

Name – Tracey Barnes

Address – Ballyfacey Upper, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny X91Y0Y9

Contact: Traceyann.Halloran@gmail.com

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: PAX10.323957

FORMAL OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BALLYFASY WINDFARM

Dear Secretary

My name is Tracey Barnes and I am a resident of Ballyfacey Upper. I am married to Stephen, and have two daughters, Aisling (10) and Fiona (7). We purchased our home in Ballyfacey Upper in January 2023. Having previously lived in the city, we were attracted to our home because of the peace and serenity of the area, the proximity to the forest and the property had land on the side. Our family has integrated well into the community. My daughters attend St Beacons NS, where my husband is also on the Board of Management. I became involved in coaching the Mullinavat Under 10 camogie team where Aisling and Fiona are both members. Our direct neighbours and the wider community have openly welcomed and embraced my family and we have fully embraced the rural way of life.

The news of the proposed Ballyfacey Windfarm is deeply concerning to my family for the following reasons:

Proximity of the wind turbines

- Our house is located ~730metres and ~800metres respectively from T6 and T7, with the remaining 8 turbines being within 2km. Each turbine has a tip height of ~180metres (600ft). For context, Croke Park's highest stand (the Hogan Stand) rises to approximately 35-40 meters, meaning the wind turbines would be roughly 4.5 to 5 times higher. We recognize that the applicant is adopting the setback distances of 4 times the tip height as laid out in the [Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines \(December 2019\)](#) however, even at that, the wind turbines will exert a spatial dominance over our home and garden.
- As noted above, one of the reasons we moved to Ballyfacey was because of the land at the side of our home. In an age where adult children are unable to afford to buy their own home because of the current housing crisis, we wanted to afford our children the ability to build their own homes. We understand that planning is a matter for Kilkenny County Council and that there is nothing in current legislation that would prevent approval of planning within 2km of the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm, however, we are aware of instances where operational wind farms (in Tipperary and Laois) opposed the planning for residential dwellings close to them (reference No to Ballyfasy Wind Farm Group submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála - Appendix 9.1 and 9.2). In addition, if the legislation was to be updated, a minimum setback distance could be applied, sterilising the land and preventing our daughters from building.

Dismissive Approach to Noise and Health (AM and LF Noise)

- In their submission, the developers significantly downplay the impacts of Low-Frequency Noise (LFN) and Amplitude Modulation (AM), treating these rhythmic "thumping" or "beating" sounds as imperceptible. This dismissive stance is deeply concerning to our family. Planning permission is not a defence against private nuisance, as established in the landmark High Court decision *Webster v Meenacloghspar*.

Recent rulings like *Byrne & Moorhead v. ABO Energy* have acknowledged that wind turbine noise can cause profound sleep disturbance, anxiety, and heart palpitations and this is a genuine concern for our household.

Peer Review findings on Noise from Huson & Associates can be viewed in the No to Ballyfasy Wind Farm (SID-OBS-004532) and by Martin Lavelle in SID-OBS-004513. He notes that the separation distance is not adequate and does not take into consideration the cumulative impact of the surrounding operation and consented wind farms in the area.

Impact to water resources

We have two main concerns when it comes to the impact of the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm on our water:

- Damage to our private well
 - Our property is set back from the regional road and does not have access to a public water or group well scheme. We rely exclusively on our private well for drinking water. These supplies are unmonitored and particularly vulnerable to contamination arising from construction activities such as blasting, drilling and large-scale ground disturbance
 - With 2 turbines less than 900m from our home we are concerned about the impact of the vibrations on our well. The issue of seismic vibration is not addressed in the application (See SID-OBS-004513: Chapter 8: Seismic issues & vibration)
 - The application also includes 2 borrow pits at T6 and T7 respectively. The borrow pit at T6 is just over 300m from our home. If blasting or drilling was to occur it could impact the water table resulting in loss of water to our private well.

