

Case Reference: 323780

Greenpark,
Dromin,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick,
V35 T665

16th November 2025

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

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Re: 10 year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayroure, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

To Whom It May Concern,

I Esther Sheehan, write in connection with the above listed planning application at Ballincurra, Ballingayroure, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

I wish to strongly object to this proposal and ask that the Board refuse this planning permission.

I wish to object to the proposed wind farm due to its potential impact on my physical health, mental wellbeing and the local wildlife which I enjoy.

Some of my observations and concerns are as follows:

- **Noise** – Wind Turbines generate special audible characteristics in the form of amplitude modulation and low frequency noise. Reports from existing wind farms across Ireland show that Wind Turbine noise can be heard for 3km away. Loud wind Turbine Noise and infrasound noise, which is worse at night, can cause difficulty sleeping, fatigue, stress, irritability & depression. My house will have 12 out of the proposed 17 turbines within 2.5km in this planning submission, which will mean that I will have a high likelihood of being affected by these negative health issues caused by the turbines. All of this would be detrimental to my health and the health of my family and I already have serious existing health issues. The World Health Organisation recommends noise levels much lower than what Irish wind farms produce.
- **Shadow flicker** - The constant noise and visual presence of turbines will affect my ability to relax and feel at ease in my own home.

- **Sleep Disturbance** – Wind turbines, by their very design will create noise as the blades rotate as well as mechanical noise.
- **Property devaluation** – Ten key studies in Europe have showed that properties within 2km of a turbine have a significant reduction in house value. Our house will have 12 out of the 17 turbines within 2.5km which will certainly have a detrimental impact on the value of my house. I have worked for a long time to get the security of my own home for my family and I. This development would significantly devalue my home.
- **Work from home** – The constant noise and shadow flicker will affect my ability to work from home which I do 4 days a week. Another family member also works from home here for most of the week and will also be affected by this.
- **Destruction of the Environment, Bio-Diversity & Habitat Loss** – The construction and operation of these Turbines will cause irreversible damage to the natural habitats and the extensive wildlife in the local area. It will negatively impact the local environment by endangering protected species. There are red-listed birds recorded as living in my area, such as the **golden plover**, **curlew** and **shovelers**, they are all listed in Bird Watch Ireland historical studies. Limerick is seen as a special and important habitat for **lesser horseshoe bats** to expand their range. The lesser horseshoe bat is only found in six counties in the west of Ireland. The species has declined in most of Europe, making Limerick, particularly important internationally for the survival of this species.
- **Construction Disruption & Traffic Implications** – Wind Farm applications of similar scale have referenced that the construction phase could lead to a daily increase of between 80 & 160 HGV trips a day over the construction period, which could be more than 2 years. This is certainly not what I want in my family's daily lives for the next 2 years. The delivery of physical turbines would have even more of an impact. The planned laying of 27km of cabling pulled across roads from my area to the Ballysimon substation will cause additional noise, dust and congestion. During the construction phase, there will be a huge amount of traffic in the local area, which will hugely impact the daily lives of myself and my family.
- **Mental Health & Peace of Mind** – The construction phase would have a huge impact – I work from home & another family member works from home, so noise & traffic would be hugely detrimental to my mental health. Once constructed, the continuous noise and shadow flicker will continue to impact my peace of mind.
- **Turbine Density** – Apparently, wind farms are built in clusters. Additional wind farms are already proposed for nearby communities. These will multiply the issues that my family and our community will face.
- **Widespread scale of the project** – The scale and pattern of the wind farm distribution will have a profound impact on the local community and our way of life. There are other proposed wind farm developments in neighbouring parishes.

