

Address

Brackvoan

Bruff

EirCode: V35 YA30

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

Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 08 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, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To Whom It May Concern,

I / We Eleanor & Maurice Lyons 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/ We recognise the importance of wind energy in meeting Ireland's National renewable energy targets and addressing climate change. However, this development is unsuitable for this location 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 / we ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

Some of my / our summarised individual observations and concerns are as follows:

Visual Amenity

I frequently take long walks along the Ballinlee road (L51217) every evening and I have enjoyed doing this for the past 30+ years in Bruff. The development of this wind farm will have a detrimental effect on my enjoyment of this activity. I have worked all my life in the area and I always believed that at this stage in my life, I would get to enjoy the finer things such as peace and tranquillity and I now feel this is being disregarded. I also suffer from Vertigo, and the erection of these extremely large turbines could be a trigger for this condition. They will have the effect of making me a prisoner in my own home.

Noise Nuisance

Both myself and my wife are in our 70s and where I suffer from Vertigo, my wife suffers from Tinnitus. I understand that as we are approximately 1.6KM from Turbine 15 and I am under 2.4KM from a further 4 turbines (T5,T13,T14,T17). From the limited information I have found, I know that we will be somewhat affected by the noise that emits from these turbines and given that we are in proximity of multiple turbines, there will be a cumulative effect of this noise on our home. Add to this, there is also the very real effect of infra-sound and my understanding is that this can travel for distances up to 10KM. We are extremely concerned by this and would ask that an immediate investigation into this issue is conducted by the HSE or some other qualified body to ascertain the potential health risks this could lead to. My wife recently underwent serious spinal surgery and has had trouble sleeping for some time now. The invasion of this infra sound will no doubt exacerbate this condition and will lead to undoubted anxiety and discomfort.

Shadow Flicker.

As we are on the cusp of 1.6KM, from what I have investigated, my understanding is that we could be affected by Shadow Flicker. We often enjoy our evenings looking out at the countryside towards Athlacca – where these 17 turbines will potentially be located. If the sun is in the right place and the turbines are facing our direction, we could suffer from Shadow Flicker. This is unacceptable and under the WHO guidelines, we are too close to these turbines. The guidelines that are being followed are outdated since 2006 and the revised guidelines of 2019, which have yet to be adopted would result in us being far removed from the possibility of Shadow Flicker. I urge you to implement these updated guidelines and ensure that we are not affected by this.

Biodiversity

We have all our life enjoyed the countryside which we share with a range of Biodiverse wildlife such as Barn Owls, Whooper Swans, Bats, Red Squirrels, Native and non-native Birds. We live close to the Grove in Bruff where we have frequently observed 3 different species of Bats: Leisler Bats, Pipistrelle Bats and Daubenton Bats. There are Bat Boxes in the Grove which is home to these bats. The bats have a feeding ground of many kilometres and also as they fly based on sound, the installation of these turbines will undoubtedly have a catastrophic effect on these creatures.

Property Devaluation

We are very concerned that the value of our home, which we have worked all our lives to build, will be negatively impacted by the installation of 17 turbines in close proximity. We cannot imagine people wanting to move into our home and to be looking at these enormous turbines day in day out. We are certain that the local property tax will not take into account any devaluation, however, we are equally sure that should we ever decide to sell our home, we will not get the true current value. We looked at the planning documentation and noted that there was no survey done in this regard when it would seem obvious to us that this would be a key concern for a community with so many “receptors”.

Road Travel Disruption

We travel the R516 to Croom most days and we often travel the R512 from Bruff to Limerick. We understand that these roads will be inundated with HGV's and disruptive road works for the proposed grid route. We would like to highlight our concern that these roads are key roads for commuting and more especially for emergency services. In the situation of life or death scenarios where every minute counts on the road, it is deeply concerning that such disruption over such a long period of time could have a devastating effect.

Tourism

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful region known as the Golden Vale. The area we live in is host to the largest stone circle in the British Isles – The Grange Stone Circle, and an area of huge archaeological importance – Lough Gur. These areas provide huge tourism for the area and of course, not forgetting our own Thomas Fitzgerald Center in the town of Bruff, which sees over 300,000 visitors per year, yet the Thomas Fitzgerald Center did not get one mention in the planning documents. Also, an extremely important issue to highlight is the proximity of the 110kV cable that will be running along the R512 less than 20m from the Grange Stone Circle. This could have a very serious impact on the archaeology of the area. We urge you to look into this as a matter of urgency.

Cumulative Visual Impact

We live in a rural community and as stated earlier, we are part of the luscious Golden Vale of Munster. We are aware of other developments such as Garrane covering Effin, Garrienderk, and Charleville and we are also aware of the future possible developments in Grange, Granagh, and Coolcappa. Our stunning countryside is being turned into an Industrial land where our rural way of life is being eroded. It is unthinkable that as we drive through these areas, our current rural views of rich Biodiversity and greenery will be replaced by these monstrous turbines.

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

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind Regards,

Eleanor & Maurice Lyons