

Dromin Athlacca GAA



**Chairperson Gearóid O’Leary,
Dromin Athlacca GAA,
Rathcannon,
Athlacca,
Co. Limerick**

Re: Proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm Development

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: 323780

To Whom It May Concern,

We the Executive Committee, on behalf of **Dromin Athlacca GAA**, wish to formally lodge an objection to the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm. Dromin Athlacca GAA Club has been in existence for over 70 years and is the centre of our community. We have 239 juvenile members, 132 girls and 107 Boys and over 100 adult members. We field teams in ladies football, hurling and football from under 6 to adult level. Our club has served as a central pillar of community life for generations, supporting not only sporting activity but also social cohesion, volunteerism, and youth development across the parish.

We are deeply concerned that the proposed development will have significant negative and long-lasting impacts on the sustainability of our club and the wider community.

1. Impact on Future Housing and Youth Membership

A thriving GAA club depends on a stable and growing population, particularly young families who choose to settle and build homes in the parish. The presence of a large-scale wind farm raises serious concerns that **future residential development may be restricted or discouraged**, which would directly undermine the ability of the community to grow.

If young people and new families cannot live or build homes locally, our club will inevitably face declining underage numbers, reduced team viability, and long-term challenges in maintaining healthy membership levels. This loss of generational renewal would not only threaten the future of Dromin Athlacca GAA but also erode the cultural and social fabric of the parish.

2. Risk of Current Residents Vacating Their Homes

We also wish to highlight community concerns that some existing households—particularly those who may find themselves in very close proximity to the proposed turbines—might feel compelled to leave their homes due to noise, shadow flicker, or general disruption to residential amenity.

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Any outward migration driven by the development would have a profoundly negative impact on community stability, further weakening the player base, volunteer pool, and the strong local engagement on which our club depends. The notion that residents could feel forced to vacate long-established homes is deeply troubling and unacceptable.

3. Lack of Community Engagement and Absence of Consultation

A key principle of any major development—especially one with such substantial and long-term community implications—is **meaningful and transparent engagement with local residents, local organisations, and community stakeholders.**

In this regard, we must express our disappointment and concern at the **lack of interaction from the developer.** To date:

- There has been **no direct engagement** with Dromin Athlacca GAA.
- The developer has not sought input from our club despite our central role in parish life and our deep understanding of community needs.
- No meaningful public meetings, workshops, or two-way consultations have been held to address concerns, provide clarity, or allow residents to engage in an informed discussion.

This absence of consultation is inconsistent with best practice for community-focused development and has left local residents feeling excluded from decisions that may profoundly affect their homes, their community, and the future of their parish.

The Developer has taken pictures in our GAA grounds without consent and have used them in their planning applications. No permission was given by Dromin Athlacca GAA to the developer to enter our GAA grounds and take pictures.

4. Long-Term Community Impact

Dromin Athlacca GAA is more than a sporting organisation; it is a cornerstone of identity, connection, and rural life. Any development that jeopardises the ability of people to live, raise families, and remain rooted in the parish directly threatens our club's mission and long-term survival.

The combined effect of curtailed housing prospects, potential out-migration, and the complete lack of engagement from the developer creates an unacceptable risk to the future viability of our club and community.

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5. UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage

Hurling has UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status. The Irish Government has a responsibility to protect the few hurling clubs that remain, this development will greatly affect the viability of Dromin Athlacca GAA.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the concerns of Dromin Athlacca GAA and the broader community be given serious consideration, and that the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm **not be permitted to proceed in a manner that threatens the long-term sustainability of our club, our parish, and our community life.**

Yours faithfully,

Gearóid O'Leary

For and On behalf of **Dromin Athlacca GAA Executive Committee**