

Personal Statement- Brendan and Siobhan Meany.

Regarding the Proposed Wind Turbine Development in Ballinlee.

We, Brendan and Siobhan Meany, are long-standing residents of Crawford Street, Bruff, Co.Limerick. We are writing to express our deep personal concerns about the proposed wind turbines development at Ballinlee and the significant impact it would have on our family, our safety, and the future we hope to build for our children.

Our family has strong ties in the community, and our children have grown up enjoying its quiet rural character and safe outdoor environment. One of the most important parts of their daily life is riding their ponies on the local rural roads and laneways. These routes have always provided a safe, calm space for them to enjoy exercise, build confidence, and engage with their surroundings.

The introduction of industrial-scale wind turbines, with their considerable height, movement, noise output, and shadow flicker, poses a real and substantial risk to their safety. Horses are highly sensitive animals and can be startled by sudden visual or auditory disturbances. Given the narrow rural roads and lack of safe escape space, a spooked horse could have serious or even life-threatening consequences for a child rider. This development would fundamentally alter our children's ability to safely enjoy an activity that is central to their wellbeing and daily life.

We are also concerned about the long-term implications for our family's future. As landowners, we had always hoped that our children would be able to build a home on our land when they were older, allowing them to remain part of the community where they were raised. With the scale and proximity of the proposed turbines, this may no longer be an option. The industrial nature of the development would undermine the residential suitability of the site and could prevent any future planning permission for a family home. This potential loss of opportunity is deeply distressing and would significantly impact our children's future connection to their home place.

Beyond these personal concerns, we value the strong sense of community, heritage, and rural identity in this area. This development threatens those essential qualities. The local community is not merely a backdrop to our lives — it is the foundation of who we are and how we live. We feel that the scale and nature of this project fails to respect the people, families, and traditions that define this place.

For these reasons, we strongly object to the proposed wind turbine development at Ballinlee and ask that the planning authority consider the real and lasting personal impacts it would impose on our family and our future.

Signed,

Brendan and Siobhán Meany
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FORMAL OBJECTION LETTER

Proposed Wind Turbine Development at Ballinlee Case Number 323780

Brendan and Siobhán Meany
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Date: _____18/11/2005_____

Planning Department
[Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála]
[Address]

Re: Objection to Proposed Wind Turbine Development at Ballinlee

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. Environmental Impact & Insufficient EIA Assessment

This development constitutes a large-scale industrial installation in a rural landscape and must therefore meet the highest standards under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU). However, the information provided does not demonstrate adequate baseline ecological studies, full seasonal bird and bat surveys, hydrology and soil assessments, cumulative impact analysis, or consideration of reasonable alternatives.

2. Impact on Wildlife & Protected Habitats

Wind energy developments risk significant adverse effects on Annex I bird species, protected bat species, and local habitats. The Birds and Habitats Directives require a precautionary approach. If data are incomplete, the legal test of "beyond reasonable scientific doubt" cannot be met.

3. Cumulative & Long-Term Environmental Effects

The proposal fails to assess cumulative impacts arising from other wind farms, grid works, habitat fragmentation, and combined noise/visual effects.

4. Impact on Landscape, Visual Amenity, and Rural Character

Turbines up to 150–170m would dominate the skyline, permanently altering the rural landscape, reducing tranquillity, and conflicting with local development policies.

5. Community Wellbeing, Noise, Shadow Flicker & Safety

The documentation does not convincingly address noise, shadow flicker, lighting, road safety, or health impacts.

6. Personal Impact – Equestrian Safety for My Children

My children regularly hack out on their ponies on local rural roads. Turbine noise, blade movement, shadow flicker, and construction traffic present real dangers by potentially startling horses. The narrow local roads leave no safe margin should a horse spook, posing a significant safety risk.

7. Additional Personal Impact – Future Housing for My Children

We own a site that could support future homes for our children, but the industrial scale and proximity of turbines may render residential planning permission impossible, limiting their ability to remain within their home community.

8. Community Values & Social Impact

The development is incompatible with the local rural character, risks social division, and undermines heritage, cohesion, and recreation.

9. Legislative and Case-Law Considerations

Concerns arise regarding compliance with the Planning and Development Act, the EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directives, and recent High Court rulings requiring full EIA and AA compliance.

Request

I respectfully request refusal of permission based on the above grounds. If refusal is not granted, a fully revised EIAR and NIS with independent ecological assessment, cumulative analysis, alternatives assessment, and full public consultation should be required.

Conclusion

The proposed wind turbine development would cause irreversible environmental damage, threaten wildlife, alter the rural landscape, endanger children on horseback, and undermine future family housing options. I urge the planning authority to refuse permission.

Yours sincerely,

Brendan and Siobhán Meany