

18th November 2025

Noreen O'Shea Sheehan
40 Riverview,
Kilmallock,
Co. Limerick
V35 XP38

The Secretary,
An Coimisiun Pleanala,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Case Reference No.: 323780

Re: 10 year planning permission for Ballinlee Wind Farm consisting of 17 no. wind turbines, a permanent 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 Noreen O'Shea Sheehan, write in connection with the above listed planning application at Ballinacurra, Ballingayrou, Ballinlee North & South, Ballinrea, Ballyreesode, Camas North & South, Carrigeen, Knockuregare, Ballybane and other townlands in County Limerick.

I acknowledge that wind energy is essential for Ireland to reach its renewable energy objectives and respond to climate change. However, this development is unsuitable for this location and fails to take proper account of the environment, social and cultural impacts on the local area. Solar panels are less invasive to Human Health and the Environment. It is only when a wind farm is erected that true extent of human impacts is recognised.

This is a rural, scenic area which is known for its sense of peace and quiet. I have family members in Dromin Graveyard where I regularly visit. This is currently a very peaceful and tranquil area where we are afforded the time and space to spend quality time with our loved ones in the peaceful and quiet surroundings of the Dromin countryside. This peaceful area will now be transformed into a noisy and visually disturbed place. I have noted from your photomontage documents that this will be very much the case. It will also be a distraction during any future funerals in the burial grounds in Dromin Graveyard. Our local communities are heavily dependent on the tourism industry, thousands of visitors, visit Bruff, Lough Gur and surrounding areas every year and they are attracted by the natural landscape, not an industrial one.

In relation to the height of these turbines I have seen that they are going to be 160m in height and the only reference I have is The Spire in Dublin which is 120m(390 ft) which is incredibly high. I am struggling to comprehend just how massive these turbines will be, as I am sure many others are, also given the fact that it is not only just one but in fact seventeen turbines of this height 160m.

I am living in proximity to this development but my home place is in the affected area and I am frequently at my mother's house with my children so, I am very concerned about the health impact on my family and the community. As a concerned mother to a child with epilepsy, I am deeply concerned about the effect these turbines could have on my son's health in relation to shadow flicker and infrasound which may potentially trigger epileptic seizures.

I am also very concerned about road closures and delays on the R512, which is the proposed grid route. In the event of a medical emergency this road is frequently used by the ambulance service and in these situations every minute counts. One lane and stop/go systems will add to delays for emergency services. I am concerned about the shadow flicker as this is also very serious to people with epilepsy and autism. The noise and infranoise is another issue that will affect people with their mental health and the fact that in such a peaceful area they can no longer relax and feel safe in their own homes.

There is a lot of wildlife in the area such as Whooper Swans, Badgers, Foxes, Bats, Red Squirrels and Barn Owls. These proposed turbines could drive them away, may even kill them. Their habitats will be disturbed and may even be destroyed. The construction will reduce biodiversity in the area.

There appears to be little or no consideration of the cumulative visual and environmental impact of this proposal in conjunction with other energy developments in the wider region. We live in a rich area of heritage and agriculture significance, known as the Golden Vale. These rich lands contribute significantly to tourism and commerce in the region. No cumulative impact assessment has been carried out in relation to this.

From speaking to people within the affected area I know that community engagement was highly insufficient. Open Community meetings were refused by Greensource on grounds of Health and Safety. This has left the community feeling very undervalued and very disrespected. One on one private consultations goes against the very fabric of democracy.

It is my firm view that no such large-scale wind energy developments should proceed until Ireland's wind energy planning guidelines have been full updated to reflect current turbine technology, environmental science, and community protection standards. Proceeding under outdated 2006 guidelines for turbines of this scale is entirely unacceptable and would represent a failure of responsible planning.

For the above reasons I would urge for An Coimisiun Pleanala to refuse planning for this development.

Yours sincerely,

Noreen O'Shea Sheehan