

Planning Observation on Strategic Infrastructure Development Application

Applicant: Garrane Green Energy Ltd

Location: Ballynagoul, Creggane and Garrane, Charleville / Kilmallock, Co. Limerick

Ref.: 323635

Date: 31/10/2025

Submitted by: Cllr Aileen Browne, The Cottage, Kilmallock Rd, Charleville, Co Cork.

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Context and Reference

This observation concerns the application lodged under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, by Garrane Green Energy Ltd, for a 9-turbine wind farm (each 170 m tip height) on a 158.75 ha site spanning the Limerick–Cork boundary.

The An Coimisiuin Pleanála Senior Inspector’s Report (6 January 2025) states:

“...the potential arises for significant effects to arise on the area of more than one planning authority as a result of factors such as traffic, visual, and amenity considerations...”

Accordingly, it is important that public representatives and communities in the Charleville area continue to be fully informed and engaged throughout the assessment process.

Communication and Consultation

While the application refers to “community consultations” (Appendix 1.5, EIAR Vol IV), local feedback suggests that engagement was poor. As a member of Cork County Council living in Charleville, Co Cork I received no communication from Garrane Green Energy about this application so it would be helpful if the applicant could clarify:

- Which public representatives and community groups were contacted and by how were they contacted;
- How feedback was recorded and addressed; and
- What further opportunities for dialogue will be provided during and after construction.

Enhanced consultation would align the process with the International Aarhus Convention and national best practice for community participation.

Traffic, Health & Safety

The Traffic Management Plan proposes construction access from the N20 and L1537 roads. Given the N20’s high collision rate and congestion in Charleville, additional detail on safety measures, phasing, and monitoring would be welcomed.

Clarification is also sought on the suitability of the L1537, a rural road with limited capacity and existing diversion use, and on any proposed road upgrades or structural assessments of bridges and culverts.

Flood Risk and Hydrology

Section 8 of the planning form confirms historic flooding near Mague Creggane Bridge (1982 and 1986).

Several turbine sites appear to be within or adjoining Zone A floodplains.

Further information on hydrological modelling, drainage design, and N20 protection measures would assist the Board in ensuring full compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009).

Visual, Amenity and Driver Considerations

At 170 m tip height and 150 m rotor diameter, the turbines will form a prominent skyline feature.

Additional analysis on shadow flicker, glint and glare, and potential driver distraction effects along the N20 is required to establish if the proposal meets TII Guidelines (2017) and road-safety standards.

Ecology and Water Quality

The River Mague and nearby streams may be sensitive to construction impacts.

Further clarification is requested on:

- Silt and runoff control measures at bridge crossings;
- Baseline ecological data and cumulative assessment; and
- Long-term water-quality monitoring proposals.

Access and Local Road Condition

Given the proposed use of the L1537 for site access, an independent structural and geotechnical review of local roads, bridges, and culverts would be valuable to ensure compliance with TII standards.

Governance and Community Benefit

The observation welcomes renewable-energy development in principle but notes the importance of transparent community-benefit arrangements and clear communication regarding ownership, maintenance, and decommissioning responsibilities.

Summary

To support proper planning and sustainable development, it is respectfully requested that **An Bord Pleanála** seek further clarification or additional information on:

1. Traffic and road-safety management;
2. Flood risk and hydrological protection;
3. Visual and driver impact assessment;
4. Ecological and water quality safeguards; and
5. Public consultation and community benefit commitments.

This observation is made in a constructive spirit to assist the Board in ensuring that environmental, safety, and community considerations are fully addressed.

Signed: **Cllr Aileen Browne**