

Colin & Shirley Daly
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Lavally
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H54 W593

The Inspector

An Bord Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street,

Dublin 1,

D01 V902

Co. Dublin.

Bord Pleanála Case reference: PAX07.323761

Wind Farm Comprising of 9 Wind Turbines and Associated Infrastructure.

Located within the townlands of Cloondahamper, Cloonascragh, Elmhill, Cooloo, Lecaros, Dongan Eighter, Lissavally and Slievegorm, Co. Galway.

Dear Inspector,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. We make this submission to highlight our objection on behalf of our young family.

Like most people submitting on this application, we have no real experience in dealing with planning matters. Although we made some effort to learn how to prepare a submission, nothing could have prepared us for the enormous task of reading, digesting, and understanding the MKO application. Our submission therefore does not rely on legal references or planning guidelines, but rather reflects our personal perspective.

The €50 fee has been paid.

We live in the adjacent parish of Clonberne, in the townland of Fortbrowne, located across the fields and bog from Barnadearg/Cooloo.

As many others have noted in their submissions, you are currently evaluating the second of what will likely be seven wind farms visible from our home, the first being the Clonberne Wind Farm (PA07.320089). You, Inspector, are therefore tasked with deciding on the future of our parishes and their inhabitants.

Clonberne is currently awaiting the decision of An Bord Pleanála on the first wind farm in our area (Case Reference: PA07.320089). This represents phase one of two for Clonberne. With bird monitoring ongoing by MKO on two further sites in Kilkerrin, we face the prospect of being surrounded on all sides.

I was born in Fortbrowne and chose to marry and raise my family here. The cumulative effect of concentrating more than 50 turbines in such a small area must be considered—not only from a noise or visual perspective, but also for future generations. Will the children of our small parish choose to remain living in Clonberne, Kilkerrin, Moylough, or Barnadearg?

Visually, the nine proposed turbines—along with those planned in the subsequent phases in Clonberne, Kilkerrin, and the wider northeast Galway area—are entirely out of character with the skylines of the surrounding communities. The addition of nine aviation lights on the Cooloo Wind Farm alone will permanently alter the landscape of our village. From our home we have an unobstructed view across to Moylough, Abbeyknockmoy, Killrerin, and as far as Corofin, where the two existing turbines and their flashing lights are already visible. Much of this area consists of open farmland and bogland, with very little nighttime illumination.

It is our view—and that of most of our fellow parishioners—that Cooloo, Barnadearg, and Clonberne are not suitable locations for wind energy production. What we have here are virgin bogs, pristine natural habitats, woodlands, farms, and homes. The proposed disturbance of these areas and the release of thousands of tonnes of stored CO₂ cannot be adequately mitigated. Projects such as this, along with those in Clonberne and Kilkerrin, are all located on untouched peatland. Should such projects not be required to be genuinely net zero? While we all rely on modern conveniences like the internet and online shopping, the release of enormous quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to supply data centres is, in our view, unacceptable.

We therefore ask that the developer and their consultants, MKO, provide the Board and the community of Cooloo/Barnadearg with the full carbon calculations for this project. What is the total carbon cost, and in which year of operation will the project become net zero and begin delivering a genuine environmental benefit?

We also note from the planning application that provision for dealing with a potential battery storage fire is inadequate. The recent battery fire at the now-defunct Xerotech facility in Claregalway—and the resulting evacuation of thousands of people from schools, offices, and homes—has highlighted a clear lack of preparedness, training, and understanding in managing large-scale battery fires. We respectfully request that the Board ensure that a comprehensive plan is in place to address such an incident. This plan should include effective fire suppression measures, management of contaminated run-off water, and clear procedures to ensure the safety of the local community—including the nearby national school—from toxic emissions released during such fires.

As with the Clonberne application, we have found community engagement to be minimal. In Clonberne we are less than 1 km from the grid connection and associated infrastructure yet received no communication from MKO or Clonberne Wind Farm. In Cooloo, being outside the 2 km notification zone, we did not expect direct consultation, but the public information provided has again been minimal. While public engagement is considered best practice rather than a legal requirement, meaningful participation from MKO and Cooloo Wind Farm might at least help to address the concerns of local residents. Furthermore, we wish to highlight the importance of transparent and regular communication throughout the planning and operational phases of this project. Open dialogue between developers, local authorities, and residents is essential to foster trust, address anxieties, and ensure that community voices are genuinely heard. Proactive engagement—including timely updates, public meetings, and accessible feedback channels—would demonstrate a genuine commitment to partnership and responsibility.

We understand from previous wind farm decisions that health impacts fall outside the Inspector's direct remit. However, most available data relates to single turbines, not clusters or cumulative effects. Our genuine concern relates to inaudible, low-frequency sound phenomena such as amplitude modulation. Surely the onus is on the Inspector to request further studies and clarity on this issue before making a judgment that could affect people's health.

Does the Planning Act not grant the Inspector the authority to seek such information?

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Yours faithfully,

Colin and Shirley Daly

Colin Daly

Shirley Daly