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The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
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I wish to object to the proposed development by Balinlee Green Energy for the construction of a wind farm comprising 17 turbines and associated infrastructure at Balinlee County Limerick. Whilst I acknowledge the importance of renewable energy and the need for sustainable development, this proposal is inappropriate for this location and would result in significant adverse impact.

I have lived in the Golden Vale area for a large portion of my life. The Golden Vale is famous for its rich fertile soil. The soil is great for growing grass which is why it is do good for dairy farms. Farmers here can raise healthy cows that produce a lot of milk. The construction of the wind turbines will be 225.12 ha will unnecessarily impact the heart of the Golden Vale without giving sufficient return or value to the hinterland and wider area.

My young family and I have built a home in the area and moved into the house in April 2024 amidst great excitement. The construction of 17 turbines will impact the site of the house with the turbines in close proximity. The closeness of large turbines is widely associated with reduced property values and diminished attractiveness of rural areas for residential settlement.

This development would discourage future rural housing and risk population decline contrary to the County Development Plan's rural sustainability objectives. As I have a young family this could impact their education. They attend a local rural primary school with already reducing numbers in the school. They attend activities and play for the local GAA club who are also struggling for playing resources. Any further pressure on numbers would see the club come under further pressure.

When we were looking for planning permission to build our forever home we had no indication that a proposed 17 wind turbine could be out noisy neighbour. To operate a transparent and clear planning framework key developments like this should be signposted in some fashion.

The EIAR (Chapter 10 Hydrology & Hydrogeology does not map private wells within realistic influence zones of turbine foundations or the 10KV grid trench. Deep excavations, realistic influence zones of turbine foundations or the 110KV grid trench. Deep excavations, dewatering and altered field drains can change ground water pathways and surface flooding.

EPA/ Geological Survey guidance requires receptor identification, baseline well testing, and a protection/ monitoring plan. My household uses a private well with a lot of expensive water treatment products as part of this package. The proposed construction will impact the quality of this private well.

In chapter 9, section 9.4.1.2 Water Quality it is noted that there is the potential for the introduction of contaminants to the water course, some disturbances of the stream bed and increased suspended solids of the water downstream of the works during the construction works.

There is an agricultural parcel of land near us and this area is prone to flooding. The impact of the construction of 17 wind turbines on this parcel of land is not fully known. Chapter 9 addresses this but not in fully and to my satisfaction that this area will encroach on our site. It says that to ensure that there are no unacceptable flood risk, the following mitigation measures will be implemented are of which is residual risks associated with the development were also assessed and are considered to be acceptable. What is this based on that these are considered acceptable.

The EIAR (Chapter 12 – Noise & Vibration) concludes no significant health effects, but provides limited receptor specific analysis for homes within approximately 2km and does not assess low frequency noise or amplitude modulation. This conflicts with the WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines (2018), which link wind turbine noise to sleep disturbance and reduced quality of life. Independent baseline and post-construction monitoring, curtailment protocols and accessible community reporting are required.

My home is approximately 2km from the nearest turbine. My family includes a number of affected parties. My wife and I, the two bread winners in the family are required to travel to Dublin for work with at least one of us in Dublin each weekday. This requires getting up at 5 each morning. Having built a new home in Limerick I would not have expected to be in the midst of an industrial size development. This dream move to rural Ireland was a chance to move away from a built up large city to the peace and relative quite of the country. This proposed development is not in keeping with my vision and reality of rural Ireland.

I have young children, some are light sleepers and sometimes wake at night. As they are in their formative years any further factors that may disturb sleeping patterns will have long term damage in there development.

The local engagement was poor and a lot of research had to be done by the community to ensure the potential impact of the wind turbines would be known. There was engagement but the advertising of these meetings was poorly advertised. I would like to have engaged with the promoters of the Balinlee Wind Turbines. If someone was proposing to develop a big project I would expect engagement with the key stakeholders, in this case one of the key stakeholders are the community. Because they did not engage directly it would leave me to believe that somebody has something to hide.

The proposed construction and maintenance traffic, including oversized turbine deliveries, would place severe pressure on the local road network, which is narrow rural and unsuitable

for heavy industrial transport. There are legitimate concerns regarding road safety, fire tender access and the adequacy of emergency responses routes which are not clearly demonstrated in the application.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, the proposed Balinlee Wind farm:

- Conflicts with multiple policies and objectives of the Limerick County Development Plan 2022 – 2028
- Fails to protect the residential amenity, health and long term welfare of local communities,
- Would cause unacceptable visual noise and environmental impacts, and
- Does not represent proper planning or sustainable development in this rural location.