

**Our Case Number:** ABP-318446-23

**Planning Authority Reference Number:**



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Della Ahearn  
Kilbrien Lower  
Ballinamult  
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, Skeehans, Lagg, Co. Waterford.  
([www.coumnagappulwindfarmSID.ie](http://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](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,

Niamh Hickey  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737145

PA04

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64 Marlborough Street  
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**Kilbrien Lower, Ballinamult, Co. Waterford**  
**[REDACTED]**

The Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902.

27<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Re: Case ref 318446-Wind Farm Development including 10 turbines and all associated works at Bleantasourmountain and other townlands, Co. Waterford**

**Applicant: Coumnagappul Wind Farm Limited.**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to submit an observation in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development application for a wind farm development known as Coumnagappul Windfarm (by Coumnagappul Wind Farm Limited).

I am a resident in close proximity to the proposed Wind Farm and am concerned about the appropriateness of a project of this scale that is out of scale and character with the community and the landscape.

I have no issue in principle with Wind Farm development as a contribution towards a more sustainable energy future. However, this Wind Farm and a number of other Wind Farms in the Comeragh/ Knockmealdown district have justifiably given rise to objections from within the local communities affected by them. My concerns are summarised below and I would ask that An Bord Pleanala refuses permission for this development.

I have reviewed the promoters' justification for the development in the planning documents submitted and on the website. As a lay person, I am struck by banal terms used to describe the effects and the dearth of local references that suggest it was generated more as a pro forma reporting exercise than by someone with an appreciation of our locality. The Comeragh Drive runs practically through the Wind Farm and this fact is scarcely mentioned despite the importance and sensitivity of this route. I cannot see how someone can review the photomontages and agree with the conclusions that the visual effect would not be 'significant'.

The 10no. large 185m turbines are simply too much within this confined area. I had not appreciated the scale of them. With a tip height of over 200 metres above the ground, the turbines located generally between 300 and 400 metre contours are taller than most of the mountain range and only 150 metres below the highest point of Seefin.

As a hill walker, I found that the assessment is completely deficient in terms of its impact when viewed from the ridge of the Comeragh/ Monavullagh Mountains which offers spectacular views across numerous counties. As this is one of the most significant walking routes and tourism assets in the County, which will only grow in importance, I find that this is a glaring omission. The omission is all the more significant when considering the other Wind Farm proposals in the district which collectively will destroy the asset.

The County Development Plan correctly states that this area is an 'Exclusion Area'. The promoters of the Wind Farm play down the Development Plan in their submission stating that some of the 'Exclusion Area' is not in the 'Most Sensitive' landscape zone. I hope the An Bord Pleanála respects the democratic process and applies the County Development Plan to protect our area which includes some of the most scenic and therefore sensitive parts of County Waterford. What is the point of the Development Plan if it can be by-passed?.

I look forward to your decision with interest and enclose the €50 fee for this objection.

Yours sincerely,

Della Ahearne