

Case No: 323635

Garrane Green Energy proposal of 9 Mega Wind Turbines.

I, Catherine Selley and Kieron Selley of Garroose, Bruree, Co Limerick wish to lodge a formal objection to Planning Application Ref: 323635 by Garrane Green Energy Ltd (GGE).

Our home is located just over 1 Km (0.621 miles) from the proposed development and we are rigidly objecting to this development due to the negative impact it will have on our daily lives, due to noise nuisance, potential shadow flicker, road safety issues, permanent loss of the local unspoilt beauty, depreciation of property value and the mental anguish associated with such a large development less than a mile from our home.

We moved to Garroose, Bruree, in 2012, a quiet, unspoilt corner of the Golden Vale because of its quietness, rural lifestyle, complete dark skies at night, green rolling fields and quiet rural roads, on which we walk our dogs daily. We love the close proximity to the unspoilt banks of the Mague river, where we love to watch the otters, swans and kingfishers. We love our house, which we have put our heart and soul into as well as all our hard-earned savings. This is a life we love, quiet and rural. We feel this is all being jeopardised because of this development. We certainly did not sign up for 9 MEGA 170m windfarms just over 1km from our house which will impact **everything** about our daily lives, indeed the noise and potential flicker will actually affect us **inside** our homes and **directly outside** our house while we enjoy our garden, and our daily walks will be affected as these 170m turbines are directly observable to us. This we feel is contrary to our basic human rights and our bodily integrity as per our constitutional rights, to be free from unwanted physical and mental interference. We feel that to approve this planning application would not protect the interests of us, as Irish Citizens.

We are concerned how the noise and shadow flicker from the 170m wind turbines will affect the quality of our sleep, physical health and our mental health in the long term. Additionally, we are concerned that during the building stage of this development there is an expectation that the noise level will exponentially increase, from digging, boring and general building works. As we are just over 1km from the development we expect this noise will greatly affect our day to day lives, our sleep, our days off from work, sleeping during the day due to night-duty and our daughters study time as she prepares for the Leaving Cert examinations. Consequently, we request that the GGE development be denied their planning application as we do not want our mental health, sleep quality and quality of life be affected by the expected noise nuisance both short term and long term.

Much has been reported on the effect similar wind farm developments have on property prices with depreciation values of between -2% to -25% suggested and more recently in Co Wexford a depreciation of -44% was reported due to the size of the turbines and noise nuisance. We have worked hard over our lives, pay our taxes and live within our means to ensure we have a decent quality of life. We have paid for and put a lot of our hard-earned money into our house, now to be informed that due to this development our house value will be depreciated, affecting us in our future, our retirement and the future of our family. This, as a middle-aged couple, causes us undue stress as we actively prepare for our retirement and the negative effect it will have on our future quality of life and financial security.

We are concerned about the increase of traffic and large vehicles on our country roads that are not built for such a large volume of traffic. It is reported that over 8,000 HGVs are scheduled to be used to complete the development at 120 loads per day, excluding ordinary site traffic and regular local community traffic. This traffic, on the planned one-way system will be directly passing our house. Once again, this development will negatively impact our lives on a day to day basis with large numbers of HGVs passing my house daily and as dog owners, who walk our dogs three times a day on the Garroose road, this increase in traffic will definitely create more risk for us and our dogs while out walking, affecting the way we live our daily lives and our day-to-day outside experience. We are also concerned this huge increase in Traffic will have on an already traffic logged Charleville, on pedestrians and on traffic movement through the town in general.

Taking into consideration the impact this development will have on our lives, it is concerning the lack of communication and transparency GGE has shown to the residents affected. In a rural community it is commonly accepted that if you are wanting to meet with the local population it would usually happen after 6pm, when people are at home from work. During elections, canvassers call after 6pm, salespeople e.g. broadband reps, etc call after 6pm. For such an impactful large scale development representatives called during the day (when locals were at work) and failed to meet us or our neighbours. According the GGE's own schedule in Stage 1 of their methodology they referenced In-Person, Door to Door interactions to occur – we only received a pamphlet through our letter box! We are just over 1 Km (0.621 miles) from the nearest turbine but as discussed above will just as much be affected as our neighbours (under 1Km) but we were not contacted by any GGE official, nor would they attend our community meeting when invited. Additionally, as per GGE's own 'Consultation Milestones' summary (pg 11), they only assigned 2 days (14 and 15 May) to visit all households within 1 Km of the proposed project. Again, for such a large project, this length of time does not reflect any real effort for household visits and engaging communication.

The aforementioned pamphlet referenced Garrane – We are not originally from Bruree and as Bruree was not referenced on the pamphlet, had no idea where Garrane was located. Indeed, from speaking to neighbours and natives of the area a lot of people were not aware of the townland known as Garrane. It is interesting to note that in Chapter 5 of the planning application, 'Population and Human Health', Page 9 the 'Study Area 1: The Project Site and Environs (DEDs) Colmanswell, Tobernea, Rathluirc and Bruree', reference the well-known names of the 'Project Site', which everyone is familiar with. Wherein the name Garrane can only be seen in Figure 5:1 under Bruree, among 39 other townlands mentioned. This indicates to us a complete lack of transparency, and a total disregard for the community they proclaim to care about.

From national press reports there appears to be applications for Wind Turbine Farms at epidemic proportions, all over Ireland. And similarly, objections from discontented communities all over Ireland due to the negative impacts of these monstrosities, of which the ones being erected near Bruree are one of the largest in Ireland. Would it not make more sense and be more community friendly, while adhering to the EU targets on Green Energy, to build these wind turbines off-shore, where wind is guaranteed and with less impact on human life.

Additionally, I would like it noted that as an energy consumer I do not and have not seen any reduction in my monthly energy bills, despite the amount of Wind Turbine farms already in the country. If, as we are led to believe, wind turbine energy is to benefit the Irish person so much, why are our bills increasing and not decreasing?

In conclusion, we are not against green energy. We have solar panels, we recycle, reuse, minimise waste, use smokeless coal and are always conscious of our carbon footprint. We agree that the world needs more Renewable and Sustainable Energy. Nonetheless, the government and companies need to look to areas that do not impact on peoples lives and futures on which to place their developments. We are in a very fortunate position to be on an Island and with approx. 7,524km of coastline, where these wind farms would be better located.

We strongly urge that this development be rejected for the reasons outlined above. To protect our rural location, our rural life, our future and our health, this application should be rejected and more sustainable offshore developments proposed.

Signed.

Catherine and Kieron Selley