

Kathriona O'Connell

Flat 1 Post Office

Main Street

Bruff

Co. Limerick.

Case # 323780

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of 17 wind turbines in the area, of Bruff, County Limerick, under An Bord Pleanála case number 323780.

While I understand the necessity for renewable energy and agree it should play a vital role in energy demands for the future, I believe it must be done in a way that is without harm to local communities and their surrounding environments.

It should be done in consultation with local communities, not at their expense.

I have several concerns in relation to the proposed wind turbines of the above case, which I believe will have an impact on me personally and the community in which I live.

My concerns are as follows –

- **Private Dwelling Planning Applications**

Large wind turbine developments often restrict planning permissions for private housing in nearby vicinities.

I have lived in this area for 37 years and hope to build a house, in the near future. This opportunity, which has been available to the rest of my family, may now not be available to me, if there are restrictions to planning within a certain distance to the turbines.

- **Noise Pollution**

Wind turbine noise, in particular, low-frequency sound, has been shown to disrupt sleep, concentration, and general wellbeing. Even if within guideline limits, legal cases in Ireland have demonstrated that such noise can cause serious health issues for nearby residents.

- **Visual Impact**

17 industrial-scale turbines would ruin the character of our town and the landscape, which our Tidy Towns Group work tirelessly to ensure remains beautiful.

It would negatively affect tourism and rural enjoyment of our countryside.

- **Disruption to Local Farming Sustainability**

The placement and operation of turbines will interfere with farming operations and limit options for expanding their agricultural businesses and facilities, which are necessary, to compete in modern markets.

This will discourage younger generations of families from continuing farming, as they will not be able to expand, or indeed possibly build their own homes.

- **Environmental Impact**

Large-scale developments pose long-term risks to biodiversity, ecosystems, and rural heritage.

Bruff has a large diversity of bird and wildlife populations in the area, part of the attraction for the large volume of people who walk in this area. I fear the noise and environmental impact of these large turbines would damage these populations beyond repair.

There is no public evidence that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC, which may leave the proposal as non-compliant with EU law.

- **Road Network Disruption**

This development will require heavy machinery, transport of materials, and long-term service access to the turbines. This will pose significant pressure on our already fragile road systems.

- **Alternative Wind Energy Models**

Recent innovations in wind energy have shown that decentralised, community integrated systems are a viable and less disruptive alternative.

For example, the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Research, in collaboration with the BBF Group, have developed lightweight, high-efficiency small wind turbines that negate a lot of the concerns in relation to the above case, and would be a far more suitable alternative.

Conclusion

I support the transition to renewable energy and recognise the importance of wind power. However, I believe that developments of this size must be carefully balanced with the needs of local communities and environmental preservation

I request that this application be refused, or be subjected to full and transparent environmental and community impact reviews, carried out in consultation with the people in the areas affected.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Kathriona O'Connell.

