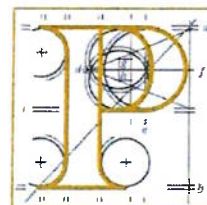


Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Roghan Headen
Pink House Timahoe
Portlaoise
Co. Laois
R32E6W8

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.

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,

pp LM
Evan McGuigan
Executive Officer
Direct Line:

PA04

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

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

An Bord Pleanála
64 Malborough Street
Dublin 1

3rd October

Re; Case reference PA11.317809

Development Address ,Fossey Upper, Aughoney,Gorreelegh, Knocklaid, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamonry, Coolglass, Crissard, Kylenebehy Co Laois.

Dear Sir/Mad

I Roghan Headen of Midway Ireland Tours write to you in connection with the above listed planning application. As a person from the locality with a strong knowledge of its built and natural environment, I am severely concerned about the proposed development. The development if granted permission will in my opinion destroy the beauty of the area concerned. Please find different reason headlined below'

VISUAL IMPACT

The visual impact will be seen for miles around the Slieve Margy region of Counties Laois, Kildare, Carlow and Kilkenny. The impact will permanently erase the contour of the Mountain to the sky on all approach roads into Timahoe. This is an area of immense beauty and one in which my visiting guests complement and admire. The size and scale of the proposed Wind turbines are disproportionate, and totally out of sync with the area concerned. The Photomontages issued in the Planning application from Timahoe Village are not adequate for one to have an idea of the Impact.

NATURAL ENVOIRNMENT

Fossey Mountain is a beautiful picturesque hill in south Co Laois. It is home to many different plants, fauna and wildlife. In the past I have seen many birds of prey including the Barn Owl, Buzzard, Sparrow Hawk and Hen Harriers. The latter coming down from the Slieve Bloom mountains to winter in the moorlands of Fossey Upper. The Hen Harrier as you know is elusive and in decline mainly due to the intensification of farming practises. The Irish Badger has a number of sets on Fossey mountain, which itself is unusual as they don't normally live above 450feet, but Timahoe is mainly a Dairy farming community, which means that the Badgers natural habitats have to move due to the expansion of grasslands. Timahoe has a big colony of native Irish Bats which roost in the Round Tower and nearby farm buildings surrounding Fossey Mountain, Bats are an essential specie in the ecosystem eating between 600/700 midgets etc helping to prevent diseases been spread. The building of these proposed Turbines will disturb and harm all of the above speices, this in conjunction with the fact that there is currently a big push to preserve these Animals, The Bord should consider the animals future and existence.

TOURISM

I work within the Tourism sector, and I repeatedly get told by inward bound guests of how beautiful the landscape is in Co Laois. Laois itself been a small county would not have been considered as a tourism destination for many years, however with the current drive in popularity for Ireland as a Tourism destination, through various Failte Ireland initiatives, places like Laois and the Midlands in general are becoming popular. The main reason is that Laois is so centrally located and its beautiful rolling landscape and it remains as one of the last places in Ireland to benefit from Tourism. Failte Ireland recently launched in Just transition fund to develop Laois and surrounding counties into a functioning Tourism product. The Bord must consider the impact the proposed industrial 13 x180m high turbines will have on the landscape and its beauty. Laois does not have the luxury of coastal views and it relies on the mountains it has for its scenic beauty. A report carried out by Failte Ireland on the opinions of visitors show a percentage negative opinion on wind turbines on the landscape.

OPTIONS

As Ireland races to reach its climate change obligations, to which I support. The development of technology to assist in the construction of Wind Turbines in the Atlantic Ocean is welcomed and this is supported by experts in the area, indeed the current environment Minister Eamonn Ryan backs this suggestion. Therefore, Ireland could supply energy to mainland Europe of up to 50million homes.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

As a local Community activist for 25 years, I have proud to be involved in some great projects within the area I live in. The Bord must consider the impact this project will have on our Community. Like most applications for these developments they are met with support from landowners and objection from those concerned. The 180m high Turbines is out of total context with the area concerned, these are nowhere in Ireland to be seen as of yet. The importance of community in rural Ireland is everything, the division this development will create will be detrimental. We have already had division from the nearby following proposed developments

- (A) Eirgrid Laois Kilkenny Coolnabacky 400kv substation
- (B) 18 Windturbines in Ballinaclogh upper, Garyglass, Clarbarrcum, Clontycoe, Dooray, Cloncullane, Crubin, Cullenagh, Rahanavagh, and Raheenduff . Ref number 11.242626 Laois Co Co.
- (C) 11 Wind turbines Pinewoods windfarm REF PL11.248518 (An Bord Pleanala)
- (D) 300 Acre Solar Farm at Bigbog Coolnabacky Esker, Money Lower, Loughteague, Stradbally Ref 17/532 (Laois Co Co)

I think in essence it would be very fair to suggest that Timahoe has done its bit for Irelands drive for Climate change. The Village if all of the above are to come to fruition, will be surrounded by Wind Turbines and have Solar Farms and a Substation all in the locality.

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Laois County Council have designated the area concerned as an area unsuitable for Wind development in its County Development plan. The Bord must consider the County Development these plans are costly and take time to prepare and cannot be disregarded.

SHADOW FLICKER AND NOISE

The Developer may suggest that both Shadow Flickering and noise does not occur, however on many visits to wind turbine farms and from speaking to locals there is a "Humming" Noise and a flicker. These may not affect people in the short term but the Bord must consider the long term impact this will have. The developer cannot give a gaurentee that it won't happen.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stratcraft as a company have refused to meet the locals as a group, citing security fears. They have been very lethargic in replying to any of my concerns on the Visual impact, refusing to forward to me certain photomontages. These Photomontages are essential to help give the local people a proper perspective. I was given the name of the company upon request to help get proper stills of what to expect. This Laziness is frustrating unfair and uncooperative.

HERITAGE

Co Laois and in particular Timahoe is rich in Heritage, the evidence is in the names of various townland's connected to the proposed development. The area considered for development is rich in Neolithic archaeology, from pre Christian structures to ring forts and Monastic ruins. Timahoe has the finest Round Tower in Ireland and also a picturesque Rural Irish Village, unspoilt by the Celtic Tiger years. Under the proposed developments we will have 42 wind turbines with a 7 mile radius of that Round Tower some potentially connecting into a substation with a 300 acre solar farm also on our doorstep. The Bord must consider the potential damage to the undiscovered archaeology under the sites of each turbine and cable route through Timahoe.

CONCLUSION

In Conclusion The Bord must assess the Proposed development, Is it fair for Timahoe and the area concerned to be potentially surrounded by 42 Wind turbines? Is it not better to wait and encourage the development of off shore wind? Are the 13 x 180m high turbines excessive? What will be the nett damage to the native Irish species already under threat? Should we simply ignore those species, the ruination of the landscape, the division of a community, reduction in property value, the difficulty for the next generations to get planning permission for houses all for a 35 year contract?

I appreciate you taking the time to read my concerns and objections to the above proposed development, and I Trust in the process.

Regards Roghan Headen Midway Ireland Tours. Pink House Timahoe, Portlaoise Co Laois R32e6w8.