

Shanclon Wind Farm – Case Reference PAX07.323699

Introduction

My name is Seán Keady and I live on the Dalgan Road in Shrule with my wife Mary. I am a farmer and our farm in Brackloon lies just across the Black River from the proposed wind farm site. I have lived and farmed in this parish all my life. This is a peaceful rural community that values nature, clean air, farmland, wildlife and a quiet countryside. The proposed Shanclon Wind Farm would destroy all of this and fundamentally change the character and environmental health of our area.

Noise Monitoring Deficiencies

No background noise monitoring was carried out near homes in County Mayo, including Brackloon, where some properties are just 800 metres from Turbine 2. Without onsite measurements, the predicted noise levels are speculative, especially under southerly or easterly winds, which would carry sound towards our homes. This gap in data undermines confidence in the noise modelling and leaves residents here without a reliable assessment.

Site Notices

No planning site notices were displayed in our area, despite some properties being within 800m of Turbine 2. The lack of site notices contravenes Schedule 3 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), which require site notices to be erected in sufficient number and in such positions as to be easily visible and legible by members of the public. The omission means that residents and landowners in this sector were not properly notified of the planning application and were therefore deprived of their statutory right to make informed observations within the consultation period. This procedural failure constitutes a **material defect in the public notice process**, and as such, An Coimisiún Pleanála cannot be satisfied that the application has been validly advertised.

Devaluation of Home & Farmland

No one will want to buy a family home or farm overshadowed by giant turbines and a polluted river. The long-term devaluation of property will affect not only us, but our children and grandchildren. Their inheritance, a home and a farm will be worth far less and offer fewer opportunities for them to remain living and farming locally.

Impact on the Black River, Wildlife & Protected Environment

The Black River runs beside our land and directly between our home and the development site. I am extremely concerned about contamination from construction works, disturbed peat, concrete runoff, fuel spills and chemicals used in the project entering this river.

This river hosts fish and protected bird species and forms part of an important ecological corridor. Under:

- The **EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**, water bodies must be protected from deterioration and pollution.
- The **EU Birds and Habitats Directives** require the safeguarding of habitats for protected species and the avoidance of disturbance or deterioration of their environment.

This project poses a risk of breach of these obligations. Any decline in water quality or loss of river biodiversity would directly violate these environmental protections.

Visual Impact & Loss of Rural Landscape

We were told by the developer **that we would not see the turbines**. This is false. At 180m high, the nearest (Turbine 2) will be less than 2km from our home and will dominate every view from our kitchen and garden.

This would destroy the scenic rural landscape, contrary to:

- **National Landscape Strategy for Ireland (2015–2025)**, which seeks to protect landscape character and heritage
- **Galway County Development Plan (2022-2028)** policies on landscape sensitivity and visual amenity

Industrialising this rural setting is completely inappropriate.

Mental Health & Community Impact

The turbines, noise, lights and environmental destruction would have a lasting effect on the wellbeing of residents. For rural families, our sense of peace, safety and belonging is tied to the land. To take that away is to take away part of our identity and our future.

I worry about my grandchildren growing up beside this industrial development. Children should inherit nature, wildlife and open space, not turbines dominating their homeplace.

Conclusion

This project:

- Risks pollution of the river in breach of EU Water and Habitats Directives.
- Conflicts with national landscape and rural protection policy.
- Harms farming land, wildlife and biodiversity.

- Devalues homes and farmland.
- Was advanced without proper consultation or notification.
- Will permanently destroy the character of this rural parish.

For the sake of environmental protection, farming heritage, rural community wellbeing and future generations, I strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission for the Shancloon Wind Farm.

Yours Sincerely

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