

Shancloon Windfarm Ref Number: PA07.323699

To:

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Re: Objection to Shancloon Wind Farm, Co. Galway (ABP Ref. 323699)

Dear Sir / Madam,

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

I have lived in Kilconly for the past 41 years, and my wife and I raised our family here. We have always valued the strong community spirit, the peace and quiet of the countryside, the clean fresh air, and the beautiful local walks that make this area so special.

This development would, in my view, have a severe and negative impact on the environment, the local community, and on the quality of life of many in our community.

The proposed turbines, which I believe will be around 180m high, would dominate the surrounding landscape and permanently alter the character of the area. From my home, I currently enjoy clear views of Knockma Hill, an important and much-loved local landmark. The presence of these large industrial turbines would completely obstruct this view and destroy the scenic quality of the countryside that defines Kilconly.

I am deeply concerned about the potential impacts of noise and shadow flicker. These effects are known to cause stress, disturbance, and sleep disruption, particularly in quiet rural settings such as ours. The peace and tranquillity of the area would be irreversibly damaged.

The site lies in an area of bog and peatland, which is environmentally sensitive and hydrologically complex. I have personally observed sinkholes developing in nearby areas, and I know that underground rivers run beneath this landscape. Any disturbance from construction or heavy machinery could cause ground instability and pollute groundwater, which many local families rely on. Another concerning issue for me is the massive amount of peat that would need to be extracted to make a network of several kilometres of roadway in connecting each of the turbines throughout the bogland. This will have huge negative impact on the sensitivity of the marshland, and with such disturbance would likely add to more serious flooding in the local and surrounding areas.

When it rains heavily, the natural flood areas rise quickly, flooding local roads. Installing turbines and related infrastructure (such as access roads and cabling) could exacerbate local flooding by altering drainage and water flow patterns.

This area is home to many species of birds and wildlife, including Hen Harriers, swans, and wild geese. These are protected species, and their habitats would be severely disrupted by this development.

There was no meaningful public consultation with the people of Kilconly. I was never informed by the developer, nor did I receive any leaflet or notice about the project. This absence of engagement shows disregard for the local community and makes the application procedurally incomplete. Proper community consultation is a fundamental part of any fair and transparent planning process.

I strongly object to this proposal on the grounds of:

- Unacceptable visual and landscape impact
- Threats to health, peace, and residential amenity
- Environmental risks to peatland, groundwater, and flood management
- Negative impacts on protected species and biodiversity
- Failure of adequate community consultation

I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the Shancloon Wind Farm in order to protect the environment, the integrity of the Kilconly community, and the wellbeing of local residents who have cared for this area for generations.

Yours faithfully,  
Francis Byrne  
Chapel Road,  
Kilconly,  
Tuam  
Co. Galway