- Microplastics
 - One significant concern is the cumulative effect of microplastic shedding from multiple wind farms in the area. If granted permission, there would be six wind farms in the area, and this number increases to seven if the proposed Wind Farm in Inistioge, Co Kilkenny was to be included. Each wind turbine, through the wear and tear of its components, can contribute to microplastic pollution. This pollution not only affects the immediate vicinity but also has the potential to spread over a wider area through water and air dispersion.
 - Microplastic particles can enter local waterways, soil, and ecosystems, posing a threat to wildlife and potentially contaminating the food chain. The presence of multiple wind farms exacerbates this issue, as the combined output of microplastics is significantly higher than that of a single installation. Additionally, microplastics can affect agricultural lands, impacting crop quality and soil health, which in turn can affect local farming communities. Note that the application, consisting of thousands of pages, lacks any reference to the amount of microplastics that will be shed from the turbine blades. (reference No to Ballyfasy Wind Farm Group submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála – Appendix 4)
 - Failure to address this issue adequately can lead to long-term environmental degradation and pose significant challenges for the future of the area. EDF and the wind industry as a whole may dismiss the concerns about microplastics. However, we strongly urge An Coimisiún Pleanála to exercise extreme caution on this issue as the potential for irreversible and devastating damage is too great a risk to ignore.

