

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála
(ABP Ref: 323699)

Subject: Objection to the Proposed Shancloon Windfarm

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm (ABP Ref. 323699).

My name is Claire Browne, and I live with my husband and daughter in Ballinapark, Caherlistrane, where we have lived for over five years. We chose to make our home here because of the peaceful environment, natural surroundings, and the excellent quality of life that this rural community provides. It is an area that has always felt safe, restorative, and deeply connected to nature, which was especially important during the pandemic, when the surrounding landscape and fresh air offered us vital relief, exercise, and peace of mind.

We have serious concerns about the impact this proposed windfarm will have on our home and community. Our main worries relate to noise, vibration, shadow flicker, construction traffic, and the loss of scenic beauty in an area that is currently quiet, unspoiled, and deeply valued by residents. The countryside here provides gentle, calming walks which are essential for our wellbeing, and the development and operation of a large-scale industrial energy site would fundamentally change that experience.

We are particularly concerned about the impact this project will have on our daughter's future. We had hoped that she would have the opportunity to build a home here someday on family ground, remaining close to her roots, neighbours, and community. If this planning permission is granted, it is extremely unlikely that she will ever be able to build here, forcing her to move further away from her home place. With the current housing situation in Ireland already pushing young people beyond their communities, this development will not only affect us in the present — it jeopardises the future stability and generational continuity of local families.

We also worry about the long-term effect on the value of our home, which we have worked very hard for. Like many families, we make financial sacrifices to provide a secure home and future. The prospect of property devaluation, or even negative equity, is extremely distressing. One member of our household is also highly sensitive to noise, making the potential for turbine sound especially concerning.

Our environmental concerns include potential damage to local water systems, the risk of peat slides, and possible long-term pollution from turbine structures as they age. Furthermore, in the event of property damage due to vibrations or ground disturbance, it remains unclear who would take responsibility for repairs or compensation.

We are also deeply disappointed in the attitudes and responses of the developer. When we raised concerns about visibility of a turbine from our kitchen window, we were told to "plant a tree or grow a hedge." This dismissive comment showed a lack of respect and understanding of the impact this project would have on our family life, our home, and our sense of place. We only discovered through the EIAR that a substation is also proposed to be located directly in front of our house — something that was never communicated in advance.

This proposal would permanently damage the character and wellbeing of a peaceful rural community and have long-lasting consequences for families like ours who have chosen to live here, contribute here, and raise our children here.

For these reasons, I strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Shanclon Windfarm.

Yours sincerely,
Claire Browne
Ballinapark
Caherlistrane
Co. Galway