

Mortgage,
Meanus,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick
V35T382

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902
Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 17.11.25

Re: 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, underground electric cabling systems between the wind farm site and connection point at existing Killonan 220/110kV substation, and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To Whom It May Concern,

We, Brid and Michael Foster, write in connection with the above listed planning application at Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

Our family has been rooted in this parish for generations. My husband was born and reared here in Meanus, and I have lived here since 1979. We have raised our family in the Bruff/Grange/Meanus community, watched our grandchildren grow here, and have both been deeply involved in local organisations, community events, and parish development for decades. This is not just where we live – it is our home, our identity, and our community.

We wish to object strongly to this proposal and ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

The proximity and impact this will have on Lough Gur, an architectural and archaeological site of international importance, and the impact on our Golden Vale's high value landscape along, and poor wind resource, this site is totally unsuitable for a wind farm of this scale to be situated here. The scale of the project and the pattern of population distribution which will have a widespread profoundly negative impact on our local community and way of life.

Some of our summarised observations and concerns are as follows:

1. Lifelong Connection to the Parish

Our ties to this land stretch across generations. We have seen Bruff/Grange/Meanus grow into a thriving parish full of families, farms, community groups, sporting organisations, and a deeply active civic culture. Our children attended Bruff National School and our grandchildren have

and will in the future. This project threatens the safety, health, and future of the very community we helped build.

2. Serious Safety Risks for Bruff National School

The proximity of turbines, haul routes, and borrow pits to Bruff National School is unacceptable. The current bus drop-off is already dangerous due to roadside unloading. The introduction of abnormal loads, cranes, HGVs, turbine components, and concrete trucks onto the same roads places schoolchildren at significant and unnecessary risk. TII Traffic & Transport guidelines clearly state that developments must avoid major construction traffic near schools. This proposal breaches that principle.

3. Impacts on Children with Additional Needs

Bruff National School has many pupils with autism, sensory challenges, and additional needs. These children are particularly vulnerable to noise, vibration, shadow flicker, and unpredictable construction activity. The WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018) identify children as highly sensitive and requiring special protection. The IHREC Equality & Human Rights Duty obliges authorities to protect vulnerable groups, yet the EIAR fully ignores these pupils.

4. Community Wellbeing & Human Rights

Residents have a right to safety, health, and peaceful enjoyment of home, as protected under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Industrial turbines of nearly 200m in height placed into a densely populated parish directly interfere with this right. They introduce persistent noise, visual dominance, and health risks that undermine quality of life.

5. Rural Roads Becoming More Dangerous

Our rural roads are narrow, winding, and already carry mixed-use traffic. The construction route will not only bring major HGV movements but will also push other drivers onto smaller local roads to avoid congestion. The EIAR fails to assess this displacement. These roads are used daily by local residents, school buses, farmers, walkers, cyclists, and runners. Our daughter regularly runs and cycles these roads, and she also trains with An Brú Athletic Club, which uses these routes extensively. This development places her safety—and the safety of all road users—at risk.

6. Impacts on Farming – Our Family’s Heritage

Farming is central to our family life. Our grandson is studying Agricultural Science and hopes to farm in the local area. Industrial wind developments fragment land, disrupt livestock, reduce viable grazing areas, and create hazards for tractors and machinery. This contradicts the National Planning Framework’s requirement to protect rural economies and Ireland’s Just Transition commitment that rural communities must not be left behind.

7. Dust, Vibration & Borrow Pits

The proposed borrow pits are effectively quarries. They generate dust, particulates, vibration, and noise, and present significant safety hazards. The EIAR fails to assess the impacts on infants, children, or vulnerable individuals, despite clear EPA EIAR (2022) requirements and WHO respiratory-health guidance. Homes and school routes near these pits would be placed at unacceptable risk.

8. Noise, Shadow Flicker & Health

The EIAR uses outdated noise standards and avoids WHO 2018 limits. It does not assess low-frequency noise, amplitude modulation, or night-time sleep disturbance. Shadow flicker effects—especially for children with sensory sensitivities—are underexamined. These omissions are serious and undermine the credibility of the assessment.

9. Cumulative Impact – A Major Planning Failure

There are existing, permitted, and proposed wind farms within the wider region. EPA EIAR Guidelines (2022) require full cumulative assessment. This has not been meaningfully done. Residents are expected to endure cumulative noise, traffic, and visual impacts as the area becomes industrialised.

10. If This Proposal Gets the Green Light, Many Others Will Follow – Our Parish Will Be Surrounded

We are deeply concerned that granting permission for this wind farm will create a dangerous planning precedent. Already, multiple wind energy zones exist or are emerging within the region. If this proposal proceeds, it is inevitable that additional turbine clusters will follow. This parish risks becoming encircled by industrial turbines, permanently altering the landscape, disrupting rural life, and overshadowing the community for future generations.

11. Threat to Community Identity, Heritage & Social Fabric

We have both spent decades contributing to local organisations, fundraising efforts, community events, and parish development. This project disregards the social, cultural, and community value of the area. A close-knit rural parish is not an appropriate location for industrial-scale energy infrastructure.

12. Request for Full Refusal

We respectfully urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse permission in full due to unacceptable impacts on:

- school safety
- vulnerable children and equality obligations
- farming livelihoods and rural sustainability
- human health and wellbeing
- road safety and active travel
- cumulative environmental burden
- community identity and rural landscape

Our parish must not be sacrificed for private profit.

We strongly and respectfully urge that this development be rejected for the reasons outlined above.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Kind Regards,

Brid & Michael Foster

References:

Environmental Protection Agency (2022) Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. EPA, Wexford.

World Health Organization (2018) Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region. WHO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (2014) Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines. TII Publications.

Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2014) Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. Government of Ireland.

Council of Europe (1950) European Convention on Human Rights. Article 8 – Right to Respect for Private and Family Life.

Government of Ireland (2018) Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework. Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Government of Ireland (2013) Healthy Ireland Framework 2013–2025. Department of Health.

Government of Ireland (2019) National Sports Policy 2018–2027. Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.