

An Coimisiún PLEANÁLA

Case Reference: PAX91.323780

Submission Date: 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Final Date for Submissions: 18th November 2025

Submission by: Anthony and Bernadette Daly

Tullyra, Ballinlee North,

Bruff, Co. Limerick

Eircode: V35RX27

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**Subject: Objection to Proposed Wind Turbine Development by Ballinlee Green Energy Co Limerick**

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Anthony and Bernadette Daly, wish to formally object to the proposed wind turbine development referenced above. We are residents of Ballinlee North and live in a recently constructed home completed in April 2024. Three generations of our family live in this area, and we are extremely concerned about the detrimental impact this **industrial-scale** development would have on our health, quality of life, environment, property, and local infrastructure.

We outline our key concerns below:

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**1. Health and Noise Concerns**

We are a retired couple in our 70s with significant, ongoing health conditions, including cancer, asthma, neurological issues, and cardiac concerns. Regular medical treatment and rest are crucial to our wellbeing.

- **Proximity of Turbines**: We have been informed by Ballinlee Green Energy that the closest turbine—160 metres high from the base—will be 790 metres from our home, with 11 other turbines each approximately 300–400 metres further away. Given that studies recommend a minimum setback of 1.5 km from residential properties to mitigate health risks, we believe this proximity poses a serious threat to our health. If the nearby Garrane application is successful as well as Ballinlee – the cumulative impact will be even greater.
  - **Shadow Flicker**: The anticipated shadow flicker from 17 turbines (12 to the south and 5 to the northwest of us) is deeply concerning. **Our home, V35RX27, has not been included in the shadow flicker assessment which was carried out by the applicant. This is a significant oversight.**
  - **Noise Pollution**: We have been advised that turbines produce low-frequency and infrasound noise, which can disrupt sleep and aggravate existing health conditions. This is particularly the case **when more than one turbine** is emitting noise towards our property. We believe this will significantly degrade our quality of life, particularly as we age.
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## **2. Environmental and Wildlife Impact**

Ballinlee North is a biodiverse rural area and a haven for wildlife. In 2015 the United Nations created 17 'Sustainable Development Goals', Goal 15 is about 'Life on Land'. The official wording is **"Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt biodiversity loss"** The goal has 12 targets to be achieved by 2030. Is this important? We think so.

The development poses a direct threat to local habitats, particularly affecting swans including hooper swans, owls, bats, hares, badgers, and foxes. This area is a migratory area from Galway to Kerry, particularly for birds and swans.

- The area contains low-lying, wet land, which supports wetlands and woodland ecosystems that will be permanently disrupted by the proposed construction and infrastructure. **The loss of biodiversity will be immeasurable and everlasting if the development goes ahead.**
  - Furthermore, we are concerned about the long-term impact on protected or sensitive species and watercourses in this area.
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## **3. Visual and Landscape Impact**

- The turbines' industrial scale—each reaching 160 metres in height—will dominate the local landscape.
  - From our home, we currently enjoy unobstructed views of our own land, the Ballyhoura Hills and the Galtee Mountains, which will undoubtedly be visually compromised by this development.
  - A nearby standing stone, two castles, hillforts, burial grounds, and Bronze Age cremation site will be affected - that is in our own area alone. In recent years Limerick City and County Council made it very clear that planning permission for a house near the standing stone - 150 metres away - would be challenged by the Council's archaeologist if the application went ahead. The applicant at the time withdrew the application. He subsequently applied for permission at another location.
  - **What other archaeological features of our heritage will be forever damaged by this huge development if it goes ahead?**
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## **4. Infrastructure and Road Safety Concerns**

**Ballinlee Road, a narrow cul-de-sac measuring approximately 3 metres wide, is wholly unsuitable for construction or maintenance traffic.**

- At our meeting with Ballinlee Green Energy on 26th August 2025, we were told that construction related vehicles **might** use Ballinlee Road during construction. No confirmation was given regarding the use of trucks specifically.
- This lack of clarity is unacceptable. The road is already under pressure from local business traffic, and increased use would threaten road safety, particularly for our grandchildren and other pedestrians.

