



**Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí**  
**Offaly County Council**

**Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

**Views of the Elected Members on Strategic Infrastructure Development in  
accordance with Section 37E(6))37E(4) of the Planning and Development Act  
2000 (as amended)**

**Ballinla Wind Farm**

**An Coimisiún Pleanála Case reference: PAX19.323579**

The views and recommendation by resolution of the elected members were made at the October Monthly Meeting of Offaly County Council which took place on 20 October 2025.

In accordance with Section 37E(6)) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), the following views were expressed:

Concerns were raised that the area of north Offaly is saturated with renewable energy developments and in particular, wind farm developments. The area has contributed significantly to the national green energy effort and it was stressed that all existing energy infrastructure should be taken into account, not just wind energy in the assessment of this application. The North Offaly area ranks fourth nationally for wind energy production and it was questioned when this increasing level of development would cease in this area. Concerns were raised on the accumulated impact of the proposal in addition to existing and permitted windfarms.

Concerns raised about the location of the proposed wind farm development, close to residences and a built-up area (in particular T1 – T4) and the distance between the proposed turbines and nearby homes. It was stated that there is a need for a setback of 750m (or greater) from residential units, in line with best practice and so as to protect residential amenities.

Concerns raised on the impact of proposed Turbine No. 7 and Turbine 5 on residences and a protected structure.

Concerns raised on the siting of the proposed development on good agricultural lands.

Concerns raised that Turbines 1, 2, and 3 are located within a flood risk area and that any future flooding could result in financial implications for Offaly County Council.

Concerns raised on the significant impact the development would have on local roads and the potential disruption to residents in the area.

Clarity was sought on the extent to which alternative sites were considered as part of this SID application. and if so, which sites were evaluated.

The lack of benefit locally in terms of road, local community benefits, etc. was highlighted. The local area is not experiencing any tangible benefits from the various green energy projects.

It was requested that consideration be given to the applicant's (non) compliance with regard to an existing wind farm which it operates within the county.

The increased size and scale of turbines since the adoption of the Wind Energy Strategy which dates back to 2009 was raised.

The need for updated Guidelines and regulations was highlighted, so as to ensure compliance.

On the proposal of **Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick**, seconded by **Cllr. L. Quinn**, the members resolved to adopt the Chief Executive Report – Strategic Infrastructure Development - Ballinla Wind Farm.

**On resolution, the following addendum to be included with the resolution:**

***In light of the significant issues raised in the planner's report, with particular reference to proposed Turbine's 1, 2, 3 and 5, this council request that the applicant address each of these issues in detail before An Coimisiún Pleanála makes a decision on this application. It was resolved to send this addendum (recommendation) to the Commission in accordance with Section 37(E)(6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).***

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