

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.
NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO AN COMISTUN PLEANALA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
REFERENCE NUMBER ACP-323860-25

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

In accordance with sub-section 8(a) of 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, Ballyloo Solar Farm Limited gives notice of its furnishing of significant additional information to An Comistun Pleanala in relation to the following proposed development:

Permission for a period of 10 years for development at Ballyloo, Castletown, Graignaspiddoge, Kellistown East, Kellistown West, Kilballyhine, Knocktower, Leigh Or Ballybeg, Linkinstown and Moyle Big (townlands), County Carlow. Certain details of the proposed development are unconfirmed in this planning application and an opinion on unconfirmed details from the Commission (Case Reference: ABP-321858-25) pursuant to section 287B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) accompanies this planning application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the voltage and corresponding switchgear of the substation, the voltage and corresponding specification of the underground cable grid connection, and the route of the final c.0.35-0.6 km section of the underground cable grid connection to the existing 110/220kV Kellis substation. The range of parameters under which the design will fall are specified on this site notice and in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies this application.

The proposed development comprises of:
1) A 220kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) electricity substation or a 110kV AIS electricity substation, including two control buildings, associated electrical structures and apparatus, lightning protection, telecom pole, perimeter security fencing, security lighting, water and drainage infrastructure, temporary construction compound to connect to and serve solar farms.

2) Associated grid connection between the proposed substation and the existing 110/220kV Kellis substation comprising 220kV or 110kV underground electricity cables (reflecting final substation option) of c.8.9 km or c. 8.65 km in length to be provided in an excavated trench including associated fibre cable and ducting, and all associated site development and reinstatement works. Two options are proposed after the first connection and for the final c.0.35 - 0.6 km of the underground cable grid connection route comprising (i) cabling in the L30535 public road, or (ii) cabling in private agricultural land;

3) Temporary construction and permanent operational access to the substation from the L3050, vehicular entrance and access track from this public road;

4) All ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping, and reinstatement works;

5) The development subject to this application forms part of grid connection and access arrangements which will facilitate the connection of the permitted Ballyloo Solar Farm (Carlow County Council Reference 24/60043 / An Comistun Pleanala Reference ABP-322347-25), permitted Part Solar Farm (Carlow County Council Reference 24/60205), and permitted Ballypammon Solar Farm (Carlow County Council Reference 25/60137) to the national electricity grid via the existing 110/220kV Kellis substation.

A Nature Impact Statement (NIS) was submitted as part of this application. The NIS includes consideration of the permitted Ballyloo, Park, and Ballypammon Solar Farms which are located in County Carlow.

The significant additional information will be available for inspection free of charge or purchased upon payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making a copy), during public opening hours for a period commencing on the 22nd September 2026 at the following locations:

- The offices of An Comistun Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902
- The offices of Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Abby Rd, Carlow, R93 E/R7.

The documentation will be made available for viewing/downloading on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie. The documentation may also be viewed/downloading on the following websites: www.ballyloosubstation.ie

Submissions or observations in relation to the significant additional information may be made only to An Comistun Pleanala (The Commission), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie relating to:

(i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development.

(ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, if carried out.

(iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies). There is no fee required to make a submission in relation to those parties/individuals who have already made a valid written submission to the Commission regarding the application. Submissions or observations must be received by the Commission no later than 5.30 p.m. on the 21st October 2026. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

Schemes allowing young people to work in Canada may be fast moving

Greater co-operation part of attempts to Trump-proof EU and Canada alliance

JACK POWER
Europe Correspondent

Schemes allowing young Irish people to travel to Canada on working visas could be expanded as part of a proposed Trump-proof "alliance" deepening co-operation with the European Union, Canada's prime minister Mark Carney has suggested.

In a closely watched address to the European Parliament, Carney laid out his vision to build much closer ties between the European bloc and Canada across a range of areas from en-

ergy supply to arms production, artificial intelligence and the Erasmus programme.

His speech comes a day after European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said the door was open to Canada becoming an "associate member" of the EU – a special status that does not, at present, exist.

Speaking yesterday, Carney said Canada and the EU should "deepen our people-to-people ties, allowing our youth to work, study, and live where they want on either side of the Atlantic".

He said Canada could join

the popular Erasmus+ scheme, which allows college students to spend a year studying in another university abroad.

At the moment, Irish people aged 18-35 can apply for a two-year visa to work or travel in Canada as part of a youth mobility scheme, International Experience Canada (IEC).

Work visas

The scheme is open to more than 30 countries, mainly in Europe, and reciprocal arrangements are in place to offer work visas to young Canadians who want to head in the other direction.

The scheme became particularly popular with Irish people looking to emigrate following the economic crash and recession.



Ketch

In Times this is dressed as a hit but has never made it to wear a stewart tie in the gallery of Leinster House with all that brown leather and

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(The Taoiseach was meeting the presi-

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disapproving head shaking, b) head-cocked confusion and c) dark muttering.)
Doherty does his best. He says: "That's just nonsense!" and "it's ridiculous!" but it gets him nowhere.
Gary Gannon from the Social Democrats also wonders what she knew and when.
"Confidentiality protects the whistleblower," he says. "It does not protect the Government and senior Garda management from accountability for its failings."
The Minister again stresses her inability to comment (at length), increasingly sounding more Helen GPT than Helen McEntee.
Labour's Alan Kelly hands the hardest blow.
"It doesn't bring me any pleasure to be standing up today to say what I have to say," he says, with the demeanour of a man who is more disappointed than angry. ("It brings him some pleasure," says someone in the press gallery.)
He speaks of the suffering of whistleblowers and their

I won't be lectured to by a party whose history when it comes to protecting gardai is less than standard

– Helen McEntee

families. He holds up a defective gun holster. (You can bring props into the Dáil chamber?)