- The road's water infrastructure is over 40 years old and suffers from regular leaks. Increased heavy traffic will only worsen this issue, leading to more frequent interruptions of supply and costly repairs.
- Following construction, regular access to the proposed substation, office, and mast at the end of Ballinlee Road will continue to place strain on local infrastructure for many years to come, if allowed.
- During the grid construction phase, there will be massive disruption on the R516, L1412, R512, L1170. We regularly travel these routes and the times taken to travel to and from Limerick will be greatly impacted by this. **More concerning is the impact this will have for emergency services. Whether the Fire Brigade or Ambulance Services**, time is of the essence where minutes can be the difference between life and death. The R512 and R516 are regional roads with limited width and any build-up of traffic due to stop/go systems can have a detrimental effect on the outcome for a possible emergency.
- **There is a private Group Water Scheme on Ballinlee road. It starts at the top of this road and ends at Ballinrea. The houses after that have their own wells to supply water. The supply for the scheme is adequate but it does not have good pressure. The proposed substation is a half of one km further down this cul de sac from the end of the private scheme. There is no mains water supply near this proposed site. What will happen if there is a fire at the substation?**

**Access to Ballinlee road for construction traffic must be strictly prohibited.**

This is to protect the safety of residents, prevent damage to aging infrastructure, and preserve the character of this beautiful area.

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## **5. Planning and Property Impact**

- We believe our property, which we only moved into in April 2024, will be significantly devalued by this development.
- **The turbines will encircle our home**, with twelve to the south, the first of which will be just 790 metres away from us (That is from its base – the arms of the turbine will be even closer to our property) and there will be five other turbines starting approximately 1.5 km to the north west of our home.
- We were not made aware of these development plans when building the property, despite their having apparently been in planning for years.
- As a farming family, we are concerned that this development will restrict future planning applications for farm buildings and may sterilise our land for any future agricultural development.

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## **6. Discrepancy in Application Details**

- The planning application states that the development is 4 km west of Bruff. **This statement is untrue, misleading and requires clarification.** This may be the distance to the site entrance, but **the turbines themselves are much closer—starting at 1.484 kms from the town of Bruff.**

- The applicant has stated that feedback forms were given to people who had meetings with the Ballinlee Green Energy representatives. We were offered no such form at the end of our meeting with them. We have yet to meet anyone else who was offered a feedback form. This is also misleading.
  - None of our concerns were taken seriously at the meeting despite the fact that we put a huge amount of work into our preparation for the meeting. We felt that the meeting was 'window dressing' to give the impression of meaningful engagement and consultation with the residents affected by this development. It did not inspire confidence in the supposed consultation process.
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## **7. Lack of Meaningful Community Engagement**

- Despite assurances of community partnership from Ballinlee Green Energy, there has been minimal real engagement.
  - The company declined to attend a full community meeting, instead offering only private meetings with small groups of residents and individuals.
  - The use of the name "Ballinlee Green Energy" does not reflect community ownership or involvement. Very few of those behind the project live locally, yet they stand to benefit financially at the expense of residents like ourselves.
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## **Conclusion**

We strongly urge An Coimisiun Pleanála to consider the cumulative negative impact this development will have on:

Public health and wellbeing, Road safety and local infrastructure, Environmental, wildlife and nearby heritage sites, Visual landscape and rural character, Property values and land use, **Community cohesion, and trust in planning processes.**

**We respectfully request that this application be refused.**

**We request an oral hearing** in relation to this windfarm application for the reasons outlined above. In particular, the proximity that the turbines will have to our home and our family's land in Ballinlee North, in Camas South and in Camas North. The impact on Lough Gur, an architectural and archaeological site of international importance as well as the scale of the project and the impact it will have on us, the local community.

Yours faithfully,

**Anthony and Bernadette Daly.**

"Tullyra"

Ballinlee North,

Bruff,

Co. Limerick. V35RX27.