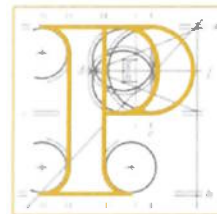


**Our Case Number:** ABP-319566-24



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Shannon Rangers GAA Club  
c/o Alan Kennelly  
North Kerry  
Co. Kerry

**Date:** 21 June 2024

**Re:** The proposed development will comprise of a 600MW Powerplant, 120MW Battery Energy Storage System, Above Ground Installation and associated ancillary works.

Located within the townlands Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane between Tarbert and Ballylongford Co.Kerry. ([www.steppowerplant.com](http://www.steppowerplant.com))

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. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Ellen Moss  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737285

PA04

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

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



The Secretary,  
An Bord Pleanála (SID Section),  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902.

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

ABP case reference      PA08.319566

*Direct planning application by Shannon LNG limited to An Bord Pleanála for Planning Permission in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Shannon Technology and Energy Park (STEP) power plant The proposed development will comprise of a 600MW power plant, 120MW battery energy storage system, above ground installation and associated ancillary works. Located within the townlands of Kilcolgan Lower and Ralappane between Tarbert and Ballylongford, County Kerry.*

Dear Sirs / Mesdames,

Shannon Rangers is a GAA Club based in North Kerry. Our constituent clubs include Ballylongford and Tarbert, and also the GAA clubs of Asdee, Ballydonoghue, Ballyduff and Beale (*Ballybunion*).

Shannon Rangers GAA club would like to make an observation in respect of the planning application lodged by the applicant relating to the SID application referenced above. I attach a fee of €50 and believe this to be a valid observation.

Shannon Rangers' observation breaks down into two categories –

- Medium term energy security and the Environment,
- Economic and Social benefits.



**SHANNON RANGERS**

Email: [secretary.shannonrangers.kerry@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.shannonrangers.kerry@gaa.ie)

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## 1. Medium term energy security and the Environment.

There is a growing awareness that the current energy crisis will not be solved in the short term. Increased gas storage is needed for Ireland's energy security.

As other fossil fuels (*Oil, Coal & Peat*) are removed from the energy generation grid and in the transition period while we await the capability of renewable energy sources increasing to the point where they can generate enough energy (& *blue hydrogen to power generating sets*) 100% of the time; natural gas will play a key role as an immediately available, cost-effective, reasonably climate-friendly alternative.

Ireland has an ambitious deadline for carbon-free electricity production (*net zero carbon emissions by 2050*). However, achieving this deadline will necessitate the expansion of renewable electricity production and the development of a hydrogen production and energy generation sector. Natural gas comes into play as a bridge technology, as it produces far fewer pollutants and CO<sub>2</sub> during combustion than other currently available energy sources.

The technology and energy park proposed will complement the ESB's ambitious plans for floating wind energy production off the Atlantic coast of counties Kerry and Clare (*and blue hydrogen production at Moneypoint generating station*). If the ESB plans for floating wind to provide 30-gigawatt generation capacity (*at c. 60% efficiency*) are to be realised, an alternative power generation source is required in the medium-term.



**SHANNON RANGERS**

Email: [secretary.shannonrangers.kerry@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.shannonrangers.kerry@gaa.ie)

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## 2. Economic and Social benefits.

North Kerry has been economically disadvantaged for years. All 6 of our constituent clubs are in CLÁR disadvantaged funding areas.

A Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce has recently been set up to try and address this disadvantage. The largest employer on the Shannon Estuary in Kerry is Tarbert Comprehensive School. We feel that the provision of jobs is urgently required in North Kerry – to allow our area grow and thrive economically once again. At present our population is dwindling (*see census figures for a number of recent censuses*), school numbers are falling and employment opportunities are fewer and further between. Our player numbers continue to diminish and we have already amalgamated with Feale Rangers at underage level. We need jobs if our villages in North Kerry are to survive. It is that simple and that stark.

I would urge the Board to consider recent reports prepared by the recently appointed Kerry GAA Demographics Officer, Mr. Michael Murphy. Mr. Murphy spells out, in no uncertain terms, the effects of rural depopulation in Kerry, particularly in North Kerry – along the Shannon Estuary & South Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula.

For reference a recent article in the Irish Examiner –

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/gaa/arid-41407331.html>

I would like to remind the Board that there is National Policy on Rural Development – in particular the Rural Development Policy 2021-2025. The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. An Ireland which is built on the interdependence of urban and rural areas. An Ireland which recognises the centrality of people, the importance of vibrant and lived-in rural places, and the potential to create quality jobs and sustain our shared environment.





Shannon Rangers GAA urges the Board to throw the villages along the Shannon Estuary coast of North Kerry a lifeline and grant permission to the proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park.

Kind regards,

---

Alan Kennelly,  
Secretary.



**SHANNON RANGERS**  
Email: [secretary.shannonrangers.kerry@gaa.ie](mailto:secretary.shannonrangers.kerry@gaa.ie)

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