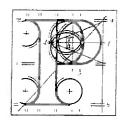
Our Case Number: ABP-317809-23

**Planning Authority Reference Number:** 



An Bord Pleanála

Sinead Bennett Tigh Mochua le Cheile Timahoe Heritage Center Pink house Timahoe 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 Kylenabehy, 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** 

**Email** 

An Board Pleanala 64 Malborough Street Dublin1

1st October 2023

Case Reference: PA11.317809



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

Proposed Coolglass Windfarm and related works

Dear Sir/Madam,

I Sinead Bennett of TIGH MOCHUALE CHEILE write in connection with the above listed planning application

As a local resident and member of the local tidy towns committee with knowledge of the location, we wish to object to the proposed development by statkraft. listed below are some of our observations concerns and reasons:

Timahoe Heritage centre was opened in 2014 our mission is to promote and preserve the beauty and natural environment of our village.

Timahoe is a small village seated in the midlands of Ireland the landscape that surrounds the village is beautiful and untouched by development throughout the Celtic tiger years. Laois County Council placed Timahoe in various county development plans as an asset of ACA. We are proud of the village scape and the houses in the village along with the important 5th Century Early Monastery and the finest Round Tower in the country built-in the 1200th century which is a local and national importance.

However the history of Timahoe goes back thousands of years with a recorded find of the Great Irish elk antlers and the discovery of many burial Cists from the Neolithic times. The Village also is surrounded by hills which are decorated with history for example the White Bog House which is the oldest structure found in Laois. The Dun of Clopook Monamantry, The Druids Altar and Ringforts all of which are protected by law.

To coincide with this there are numerous birds including the buzzards and reported sightings of the Hen Harrier on the mountain. The Hen Harrier chicks need upland peat bog, heather to forage in. They come down from the Slieve Bloom Mountain to the lower hills for protection Fossy mountain and the surounding hills here have upland peat and heather and the environment that is needed for the bird. The native Irish badgers are also protected in the hills around Timahoe.

Tigh Mochua le Cheile promotes Timahoe and the envroins as a Tourist destination. Laois as a county is not considered by most as tourist destination however the destination of Laois on the Ireland's Ancient East initiative proves that there is a product to be marketed.

We believe that the erection of these wind turbines will have a negative visual impact and a negative environmental impact. Whilst we're not against wind farm energy the advancement in technology for offshore Wind development is more feasible option in our opinion.

It is our opinion that at the very least a full geographical survey and full Archaeology test digging be independently carried out by the company involved and over seen by an independent body.

In their application it is suggested that there is no area of historical importance nearby this is factually incorrect.

In that regard and all of the above we object to the Coolglass wind farm development plan.

We enclosed €50 In respect of this objection all correspondence in this matter can be sent to us at.

## Address

Sinead Bennett
Tigh mochua le cheile
Timahoe Heritage Centre
Pink House
Timahoe
Co. Laois.

Yours sincerely