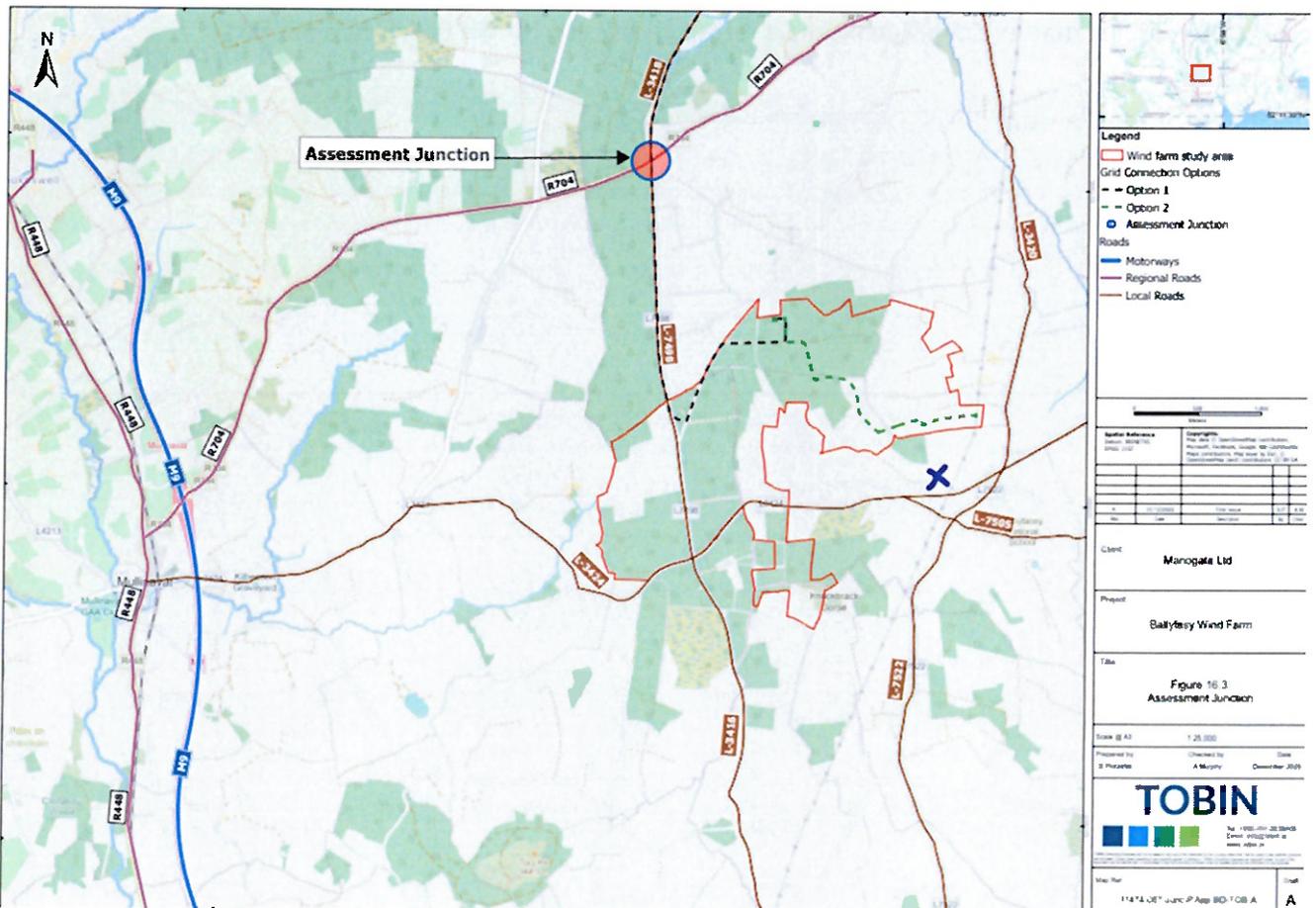
Road Safety

In the diagram below you will see the position of my home marked with a blue X. We use L-3424, L-7498 and the R704 multiple times daily to bring the kids to/from school, access the local amenities in Mullinavat village and to get onto the M9.

- As part of the peer review by Martin Lavelle (See SID-OBS-004513 – Issue 5) he noted that the wind turbines T1, T2 and T10 are within 40m of the local roads. 40m sounds like a lot but when you consider the tip height of the turbines is 180m – you soon realise that the blades will extend out over the local roads. The same local roads

that we use multiple times daily, whilst driving our children in the car. The design and layout of the proposed Ballyfasy Windfarm is extremely flawed and totally unacceptable.

- During winter, ice is already a risk on the local roads we travel. Ice on the blades of a wind turbine, where the blades extend out over our locals roads, would be catastrophic to the health and safety of the local community.



Conclusion

The reasons above are just 4 of many that I could give as to why I am objecting to the proposed Ballyfasy Windfarm. My family understand and are supportive of the renewable energy, however, a wind farm of the scale of the one proposed is not insignificant in its impact on our lives, our home and our community.

I am the Chair of the No to Ballyfasy Wind Farm group and it has afforded me the opportunity to meet a lot of people in the local community. People are genuinely concerned about the scale and impact of the proposed wind farm. There is also an overwhelming feeling that the applicant has purposely made the process difficult for the local community.

- The engagement meetings were held over 12km away from the proposed wind farm site, making it inaccessible for a lot of people to attend. Appointments only also made people feel uncomfortable, they wanted the information but didn't know what questions to ask. A community meeting was requested multiple times and denied. This would have allowed people to hear the same facts, at the same time.
- By applying directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála, the applicant is limiting the communities' ability to appeal any decision made.
- The applicant split the wind farm proposal and grid connection into two separate applications with An Coimisiún Pleanála and then added the complexity of design flexibility to the grid connection.
- Christmas was ruined for many families in the local community as we mobilised, engaged with experts and tried to read and comprehend the thousands of pages in not one but two applications submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála the week before Christmas. The applicant had been preparing this application for ~3 years and I

honestly believe that the intent of applying in late December was deliberate, knowing that people are busy and distracted with Christmas.

I have attached observations from friends and family members who are concerned about the development of the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm and its impact on my family, home and local communities.

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the Ballyfasy Wind Farm.

Kind Regards,

Tracey Barnes

Ballyfasy Windfarm Objection

Name: Pauline Halloran

Address: 9 Presentation Gardens, Slievekeale, Waterford

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: 323957

FORMAL OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BALLYFASY WINDFARM

Dear Sir/Madame

I wish to formally submit my objection to Ballyfasy windfarm, a project consisting of ten 180m tall wind turbines that is proposed just 720m from my daughters home in Ballyfacey Upper.

I would first like to note that this area of Ballyfasy already has 2 wind farms in place, Ballymartin and Ballylog. These wind farms contain multiple turbines of 120m in height and are placed in areas quite suitable for their placement, being set in locations not intrusive or obstructive and of a more suitable height. Ballyfasy wind farm, however, is on a much larger scale and in and is completely inappropriate given the size, community location and close proximity to local residents with a proposed turbine height of 180 metres.

