

Brendan Hogan
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Mill Road
Bruree
Co Limerick
V35 XE13

Ref case number: 323635

Re: Observation/Objection to the Proposed Garrane Green Energy Wind Farm (Strategic Infrastructure Development Application)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a long-time resident of **Bruree, County Limerick**, to formally object to the proposed **Garrane Green Energy Wind Farm**. I have lived in Bruree all my life and feel deeply concerned about the serious and lasting impacts this project will have on our community, our environment, our heritage, and the wellbeing of local residents.

While I recognise the importance of renewable energy, it must be developed **in appropriate locations** and in a way that protects both people and nature. This proposal, in its current form, fails to do so.

1. Impact on Local Landscape, Heritage and Character

Bruree is a **beautiful and historically important village**, rich in cultural heritage and surrounded by scenic countryside. The proposed turbines, each rising to **over 170 metres (558 feet)**—almost **four times the height of Charleville Church**—would completely dominate the skyline.

Such industrial-scale structures are **entirely out of scale** with the rural setting and would cause permanent visual intrusion. This would destroy the peaceful character that defines Bruree and its neighbouring communities.

2. Environmental and Wildlife Concerns

The site and surrounding areas support important **wildlife, including protected bat and bird species**. Bats, which are protected under Irish and EU law (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC), are particularly vulnerable to turbine collision and habitat disruption.

Noise, vibration, and lighting during construction and operation will have significant effects on local ecosystems. The proposed drainage and culvert works near the Charleville Stream could alter water quality and hydrology, **impacting fish and aquatic habitats**.

Environmental protection must go hand in hand with renewable development — this project does not achieve that balance.

3. Noise Pollution and Public Health

Residents face the prospect of **constant turbine noise both day and night**, including low-frequency sound and infrasound known to cause sleep disturbance, stress, and anxiety.

The **mental strain** and worry this proposal has already caused locally is profound — people feel powerless and ignored. The community's mental and emotional wellbeing must be given proper consideration.

4. Shadow Flicker

The risk of **shadow flicker** from blades this large is significant. This strobe-like effect, when sunlight passes through rotating blades, can be distressing and harmful, especially for individuals with photosensitive conditions.

There is insufficient information in the application regarding mitigation for homes within the shadow flicker zone.

5. Proximity to Homes and Residential Amenity

The proximity of the proposed turbines to homes and farms is **unacceptable**. Ireland's Wind Energy Development Guidelines recommend minimum setback distances, yet these turbines would still impose major visual and noise impacts on nearby residents.

This development would **severely reduce residential amenity**, harm property values, and damage people's ability to enjoy their homes and gardens in peace.

6. Cumulative Impact

There are already several wind farms or proposed energy projects in the wider Limerick–Cork region. When considered together, the **cumulative effect** of multiple wind farms on landscape character, wildlife, and residents' wellbeing will be overwhelming and irreversible.

Proper cumulative assessment appears to be lacking in the Environmental Impact documents.

7. Construction, Traffic, and Infrastructure

The construction phase will involve **large vehicles, abnormal loads, and heavy road traffic**, placing enormous pressure on small rural roads not designed for industrial use.

This raises **road safety concerns** for local residents, farmers, and school transport. Road widening, bridge works, and increased wear will further harm the local infrastructure.

8. Flooding and Water Concerns

The proposal includes new access tracks, drainage, and culverts near the Charleville Stream. Such works could **alter natural watercourses**, leading to erosion, increased flooding, or contamination of nearby agricultural land.

The developer has not demonstrated sufficient safeguards to prevent these potential impacts.

9. Tourism, Local Economy, and Property Values

Bruree's natural and historical appeal attracts visitors and underpins local pride.

Industrial-scale turbines towering over the landscape will **deter tourism**, reduce the scenic value of the area, and likely **devalue local homes**.

This is particularly damaging for a small community that relies on rural amenity and heritage tourism.

10. Public Consultation and Transparency

Local residents feel there has been **a lack of meaningful consultation**.

The Environmental Impact Assessment and associated reports are highly technical and difficult for ordinary people to interpret. Many residents feel excluded and confused by the process, which erodes public trust.

True public engagement means listening — not merely informing.

11. Decommissioning and Long-Term Landscape Damage

There is **insufficient detail** on what will happen when the turbines reach the end of their 30–35 year lifespan.

Without clear, enforceable decommissioning commitments, there is a real risk the area will be left with derelict infrastructure, access roads, and foundations — scarring the landscape for generations.

12. Alternative Locations

The application does not appear to have considered **less sensitive or more remote sites**.

If renewable energy generation is to expand responsibly, it should prioritise areas where visual, ecological, and social impacts are minimal.

13. Climate and True Sustainability

Renewable energy must be developed responsibly.

When projects destroy habitats, damage biodiversity, and harm communities, their **true sustainability** is questionable. Protecting our environment is not just about generating clean energy — it is also about **preserving the integrity of local ecosystems and communities**.

14. Request for Refusal or Substantial Revision

Given all of the above, I respectfully urge **An Bord Pleanála** to:

- **Refuse permission** for this development in its current form, or
 - Require substantial modification to reduce height, increase setback distances, and ensure full environmental protections for wildlife and residents, and
 - Conduct **independent assessments** of noise, health, and biodiversity impacts.
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Conclusion

Bruree is a **historic and peaceful village** that deserves protection from inappropriate industrialisation.

This proposal threatens to change the character of our area forever. It risks harming wildlife, damaging our landscape, reducing our quality of life, and dividing a community that has already suffered immense stress and worry.

I ask that you **put the wellbeing of people, wildlife, and place above profit**, and refuse this application.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely,
Brendan Hogan