

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

Re: Objection to Shancloon Windfarm – ABP Ref. 323699

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm development (ABP Ref. 323699). We are brothers living in Ironpool, less than 900 metres from the proposed site. We have both grown up here and raised our families here. Ironpool is our home, and we are deeply worried about the risks and damage that this development would bring to our area.

We are very concerned about the unknowns – the risks involved not only in the proposed construction on the bog, but also on the local roads which are not suited for this type of heavy traffic. The road we call the New Line will be heavily used by construction traffic if this goes ahead. Gerry once saw a truck loaded with concrete begin to sink simply because it stopped on that road. It gives some idea of how unsuitable it is for the volume and weight of vehicles that would be involved in a project like this.

The developers have not been open or transparent with the local community. Gerry was never contacted directly about the proposal – he only heard about it when a neighbour mentioned it and gave him RWE's number, warning him not to tell anyone. That level of secrecy is completely unacceptable for a project of this scale and potential impact. Michael also had a sound monitor placed in his yard – he has trees, whereas Gerry's yard is open. The developers said the first set of recordings didn't work and had to take two sets. We are left wondering how accurate or fair their noise assessments really are.

We are also very concerned about the potential impact on water quality and drainage. The land around here drains towards Lough Corrib, and any disturbance to the bog or peatland could easily lead to siltation or contamination. As farmers, we face strict rules and inspections on what we can spread on our land, when we can spread it, and how deep we can plough. Yet this proposal – which would involve digging up bogs, pouring massive amounts of concrete, and running construction traffic through the area for months or years – seems to face far fewer restrictions.

We worry too about the level of noise during the construction phase. Between blasting, piling, and heavy machinery, it would be unbearable for anyone living nearby.

We would ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider how any of its members would feel if a development of this scale was proposed less than a kilometre from their own homes, on soft bogland, beside their families and neighbours.

For all these reasons – the danger to local roads and bogs, the risk to water quality, the lack of consultation, and the huge disruption to daily life – we strongly object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm.

We respectfully ask that permission for this development be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Gerry Martyn

Michael Martyn

Cloonteen, Ironpool, Kilconly, Tuam, Co. Galway