

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Malborough Street,
Dublin 1, D01 V902

Re: Shanclon Windfarm

Ref Number: An Bord Pleanála: PA07.323699

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed Shanclon Windfarm development. I live in Cloonaglasha, approximately 900 metres from the nearest proposed turbine. This is my home, and I had always planned to spend my life here. Since hearing about this proposal, I have been deeply stressed and worried about what it will mean for my future and for our small community.

My house is likely within the shadow flicker receptor zone, which means I could experience regular periods where the sun is repeatedly blocked by the turbine blades. This strobing effect would be extremely disruptive and harmful to my wellbeing. I note that in the minutes of a Pre-application consultation meeting (Ref ABP-317307-23) , held on 10/11/2023, it is noted that representatives of An Bord Pleanála 'stated that the prospective applicant must consider the most up to date methodology of the draft Wind Energy Guidelines 2019 and stated that it is not good practice to rely solely on the standards set out Wind Energy Guidelines set out in 2006' . Yet in Chapter 13 of the EIAR, RWE state that they're following the outdated 2006 guidelines (30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day) rather than the draft 2019 guidelines (zero Shadow Flicker policy).

Living less than one kilometre from such large industrial structures would also cause noise disturbance, loss of peace and quiet, and severe visual intrusion. I can already see the turbines in Moycullen from my back door. Moycullen is 45kms away and the turbines are only 150m high. The turbines proposed here will be less than 1km away and 180m high. That's horrifying.

Beyond the day-to-day impacts, I am very concerned about the effect this windfarm would have on property values and future planning permission. It is already known that homes near windfarms can be harder to sell, and mortgage approval can be more difficult to secure. This makes it almost impossible for young people like me to plan a future or invest in our own community.

The mental wellbeing of local residents has been deeply affected by this proposal. There is real fear and anxiety in the area about what this project will bring. The uncertainty alone has caused enormous stress to me and others who had hoped to build our lives here.

I am also very concerned about the removal of peat from the bogs during construction and the increased risk of flooding that could result. Peatlands are fragile, carbon-rich habitats that play a crucial role in absorbing and storing carbon. It seems completely contradictory that a development claimed to help the environment would involve digging up large quantities of peat, releasing carbon into the atmosphere and damaging a vital ecosystem.

The impact on wildlife, especially local bird species, is another serious issue. We regularly see birds such as swans, geese, and other protected species flying over this area. The

turbines would pose a constant collision risk and disrupt their natural habitats and flight paths.

There is also the issue of construction traffic. Our local roads are small, narrow, and normally very quiet. The volume of heavy vehicles required to deliver turbine components and materials would cause major disruption, noise, and damage to road surfaces, not to mention serious safety risks for residents, walkers, and cyclists.

Finally, I would ask a simple question: if wind turbines are meant to help the environment, why destroy natural boglands and rural landscapes to build them? What makes it acceptable to place an industrial-scale windfarm in the middle of a small rural community, putting people's mental and physical wellbeing at risk?

For all of the above reasons I respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the proposed Shancloon Windfarm.

Regards,
Matthew Mangan
Cloonaglasha, Tuam, Co Galway