

14.11.2025

Mary O'Malley & Joe McSweeney
Ballinlee North,
Bruff,
Co. Limerick
V35 YK49

The Secretary
An Coimisiun Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Re: The proposed development known as Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation and ancillary development located within the townlands of Ballincurra, Ballynagallagh, Skool, Friarstown South, Friarstown, Rockstown, Rochestown, Carriganattin, Stonepark, Ballynagarde, Ballymacgreese, Glen, Knockbrien, Ballyneety, Scart, Ballyogartha, Carrigmartin, Cahernarry (Cripps), Drombanny, Ballybrennan, Coolyhenan, Knockananty, Ballysimon Commons, Tullovin, and Milltown, Co. Limerick

An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX91.323780

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to **formally object** to the Strategic Infrastructure Application (**case ref 323780**).

We 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 lowland 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 Golden Vale' area and the immediate local area, and expose nearby residents to health and amenity risks, reduce the residential amenity of our properties, devalue local properties and farm holdings, threaten neighbouring farming livelihoods, sterilise high quality existing agricultural land, sterilise our landholding and children's ability to remain living on Generational family farmsteads, dis-incentivise younger adults from continuing farming, and ultimately threaten the long-term sustainability and viability of our local rural community and surrounding agricultural communities.

For these reasons, we ask that the Board refuse planning permission.

Our objection is based on the following specific planning grounds of observation:

- **Ground 1: Shadow flicker.**
We reside 755m from the nearest wind turbine and will be exposed to serious shadow flicker within our dwelling and curtilage of our HOME. Six Turbines are within 1.5km of our HOME.
- **Ground 2: Generational farms and the future.**
Our children intend to build and raise families on our Farm once they have completed their education and as they start their careers and hopefully can support independent family lives. They hope to be a part of and support a vibrant local community into the next future and are needed to sustain these small rural agricultural towns throughout the Golden Vale.

And as we have a housing crisis in this country, and crisis in encouraging and supporting the next generation into farming, they must be allowed the opportunity to continue our family farm into the future.

This proposal will sterilise our landholding from this possibility, with any developer likely to object to any new dwellings our children may wish to build on our existing farmland, in proximity to their 'industrial wind turbine park.' See recent example below.

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/tipperary/news/wind-farm-company-challenges-planning-permission-for-tipperary-womans-home/a2077572701.html>

- **Ground 3:**
Property devaluation of our home and farmstead and issues this will create for us in the future with potential care, we are both retired, and our children trying to raise finance for farm renewal and refurbishment. This will also result in a reduction to LPT take of the local authority.
- **Ground 4:**
Construction Noise and disruption and impact on our family home and its amenity value, and our farm holding. The developer has applied for a 10-year permission and therefore we face significant construction noise, dust, disruption daily for potentially a decade. Approximately 20km of a Grid connection, 10.8km of internal roads, blasting at quarries being called borrow pits, rock breaking, 100's of HGV movements a day, and all on a high-quality farming landscape. An industrial scale development, which will be its very nature impact the quality of our Farmland and generational homestead.
- **Ground 5:**
Turbine Noise will affect our health and health of children locally with various health issues including autism, sensory issues, and epilepsy. We are an elderly couple at retirement age. We are poor sleepers and will no doubt be affected by the sounds and low-level infrasound. Many studies and reports suggest we will be affected by sleep deprivation, dizziness and the resulting exhaustion and irritability. This will create health risk for us as we age but aim to continue to live independently at home.
- **Ground 6:**
The application does not comply with the requirements of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe (ETS No.176) (**Florence Convention**).
This lowland area of the significant national and cultural importance is called the Golden Vale. It is totally unsuitable for an Industrial wind turbine park, which would irreversibly damage the Golden Vale area, known as the best farming land in the country. This proposal will alter the landscape away from Agricultural in nature and towards an Industrial language. It will sterilise and destroy vast areas of the best Agricultural land in the country, with industrial engineered hard stand areas, tracks, bridges, sub-station buildings, cable routes, industrial fences, and create vast kilometres of unmaintainable and unproductive wastelands around all these areas.
- **Ground 7:**
The proposal will have a detrimental effect on biodiversity and wildlife, including but not limited to whooper swans, red squirrel, lesser horseshoe bat protected species but also the various other resident local flora and fauna. It will detrimentally impact tourist sites in the area including the internationally renowned Lough Gur Archaeological Park and views out of same.
- **Ground 8:**
There was no adequate EIAR visual assessment prepared for the proposal, with no visual's representative of the actual landscape of the 'central study area,' close to our farmland and home.

The enormity of the proposal and its proposed dominant nature in the landscape and detrimental effects on our amenities and community has not been shown.

- Ground 9:
Risk of Major Accident and Disaster to GNI pipeline. The quantity of aggressive civil construction works in proximity to high pressure pipelines in the area, create an unacceptable risk to residents.

This proposed development **is not** in the public interest, is contrary to the objectives of appropriate and sustainable development included within Local, National and European policy, planning and environmental Legislation, and fundamentally it does not comply with the requirements of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe (ETS No.176) (Florence Convention).

It will destroy the Golden Vale Landscape for Generations to come.

We would respectfully suggest these grounds require An Coimisiun Pleanála to refuse permission for this proposal.

Your Sincerely,

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mary O'Malley / Joe McSweeney'.

Mary O'Malley & Joe McSweeney