

Sinead White

From: Communications
Sent: Thursday 4 December 2025 09:54
To: Marine
Subject: FW: Laurclavagh. Case Number ABP-319307-24
Attachments: Mr Padraig Fahy.docx

Categories: Sinead Case

From: Peter Tyndall <petetyndall@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Communications <communications@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Laurclavagh. Case Number ABP-319307-24

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Mr. Padraic Fahy (Chairman),

Killcurriff Group Water Scheme,

Glenrevagh,

Corrandulla,

Co. Galway, H91 TOHP.

5th May 2024.

To: The Secretary,

An Coimisiun Pleanala,

64, Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1.

**Observations to An Bord Pleanala with regards to Case No
PA07.319307, Laurclavagh.**

As Chairman of the Killcurriff group water scheme, which comprises 99 residences in addition to 15 members who are land owners, I object on behalf of our membership in the strongest terms possible to the proposed construction as it is contrary to proper planning, the Galway County Development Plan, public health, security of water supply, nature of the local landscape, environmental and biodiversity law and local democracy.

We are a tightly bonded community which will not accept the imposition of 8 huge wind power generators in the middle of our peaceful, beautiful rural area which is a patchwork of pastureland, limestone pavement, stone walls and hazel woodland. It is unacceptable that a proposal such as this, which is motivated by nothing other than money, is even being suggested in such an unsuitable locality.

Proper planning and the Galway County Development Plan.

There has been zero consultation in this process and not a single public meeting was held. On two occasions MKO held a poster demonstration in Claregalway at which they told the public what they were planning to do— never did they ask any residents for their opinions. The only people with whom they communicated were the land owners whose land they wanted and who were then tied up in non-disclosure agreements. Many of these landowners were harassed into signing and those who now wish to extract themselves from this pressurized signing find that they are threatened with massive legal consequences. This is not democracy.

MKO made a submission when the County development plan was in preparation. Thankfully, they were unable to overturn the democratic will of the people, their elected public representatives, the Minister and the County Council. This area is classified as one in which wind turbines are “not to be encouraged”. What part of this does Laurclavagh Ltd. and MKO not understand? Their decision to proceed, despite this clear classification, highlights the fact that their motivation is money alone and they will attempt to override the democratic process.

Public Health.

A search of the literature produces numerous reports on the consequences for people’s physical, mental and social wellbeing while attempting to live normal lives when they have large noisy wind generators imposed close to their dwellings. The proposers would have us believe that the noise pollution, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference and low frequency vibration have zero consequences for people’s health. It is quite a simple biological fact that any physical force acting on any organism, for an extended period, produces a consequence. While many of the conditions and syndromes which are produced by these generators will only become clearer with time, we are beginning to see the harm caused to people’s lives receive an airing in Irish courts. If there are no health consequences from these generators then clearly they logically must be located close to where the power is required and not in our quiet rural community where we have no requirement for this huge output of power.

Security of water supply.

There are 8 local group water schemes surrounding the area planned for this most unwelcome environmental destruction. They depend on a westward flow of groundwater from the area of the Clare River to Lough Corrib through the honey-combed Carboniferous limestone which is the bedrock throughout this area. This karst topography is characterised by underground streams, lakes and caves and is fissured with numerous lines of weakness which have been created throughout it's 350 million year life. The foundation for each turbine requires the digging out of a 15m quarry. This quarrying of rock, with all it's associated shock waves followed by the imposition of thousands of tonnes of steel and concrete along with the leverage of a massive tower can only have negative consequences for our ground water and hence the water supply to the group schemes. Given the nature of this bedrock, with it's numerous underground features, it is not possible for any geologist to identify, with any degree of certainty, the consequence of the planned structural disturbance. The negative consequences from the planned disturbance also have every likelihood of being seen in the adjacent SAC and SPA of Lough Corrib.

Nature of the local landscape.

The members of this water scheme consider themselves very fortunate to reside in a peaceful rural location. They have chosen to live in this setting, away from much of the disturbance of modern life. They are strongly opposed to the imposition of 8 very large electricity generators, along with a substation, in the midst of their environment and most are extremely angry with what is seen as the arrogance and aggression of the proposers. This area, which is a patchwork of hazel woodlands, limestone pavement and pastureland, is very similar to the Burren in it's nature. With it's high density of family homes it is not a suitable environment for this industrial construction. Over the decades, I have observed the gradual disappearance of the hazel and limestone patches as farmers were encouraged, and even financially assisted by the State, to

bulldoze these areas to produce shallow-soil grasslands. We now realise the short-sightedness of this strategy and understand how important these habitats are for the preservation of our local biodiversity. We cannot afford to lose any more of this habitat. Under Laurclavagh Ltd.'s unacceptable plans the area will be pulled apart with roads, quarries and the removal of 1.8km of centuries old hedgerows.