The townland of Ballyfasy is flanked in all directions by windfarms such as BallyMartin, Rahora, Smithstown and the proposed CastleBanny. I am, rightfully, concerned with the concentration of such a large amount of turbines and the cumulative effect these have on local wildlife. The nature and biodiversity report all show the varied and diverse range of wildlife in the area, both protected species and other including Curlew, pinemartens, salmon, otter holts, badger, deer, common frog, newt and a large bat population (52,000 flights recorded in the biodiversity report and 7 species of bat identified). The bat survey in particular raised the issue of too many wind farms in the area being a significant and negative effect on conservation efforts with high potential for maternity roosts on site.

The project is vastly unpopular with the local community as can be seen from the large demonstrations and talks at the local community centres that have had massive attendance from the parish. I have also seen the various newspaper articles about the project and radio segments from local stations such as KCLR and WLR as well as it being highlighted by a number of councillors and TDs in the area.

The opposition to the plan has also been highlighted across various media platforms stating residents, councillors and TD's disapproval of this project with the negative aspects of Ballyfasy windfarm noted such as noise, environmental destruction, light flicker, size, infrasound, negative impact on property values, Aarhus convention breaches, residential unsuitability, visual impact, road unsuitability, likely pollution of waters to homes due to high radon in area and possible chemical contamination and special areas of conservation downstream from the site. I personally agree with every point listed above and would label the development as preposterous in both nature and conception.

Water quality is a concern as the site is at a high elevation and feeds downstream to a vast array of water tables including Special Areas of Conservation such as the Lower river Suir, Barrow and Nore. Planning documentation stipulates a very real and significant risk to wildlife and vegetation in these waterways through semisolid release, chemical contamination, accidental release of silt and sediment. Ballyfasy, being a rural area, has very little infrastructure in the area for residents such as water treatment and distribution for residents. Radon release is not mentioned though, Ballyfasy is a high radon area. Construction releases this toxic, cancer causing chemical into the air and it settles into groundwater. This water is then fed through waterways into family homes and reports make no mention of mitigation or management. It is worth noting that radon is the second highest cause of lung cancer after smoking in Ireland.

The local road networks are also completely unsuitable for a project such as this, many roads in the area are single lane traffic only and are in a poor condition. The amount of heavy machinery, HGV, LGV and general vehicles that will be visiting the site during the construction phase is more than the locality can handle. A nearby bridge recently collapsed in the area (3 Friars) and Ballynoony to Ballymartin is a particularly treacherous stretch of road with many accidents with traffic levels at their current level. The roads will be in a treacherous state with the amount of traffic proposed (over 200,000 vehicles over two years) and absolutely unsuitable for current infrastructure.

The issue which I feel has the most impact though is the visual impact this project will have. Ten 180m tall structures will be visible for miles in every direction, these turbines are double the size of the Statue of Liberty. Ballyfasy and surrounding areas is not only rural, agricultural land, Ballyfasy is an area with many family homes, there are over 150 residential properties within a 2km radius of

the proposed wind farm. To live within a structure of this size would encroach upon these families and compromise the residential amenity of their homes.

The overall visual impact on a wider scale is concerning as idyllic rural landscapes, a symbol of national identity and heritage, succumb to a dystopian field of towering machinery. Ireland has always been a draw for international visitors for the lush, green landscapes, approving 180m tall turbines in the midst of this greenery would be jarring to say the least.

The push for renewables is an important one but we should do so with community involvement and in such a way that respects the area in which it is proposed. Ballymartin and Rahora are prime examples of wind farms done correctly as their size and location are more in keeping with the area in which they inhabit. Ballyfasy wind farm on the other hand in neither of these things, it is imposing and towers over the community and the environmental cost is more than we should be willing to pay.

