

# TOCO Welding LTD.

- Weight Iron Gates & Railings
- Steel Fabrication & Welding
- Stainless Steel Welding Fabrication
- General Engineering
- Aluminium Welding & Fabrication

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An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902

**Re: Objection to Planning Application Ref. PAX91.323780 – Proposed  
Development of Ballinlee Wind Farm, Co. Limerick**

To whom it may concern,

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the proposed development of Ballinlee Wind Farm under planning reference PAX91.323780, currently before An Bord Pleanála.

I am a business owner and our main workshop is situated in Ballinlee, situated at V35 FT29, which is located immediately adjacent to the lands where the sub station is to be located and our business is located within a couple of kilometres of all 17 proposed turbines. I am seriously concerned about the potential adverse impacts this development may have on my business, my employees, my property, the surrounding environment, and quality of life.

## **Grounds for Objection**

### **1. Location and Surrounding Impact**

The proposed layout places our business at the very centre of the wind farm. This unique positioning raises severe concerns about the safety, viability, and sustainability of our ongoing operations. As a manufacturing business that relies on reliable access and unimpeded infrastructure, we are extremely concerned that this development will directly disrupt our day-to-day activities.

### **2. Unsuitability of Road Infrastructure**

The construction phase will involve the movement of heavy articulated trucks, delivering large volumes of concrete, turbine components, and construction materials. The local road network is not designed to handle this volume or type of traffic, and the following risks and disruptions are anticipated:

- Damage to small, rural roads leading to and from our facility.
- Severe congestion affecting staff, suppliers, and customer access.
- Increased risk of traffic accidents due to the mismatch between vehicle size and road capacity.

### **3. Inadequate National Territory Mapping**

We strongly disagree with the National Territory Mapping which designates most of County Limerick as suitable for onshore wind farm development. This mapping appears to overlook critical factors, including:

- Proximity to existing businesses and homes.
- Local infrastructure limitations.
- Cumulative impact on communities already facing rural depopulation and economic challenges.

The current mapping and site selection process seem to prioritise turbine placement over local economic and community stability. We urge the planning authority to reassess the suitability of this specific location.

### **4. Business and Staffing Impact**

As a local employer and long-standing business in the area, the presence of wind turbines in such close proximity risks:

- Noise, visual disturbance, and shadow flicker from turbines up to 160 m in height may have physical and psychological effects on staff who are on-site 8+ hours a day.

- Shadow flicker through office or workshop windows may create visual discomfort, reduce concentration, and contribute to headaches, fatigue, or stress.
- Potential low-frequency noise or infrasound has been cited in some studies as contributing to nausea, dizziness, and irritability in susceptible individuals — all of which impact morale and performance.
- Mental well-being of staff and local residents who will be surrounded by industrial-scale infrastructure.

These are serious occupational health issues that could impact staff retention, absenteeism, and mental wellbeing.

#### **5. Impact on Business Reputation, Client Relations, and Future Investment**

- Our company relies on maintaining a professional and attractive workplace to host clients, suppliers, and external partners. The installation of large industrial infrastructure so close to our premises will negatively affect the visual amenity and perceived quality of our business environment.
- There may be future difficulties in recruiting or retaining skilled staff, especially if the location becomes perceived as less desirable to work in.
- The development may reduce the market value of our business premises, impacting our financial position or access to credit/investment.
- Long-term impact on property and land values.
- Disruption to client relations and supplier logistics due to access issues.

This undermines our ability to grow, hire, or expand locally.

- Upon review of the EIAR and planning documents, there is little to no consideration of commercial premises or SME stakeholders in the impact assessment, especially those located within close proximity.
- There is no detailed mitigation strategy addressing:
  - o Business access routes;
  - o Communication and scheduling of heavy works near commercial zones;
  - o Noise and flicker controls relevant to commercial buildings;
  - o Compensation mechanisms in the event of business interruption.

This lack of engagement with local enterprise represents a significant oversight. I can confirm that we received two pieces of correspondence. Those letters were not specific to my business, the impacts that this development will most certainly have on my business and went no where close to addressing any of the concerns I have outlined above.

#### **6. Visual Impact and Landscape Character**

- The proposed turbines, at up to 160 metres in height, will significantly alter the rural landscape.
- My property is so close that most of the turbines are clearly visible from my business premises.
- This visual intrusion will negatively affect the amenity value and rural character of the area.

#### **7. Noise and Shadow Flicker**

- As outlined above in regard to my staff and customers I am concerned about the potential for noise pollution, especially low-frequency noise and turbine amplitude modulation, which can be particularly disruptive in quiet rural environments.
- It is confirmed that this development will lead to shadow flicker in my business, which, I believe, will have a serious impact on comfort and health of my staff and customers.

#### **8. Proximity to Dwelling / Property Devaluation**

- The proposed turbines appear to be sited within a distance that may reduce the market value of nearby properties.
- There is concern about loss of amenity, privacy, and enjoyment of the property, particularly due to industrialisation of a rural area.
- We are also particularly concerned around our ability to expand our operations given the proximity to the wind farm and turbines. We need cast iron guarantees that should we seek to expand our footprint that any such planning application will not be adversely impacted as a result of this proposed development.

#### **9. Ecological and Environmental Impact**

- The surrounding area contains sensitive habitats and species (including birds and bats) that may be negatively affected by the development.
- The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and EIAR do not sufficiently mitigate long-term cumulative ecological risks.

#### **10. Construction Traffic and Infrastructure**

- The scale of construction, including new access roads, underground cabling, and turbine transport, may cause major disruption, increased traffic hazards, and road degradation near my property.
- There is a lack of clear detail on how impacts during the construction and decommissioning phases will be mitigated.

#### **11. Inadequate Consultation and Public Engagement**

- I believe the local business community was not adequately informed or consulted on this development at an early stage.
- There has been insufficient effort to include the views of directly impacted businesses such as myself.

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#### **Request**

In light of the above concerns, I respectfully request that An Bord Pleanála refuses permission for the proposed Ballinlee Wind Farm under reference PAX91.323780.

Thank you for your attention to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

  
Thomas Coleman

**Director of Toco Welding LTD.**