

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

Holycross,
Grange,
Kilmallock.
Co.Limerick
V35DY90

Case Reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 16TH November 2025,

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, Camass North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To whom it may concern,

I Collette Cooney 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.

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application for the construction of a wind farm at the above locations. While I recognise the importance of renewable energy and the need to transition towards sustainable sources, I believe this particular proposal is unsuitable for the following reasons:

1. Visual and Landscape Impact

The proposed turbines would significantly alter the character of the surrounding landscape, - Lough Gur and surrounding areas, which has many historical sites and visited by many tourists from both Ireland and abroad. The size and visibility of wind turbines would dominate the skyline, detracting from the area's natural beauty and negatively affecting local residents and visitors. It will feel intrusive and stop our beautiful landscape as this was one of the reasons we choose the location of our home.

2. Impact on Residential Amenity

The proximity of the wind turbines to residential properties will likely result in noise disturbance and shadow.

My objection is primarily based on serious concerns regarding potential adverse health impacts on my family and myself and the tight knit community/residents near the proposed site. It will certainly devalue my property and the surrounding properties in my area and if any of my family were to build near me, planning permission would not be allowed I'm sure. It would certainly break the family unit.

The construction of wind turbines and substation and associated grid connection routes will disrupt local roads, making it difficult for people to get to and from work, college and school.

3 Noise and Low-Frequency Sound

Numerous studies have reported that wind turbines generate low-frequency noise (infrasound), which can travel significant distances and is not always adequately mitigated by standard noise assessments. Prolonged exposure to this type of noise has been linked to sleep disturbance, headaches, tinnitus, and increased stress levels. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified environmental noise as a significant threat to public health.

4. Shadow Flicker and Light Intrusion

The rotating blades can cause shadow flicker, which can lead to nausea, dizziness, and migraines for susceptible individuals. This is particularly concerning for households situated within 1-2 km of the proposed turbines. For me this is an issue, as I myself suffer from migraines and my home is my place of peace, quiet and darkness so as to help me alleviate from this issue. This will all change if wind turbines will be situated in my area.

5. Psychological and Physiological Impacts

There is growing evidence that persistent turbine noise can cause chronic sleep deprivation, leading to secondary health effects such as hypertension, anxiety, and impaired cognitive performance. These are not trivial issues and should be properly evaluated before any approval is granted. My daughter who is 18 years of old can often suffer from lack of sleep due to her asthma attacks and severe hay fever. The noise will certainly not help her to stay asleep when she does get a straight sleep throughout the night. This broken sleep can affect her concentration in college and if wind turbines will be erected in our area it certainly will cause huge adverse to her physical and mental health. My son who is 15 years of age also suffers very bad hay fever throughout certain times of the year and when he tries to go to sleep any noise can prevent him from having a good night's rest and sleep, as often he may have to get up at night and clear his nose as is often blocked up with nasal mucus. He also suffers from attention deficit and anxiety and that is the main reason why we moved out to the country so as he could have plenty of quiet calming time and to prevent him from becoming irritable. The noise off the wind turbines will certainly not help with his mental health. Sleep deprivation will prevent him from achieving his full academic potential. These are not trivial issues for my family.

6. Environmental and Wildlife Concerns

The development site is near local wildlife areas, habitats, and protected species, from grey geese, that return to Canada each winter, whooper swans, barn owls, bats, merlin, kestrel, brent geese and many other such birds Hen Harriers are often sighted in my area which are

on my side of the lake of Lough Gur. As we know **Hen Harriers** are one of the country's rarest birds of prey due to a significant population decline and installing huge windfarms will certainly help to decline even further. During the winter period the numbers of birds increase significantly with regular sightings of widgeon, teal, pilchard and shovelled. Smaller numbers of goldeneye and shelduck can also be seen. Sparrow hawks are a resident species at the back of our garden in the field and surrounding area around us as well as peregrine falcons. At the back and the front of our house each night, foxes, hedgehogs, pine martins, badgers and many other such wild life are seen passing. This will all be taken away from us as their habitats will be removed. The installation and operation of wind turbines **will threaten** local bird and bat populations, as well as disrupt other wildlife habitats. This development is **poorly located** and would cause **irreversible harm to wildlife habitats and protected species**. I therefore request that the Council **refuse planning permission** and use an alternative site where it will avoid these ecological sensitivities. Wind turbines are known to pose collision risks to birds and bats and can cause habitat fragmentation and displacement from feeding or nesting grounds. These impacts would directly conflict with policies in:

