

Karina Moody,
Ballyloo,
Nurney,
Co. Carlow.
04/12/2025

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

Case Number: VA01.323860

Applicant: Ballyloo Solar Farm Limited

Description of Development: 10 year planning permission for a 220kV AIS/ 220kV GIS substation OR a 110kV electricity substation, associated 220kV or 110kV underground grid connection and ancillary works

Location: located in the townlands of Ballyloo, Knockbower, Linkardstown, Kilballyhue, Graiguenspiddoge, Castletown, Moyle Big, Leagh or Ballybeg, Kellistown West & Kellistown East, County Carlow.

A Chara,

Further to my two previous submissions to Carlow County Council in February 2025 and February 2024, I wish to strongly object to the above proposed development by Ballyloo Solar Farm Ltd. under the following grounds;

- 1. Location of the Proposed Substation & Visual Impact:** The location of the proposed substation is approximately 159m from my home per the applicant drawings. The visual impact assessment prepared by the applicant noted that it is 'near distance' and views of ancillary structures will be visible even with the hedgerow in place. The report also talks about consented mitigation proposals. I have not been informed about the proposed substation development nor have I given any consent to mitigation proposals. In fact, pictures of my home have been used in the visual impact assessment prepared by the applicant without my consent or knowledge which I find deeply disappointing as I did not give permission for these pictures to be taken nor to be published on the company's website. I have communicated this to the company via email and have not received a reply. I am disappointed that there has been a lack of community engagement from the developer.
- 2. Health Effects:** I am deeply concerned about the potential health effects and noise generated from the proposed substation as well as the visual impact. the noise impact assessment states that the noise from the construction phase of the project will be short term in nature however the project is expected to take two years to completion. Nighttime noise levels are only 2dBa lower than daytime values.

- 3. Devaluation of Homes in the Area:** I am concerned that my property will be devalued as a direct result of this proposed development as it changes the landscape from scenic tillage fields and countryside to industrial landscape. I am highly disappointed that this development is being proposed close to my home and impacts negatively on the value of my home. The applicant states that that proximity to ground mounted PV panels does not impact the value of properties however a property in Co. Meath has been on the market for 3 years and its proximity to ground mounted PV panels has put off potential buyers as per an Irish Times article. I am concerned about the width of the proposed greenbelt between my home and the site boundary and would prefer to see it vastly increased. Also, the fact that pictures of my home have been used in the visual impact assessment highlight how my home will be affected by this proposed development.
- 4. Lack of Community Benefits:** I am deeply concerned that the proposed substation development will not bring any tangible benefits to the local community. The electricity generated by the solar panels is intended to be channelled directly into the national grid, offering no direct or affordable power supply advantages to the residents living in close proximity to the farm. This lack of local benefit undermines the justification for such a large-scale development in our area. While I understand the importance of producing green energy, it should not be done at the expense of sacrificing the well-being and comfort of local residents.
- 5. Disruption during Construction Phase:** I am gravely concerned about the length of the proposed construction period of this proposed development which includes works on Saturdays and the increase of construction traffic in the area. The construction management plan outlined that works would only take place on Sundays and public holidays in exceptional circumstances only, however these circumstances were not defined in the report. This issue was not addressed in the applicant's cover letter, the new version of the construction management plan has not stated what an exceptional circumstance would be to conduct works on Sundays and public holidays. The applicant stated that the construction works are temporary in nature, however the construction management plan states it will take 2 years to build. This construction phase will be extremely distributive to residents, and I am deeply concerned about the increase in volume of traffic from the construction to an already very busy road.
- 6. Lack of Clarity on Spec:** the lack of clarity as to whether this development will be 110Kv or 220Kv needs to be determined.

I urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to take the above into account. I would ask that you please acknowledge the safe receipt of this objection/submission.

Mise le Meas,

Karina Moody