

File With _____

SECTION 131 FORM

Appeal NO: ABP 322154-25Defer Re O/H ☐Having considered the contents of the submission dated/ received 22-04
fromGraighe Ballycallan 94A I recommend that section 131 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000
be/not be invoked at this stage for the following reason(s): _____

E.O.: _____

Date: _____

For further consideration by SEO/SAO

Section 131 not to be invoked at this stage. ☐Section 131 to be invoked – allow 2/4 weeks for reply. ☐

S.E.O.: _____

Date: _____

S.A.O.: _____

Date: _____

M _____

Please prepare BP _____ - Section 131 notice enclosing a copy of the attached
submission

to: _____ Task No: _____

Allow 2/3/4weeks – BP _____

EO: _____

Date: _____

AA: _____

Date: _____

File With _____

CORRESPONDENCE FORMAppeal No: ABP 322154-25

M _____

Please treat correspondence received on 22-04 as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Update database with new agent for Applicant/Appellant _____
2. Acknowledge with BP <u>RLSO</u>
3. Keep copy of Board's Letter ☐ | 1. RETURN TO SENDER with BP _____
2. Keep Envelope: ☐
3. Keep Copy of Board's letter ☐ |
|--|--|

Amendments/CommentsObs from Graigue Ballycallan GAA**4. Attach to file**

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) R/S ☐ | (d) Screening ☐ |
| (b) GIS Processing ☐ | (e) Inspectorate ☐ |
| (c) Processing ☒ | |

RETURN TO EO ☐

EO:

Dorothy Canals

Date:

25-04-25Plans Date Stamped ☐Date Stamped Filled in ☐

AA:

Date:

25/04/25

Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club



AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	<u>079468-25</u>
ABP-	<u> </u>
22 APR 2025	
Fee: € <u>50</u>	Type: <u>Cash</u>
Time: <u>11:15</u>	By: <u>hand</u>

Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club
Tom Ryall Park
Kilmanagh
Co.Kilkenny
R95VK63
19th April 2025

Appeal Submission to An Bord Pleanála

An Bord Pleanála Ref: PL10.322154

Kilkenny County Council Planning Application number: 2560003

To An Bord Pleanála:

We are writing on behalf of Graigue Ballycallan (GBC) GAA Club to formally make a submission in response to an appeal by Briskalagh Ltd. to overturn KCC's decision for the construction of a 7 no. turbine wind farm in our locality. We fully support the refusal as per the decision at our 2023 AGM which unanimously opposed the wind farm, reflecting the significant concerns held by our members and the broader community.

We would like to outline some of the key issues that we believe will adversely impact our club and the surrounding area and address some of the statements made by MKO in their Grounds of Appeal (GOA) document.

1. Flooding Concerns

Our GAA pitches both run parallel to the local Kilmanagh River and are located on a flood plain which makes them particularly vulnerable to flooding. Both pitches were both under water in October / November 2023. Any changes to the local landscape and drainage patterns due to the construction of wind turbines would exacerbate existing flooding issues, thus rendering the pitches unusable and disrupting our club activities and community events. MKO's assertion that there would be no flooding at the windfarm site ignores the fact that our GAA pitches are downstream of this site and would most definitely be affected.

2. Noise and Visual Impact

The Presence of 607 foot high wind turbines within 1 km of our playing pitches will generate continuous noise pollution, will be a visual distraction and cause **Shadow Flicker** for our players and supporters and may put off other teams from playing in Tom Ryall park. The proposed turbines are placed directly behind the south facing goalposts on both the camogie pitch and hurling pitch.

Therefore, the turbines would be in line of sight of players and officials who are facing or shooting at the south facing goalposts on both pitches. These turbines will cause a severe visual distraction/visual disruption to players and will cause difficulty for officials refereeing/officiating and frequent disruption to and points of contention in matches. The visual impact of massive turbines will also alter the scenic quality of our grounds which is a favoured venue among GAA supporters who enjoy the beautiful setting of our pitches. It will also have a detrimental effect on the users of our walk way which is located around the pitch nearest the proposed turbines, for both young and old, who at present can enjoy a safe and quiet form of exercise from early morning until late in the evening.

MKO's assertion that 'In the case of Tom Ryall Park, the attention of players and spectators is primarily directed towards the activity on the field, rather than the surrounding landscape' demonstrates their lack of knowledge of both hurling and camogie and how these monstrous turbines would distract players, referees and spectators not to mention those using the walkway !

3. Increased Traffic During Construction

Because a temporary access road to the windfarm is proposed off the L-1009 in the middle of Kilmanagh Village c. 100 metres from the nearest entrance to our club grounds, the construction phase will lead to a huge increase in heavy vehicle traffic, posing safety risks for club members including children and families who frequent the grounds. In fact, Kilmanagh will be a construction site for the 18-24 months of development. The local primary school, St Aidan's National School is located directly across the road from the club grounds and even nearer to the proposed access road and their students regularly cross the road to use the pitches and the walk way. This extra traffic will also lead to congestion on local roads, complicating access to our facilities and potentially causing accidents.

4. Health and Safety Concerns

We want to emphasize that the health and safety of our members is one of our major concerns. The potential dangers associated with this proposed large-scale construction project, including the operation of heavy machinery and transportation of materials, raises serious health and safety concerns for our members and for the local community.

5. Future of Our Club

Lastly, we are deeply concerned that should this wind farm go ahead it will discourage our young people from staying in the locality, building and rearing families here. Rural decline is a major concern for clubs around the country and we are no different. Our worst fear is that within a few short years we will be struggling to field teams and keeping our club and community alive.

We respectfully ask that an Bord Pleanála give due consideration to these concerns. The potential negative effects of the proposed windfarm on our club's operations and the safety and well-being of our community are substantial.

Yours sincerely,

Eamonn Butler

Secretary, Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club

0857846739

Dave O'Neill

Chairman, Graigue Ballycallan GAA Club

0860234350

(E50 ENCLOSED)