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To :
The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
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Subject: Proposed Wind farm at Shancloon

We wish to lodge an appeal against the decision made by RWE regarding planning application reference number Case reference: PC07.~~321507~~ 323699 concerning the proposed development at Beagh More, Cloonbar, Cloonnaglasha, Corillaun, Derrymore, Shancloon, Toberroe and Tonacooleen, County Galway.

We live in Bodane which is 2km south-east of the proposed development. I, Nora was born and reared here all my life and forty years ago my husband, Benin and I build our home and raised our three children here in Bodane. We love our quiet country life free from pollution and noise. We have a close-knit community with wonderful neighbours. Unfortunately, this proposed development is causing a community divide at the moment. Hopefully this can be rectified.

We have grave concerns for our health and wellbeing over the proposed Shancloon windfarm. One person in our family suffers from COPD and anxiety. Firstly, the construction over two years will impact us in a very negative way. The main construction entrance is approx. 1.5 km on our main road to Kilconly, a road we use every day to go to the local shop and the church and cemetery. This is a very narrow road; we will not be able to use this road as it is estimated for the construction duration there will be 120,000

truck movements of 1 every two minutes for two years. Also, the aggregate fill dust particles can travel anything between 150 meters and 1200KM depending on size of particles and wind conditions. This can be very harmful for people with COPD.

150-200M3 of concrete per base. Concrete is the third largest CO2 emitter. The production of 1M3 of concrete requires 2,775 MJ of energy. Most of this energy comes from oil. 89 barrels per turbine base plus all the steel.

NOT GREEN ENERGY.

We have heard from other communities of the negative effect of shadow flicker and noise.

We also have a beautiful scenic loop walk between Cloonaglasha and Bodane which we use every day. It is between 1km and 2km from proposed development, depending on where you are on the loop. Lots of people enjoy this peaceful route on a daily or regular basis. It brings you through a quiet country bog road with traditional stone walls, peatlands and open skies. You can enjoy views of Castlehacket hill and Croagh Patrick in the distance. You can see local wildlife and hear birdsong. With the proposed development of 11 industrial wind turbines in the area, those peaceful and unspoilt views may soon be lost. The turbines of 180M high would dominate the skyline, bringing with them noise, construction traffic and long-term environmental impact. This loop walk is part of our lifestyle and wellbeing, and it will cause stress and anxiety for a lot of people if this development goes ahead. We also want to preserve the heart of our community and the legacy we want to pass on to the future generations.

In our next village of Cloonaglasha, there is a blessed well and a children's burial ground (A Cillin) It is located approx. 1km, beside the river, from proposed development site. In the event of flooding there is a risk the well and river would flood and the little stones which were placed over the infants could be displaced. This burial ground holds deep significance for the villages of Cloonaglasha and Bodane as many families have stillborn babies interred there. I, Nora personally have an aunt interred in the burial ground. Any disturbance to this sacred ground, particularly through flooding or

movement of headstones, would cause significant emotional distress within this community.

We are very concerned about this proposed development both for ourselves and the next generation. Extracting that amount of peat is an unnatural interference with the ecosystem. To take away approx. 19,000 lorry loads of peat and replace it with approx..2,200 loads of concrete plus approx. 217,000 tonnes of fill, aggregate material, does not make sense. Where will all the displaced water go???. We already experience significant flooding in our area, especially during the winter months. At times we need to wear wellingtons walking in our gateway. This causes us a lot of anxiety and stress; any additional water or drainage issues could make the situation ever worse. Peatlands are one of the most efficient natural carbon sinks on the planet. Disturbing or removing peat releases large amounts of stored carbon dioxide which can offset or even exceed the carbon savings of proposed windfarm over its lifetime. Peatlands play a crucial role in regulating local water cycles. Their removal can lead to increased flooding and long-term changes in water quality with huge consequences for both people and wildlife. The displacement of the peat bog will have a detrimental effect on our wildlife. It is home to five different birds of prey, owls, bats, at least eight different types of butterflies, dragonflies, moths, hares, stoats, frogs and deer. And it is also home to the protected species, under both Irish law and the EU Birds Directive, the Hen Harrier. RWE has acknowledged this in Vol2, Chapter 10 ornithology section of their submission. We also have many wildflowers, mosses and beautiful wild orchids. During the winter months, October to March, the whooper swans migrate from Iceland and the brent geese from high-artic Canada. In our opinion the proposed Shancloon windfarm is right in their flight path as they make their way southward to Belclare turlough and Loughacket.

We feel RWE has acted in a misleading and underhand manner in its dealings with the community. When they first called to our home, we clearly informed them we did not support the development of windfarms in our area. Since then, we had no dialogue, only two leaflets in our letterbox, these were dropped during working hours when we were all at work. We attended all public meetings about the proposed windfarm, but RWE were not in

attendance. They did hold one public meeting in the ARD RI hotel in Tuam during working hours, which we were unable to attend as we were at work and unable to get time off. We did e-mail them with some questions which they did attempt to answer but did not have any other public meeting.

In the event that flooding occurs due to the project, will RWE take full responsibility and restore the land to its original state by removing the foundations and reinstating the peatlands? Additionally, who will be held accountable for compensating us- financially, mentally and physically for any damage or distress caused. **We don't want to end up with a disaster like what happened at the Derrybrien windfarm**

We would ask you in An Bord Pleanala to please, PLEASE consider this application very carefully. It is causing so much stress and anxiety in our home and in the community. It is most definitely not the right location for a windfarm.

Yours Sincerely,

Benin & Nora Lynch

Nora Lynch
Benin Lynch