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V35 D898

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date:

Re: 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrour, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

I wish to respectfully object for the following reasons:

I have been reared in this area my whole life. It is our little slice of heaven. Life as we know it will forever be impacted by this development as it will take away our beautiful peace and quiet. I work in a job that requires me to work night shift. I am concerned at how this will affect my sleep pattern during the day as the construction will take place daily. The noise pollution created will not only interrupt my well needed sleep it will also affect many other necessities of

everyday life. The turbines may have an adverse effect on our Wi-Fi signal which is not adequate at the moment. I am interested in going back into further education and I am afraid of what this proposed wind farm will do to my prospects of further education and how it will impact it. We also fear that should this proposal go forward, we will not be any closer to obtaining fibre broadband which has been promised to us in the next year or so. As a prospective college student who wishes to further my education this is not ideal. Should these turbines be erected there is a very real fear that this will incur many incidences in the future including the possibility of not attending college and possible work interruptions. My work is currently encouraging conducting meetings and doing work presentations from home, so an uninterrupted Wi-Fi signal is key for these.

As someone who suffers grievously from my mental health, I am incredibly worried and stressed about what the future holds. The proposed plans do not provide any comfort only increased stress, and it is taking a toll on my mental health. I enjoy taking my dog for long walks to help my mental and physical wellbeing, which includes passing by the proposed wind turbine site. The turbines will bring both visual and noise pollution which poses dangers to both the environment and people's lives. There is also no study on how wind turbines can and will affect our pets in the area. There is a real fear that our pets may develop new behavioural changes which includes no longer wanting to go outside nor wanting to go on walks as the noise is too much for them to handle. The building of the turbines will also affect them as the noise from the constructing of them and the stress of strange people in the vicinity will cause them undue stress. Our pet's safety is paramount and should be considered also. Especially, when they keep us safe and are great for helping to ease the stress we already have from everyday life.

I will most definitely be affected by this proposed development as the noise from the turbines and the noise that will be created by the volume of HGV'S on our narrow roads will be unnatural. There will also be substantial noise coming from the erecting of these Turbines and the running of them. Undoubtedly, this will also impact my quality of living, my right to rest and my right to peace in my home. It is quite concerning that this should be allowed in an area where there are many residents especially elderly people, Autistic children and numerous wildlife habitats.

I look forward to coming home to peace and quite with no shadow flicker and loud unnatural noise. It will directly affect my mental and physical health and wellbeing. The EIAR does not

provide receptor specific noise assessments or consider the WHO Environmental noise guidelines. My family members do a lot of volunteer work in a mental health charity that is Limerick Treaty Suicide Prevention and after dealing with vulnerable and distressed people and after possibly pulling people from the River Shannon, they look forward to coming home to the peace and quiet the countryside provides.

The EIAR treats human health mainly as physical exposure and omits psychological wellbeing, despite WHO 2018 guidance linking environmental noise to sleep disturbance. Annoyance and reduced quality of life. No assessment of long-term mental health impacts from visual intrusion, flicker or noise has been provided. It is also very disappointing that we have not been consulted by the developers about this proposed development as we are in close proximity to this wind farm, and we will undoubtedly be affected gravely by it. There is also a proposed wind turbine farm proposed for more local areas, and this will have a cumulative effect. Our area will be damaged and forever changed by these proposed developments should they go ahead and I fear for the future of our countryside and our collective mental and physical wellbeing.

I have been blessed to have grown up in this area. My childhood was spent walking these fields with my parents as they pointed out to me the vast wildlife that share their homes in the area with us. Some of which include the barn owl, mink, badger, foxes, stoats, hedgehogs, bat, hooper swans, the kestrel, the cuckoo, the crane's, the field voles, swallows, the sterling's, the swifts, the pheasant's and the frogs. I believe the EIAR fails to access correctly the huge range of wildlife we have, the risk of wildlife Wipeout locally is high with the proposal of these large wind turbines. The EIAR omits winter surveys and fails to assess whooper swans that are regularly overserved in my area. This breaches the obligations under the EU birds and Habitat directives. I have also noted on my many mental health walks that there have been unknown persons in my area and on the proposed site of the wind turbines trying to herd the whooper swans away from their natural resting spot. This is grossly unethical as it highlights the gross misconduct with interfering with nature. This is a case of environmental degradation through human interference.

My parents have a private well on our land. The EIAR does not have well mapping included in their report ("Chapter 9: Hydrology doesn't assess private wells"), nor do they include any contingency plans for the folks who do have private wells on their properties. Not only are the developers neglecting the residents of the locality and their valued input into such a proposal

they are also neglecting to acknowledge the subsequent damage and knock on effects of this proposal to our private properties. Excavation for turbines foundations and the 110kV cable may alter groundwater flow, affecting wells and field drainage. Under EPA guidance, baseline well testing, and protection measures are required before consent.

As of the week beginning the 10th of November our area experienced rainfall that once again burst the banks of the Morning Star river. In particular on the 13th and 14th of November, which is shown in the images below, suffered from heavy rainfall. This is not unusual as our area has been known to flood for many years now and is now expected annually. In image 1 below this shows the path that many residents take for their walks. As you can see the surrounding fields are also flooded. Image 2 shows how close the river is to the road and how it can rise and burst its banks after considerable rainfall.

I wish to also object to this proposed development as it is stated that there will be severe traffic impacts. Our road is quite narrow. The volume of traffic has increased considerably. Our road is narrow as mentioned earlier and not only will there be noise pollution created there will also be traffic delays on our road because of this. The EIAR fails to properly assess the peak times the local schools, GAA match and training traffic and the local farm vehicles that are already on the road and cause considerable tailbacks. The roads in my area are narrow they are not suitable for high powered HGVs that weight a considerable tonne. It will also cause many people to have to adjust to their already tight schedules for using this road. This will directly danger the many residents who also walk on my roads, including myself and my family.

The land which as I mentioned has been a sense of peace and tranquillity is in danger of losing its beautiful landscape and visual splendour which I have had the pleasure of growing up and viewing. It is incredible to think that people wish to eradicate this and do not seem to care about the effect it will have on the residents who have lived here all their lives. This area has been a cornerstone for many ecological biodiversity species. It would be cruel and unnatural to interfere with nature and her wishes. These species share their homes with us and trust us to keep them safe and not encroach on their habitats. I strongly object to this proposal and all that it entails. It will be the ruination of a tranquil and idyllic countryside that has given so much to the residents and their families.



Image 1



Image 2