

An Coimisiún Pleanála(ABP Ref: 323699)
Subject: Objection to the Proposed Shancloon Windfarm

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed Shancloon Windfarm (ABP Ref. 323699).

My name is Michael Lynch, and I live in Bodane, about 2km from the proposed windfarm. I've lived here for 40 years. It's a lovely quiet country area with great neighbours, and I really value the peace and the community we have here.

My main concern is around the tonnes of peat that will be removed and replaced with so much fill and concrete. Peatlands play a crucial role in regulating local water cycles. Their removal can lead to flooding. We live beside the river, which already floods after heavy rain, so this will definitely have an effect. The removal of peatlands will also have a very negative effect on underground water systems.

RWE called to our house once and were told clearly that we were not in favour of any windfarm development. They never spoke to us again, just put leaflets in the letter box. People asked them to hold a public meeting in the evening in Kilconly or Caherlistrane, but they didn't. They held one in Tuam during working hours, when most people could not attend. I've been to all the local community meetings about the proposed development, but RWE never showed up. The only meeting they held was in Tuam, and I couldn't attend because I work all over the country. That is not proper consultation.

All the local wildlife will be affected. There are Hen Harriers living in the proposed windfarm area — everyone around here knows that. They're protected under both Irish and EU law. The Whooper Swans also fly over here every year, migrating from Iceland in October and back again in March or April. They're part of what makes this place special.

I also suffer from asthma, and dust can set off my symptoms. The dust from the excavation and drying of peat and from the fill material could be very harmful for me and others with breathing issues.

We have a beautiful loop walk about 1–2km from the proposed windfarm site. I walk it every day, as do a lot of other people. It's very important for our physical and mental health. The noise and construction traffic over the two years of building would have a huge negative impact on anyone using it.

There's also a blessed well and infant burial ground in Cloonaglasha, beside the river and about 1.5km from the proposed site. It's a sacred place that means a great deal to people here, especially the older generations. If the peatlands are removed and the underground water systems disturbed, that ground could flood, which would be terrible.

This is the wrong location for a windfarm. It has the potential to cause the same kind of disaster that happened in Derrybrien. Most people in the community don't want this to go ahead. Please have regard for what the local people want.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Lynch
Bodane, Tuam, Co. Galway