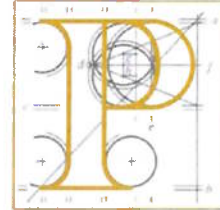


Our Case Number: ABP-318446-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Nire Valley Gun Club
c/o Patrick Phelan (President)
Shanballyanne
Ballymacarbry
Via Clonmel
Co. Waterford

Date: 30 January 2024

Re: Proposed construction of Coumnagappul Wind Farm consisting of 10 no. turbines and associated infrastructure.
In the townlands of Coumnagappul, Carrigbrack, Knockavanniamountain, Barricreemountain Upper and Glennaneanemountain, Skee-hans, Lagg, Co. Waterford. (www.coumnagappulwindfarmSID.ie)

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,

Niamh Hickey
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737145

PA04

Teil	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	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Níre Valley Gun Club

Founded 1968

Shanballyanne,
Ballymacarbry,
Via Clonmel,
Co. Waterford.

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
Strategic Infrastructure Department,
64 Marlborough street,
Dublin 1.
D01V902

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>069427-24</u>
ABP-	
23 JAN 2024	
Fee: €	<u>50.00</u>
Type:	<u>5000 bank draft</u>
Time:	<u>9.00</u>
By:	<u>Reg Post</u>

Re: submission of objection to An Bord Pleanála.

Ref: 318446

Description: construction of Coumnagappul wind farm comprising of 10 turbines and related works in Co. Waterford.

Fee of 50 euro enclosed.

To Whom It May Concern:

On the 24th of October 1968 a meeting of 91 land owners covering ten thousand plus acres of land, was held in Glenanore National school, Nire, Co. Waterford. At this meeting Nire valley gun club was formed, Mr Patrick Phelan P.C was elected chairman. In April 1969 Pdraig Faulkner minister for lands made an order giving full legal recognition to the Nire Valley Gun club over the various land acts.

In may 1969 this order was published in the Áras official publication. The club lands were based at Shanballyanne, Kilkeany, Kilkeany upper, Knockavannia, Knockavannia mountain, Castlereagh, Croughateskin, Graignagower, Ballymacarbry, Knockaun, Toureen, Lyre, Knockanaffirn, Glenanore, Knocknaree and Glendaloughlin. In may 1969 Nire valley gun club was affiliated to Waterford regional game council. In 1969 Nire valley gun club erected game sanctuaries at Kilkeany, Shanballyanne and Knockanaffirn.

Shooting or trespassing on these lands was strictly forbidden.

In 2018 the club and its 46 members celebrated the fifty years from the foundation of the club and erected a monument celebrating the same.

NOTE: The above information was obtained from the following sources:

The affect that the proposed wind farms will have on the bird population in the clubs possessions will be horrendous at the moment the birds to be found on the lands involved are snipe, woodcock, grouse, corn crake, curlew, pheasant and numerous species of song birds. Also to be found there are mountain hares, rabbits, stoats, red fox, badger, fallow and sika deer along with many small mammals. This proposed area for the windfarm and indeed the complete Comeragh mountain is a very rare habitat and holds significant conservation values to all flora and fauna found there. Once this habitat is taken and destroyed it is forever lost along with its many rare inhabitants.

Nire valley gun club object in the strongest legal terms to this proposed intrusion on its lands preserved for the past fifty four years.

Nire valley lakes and scenery are known worldwide for its natural features with include some of the best examples of corrie lakes and smaller loughs that are untouched and retain their natural beauty which draws walkers from all around Ireland and the world.

it is to be noted that the development of Waterford city and county council 2022/2028 has deemed the area in question as an exclusion zone for wind energy.

Over the past 25yrs families in need of housing in the area were refused permission on the grounds that their lowland application was a visual obtrusion on the landscape. Our sincere wish is that the Nire valley will be spared by you from this intrusion on the beautiful landscape.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Patrick Phelan P.C.", written in a cursive style.

Patrick Phelan
Nire Valley Gun Club President

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File Ref No: 15/51

RE: Permission sought by Ecopower Developments Limited to erect 8 No. wind turbines, overall height of up to 127 meters, crane hardstands, 1 No. meteorological mast up to 80 meters in height with wind measuring equipment attached, access roads, electrical cabling, electrical substation compound, substation equipment and control building, visitor car park, borrow pits, ancillary drainage system and ancillary site works at Bawnfune/Sillaheens/Curraheenavoher/Russellstown/Boolabrien Upper/Russellstown New, Ballymacarbry, Co. Waterford.

Decision: Pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, it is decided to refuse permission for the said development based on the reasons set out below.

Schedule

Reasons:

1. Notwithstanding the site location in a preferred area for wind energy in the Waterford County Development Plan 20011-2017, the proposed development would constitute a visually dominant feature in a vulnerable scenic rural landscape and based on the submitted information the Planning Authority is not satisfied that the development would not significantly compromise the policy to develop the Comeragh Area as a National amenity and would not have significant adverse effects on the environment. The development would contravene the policies of the development plan in this regard and would therefore be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
2. The Nire, characterised by fertile agricultural lands and drained by the Nire River, is flanked by the Monavullagh Mountains to the South and rigid Comeragh Mountains to the East and North. The Nire Valley is renowned for its scenic landscape and supports a thriving tourism product based on hill walking trekking and river fishing and guest accommodation. The proposed wind farm will intrude onto the landscape, becoming a dominant feature and likely impact detrimentally on the environmental quality and scenic landscape of the Nire Valley and contrary to the proper development and sustainability of the area.
3. The location of the Windfarm, on the western flank of the Comeragh Mountain, at elevation above 300m OD will impact on Ballymacarbry Village and nearby settlements and the Nire Valley. Furthermore, the Windfarm location affords panoramic views extending in a wide arc beyond 20km distance, impacting on important and iconic landscapes and features in Counties Waterford and Tipperary, giving rise to general obtrusion, contrary to proper planning and sustainability principles.