

Submission to An Comisiún Pleanála

Appellant Names: Micheál Farrell and Josie Farrell

Address: Kilshanvy, Co. Galway, H54 E786

Planning Reference Number: PAX07.323699

Development Proposal: Shancloon Wind Farm

Introduction

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Micheál Farrell and Josie Farrell, are writing to formally lodge our observation/objection regarding the proposed development referenced above. Our family has lived in Kilshanvy for generations, and after a few years in the UK, we returned to our home at Kilshanvy, Co. Galway, seeking the peace and quiet of our rural community. As concerned residents, we wish to outline our serious concerns about the potential impacts of this wind farm development and request that An Comisiún Pleanála consider these points in its review.

Grounds for Submission

- 1. Lack of Engagement from Developer:** We have received no contact whatsoever from the developer regarding this project. This lack of communication has left us feeling disregarded and uninformed about how our concerns might be addressed. Our home is within 2km of Turbine 10, yet we received no visits or literature from the developer. Here are our house details, with respect to Turbine 10 and it can be clearly demonstrated that we live less than 2km of the proposed development.

Eircode	Village	Easting	Northing	Nearest Turbine	Easting	Northing	Distance Home to T10
H54 E786	Kilshanvy	532167.343	757585.47	T10	533136	755860.9	1977.996

The proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application is therefore procedurally flawed due to **non-compliance with statutory Irish and EU obligations governing public participation.**

- 2. Impact on Our Peace and Quiet:** We chose to return to Kilshanvy for its tranquility, but the proposed turbines threaten this. We are particularly worried about turbine noise disrupting our sleep and daily lives. We are deeply concerned for our son, who suffers from anxiety and experiences panic attacks. I fear the constant low-frequency noise from the turbines will worsen his condition, making it difficult for us to maintain a healthy living environment.

3. **Visual and Landscape Destruction:** All 11 turbines will be visible from our property, with the nearest one (T10) only 2km away. This will destroy the natural landscape that has been part of our family's heritage for generations, turning our cherished rural area into an industrial site and diminishing its aesthetic value.
4. **Construction Traffic and Safety Concerns:** I, Josie, enjoy walking and cycling in the area, but the increase in construction traffic poses significant safety risks. Heavy goods vehicles on narrow local roads could endanger pedestrians and cyclists like me, disrupting our ability to safely engage in these activities and meet with our friends and neighbours.
5. **Environmental Impacts:** We have already noticed a loss of biodiversity in our area, and this development will only make it worse. In recent years, we have experienced more flooding on our land due to extreme weather events. Removing peat from the bogs and replacing it with concrete foundations for the turbines will exacerbate flooding risks, potentially causing greater environmental damage and threatening local ecosystems.
6. **Property Devaluation and Our Family's Well-being:** The development will devalue our property, making it harder for our children to continue living in the locality we love. This could force them to relocate, disrupting our community ties and our family's generational connection to Kilshanvy.

Supporting Arguments

The absence of developer engagement violates principles of community consultation in major developments. The application is fundamentally deficient as it fails to adhere to mandatory statutory requirements under Irish planning legislation, binding obligations under **EU Environmental Impact Assessment law**, and internationally recognised public participation standards as implemented through the **Aarhus Convention**. These procedural safeguards are not discretionary; they are essential legal prerequisites for the validity of any decision on Strategic Infrastructure Development. Our concerns align with broader planning considerations under Irish planning policy, including the protection of rural amenities, biodiversity, and community health. We believe this development contravenes several Irish and European laws, such as the **European Habitats Directive**, which requires the protection of species and habitats.

The visual intrusion of large-scale turbines contravenes guidelines on preserving landscape character in sensitive rural areas. Noise pollution from wind farms has been documented to affect sleep and mental health, particularly for vulnerable individuals like our son. Environmentally, peat bog disturbance is known to increase flood risks and carbon emissions, contradicting Ireland's climate goals while harming local wildlife.

Property devaluation near wind farms is a well-recognized issue, impacting long-term community sustainability.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we respectfully request that An Comisiún Pleanála thoroughly reviews our concerns. The proposed wind farm will have significant adverse effects on our family's quality of life, the local environment, community safety, and the cherished landscape we all enjoy. We urge the Board to refuse permission for this project.

Thank You.

Yours sincerely,

Micheál Farrell and Josie Farrell
Kilshanvy, Co. Galway, H54 E786