

Objection to proposed wind turbines at Shancloon

Re. Reference No.: 323699

We wish to strongly object to the proposed erection of wind turbines at Shancloon Wind Farm. We are very strongly opposed to the erection of the wind turbines at Shancloon. Shancloon is not a suitable area for the erection of wind turbines due to its' close proximity to scenic countryside areas such as Kilconly (within 2km of or home) where we live and other similar scenic areas.

Firstly, the visual and noise impact on our beautiful, scenic and peaceful countryside will have a detrimental effect on the quality of our family's life. This is a very scenic and quiet area. The turbines will interrupt and destroy the natural beauty which we are so fortunate to have on our doorstep. One of the reasons we built our home in this location was because it has such unspoiled landscapes and we were deeply angered to learn of the proposal of these imposing turbines on our doorstep and the huge noise pollution that they will cause. Our home and farm are located within 2 km of the proposed wind farm and our family and livestock will be affected by the noise, shadow flicker and infrasound that these type of turbines emit. The current Wind Energy Development Guidelines of 2006 are outdated as they were based on much smaller turbines than the proposed 180 meter turbines. The large size and number of turbines will be an eyesore and a blot on the landscape and cause very considerable noise pollution. This will also have a negative impact on property values in our area.

Secondly, we are greatly concerned for biodiversity reasons and the destruction the wind turbines will cause to habitats. We are fortunate to live beside a turlough which hosts many swans during the winter months. When these swans leave the turlough, they fly in the direction of the proposed wind farm.

Thirdly, we are third generation farmers in this area where we breed horses, cattle and sheep and we are greatly concerned that the proposed wind turbines will have a detrimental effect on our business and our way of life due to our close proximity to the site. Wind turbines have a negative impact on horses in particular as they become very frightened by the turbines which leads to many issues with horses. We also have concerns about the damage to our private water well from the works carried out in erecting the turbines. The underground work required to erect these turbines will disrupt the underground water streams and could cause our well to go dry or become contaminated.

We are asking you to reconsider the erection of wind turbines at Shancloon for the reasons as outlined above.

Le meas,

Ciaran and Niamh Burke, Ratesh, Kilconly, Tuam, Co. Galway.