Ballyfasy Windfarm Objection

Name: Pat Halloran

Address: 9 Presentation Gardens, Slievekeale, Waterford

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: 323957

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Ballyfasy Windfarm Objection

Name: Susan Halloran

Address: Heathermount, Ballykinsella, Tramore, Co. Waterford

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: 323957

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Ballyfasy Windfarm Objection

Name: Patrick Halloran

Address: 5A Glen Road, Crobally Upper, Tramore, Co. Waterford

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

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Name: Ann Marie Alyward

Address: Clonassy, Mullinvatt, Co. Kilkenny

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

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The issue which I feel has the most impact though is the visual impact this project will have. Ten 180m tall structures will be visible for miles in every direction, these turbines are double the size of the Statue of Liberty. Ballyfasy and surrounding areas is not only rural, agricultural land, Ballyfasy is an area with many family homes, there are over 150 residential properties within a 2km radius of the proposed wind farm. To live within a structure of this size would encroach upon these families and compromise the residential amenity of their homes.

The overall visual impact on a wider scale is concerning as idyllic rural landscapes, a symbol of national identity and heritage, succumb to a dystopian field of towering machinery. Ireland has always been a draw for international visitors for the lush, green landscapes, approving 180m tall turbines in the midst of this greenery would be jarring to say the least.

The push for renewables is an important one but we should do so with community involvement and in such a way that respects the area in which it is proposed. Ballymartin and Rahora are prime examples of wind farms done correctly as their size and location are more in keeping with the area in which they inhabit. Ballyfasy wind farm on the other hand in neither of these things, it is imposing and towers over the community and the environmental cost is more than we should be willing to pay.

Name: Anthony Alyward

Address: Clonassy, Mullinvat, Co. Kilkenny

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: 323957

FORMAL OBJECTION TO PROPOSED BALLYFASY WINDFARM

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to formally submit my objection to Ballyfasy windfarm, a project consisting of ten 180m tall wind turbines that is proposed just 720m from the home of our friends Tracey & Stephen Barnes in Ballyfacey Upper.

I would first like to note that this area of Ballyfasy already has 2 wind farms in place, Ballymartin and Ballylog. These wind farms contain multiple turbines of 120m in height and are placed in areas quite suitable for their placement, being set in locations not intrusive or obstructive and of a more suitable height. Ballyfasy wind farm, however, is on a much larger scale and in and is completely inappropriate given the size, community location and close proximity to local residents with a proposed turbine height of 180 metres.

The townland of Ballyfasy is flanked in all directions by windfarms such as BallyMartin, Rahora, Smithstown and the proposed CastleBanny. I am, rightfully, concerned with the concentration of such a large amount of turbines and the cumulative effect these have on local wildlife. The natura and biodiversity report all show the varied and diverse range of wildlife in the area, both protected species and other including Curlew, pinemartens, salmon, otter holts, badger, deer, common frog, newt and a large bat population (52,000 flights recorded in the biodiversity report and 7 species of bat identified). The bat survey in particular raised the issue of too many wind farms in the area being a significant and negative effect on conservation efforts with high potential for maternity roosts on site.

The project is vastly unpopular with the local community as can be seen from the large demonstrations and talks at the local community centres that have had massive attendance from the parish. I have also seen the various newspaper articles about the project and radio segments from local stations such as KCLR and WLR as well as it being highlighted by a number of councillors and TDs in the area.

The opposition to the plan has also been highlighted across various media platforms stating residents, councillors and TD's disapproval of this project with the negative aspects of Ballyfasy windfarm noted such as noise, environmental destruction, light flicker, size, infrasound, negative impact on property values, Aarhus convention breaches, residential unsuitability, visual impact, road unsuitability, likely pollution of waters to homes due to high radon in area and possible chemical contamination and special areas of conservation downstream from the site. I personally agree with every point listed above and would label the development as preposterous in both nature and conception.

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Name: Grace Alyward

Address: Clonassy, Mullinvat, Co. Kilkenny

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

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Name: Rory Alyward

Address: Clonassy, Mullinvat, Co. Kilkenny

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

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Name: Amy Alyward

Address: Clonassy, Mullinvat, Co. Kilkenny

Application Name: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Case Reference: 323957

Date:

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