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Limerick City and County Council
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17 November 2025

**Formal Objection to the Proposed Wind Energy Development at Ballinlee, Bruff
Reference ACP 25/323780 | PAX91 323780 | Case Reference PC 91.320745**

As an elected member for the area I wish to formally object to the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) for a Wind Energy installation at Ballinlee, Bruff.

This proposed development is excessive in scale, inappropriate for the location, and poses significant environmental, social, cultural, and infrastructural risks.

My specific grounds for objection are as follows:

1. Proximity to Bruff Town & Residential Amenity

The proposed turbine locations fail to meet the principles of proper planning and sustainable development as outlined in:

- Section 34(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) – regarding adequate separation distances from dwellings
- The turbines are far too close to Bruff town, creating unacceptable impacts on residential amenity, privacy, and noise exposure

2. Noise Levels & Health Impacts (Including Children with ADHD)

Concerns relate to continuous mechanical and low-frequency noise. Under:

- EPA Environmental Noise Regulations (2006)

- WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region (2018)

There is particular concern that vulnerable individuals, including children with ADHD or sensory sensitivity, may be disproportionately affected.

3. Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker impacts must comply with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines.

The proposed turbine locations raise serious concerns regarding:

- Visual disturbance
- Health impacts for sensitive occupants
- Compliance with the maximum allowable flicker duration (30 hours per year)

4. Inadequate Setback Distance

The proposed housing separation distances do not meet best-practice standards or international safety guidelines. Under proper planning and sustainable development principles, this is unacceptable. This raises serious concerns regarding noise levels, shadow flicker, and visual dominance of which reduce quality of life for affected households.

Total houses within 1 KM of a turbine – 179

Primary school with 2 autism classes, preschool and afterschool are approx 1.6 KM from the site.

5. Biodiversity & Environmental Impact

Under the:

- EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
- EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)
- Planning and Development Act 2000 – Environmental Impact Assessment provisions

The development will significantly impact local habitats, wildlife corridors, and an ecologically rich agricultural zone. The EIA documentation fails to provide sufficient mitigation for these risks.

6. Traffic Disruption & Construction Phase Impacts

The proposal involves major construction works and 22 km of underground cabling along local roads and the R512 to Kilonan Power Station. Under:

- Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (TII, 2014)

The traffic impact is unacceptable on already constrained rural roads, posing risks to road users, residents, and essential local services.

7. Proximity to Lough Gur & Stone Circle Archaeological Sites

This site lies within close proximity to Lough Gur and associated archaeological monuments, protected under:

- National Monuments Acts 1930–2014
- Heritage Act 1995
- County Development Plan – Built Heritage & Archaeology Objectives

Industrial-scale turbines threaten the cultural, archaeological, and tourism value of this region of national significance.

8. Insufficient Turbine Spacing & Layout Issues

The layout appears non-compliant with safe operational spacing standards, risking turbulence and potential structural strain on turbine components.

Ref: Submission from Con Sheehan, Land Surveyor/Fellow Society of Charters Surveyors,

Ireland.

9. Excessive Height – 160 Metres

At 160m, these turbines would dominate the Golden Vale landscape and be visible across a wide area of the county. The height is inconsistent with maintaining the visual amenity standards set out in:

- County Development Plan Scenic Landscape Protection Objectives

10. Restrictions on Future Planning

This development would impose constraints on future residential and agricultural planning within the wider area, contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the community.

11. Insufficient Community Consultation

Community awareness and public engagement are explicit requirements of the SID process under the:

- Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006

The level of engagement has been inadequate and no public meetings were held.

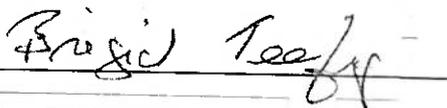
Conclusion

I also urge that the HSE and all other relevant statutory agencies be fully consulted in relation to this application, particularly regarding potential health, environmental, and community impacts.

I respectfully request that the above concerns outlined be fully taken into consideration in the assessment of this application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



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