

Formal Objection to the Proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm

Abp-317616-23

Acp- 323783-25

To: The Secretary

An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1, D01 V902

Date: 16/11/2015

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	084766-25
ACP-	
21 NOV 2015	
Fee: €	50 p.p. pno
Time:	9:15 P: Rg Pno

From: Christina Normoyle

Craghera

Cranny Co Clare

V15EF20

Subject Objection under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) – Cloonkett Wind Farm, County Clare (14 turbines, 150 m tip height)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Christina Normoyle, wish to formally object to the proposed Cloonkett Wind Farm Development at Cloonkett and Burrenfadda, County Clare. Outlined below are the reasons for my objection. We live in Craghera, Cranny. A peaceful, quiet and serene place to live. When we first heard of the plans for the proposed Cloonkett windfarm, we were devastated. Over the past couple of years, as we have learned of the size of the project and how close they are to our home, and the local areas, we are truly shocked.

Firstly, our home is located within 1km distance of at least 5 of the turbines, some as close as 600mtrs. All 14 are within 1.5km of us. How is this allowed? We understand that the regulations state 500mtrs, but surely there should be a limit of how many can be near a particular home? We will be literally surrounded by them. They are positioned in a semi circle around us. (please see attached map, black dot is our home).

The turbines, construction and their presence will have a huge impact on our lives. There will be noise from them, and a shadow flicker, there is no doubt in these facts as we are so close to so many of them. The construction itself will be a huge inconvenience to us in our daily lives.

The proposed wind farm is located within a region of exceptional environmental sensitivity, characterised by peatland ecosystems, freshwater habitats, and a complex network of watercourses feeding into Gortglass Lough and the Lower River Shannon SAC (002165). This landscape supports an unusually diverse range of protected species — including Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, Curlew, Barn Owl (habitat is within approx. 100mt of a turbine), mute swan, Lesser Horseshoe Bat, and Marsh Fritillary Butterfly — all of which depend on the unique mosaic of bog, farmland, and open water found in this area. The ecological and hydrological interconnections between the peatlands, Gortglass Lough, and downstream designated habitats mean that any disturbance within the proposed site carries significant risk of cumulative and long-term damage.

The site lies within foraging and potential breeding range for both the Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) and Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*), species listed under Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. The developer's EIAR recorded 65 Hen Harrier observations and over 15,500 flight- seconds within the site boundary — yet no flightline mapping or cumulative collision risk analysis was presented. Similarly, there is no dedicated survey for the Marsh Harrier, despite multiple local reports of sightings.

New evidence confirms that Gortglass Lough serves as the public water abstraction point for the Killadysert Public Water Supply, operated by Uisce Éireann. This lake provides treated drinking water 1,500 homes in the Killadysert, Cranny and Coolmeen areas. The river draining the Cloonkett bog feeds into this lake, meaning that any sediment, chemical, or pollutant runoff from turbine construction, peat disturbance, or maintenance will flow directly into the drinking-water catchment. Under the Water Framework Directive and EU Drinking Water Directive (2020/2184), Ireland is required to prevent deterioration of surface-water quality at public abstraction points. The precautionary principle therefore mandates that no project be permitted where such contamination cannot be ruled out beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

The application's mapping is based on outdated Ordnance Survey maps that fail to show numerous residential properties — some built over 20 years ago. As a result, key assessments of noise, shadow flicker, residential amenity, and visual impact are invalid. Clare County Council's own validation requirements and the Office of the Planning Regulator's guidelines stipulate that site maps must include all dwellings and receptors within 100 metres of the site boundary. This omission constitutes a material deficiency that undermines public consultation and the validity of the EIAR. Permission was not granted by landowners within the area to walk their land, or do any kind of noise testing, therefore any studies put forward cannot be valid.

The visual impact that this huge development will have on the surrounding landscape will be heart breaking in my opinion. We already have windfarms visible, which begs the question.. Why is there such a huge amount of wind farms in a geographical area like west Clare?

I would also like to point out that the communication from the developers to the local community has been terrible. They state in their report that they received positive feedback from the community, this is certainly not the case for anyone living within a close proximity to the site. None of the local people were informed of the supposed meeting that was held in May over 20km away, when we were all told a meeting would be held in the local community centre, and we were assured we would be informed of the meeting so we could voice any concerns. The developers have been underhanded and sneaky in the way they have approached this and they have given no thought for any of the local people.

In conclusion I whole heartily and strongly object to the proposed construction of this wind farm in Cloonkett.

Thanking you,

Christina Normoyle,

Craghera,Cranny,Co Clare. V15EF20. tinatierney@yahoo.co.uk. 0870932561.

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  Noise Monitoring Locations
-  Turbine Locations

