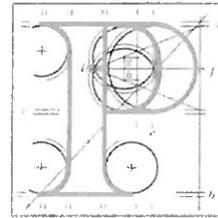


Our Case Number: ACP-323977-25



**An
Coimisiún
Pleanála**

Mary Bones
Legnanara Road
Kentstown
Navan
Co. Meath

Date: 18 February 2026

Re: The proposed expansion of the existing landfill facility at the existing Knockharley Landfill in the townlands of Knockharley, Flemingstown and Tuiterrath Navan, Co. Meath

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €50 that you have paid.

The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála when they have been processed by the Commission.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Eimear Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737184

PA04

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
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Legnanara Road
Kentstown
Navan
Co. Meath

Your Ref: ACP-323977-25

12 February 2026

Via pleanala.ie

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

**Re: Proposed Expansion of Existing Landfill by Knockharley Landfill Limited
in the townlands of Knockharley, Tuiterrath &
Flemingstown, Navan, Co Meath**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am deeply concerned by the above application to expand the footprint and extend the operational lifetime of the Knockharley Landfill by Knockharley Landfill Limited (hereinafter the applicant/operator) which sits within the community of Kentstown where I live. This would be a major, long-term expansion of what is about to become Ireland's only remaining landfill facility and would have significant environmental, visual, and infrastructural impacts on not just the land where it is located but the locality and its community also. Such concerns include, but are not limited to, the following.

Removal of Woodland / Foul Odour

- Since the very beginning of its operation, there have been ongoing problems with foul smells emanating from the existing site. Who is impacted by them on a day-to-day basis locally literally depends on which way the wind blows.
- Living less than a couple of kilometres from the South-Western corner of the existing site, my family and I personally experience the smell at its worst when the wind is Easterly, or particularly when there is little or no wind.
- Therefore, the proposal to remove approximately 15 hectares of surrounding woodland and replace it with merely 9 hectares of woodland would be to remove the **only** odour-filter or barrier the residents of Kentstown currently have, however ineffective it often proves to be.
- And what are we to do while we wait for the proposed 9 hectare replacement to grow: stay indoors and hold our noses?
- The return to, and continual exceedance of, Celtic Tiger-era volumes of traffic on the adjacent N2 national road means our environment needs even more trees to mitigate the impact of noise and pollution, not less, and certainly not a paltry 60% of what currently exists.

Extension of Lifetime of Landfill

This runs completely contrary to everything we know about the current climate crisis: we need to create less waste, not increase its footprint, and we need more green space, not less. The current landfill is now 10 years past the date by which it should have originally ceased operating and been returned to the community in 2016 as open green space.

Instead, it continues to grow both in size and capacity from its original permitted intake of c.100,000 tonnes of rubbish per annum with **no** intake of incinerator ash to its current annual intake of 440,000 tonnes pa from outside the county **including** up to 150,000 tonnes pa of incinerator ash. It doesn't matter whether this is hazardous or not, or what lengths the operator claims they go to to maximise the potential for recycling - it simply shouldn't be there.

This landfill epitomises everything about the 'thin end of the wedge' approach to development in light of the numerous additional planning and change of permission applications since development began in 2003. While the current application may not contain a request regarding change of capacity intake, bitter experience has taught our local community that this means nothing. The increased footprint and extended lifetime being sought here, not forgetting this will soon be the **only** operational landfill in the country, means it is merely a matter of time before such an application follows.

With the site already excessively disproportionate in size relative to its rural location and the most recent projections in November of last year stating the facility will be full by 2029 per its current licence, the operator and relevant authorities should now be working on planning for closure and returning the land to the community. Any other course of action will only allow for future further creeping increase in capacity intake. For those living in the area this would leave us with literally no end in sight.

Furthermore, it is no defence of the applicant's proposals to cite benefits to the community via the grant scheme they operate. The applicable value per tonne of intake payable to this fund has been dramatically reduced on a technicality brought about by their reclassification of intake from waste to recyclable matter.

The applicant proposes that to expand the landfill footprint by around 17.7 hectares will create new engineered landfill cells with capacity for around 4.12 **million** cubic metres of waste thereby extending its operational life. How many of those 4 million+ cubic metres will actually be deemed as applicable for the purposes of calculating future fund payments, and for how long? Given our experience to date, many residents are understandably concerned that any potential benefit to their community, along with its many clubs and associations, will be nowhere near what it could be if such reclassification can take place at will.

Therefore, what community could support such an application where the benefit to them is effectively negligible relative to the ever-expanding size of this landfill, which must also be considered in tandem with additional developments sought nearby, i.e.:

- Proposed Gas & Diesel-fired Power Plant application by Polarisgate Limited currently before you (Case ACP-323483-25); and
- Third recent application to Meath County Council (latest MCC ref: 2561357) by Highfield Energy Services/Solar Limited for a c.400 acre Solar Farm.

These all constitute a massive over-concentration of large scale, potentially detrimental, industrial development in one rural area, and while this application references the carrying out of long-term aftercare, environmental management and monitoring once operation ceases, it is missing one very important detail: exactly **when** will this occur?

Lack of Consultation with Local Community

As outlined above, this is one of several recent applications for major projects in the Kentstown area, and in each instance the local community has been completely disregarded. While I acknowledge this applicant did publish their planning notice in the local newspaper, other than a brief article in the same publication (Meath Chronicle) at the end of November there has been no actual communication or engagement within the local community on this matter.

It is not acceptable to simply leave files for inspection with Meath County Council or upload voluminous documents online when this is such a technically complex matter with so much at stake. These are merely tick-box exercises and show zero respect for the community within which the applicant has already operated for over two decades.

Also, categorising this application as a Strategic Infrastructure Development made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála (hereinafter ACP), rather than via our local authority of Meath County Council, has been confusing for many with complaints that even trying to establish the correct ACP reference for this application requires unnecessary effort, particularly for those still unfamiliar with online submissions.

I take this opportunity to remind ACP that the local community, its residents and local organisations are key stakeholders of no lesser importance than the applicant or the planning authority themselves. The most basic principles of corporate governance dictate that failure to communicate with key stakeholders should cause the corresponding planning application to also automatically fail. I urge you, as the deciding body in this matter, to refuse the above application on this basis alone.

Our community has never received any communication or engagement, much less a valid explanation, from Meath County Council (or any other body with responsibility for planning or zoning matters including ACP or any government department) as to why our area is being constantly and disproportionately targeted for this and the other developments referenced above. Without any clearly thought-out, official published policy to refer to, there is neither transparency nor accountability. This is no more acceptable than the failure of this, and other applicants, to engage with the local community.

Therefore, until such time as the community in Kentstown receives genuine engagement and explanation, the cumulative impact of this and all other proposed adjacent developments cannot be ignored leaving us no option but to reject them outright. I urge ACP to deny this application in full.

Le meas,

M. Bones

Mary T. Bones