- **Implications for the future generations of my family** – If this wind farm and future proposed wind farms receive planning permission this will have implications in relation to future planning permission applications which will affect my family if they want to build in our local area.
- **Limerick's wind profile** – It is significantly weaker than coastal or upland regions – contrary to what is quoted on the applicant's website.
- **Impact on walking/running routes & trails** – This development would totally impact me during the construction phase & once constructed the noise and shadow flicker would affect my walks in the local countryside. Currently, the only thing I am impacted by is the noise of farm animals grazing in green fields.
- **Loss of scenic beauty** – Currently, the view from my house is of the green fields of the Golden Vale & this would be gone forever interrupted by the sight of these huge turbines.
- **The Golden Vale** – It has huge agricultural value, which is promoted by Failte Ireland as the 'Hidden Heartlands of Ireland'.
- **Impact on community identity** – If this wind farm gets planning permission, it will result in younger generations choosing not to live near these industrial turbines. This will lead to vacancy and decline our community.
- **Flooding & drainage issues** - Currently I'm not generally impacted by this, but don't want this development to result in my property being under threat of flooding & drainage issues.
- **Better renewable energy options** – There are alternative renewable energy sources with little implications on the surrounding community and landscape, such as solar power, which wouldn't have the health implications outlined above and would be silent and have no shadow flicker.
- **Lack of Negotiations with developer** – The developer of this wind farm was not willing to attend any public meetings held by our local community to discuss the implications of this development on our community. They were not willing to hold group meetings and the few meetings they had were limited to 2 attendees. The developer's unwillingness to communicate with the community speaks volumes. If they want the local community to support this development, they should be willing to communicate with the members of the community whose lives will be affected by this proposed windfarm, were it to go ahead.

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- **Proximity to my home:** As per the planning application, 10 out of the 17 turbines will be less than 2.5km from my home. 5 of these are within a very short distance. The proposed proximity is outlined in the image below, which is taken from the planning application.

description

Eircode: V35 T665

NSL ID: NSL495

House No: 172.0

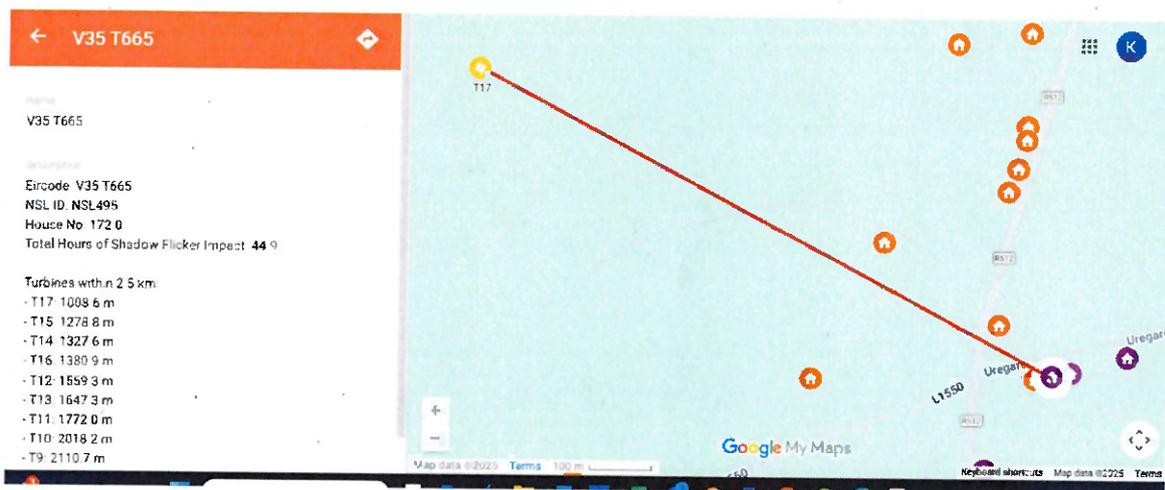
Total Hours of Shadow Flicker Impact: 44.9

Turbines within 2.5 km:

- T17: 1008.6 m
- T15: 1278.8 m
- T14: 1327.6 m
- T16: 1380.9 m
- T12: 1559.3 m
- T13: 1647.3 m
- T11: 1772.0 m
- T10: 2018.2 m
- T9: 2110.7 m
- T8: 2178.0 m

Proposed turbine proximity to my home 1

This proposed development is very serious to me. As you will see in the image below, my home will be approximately 1km from turbine 17.



Turbine 17 is approx 1km from my home 1

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In summary, this proposed development will have detrimental effects on my physical and mental health and will negatively impact my local community. I regularly walk in the local area to unwind and connect with nature. The sight and sound of such large turbines would disrupt the peaceful environment I rely on for stress relief especially as I work from home for the majority of the week. I am also concerned about the impact on wildlife and birds that frequent the nearby wetlands. These species are part of what makes our area special, and I fear they may be harmed by the proposed construction and operation of these 160m wind turbines.

I respectfully ask that this application is reconsidered in light of these personal and environmental concerns. I strongly urge that the planning application for this development is rejected.

Kind Regards,
Esther Sheehan

ESTHER SHEEHAN
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DROMIN
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