

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála / Galway County Council

Re: Objection to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm (Ref: ACP 323699)

Dear Sir / Madam,

My name is Anna Marie Fahy, and I live in Curlawn, Caherlistrane, right in the middle of the proposed development with turbines on one side of my home and the substation on the other. I have lived here all my life (35 years).

I love the less-stressful rural life, the connection to nature, and the long evening walks through the bog, surrounded by wildlife. This is a peaceful and historic area, full of character and community spirit, with an untouched landscape and ancient sites that mean a great deal to us. I cannot imagine watching it all be industrialised in this way.

Substation, Battery Storage and Fire Risk

The planned 7-acre substation is a major worry for me. There is talk that it may include battery storage, which adds a very serious fire risk, especially as it will sit on bogland that floods regularly. Both a river and an underground spring run close to the proposed site, and it flooded only a few weeks ago. A fire or accident there could have devastating consequences for homes, wildlife, and water quality.

Wildlife and Boglands

The bog is home to so much life, Whooper Swans, cuckoos, bats, pine marten, and countless insects and bees. There are several beekeepers in the area, and the destruction of habitat and vibration from heavy construction would be very damaging for them. Once these delicate ecosystems are disturbed, they may never recover.

Poor Consultation and Misleading Information

I am very unhappy with how RWE handled the community consultation. In our experience, they did not listen to people's real concerns. I also believe they put undue pressure on my brother when trying to gain access through his land. It felt like bullying at times, and much of what they said was inaccurate and misleading. It often seemed they would say whatever was necessary to get what they wanted. That experience destroyed any trust we had in them and makes us seriously doubt their honesty and capacity to deliver on promises for this project.

Health and Wellbeing

I suffer from hormonal issues, and I am very worried about how constant noise and interrupted sleep will affect my health. Disturbed sleep increases stress and can worsen hormonal imbalance. A friend of mine lives beside a windfarm in Milltown, Co. Clare, and she is now on anti-depressants. She told me that the constant low, varying noise from the turbines is worse than steady traffic - it changes tone all the time and never really stops. I fear the same kind of disturbance here.

Community Impact

There has been almost no meaningful engagement with the wider community. People feel left in the dark, and this has already led to arguments among neighbours and even within families. Our once-close community has been divided by how this was handled. It's very upsetting to see.

Landscape, Heritage and Housing

The turbines and substation would completely change the landscape and destroy the natural beauty of the area. The heritage here matters - our fields, old lanes, and local sites are part of who we are. I also worry about what this means for the future. With the current housing crisis, projects like this will make it even harder for local people to get planning permission or for young families to stay near home. Who would want to build or buy surrounded by turbines and industrial buildings?

For all of these reasons - the fire and flood risk, damage to wildlife and bogland, poor consultation, health and wellbeing concerns, community division, and the loss of our landscape and heritage - I strongly object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm and substation.

I ask that permission be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Marie Fahy

Curlawn, Caherlistrane, Co Galway