Knockma, with its well known ancient heritage overlooks the proposed site. Archaeologists are constantly making new, significant discoveries in the area which well known local archaeologist, Dr Eamonn O' Donoghue, has described as a future "Tara of the West." This hill is visited by thousands of walkers every week and these visitors stop to take in the wonderful view from the top of the hill. It is totally inappropriate that, should this imposition go ahead, the hill will be overlooked by these massive generators.

Environmental and biodiversity law.

The MKO surveys underlined the fact that this area is extremely rich in biodiversity. They recorded a wide range of bat species in particularly high numbers. Amongst these is the lesser horseshoe bat which has very specific environmental requirements and is found only in a distinctly limited geographical area. Any disturbance is known to have an immediate detrimental effect on this most sensitive species which is known to disappear even with a new element of light pollution in their habitat. This species, which has high conservation status (Annex II) under the European Habitats Directive, has no prospect of surviving the construction phase, never mind the operational phase of the planned environmental destruction. The European Directive is exactly that—a Directive. This legal requirement to protect bats and their environment, and the request to convert the area to power generation are diametrically opposed. As lesser horseshoe bats are biologically unique no nonsensical proposed mitigation measures, such as the provision of bat boxes which they do not use, have any protective effect whatsoever. All of the other bat species are also protected in European Law. There is no alternative but to protect the bats and their habitat.

MKO's own survey identified 5 Annex 1 bird species within the area. These are hen harrier, merlin, peregrine, Greenland white fronted goose and whooper swans. All of these species must be protected under the European Birds Directive as they are classified as being in danger of extinction. This protection is not optional. The acceptance by all sides that critically important (as determined by European Directive), bat and bird species are present in this healthy environment should be sufficient to terminate any further consideration of the construction proposal as the reality is that wildlife, if not killed directly by the rotation of huge high-speed blades (150mph + at their tips), will avoid the area. All of nature's first instinct is self-preservation and they will attempt to remove themselves and avoid areas of high disturbance. Talk of mitigation measures must be seen for what it is –an irrelevant attempt to confuse the issue and muddy the water. A true concern for the wildlife of the area will leave it, as it is, to live it's life in peace. The area proposed for construction is surrounded by iWeBs (Irish Wetland Bird Survey) sites where waterfowl and their allies have been monitored for about 30 years. Sadly, this data shows that many species are in decline because of human induced factors. Many of these species transit the proposed site when flying between these water bodies and feeding areas. The erection of 8 X 185 m rotating turbines would kill birds directly through impact and many more would avoid the area completely because of the massive environmental disturbance. Every proposal argues that their project will have little effect but it is plain to see that humanity's cumulative effect is producing very destructive consequences for our bird population. There are proposals to erect 17 different wind farms within a 25 KM radius of this area. If this level of construction were to proceed, the whole area would be little more than one massive power generating site with little or no surviving bird or bat populations. In the interests of all our well-being this money grab must not be allowed to proceed.

It should be noted that no monitoring of birds took place at night. As many species are active in hours of darkness there is a major gap in the data collection. Also, three weeks ago one of our local residents encountered the individual who carried out the MKO survey. He was doing his survey unaware that the application was already submitted. He informed the resident that he had not been on site for 6 months so essentially this leaves a huge gap in the

recording period. Who signed off on the collection data when the collector was not even aware that the "Information" was already submitted?

Local Democracy

As previously mentioned, the County Galway Development Plan has decided, through a democratic and reasoned process, that wind farms are not to be encouraged in this area. In a more straight-forward society this decision would be accepted as the choice of the people and their representatives. However, Laurclavagh Ltd. have decided that, in the interests of making large financial gains for their shareholders, they will attempt to walk over local democracy and push the output of their proposal with even bigger turbines than normal so that they can completely by-pass local democracy and take their application directly to An Bord Pleanála. This is a flawed system and one which is totally unacceptable to the local population. We will not have our health, peace, biodiversity, wildlife, group water schemes and general well-being trampled over by a money-hungry company which has displayed nothing but contempt for the wishes of the local people.

Padraic Fahy (Chairman).