Kelly asserts McEntee's partial culpability, recounting how she passed Det Supt Brian O'Reilly's protected

disclosure about the defective holsters to the Office of the Protected Disclosures Commissioner (OPDC), who, in turn, directed that it be investigated by her own

secretary general. "You, as minister for justice, directed that the investigation be removed from your secretary general and redirected to An Garda Síochána, thereby usurping the OPDC's statutory direction," he says.

"Thereby, you, as minister for justice, revealed Brian O'Reilly's identity. By doing so you deprived him of the legal protections he was entitled to, and exposing the nature of his allegations. In doing so, you acted without legal authority and directly interfered with a serious and significant protective disclosure."

He ends with: "Perhaps it was just incompetence or a mistake."
McEntee is appalled and strongly rejects the suggestion of incompetence or illegality but the mood is dark. The next question is about the shortcomings of Irish Water.

Things move very fast around here.

Photogenic spuds and matchmakers

STEPHEN CONNELLY
in Screegan, Co Offaly

Not many people would be happy to be called a "spud" after having their photo taken, but it was all the rage on the final day of the National Ploughing Championships.

Amid a sea of distraction (three high-profile politicians accompanied by an imposing Garda presence and one matchmaker making her rounds at the bar (but more on that later), a long line of people were steadfast in their determination to pose for a picture at the Keogh's Crisps photo booth.

And only a minute or so later, a potato would pop out of a hatch with the impromptu model's likeness imprinted on its unpeeled skin.



Innovation and tradition all in one – it's a ploughing miracle.

Elsewhere on the 700 acres of fields in Screegan, Co Offaly, two EU commissioners and one Fine Gael Cabinet Minister walk into a sauna... It was actually the EU's HQ at the

agri-convention, but comparisons were drawn given the wood-clad walls and soaring temperatures inside.

The three men – EU commis-

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The three men – EU commissioner for agriculture and food Christophe Hansen, justice commissioner Michael

‘It’s not easy for a young person to make their way in farming’



Stephen Connelley

Research from Agriland has found nearly 30% of farmers under 45 are considering quitting within the next five years

John Fallon balances full-time work as a hospital porter with part-time work on his family’s suckler beef farm.

“It’s not easy for a young person to make their way in farming,” he says. “And, by the look of things, it’s not going to get any easier, and it won’t get any better either – you’re just up against a wall.”

The 25-year-old from Co Roscommon is speaking at the National Ploughing Championships in Screegan, Co Offaly – where he has spent most of the day at the Macra na Feirme stand, a voluntary organisation that advocates for the wellbe-

ing of young people in rural Ireland.

So, when the time comes, will he take over the family farm? “Oh, God yeah. That is the plan,” he answers without the slightest hesitation.

But when asked if this would be his full-time job, he answers with even less hesitation.

“No, no way – I can’t financially justify that,” he says. “The work is full-time, but the wages are only part-time, really.”

His job at the hospital is “good hours, good wages” and allows him to fit in his agricultural work between shifts.

“Being a young farmer ... it’s not an attractive job, and it’s not the easiest,” he says, pointing to the many demands of the work – including being tech-savvy, and having strong business acumen.

While Fallon may turn away from farming – at least, as a full-time job – thousands of young farmers in Ireland are considering a move out of the agricultural industry altogether.

Research published this week has prompted many of the near quarter of a million people who will attend this year’s ploughing championships to ask themselves the question: who will farm the fields of Ireland in the (very) near future?

Agriland, a leading farming publication, found nearly one in three farmers (29 per cent)



Young farmer Paddy McGuinness, from Co Roscommon

Championships. PHOTOGRAPHS: STEPHEN CONNELLEY

under the age of 45 are considering leaving the agricultural sector within the next five years. Nearly eight in 10 (77 per cent) pointed to “income volatility” as a “major obstacle” to entering the industry.

“And you can’t blame them,” says Fallon.

Well travelled

Paddy McGuinness, a 23-year-old from Co Louth, has farmed in Ireland, England and Arizona in the US. Practically “on the Mexican border” we would turn around at Trump’s wall”, he says with a laugh. “Great craic – I’ve been around, seen a few different things.”

He now works on his family’s 4,000-acre tillage farm that produces traditional wholesale cereal and grain, but has also diversified to supply woodchip as a renewable energy source to local businesses.

History when it comes to protecting gardai is less than standard
– Helen McEntee

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Improved pension forimerick mayor could cost extra €320,000

N FOXE

An improved pension sought directly elected mayor of merick John Moran could end up costing an extra €20,000 for just a single year of office, Government officials have said.

The Department of Public Expenditure said it could not function fast-accruing benefits for Moran, adding such a move would set a risky precedent.

A standard pension arrangement for the mayor from one year term was estimated to have a net cost of just over €124,000 based on 20 years of retirement.

However, the fast-accruing pension that Moran sought, the same as that of a junior minister, had an estimated cost of almost €450,000.

Officials said the difference was close to €325,000 and that if granted, it would likely apply to other directly elected mayors in future.

The estimates were based on a mayor serving one five-year term, meaning the potential cost would be even higher if they were re-elected.

Support

A business case submitted by the Department of Housing supported his request and said that at the very least, the hanced pension terms for T and Senators should apply the position.

However, the Department of Public Expenditure (DPE) disagreed and said arrangements should be consistent with chief executives of local authorities.

A spokesperson for DPER said it had not further to add.

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