

Margaret Ryan.
Athlacca,
Kilamllock,
Co. Limerick.

An Coimisiún Pleanála.
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, D01 V902.

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm – Co. Limerick

Reference: An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Ref. PAX91.323780

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed installation of 17 wind turbines in the Bruff area. While I fully support the need for renewable energy, this particular development is inappropriate in both scale and location and poses serious risks to the wellbeing, cohesion, and economic stability of our community.

The proposal has already created significant division and tension within our local community. Many residents feel excluded from the consultation process, and there is widespread anxiety about the long-term impact on our environment, health, and property. A development of this scale should not proceed in an area where it is causing social fragmentation and distress among neighbours.

There is substantial evidence from similar projects across Ireland and Europe showing that proximity to large wind turbines leads to property devaluation. Families who have invested their savings in their homes now face the prospect of losing a significant portion of their property value. This is not only unjust but also contrary to the principles of fair and sustainable development.

Seventeen turbines, each potentially exceeding 150 metres in height, would have an overwhelming visual impact on the Bruff and Dromin Athlacca landscape. This area is known for its rural beauty and historical significance, and such an industrial-scale development would irreversibly alter the character of the region. Additionally, the cumulative impact on wildlife, birdlife, and local ecosystems has not been adequately assessed.

Residents living close to similar wind farms have reported persistent noise pollution, shadow flicker, and associated sleep disturbances and stress-related health issues. These concerns cannot be ignored, and appropriate buffer zones must be enforced to protect residents' wellbeing — something this proposal fails to do.

Many residents feel that there has been insufficient engagement and lack of transparency from the developers. Genuine community consultation should involve early, open dialogue and the incorporation of local feedback, not tokenistic information sessions once plans are already advanced.

While renewable energy is essential, it must be pursued in a way that is fair, sustainable, and community-led. The current proposal for 17 wind turbines in Bruff fails to meet these criteria and would cause lasting harm to the local community, environment, and economy.

The Whooper Swans, a protected species, would be directly affected by this development. Turbines T1 to T5 are located within their core habitat and established flight paths, posing a significant risk of disturbance and collision. These swans are extremely sensitive to noise, light, and movement, and the placement of the proposed turbines could displace them from their traditional feeding and resting areas.

Additionally, the area supports populations of Red Squirrels, which are also a legally protected species under UK and European conservation legislation. Construction and operation of the turbines could lead to habitat loss, fragmentation, and increased disturbance, further threatening this vulnerable population and undermining ongoing conservation efforts

I therefore strongly urge the planning authority to refuse permission for this development.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Ryan.