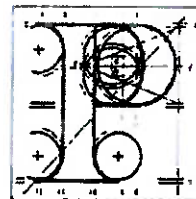


**Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23**

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**Padraig Fleming  
Westbank House  
The Swan  
Athy  
Co. Laois**

**Date: 10 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](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie) quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

**Yours faithfully,**

**PP EM  
Evan McGuigan  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line:**

**PA04**

**Tel  
Glaó Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost**

**Tel (01) 858 8100  
LoCall 1890 275 175  
Fax (01) 872 2684  
Website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
Email [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)**

**64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902**

**64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902**

## ***Councillor Padraig Fleming***

*Westbank House, The Swan, Via-Athy, Co. Laois*

e-mail: [REDACTED]

An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough St  
Dublin 1

<b>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</b>	
LDG- 067168-23	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
ABP- _____	
06 OCT 2023	
Fee: € 50-	Type: Cheque
Time: 11:37	By: Hand

RE: Planning Application – Reference No. PA11.317809.

To whom it may concern,

I am submitting an observation in relation to the above planning application. Below, I highlight a series of major issues with this application.

This planning application seeks approval for the building of 13 wind turbines, 12 of which are in Areas Not Open for Consideration for wind farms in the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The building of these wind turbines would be completely against the approved County Development Plan. The Planning Regulator and the Minister and his Department examined the County Development Plan and the Wind Energy Strategy. A Directive was issued from the Minister, none of which involved an adjustment to the Areas Not Open for Consideration for wind farms. This applicant showed total disregard for the County Development Plan when making this application.

It is also very clear that the 13 wind turbines are located in two clusters in different and distinct areas, all under the one planning application. This is totally wrong. The applicant has linked these two separate clusters via a single cable to enable him to bypass a planning application to Laois County Council. This single cable is the sole reason the application has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development. An Bord Pleanála must not allow this as it will set a precedent for all future applications.

Two cable routes are suggested to connect this development to the national grid. However, Cable route option A runs adjacent to the River Barrow and the River Nore SAC near Chapel Cross Roads along the R430 road. However, these two cable routes are merely suggestions of what may or may not be considered in the future. They are not part of this planning application and should be disregarded as part of any consideration on this matter.

The proposed cable route runs alongside the River Barrow and the River Nore. These fall under Special Areas of Conservation. The southern extent of the proposed development is part of the Nore catchment, with tributaries to the Owveg in the west of the proposed development. The River Clough is also to the south of the site crossing this area. The proposed turbine T2 is located within the SO area of Kyle and Orchard Spring Water Supply Scheme.

A groundwater monitoring well has been installed nearby The Swan Water Supply Scheme. This public water scheme serves 850 houses and premises, with a population of over 3,000 people. Turbine T12 is approximately 110m south of this well. This is further evidence of a complete disregard by the applicant for the lasting effects of the proposed development on the water environment.

The applicant recognises that the proposed development will result in shadow flicker. However, the full extent of shadow flicker and noise pollution was omitted from the application. This is completely unacceptable. The application clearly indicates that a number of houses will be affected by shadow flicker. The applicant's mitigation measures are not proven to be adequate.

There is a significant 'community loss' to this proposed development. If this development is approved, people will not be able to build homes in the local area, land will be devalued as a result of the project and there will also be a devaluation of houses.

The applicant also failed to facilitate any public consultation with the residents of the local area. The applicant only arranged a leaflet drop at doors of the local houses and met no local people to discuss the matter at several houses.

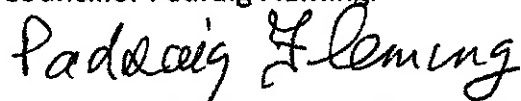
The Planning Report from Laois County Council highlights a large number of errors and inconsistencies. This is an example of the lack of seriousness of the applicant in their preparation and composition of the planning application.

The development as proposed is contrary to the provisions of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the associated Wind Energy Strategy. Having regard to the foregoing it is considered that the development would materially contravene the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027 and would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

I urge you to reject this planning application for the above reasons.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Padraig Fleming.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Padraig Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'P' and 'F'.

Enclosed is the €50 fee for this submission.