

Avalon,

Ballinlee,

Bruff,

Co. Limerick,

V35 DP27

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

Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 07/11/26

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 Iain O'Donnell wish to 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 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:

While I recognize that Ireland has to meet it's 2030 climate targets by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 42% and the importance of using renewable energy sources such as wind turbines, solar energy farms and other means and methods of producing clean renewable energy, I do not think that the proposed location put forwards by Greensource Sustainable Developments is best suited for the construction and development of wind turbines and the infrastructure needed to maintain, provide access to and collection of energy from the wind turbines.

The nearest turbine to us will be 900 metres away and within a two kilometre radius, there will be a total of six wind turbines around our house. We are assured that mitigation efforts will be taken in order to reduce the disturbance of shadow flicker and noise pollution produced by the blades.

They claim that there will be sensors fitted onto the turbines that will gauge the position of the sun which will then be able to either rotate the turbine in order to provide the flicker, or to initiate a shutdown to prevent the blades from spinning to prevent shadow flicker. I am not so sure that will work given that there are houses lying at different sites along the cul-de-sac and each one could be at risk of being affected by shadow flicker at different times based on where they are, especially during the summer months when the sun is out for longer periods of time. That would mean that throughout the summer time, the wind turbines would only working at night when the sensors detect that there is no risk of shadow flicker. Would the developers really be content on losing valuable time needed in order to produce energy or would they simply ignore the risk of shadow flicker and have the wind turbines work throughout the day?

This leads me onto my next point about noise pollution. The proposed wind turbines are among the largest in the world, reaching heights of 160 metres, with blades of up to 80 metres in length and weighing up to or more than 50 tonnes. The force needed in order to lift three blades of that weight and size is tremendous and will not be a silent factor. The noise standing beneath one turbine can be distracting and almost overpowering and while I cannot say that I have ever stood a few hundred metres away from one to experience the sound generated by them, I do not think that the noise of six turbines will be a noiseless thing and that both people, animals and houses will suffer from the noise produced by them. Members of my household suffer from poor sleep related to work and illnesses and the noise of these wind turbines working both day and night will only exacerbate these issues and impair their mental and physical health.

There is also the problem of construction of the turbines. Greensource Sustainable Developments have said that the project will bring over a hundred local jobs to the community, but have also failed to mention about what will happen to those hundred jobs when work has finished on the wind turbines. It has also been brought to our attention that any and all planning permission sought within 5 kilometres of the turbines after their construction will be denied by the developers. The town of Bruff is only 1.2 kilometres away from our house and is within the 5 kilometre blanket that will be given off by the wind turbines. This will essentially kill any future development that would happen to the town, whether it is the construction of factories, depots or sites of work which would add to the towns economy and the construction of planning permission for houses sought after by young people. In the midst of a housing crisis, this will only serve to drive young people away from the area, which includes both myself, my siblings and my friends, many of us who already struggle to find housing and accommodation.

The road that we live on is not a wide road and is typical of the rural back country roads that Ireland is famous for, there is hardly enough room for two cars to pass by eachother in some spots and in the majority of the road, only one car can pass by. This road is not suitable for the HGV's and heavy duty construction vehicles needed to carry the materials needed for the construction of the wind turbines and its various infrastructure. There are some parts of the road that suffer from potholes left unfixed and the issue will only be made worse by these vehicles, not to mention the repair of potholes as well as any pipes underground that will be damaged should they break under the strain or be left damaged.

A stop-go system would work on a national or regional road, but not this rural road. People will be left to stress that they will not be late to work, school or other events with such a system. Our road is also enjoyed by a multitude of people who can be found walking, cycling or running it at various times of the year throughout the day, not to mention dog-walkers and horse-riders who use the road. They will be left at risk of being hit by these vehicles in many areas of the road as there is simply not enough space for them to step off of the road safely.

There is also the fact that this will drive down the economic value of the houses and the land in the area thanks to the presence of the turbines in the area, as well as affecting the farms and farmers in the area as well as small businesses which will undoubtedly be affected by them.

This brings me onto one of my final points, which is the location proposed and the surrounding areas and habitats. It does not make any sense as to why they have chosen this area to construct the proposed seventeen wind turbines. It is all lowland area dominated by GA (Grasslands) and GA1 (Improved Agricultural Grasslands) as defined by Fossit's Habitat Guide. There is no highland area which would wind turbines would benefit from where high winds are much more common and the sheer number of houses in the area which the turbines will impact upon.

There is also the wildlife which will be affected by the construction of the proposed sites and the turbines themselves when they are operational and running. Greensource have recognised that the presence of Whooper Swans in the area which are protected under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive and will make additional plans to avoid impacting upon them or their habitat. Animals do not recognize boundaries as we do and there is no direct route that they take when migrating. The presence of windmills and the infrasound that they will undoubtedly give off will affect the whooper swans and drive them away, not to mention the risk of bird strikes when they fly from site to site to forage, rest and raise their young both before and during they begin their migration routes.

This is also not taking into account the presence of other bird species and species in general. The garden birds such as the goldfinches, bullfinches, swallows and more will be at risk of bird strikes, as will the buzzards and common kestrels that have nested in the area who will be at further risk of bird strike as they search for prey. There is also a number of bats in the area (common pipistrelles) who can be found in the hedgerows, trees and derelict buildings along the road who will be at risk of death thanks to barotrauma as they fly underneath the turbines blades and the noise which will affect their own hunting abilities.

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

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kind Regards,

Iain O'Donnell.