tranquil one. It is there that people have reported that they feel transported back in time, with little traffic noise and few signs of modern living.

The proposed wind farm would change all this, and it would put this walking product in jeopardy. The industrialisation of this rural landscape, in an area that both Tipperary and Waterford County Councils have deemed unsuitable for development of this kind, would be an insult to the elected members, the people who voted for them and to the numerous volunteers who have worked selflessly to promote tourism in this unspoilt, rural area.

Other named trails and routes affected by Dyrick Hill Wind Farm

Although the turbines will be visible from many more kilometres away, the following list is of trails that will be affected within the 20km radius of the ZTV map (numbers stated follow the ZTV Legend).

- **The Cunnigar Walk:** 10-12 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **East Munster Way:** 7-9 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **Coumduala Loop:** 10-12 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **Gap Walk:** 7-9 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **Sgillogues Walk:** 10-12 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **Glenshalane Woodland Green Trail:** 1-3 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **Glenshalane Woodland Red Trail:** 4-6 turbines will be visible from this route.
- **Glenshalane Woodland Grotto Walk:** 4-6 turbines will be visible from this route.

A pilgrimage is defined as "a meaningful journey to a place of spiritual significance". Thousands have walked St. Declan's Way. Every walker comes for different reasons and is changed by the experience in different ways. From those

of faith to the agnostic, St. Declan's Way offers a unique and powerful experience. For the area to become industrialised by 185-metre turbines could only be defined as sacrilege. We trust that the Board will uphold Waterford' City and County Development Plan 2022-2028's classification of Wind Exclusion Zone and refuse planning to the Applicant.

Thank you. On behalf of Knockmealdown Active and all of the walkers and pilgrims that walk our trails.

Joe Byrne
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Byrne', with a horizontal line underneath it.