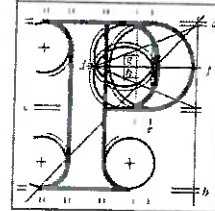


Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Ellen McDonald
Mountain Veiw
Luggacurren
Co. Laois

Date: 09 October 2023

Re: Proposed Coolglass windfarm and related works
In the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill,
Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

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. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

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 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,



Evan McGuigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line:

PA04

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Ellen McDonad
Mountain View
Luggacurren, Co. Laois
01-10-23
An Bord Pleanála
64 Malborough Street
Dublin 1

AN BORD PLEANÁLA
LDG- 069061-23
ABP- _____
04 OCT 2023
Fee: € 50 Type: Card
Time: _____ By: Hand

Case Reference: PA11.317809

Development address; I the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard, and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Proposed Coolglass Windfarm and related works

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Ellen McDonad, write in connection with the above-listed planning application. As a local resident of Luggacurren, where these proposed wind turbines will be situated just 950 meters from my home, I wish to strongly object to the proposed development by Statkraft. The proximity of these turbines to our community is of great concern, and I would like to provide detailed observations and concerns regarding this project.

Title: The Negative Effects of Wind Turbines: A Closer Look with Irish Examples

Introduction

The proliferation of wind turbines across the Irish landscape has brought renewable energy to the forefront of the national energy agenda. However, while green energy sources are crucial for combating climate change, it is essential to acknowledge the potential drawbacks associated with wind turbine installations. One significant concern is the adverse impact of wind turbines on nearby communities, as exemplified by the case of Luggacurren in County Laois, Ireland. Title: The Cumulative Impact of Wind Farms on Communities: The Case of Luggacurren

Introduction

In the ongoing quest for sustainable energy sources, wind turbines have emerged as a prominent symbol of environmental progress. Ireland, like many countries, has actively embraced wind energy, erecting

wind farms across its picturesque landscapes. However, it is imperative to scrutinize the cumulative impact of these developments, as exemplified by the case of Luggacurren in County Laois, Ireland. Luggacurren and its surrounding areas face the potential brunt of multiple wind farms, raising critical concerns about visual, environmental, and heritage implications for the local community.

****The Cumulative Impact on Luggacurren and Surrounding Areas****

Luggacurren, a tranquil rural community, is currently confronted with a confluence of proposed wind farms, including the Coolglass Windfarm. The sheer density of these developments poses a serious challenge to the community's well-being and the preservation of its cherished environment.

Visual Impact

One of the most immediate and pervasive consequences of the cumulative impact of wind farms is the visual intrusion they impose on the landscape. Wind turbines, with their towering structures and spinning blades, disrupt the serene rural vistas that residents of Luggacurren have long cherished. The collective presence of multiple wind farms transforms the region into an industrialized expanse, diminishing the natural beauty that has defined the area for generations.

Moreover, the visual impact can have far-reaching economic ramifications. Studies have indicated that homes in close proximity to wind turbines tend to lose value. Residents who invested in their properties in the idyllic countryside of Luggacurren now face the possibility of diminished property values due to the growing industrialization of their surroundings.

Environmental Concerns

Beyond the aesthetic disruptions, the cumulative impact of wind farms poses significant environmental concerns. The proliferation of these turbines can have adverse effects on local ecosystems and biodiversity. In Luggacurren, the natural landscape may suffer alterations due to the development of access roads, infrastructure, and the potential disturbance of habitats. Moreover, the noise generated by the spinning turbines can disrupt local wildlife, impacting the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Heritage and Community Welfare

The heritage and cultural significance of an area are often overlooked in discussions about wind farm developments. In Luggacurren, there are historical sites and landscapes that hold great value to the community and are part of the area's identity. The cumulative presence of wind farms can threaten these cultural assets, eroding the rich heritage that residents hold dear.

****Lessons from Other Parts of Ireland****

Luggacurren's concerns about the cumulative impact of wind farms are not isolated. Throughout Ireland, there have been documented instances of detrimental effects on local communities:

1. ***Noise Disturbances in Boggeragh Mountains, County Cork:*** Residents living near the Boggeragh Mountains wind farm have reported significant noise disturbances. The constant hum and swoosh from the turbines have led to sleep disruptions and increased stress levels among residents, negatively impacting their health and well-being.
2. ***Visual Disruption in Cahermurphy, County Clare:*** The presence of wind turbines in Cahermurphy has disrupted the scenic landscape, negatively affecting local tourism—an essential source of income for the community.
3. ***Ecological Concerns in Lackagh, County Galway:*** Residents near the Lackagh wind farm have raised concerns about the impact on local wildlife. The cumulative effects of multiple wind farms in the area have led to worries about bird and bat populations, reflecting broader ecological implications.

****Conclusion****

The case of Luggacurren underscores the critical need to consider the cumulative impact of wind farms on local communities. Residents, like Ellen McDonald, rightfully express their concerns about the transformation of their cherished landscapes, potential economic losses, and the threat to their cultural heritage. While renewable energy is essential, a balanced approach must be taken to ensure that the environmental, cultural, and well-being interests of local communities are not sacrificed in the name of progress. Luggacurren and similar communities across Ireland serve as a reminder that, in the pursuit of sustainability, the voices of those who call these places home must not be overlooked.

The potential harm to our environment, heritage, and quality of life cannot be ignored, and we have seen in other parts of Ireland the negative consequences that can arise from similar wind turbine projects.

Enclosed, please find 50 Euro in respect of this objection. All correspondence in this matter can be sent to me at the address mentioned above.

Sincerely,

Ellen McDonald

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Ellen" and the last name "McDonald" clearly legible.