

Eileen and Billy Irwin
Ballygrennan
Bruff
V35EH75

The Secretary,
An Coimisiun Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
DO1V902.
Case Reference Number: PAX91.323780

Date 13/11/2025

RE: 10 -year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 wind turbines, a permanent 110V substation and ancillary development. Located in, Ballincurra, Ballingarour, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camass North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in Co. Limerick.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in connection to the above listed planning application, and I wish to object strongly to this proposal and ask that the board refuse planning permission on the following grounds.

1. Noise Pollution and Sleep Disturbance

Numerous studies and anecdotal reports have linked wind turbine noise—particularly low-frequency noise and infrasound—to **sleep disturbance, headaches, and increased stress levels** among nearby residents. Chronic sleep deprivation is a known contributor to a wide range of health issues, including cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment, and weakened immune function.

Given that several properties (including my own) are within 2 km of the proposed turbines, there is a serious risk of noise-related health impacts. The developer's Environmental Impact Assessment appears to underestimate the cumulative and long-term effects of turbine noise, especially at night.

2. Shadow Flicker and Visual Stress

The phenomenon known as **shadow flicker**, caused by rotating turbine blades, can create repetitive light and shadow patterns that are known to cause **stress, migraines**, and even **seizures** in sensitive individuals. The impact of shadow flicker has not been adequately mitigated in the current proposal.

3. Mental Health and Wellbeing

The introduction of large industrial structures into a rural and residential environment can have psychological impacts, including **anxiety, stress, and loss of wellbeing** due to the constant visual intrusion and fear of health effects. These factors contribute to a decline in residents' quality of life, even if direct physical harm is not proven.

4. Precautionary Principle

Given that scientific consensus on wind turbine health effects is still developing, I urge the planning authority to apply the **precautionary principle**. Until long-term independent studies confirm the absence of harm, it would be irresponsible to approve a project that may have lasting health consequences for local communities.

The main access routes are along the R516 which will have 170 turbine delivery vehicles and 14,714 construction vehicles, as stated in the planning application, and two thirds of that will cross the L1414, which are already subject to congestion during peak hours. The introduction of frequent HGV movement, will exacerbate existing delays and create safety hazards for local road users.

Furthermore, these roads are not designed for heavy turbine transport, and the turning ratio and load-bearing capacity are inadequate, likely leading to traffic bottlenecks and possible damage to the road surface.

Given the likely increase in heavy traffic, congestion, and associated safety risks, I urge the council to refuse this application unless comprehensive mitigation measures are proposed and independently verified.

Bruff is a densely populated area with a primary school in the town. This school will be overshadowed by this wind farm. This school has a lot of vulnerable children in attendance, children on the Autism Spectrum and children with Down Syndrome. This wind farm will not only have an affect on these children but on all the children who attend, due to the constant whirring of the blades, and the shadow flicker on a daily basis. Also not to mention the increase in HGV vehicles that will have to drive by the school, which could increase the risk of a serious accident taking place. There is also a Care Bright centre in our town with extremely vulnerable members who have dementia, how will they cope with this constant noise and disturbance during the construction period and there after if this planning gets granted. Care Bright were also not contacted by the developers to talk to them about this proposal, or to alleviate their fears in anyway. We are a thriving town with an amazing community sprit and these developers are trying to destroy our town and tear our community apart by this proposal. I therefore urge you to really consider this application and the amount of people who are objecting to it. I am not against renewable energy, we all know we have to become more sustainable going forward to protect our environment, but there are way more suitable locations than a very populated town in our country. We are surrounded by high mountains and masses of coastlines.

For these reasons, I strongly object to the proposed wind farm and request that the application be refused.

Kind Regards,

Eileen and Billy Irwin.