

To:
The Planning Officer
Galway County Council

Cloonaghmore
Belclare
Tuam
Co. Galway

Subject: Case Reference: 323699 - Objection to the Proposed Wind Farm Development at Shancloon, Co. Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing as a local family to formally object to the proposed wind farm development planned for Shancloon, Co. Galway. As local residents, we wish to express our deep concern about the serious environmental, ecological, and visual impact this project would have on our community and the surrounding natural landscape.

The proposed site lies on an area of bog land, which is a valuable carbon sink that naturally stores carbon and helps in the fight against climate change. The road-building, excavation, and drainage required for the turbine foundations would release much of this stored carbon into the atmosphere, undermining the very climate benefits that wind farms are intended to deliver.

This bog is full of wildlife, frogs, butterflies, birds, and small mammals, they all depend on its wet environment. You can see them every time you walk through the area, which we do regularly. My mother's family has owned bog land there for over 100 years, so we know this land well and have always respected it for the life it supports.

The bog land here has always been a peaceful and beautiful place. We all love it for its quietness, the birds, the wildflowers, and the wildlife that live there. If this large wind farm goes ahead, it will completely change that. Huge turbines and heavy machinery do not belong in such a quiet, natural place.

We understand and support the need for green energy, but placing wind farms on healthy bogs simply does not make sense. When bogs are dug up and drained, the carbon stored in them is released into the air, which makes things worse, not better. We would do far more good for the planet by protecting and restoring bogs instead of destroying them.

The turbines will dominate the skyline, as they already do in many other areas around Ireland. We see them as we drive into Galway, towering over the hills of Connemara, and it is heartbreaking to watch them take over the beautiful scenic views we once loved.

There are already too many wind farms in Galway. Before another one is approved, the Council should carefully consider the effects on the land, the wildlife, and the people who live here. There must be better locations for turbines, areas that are not healthy bogs full of life.

We are also deeply concerned about the risk of fire caused by wind turbines, as seen recently in Tyrone (January 2025) and Fermanagh (October 2025). This risk is especially high on bog land, which is already prone to burning in dry weather. Over the years we have seen local bogs on fire, and the danger to nearby homes is very real and frightening.

Another serious concern is the increased risk of flooding in the area due to the huge amounts of concrete required for turbine bases. This concrete will block the natural drainage channels beneath the bog, pushing water into surrounding areas and potentially increasing flood risk for homes and farmland for miles around.

The local roads are also not designed for the level of heavy traffic which will be used for the construction of the turbines . It would cause significant wear and tear, noise and disruption to everyone in the area and surrounding areas.

We strongly object to the granting of planning permission for the Shancloon Wind Farm. We respectfully ask the Council to **refuse permission** and instead promote the protection and restoration of this bog land as both a carbon sink and a wildlife refuge.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our submission.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Biggin,
Sandra Biggin,
Bridget Shiels,
Patrick Shiels,
Andrew Shiels