- **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – Section 15 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment)**
- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**
- **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations)**

The construction of wind turbine bases, access roads, and cable trenches will permanently remove or degrade peatland, hedgerows, and woodland edges. This will reduce biodiversity connectivity between habitats. Peatland disturbance may also release stored carbon, undermining the claimed climate benefits of the project. Ireland is trying to reduce carbon emissions and not increase carbon emissions.

The construction of wind turbines, particularly on elevated or bog land areas, often requires extensive groundworks including road construction, deep foundations, and cable trenching. These activities can disturb the soil structure, remove vegetation cover, and increase the potential for erosion. This is especially concerning in areas with peat or fragile soils, where disturbance can lead to long-term degradation, sediment run-off, and water pollution in nearby streams and rivers. In addition, soil erosion can contribute to increased flooding risk downstream and the release of stored carbon from peatlands—undermining the project's claimed environmental benefits. It is unclear from the application whether a comprehensive **Soil and Hydrology Impact Assessment** has been conducted, or how the developer intends to mitigate these risks effectively.

Wind turbine construction and maintenance often involve substantial groundwork, including soil excavation, road building, and heavy machinery use. Such activities can lead to **soil compaction, erosion, drainage disruption, and potential contamination from construction materials or lubricants**. These impacts may reduce the land's fertility and long-term capacity to support crops or grazing.

Furthermore, alterations to local microclimates and changes in groundwater flow could affect soil moisture balance, further influencing the ability of farmers and growers to maintain productive agricultural land. Given Ireland's reliance on healthy soils to sustain local food production and biodiversity, it is crucial that these potential effects are carefully studied and mitigated.

Where I live we have a local water scheme and these are the potentials that can occur:

. Disturbance of groundwater flow

Large foundation excavations (often 3–5 m deep) can:

- alter local groundwater movement
- intercept springs and small aquifers.

This is a concern especially if our scheme depends on shallow springs or seepage zones.

Pollution during construction

Possible pollutants:

- concrete washout (high pH, very damaging to water quality)
- fuel or oil spills from machinery
- sediment run-off (turbidity in streams)

These are typically short-term risks but can be serious if not properly managed.

I respectfully request that the planning authority:

1. Conduct or require a **comprehensive soil impact assessment** as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project;
2. Ensure that **agricultural and soil health experts** are consulted.
3. Consider the **cumulative effects** of multiple turbine developments in the area on local farmland and food security.

I myself grow organic fruit and vegetables for my family and friends and by laying down these large electric wires outside my house, will cause major disruption to all the worms and micro-organisms in the ground, hence killing off nutrients that are required to grow fruit and vegetables.

I believe that a balanced approach—one that supports renewable energy while safeguarding Ireland's agricultural heritage—is both possible and necessary.

7 Insufficient Community Benefit

The proposed development offers limited tangible benefit to the local community compared to the significant and long-term impacts it would impose. The economic advantages appear minimal when weighed against the environmental and social costs.

*In conclusion, I respectfully request that the planning authority **refuse** this application on the grounds of landscape harm, residential impact, and environmental concerns. I urge the council to seek alternative renewable energy solutions that are more appropriately sited and less harmful to local communities and the environment.*

I recognise the importance of wind energy in meeting Ireland's National renewable energy targets and addressing climate change. However, this development is unsuitable for these locations and fails to take proper account of the environmental, social and cultural impacts on the local area.

This wind farm would permanently alter the rural character of the area and expose nearby residents to health and amenity risks, devalue local properties and threaten the long term sustainability of our community. For these reasons, I ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

I strongly urge that this development be rejected for the reasons outlined above.

Thank you for considering this submission and objection.

Kind Regards,

Collette Cooney