

6 Newtown
Terrace
Bruff,
Co.Limerick
V35 DY22

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

Case reference: PAX91.323780

Date: 17/ 11/ 2025

Re: 10-year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, underground cabling systems and ancillary development. Located in Ballincurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare and other townlands in County Limerick.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed construction of a large-scale wind farm involving 17 wind turbines each 160 metres in height, within close proximity (2.3 kilometre) of my home and community across Bruff, Dromin/ Athlacca, Co. Limerick.

My family, along with our neighbours, are deeply concerned and distressed about the potential impacts this development will have on our health, wellbeing, environment, and local way of life. While I fully support renewable energy and sustainability, this proposal is not appropriately located and presents significant risks to our rural community and town.

It places heavy burdens on local households; financial benefits do not compensate for the negative consequences this presents. It goes against the principles of fairness and proper community involvement that are essential to a Just Transition. Below, we outline the key reasons for my objection

1. Proximity and Impact on Residential Amenity & Wellbeing & Health

My house is on the main road in Bruff and during the two year construction period will be subjected to impacts of huge increase in traffic passing the door, over 280 trucks a day is the estimate at peak. This is going to impact me highly. It is going to cause distress and totally ruin the enjoyment of my home due to noise pollution and dust.

The turbines have grown to nearly three times their original size since 2006 guidelines were first introduced. Shadow flicker from these turbines is linked to stress, discomfort, nausea, eyestrain, dizziness, and headaches.

Noise in particular the additional, will cause us to suffer sleep disturbance, stress, and anxiety from low-frequency noise and audible noise. The limits are also breached for 100's of homes, and these limits exceed WHO 2018 noise guidelines.

The wind farm will cause severe visual intrusion, diminishing quality of life, peace, and privacy.

Article 3 of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU requires that effects on "population and human health" be described and evaluated, this clearly has not been done as we are being exposed to clear breach in noise and shadow flicker which will cause us harm and health impacts. These environmental stressors will result in anxiety, sleep disruption, and diminished wellbeing as evidenced by the WHO, 2018. This is unacceptable.

2. Impact on the Rural Landscape and Heritage

These turbines will irreversibly alter the rural landscape, replacing natural views with industrial structures. This also poses a health impact on mental well being and enjoyment of my home. The area's scenic beauty and cultural heritage will be destroyed. Serious harm will be caused to our Golden Vale with such severe visual and cultural impact on this historically significant area.

Rural Ireland's landscape is of major value to us and needs to be protected as per our Limerick Development Plan.

Objective CAF O29 Wind Energy Development and Environmental Considerations *It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the development of wind energy in an environmentally sustainable manner, ensuring proposals are consistent with the landscape character objectives of the Plan, the protection of the natural and built environment and the visual and residential amenities of the area.*

Lough Gur – ACA

The Views and Prospects from Lough Gur are protected under **Objective EH 031** *within the plan Objective EH O31 Views and Prospects It is an objective of the Council to: a) Preserve, protect and encourage the enjoyment of views and prospects of special amenity*

Lough Gur is treasured by all our community

3. Environmental and Wildlife Concerns

Large turbines pose proven risks to bird and bat populations, including collisions and loss of habitat. The project will be detrimental to local biodiversity, including hedgerows supporting protected species. As per application there is nearly 2km of native hedgerows that are going to be destroyed forever.

4. Property Value and Community Impact

Numerous studies indicate that wind farms will reduce nearby property values, particularly within 1–2 kilometres. My house is 2.3km away the proposed wind farm. No-one will want to live here and this means I will have no choices about my future if I want to sell or relocate.

The project appears to be dividing community; this is not what one would describe as a Just Transition. The impact of this project violates the spirit and letter of the EIA Directive.

I have invested in my home, and Ireland's transition to renewable energy should never come at a cost to families in their homes, who are left suffering losses, health issues and reduced enjoyment.

5. Planning and Policy Issues – Local Development Plan

This project breaches local planning guidelines regarding noise, visual landscape impact and objectives. In our LDP 2022-2028, Bruff area has the following Objective:

Tourism Development – *It is an objective of the Council to enhance the tourism potential of the village, including the promotion of new tourism products in an environmentally sustainable manner, such as the linkages to JFK ancestry and the JFK Museum and work with relevant stakeholders to encourage new tourism development to be located within the village.*

Placing a windfarm so close to our town, impacting the daily lives and traffic and business of the town will have huge consequences on the town.

5. Construction Impacts

Construction work will cause noise disturbance, and pollution, disrupting local ecosystems. The impact on the road through Bruff with HGV traffic with the concrete haul route as defined will cause extensive disruption to not only residents but businesses also. There will be hundreds of HGV trips daily on narrow local and rural roads used by residents for walking, school buses and farm machinery all posing significant safety issues. There is a risk of road edge collapse, vibration damage and safety conflict with vulnerable road users.

As well the Croom Road R516 and other local roads will be impacted by both Wind Farm and Grid Route construction traffic. This will cause huge disruption with the expected 100's of extra vehicles daily for 2 years. I think there are as many as 280 a day at peak times.

Residents across the Bruff–Dromin–Athlacca area will face environmental pressures from quarrying, haulage traffic, and agricultural dust sources. All the concrete is expected to travel through the town of Bruff and then turn onto the R516 based on the information in the EIAR.

Total volume of concrete is 35,586m³. On the basis of 7m³ per load, this means 5,084 loads coming through our town. I fail to see what is Green about this project.

There is also no details provided on road closures & diversion route lengths so the application is void of details and therefore how can risk be actually assessed.

Therefore the people of Bruff are in the dark as to how their daily lives throughout the 2 years will be impacted, and beyond.

Overall the EIAR does not adequately address safety concerns on narrow regional roads (R516, R512) or the town of Bruff itself where 800 people live.

6. Lack of Meaningful Community Benefit

Ballinlee Green Energy breached Aarhus Convention and EIA requirements for “early” , “meaningful, honest and open community engagement.

They refused to host a Public Meeting and the reason they cited for not hosting one was that they had been subjected to some hostility. In a welcoming and friendly town like Bruff, this is hard to believe.

They excluded huge amounts of people from consultation by not fulfilling the community's wishes.

This form of community consultation is not acceptable and breaches the **EIA Directive (2014/52/EU)** ("EIA Directive") which requires a Wind Energy Developer to ensure that the community is provided with early and effective public participation in the environmental assessment process.

Summary

Bruff is not a remote location. It is in fact a vibrant, growing community, not an isolated rural area. It is unjust to impose this Wind Farm in our area under guidelines that are totally unfit for purpose, dated 2006. New guidelines should be updated before any further wind farm development proposals are brought forward

This project puts the community of Bruff, Dromin and Athlacca at risk. I don't believe that 20-year-old guidelines are acceptable to protect our community when there is clear evidence and research that shows wind turbines positioned too close to homes and towns cause negative health impacts.

This proposal will transform a peaceful, productive town like Bruff into an industrial energy zone, eroding both the landscape character, wellbeing and livelihoods that define this wonderful community.

I strongly urge that this development be rejected for these reasons. Thank you for reading our submission.

Regards,

Joanne Hehir

089-4148781

Kind Regards,

Name

Address

Phone