

AtkinsRéalis



Non-Statutory Public Consultation - Consultation Report

Bord Gáis Energy

19 January 2026

0114485DG0037

CASHLA PEAKER PLANT

Notice

This document and its contents have been prepared and are intended solely as information for Bord Gáis Energy and use in relation to the Consultation Report

AtkinsRéalis Ireland Limited assumes no responsibility to any other party in respect of or arising out of or in connection with this document and/or its contents.

This document has 73 pages including the cover.

Document history

Document title: Non-Statutory Public Consultation - Consultation Report

Document reference: 0114485DG0037

Revision	Purpose description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date
0	For submission	EC	BG	SC	AJB	04/02/2026

Client signoff

Client	Bord Gáis Energy
Project	CASHLA PEAKER PLANT
Job number	100114485

Client
signature/date



Contents

1.	Introduction.....	5
1.1	Project background	5
1.2	Proposed location	5
1.3	Stakeholder identification	6
2.	Non-Statutory Public Consultation.....	9
2.1	Overview of the non-statutory public consultation process.....	9
2.1.1	Public information events	9
2.2	Communication materials.....	11
2.2.1	Project website.....	11
2.2.2	Consultation poster	12
2.2.3	Leaflet to local residents	12
2.2.4	Invitations to other stakeholders	12
2.2.5	Consultation brochure	13
2.2.6	Press release	14
2.2.7	Newspaper advertisement	14
2.2.8	Briefing with elected representatives	15
3.	Non-Statutory Public Consultation Feedback.....	17
3.1	Stakeholder Management System.....	17
3.2	Assessment methodology	17
3.3	Overview of feedback received	18
3.4	Key themes	18
3.5	Summary of issues identified within each theme.....	20
4.	Further community engagement	24
4.1	Additional Project Information Leaflet	24
4.2	Additional Public Information Event	25
4.2.1	Notification to local residents	25
4.2.2	Invitations to other stakeholders	26
4.2.3	Press release and media coverage	26
4.2.4	Project leaflet	26
4.2.5	Update to the project website	27
4.2.6	Engagement with residents affected by the grid connection	28
4.2.7	Public information event.....	28
4.2.8	Post Public Information Event Newspaper Advertorials	29
5.	Summary and Next Steps	31
5.1	Summary	31
5.2	Next Steps.....	32
	Appendix A.....	34
	Appendix B.....	40



Appendix C	44
Appendix D	46
Appendix E	49
Appendix F	55
Appendix G	56
Appendix H	60
Appendix I	62
Appendix J	63
Appendix K	64
Appendix L	66
Appendix M	70

Figures

Figure 1-1 Proposed location for the Cashla Peaker Plant	6
Figure 2-1 A0 display boards at the public information events in May 2025	10
Figure 2-2 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in a south westerly direction	13
Figure 2-3 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in an easterly direction.....	13
Figure 3-1 Atlas stakeholder management system	17
Figure 4-1 Leaflet issued to stakeholders to provide further information	24
Figure 4-2 A5 postcard notification for the public information event in December 2025.....	26
Figure 4-3 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in a south westerly direction. Landscape planting shown at Year 1	28
Figure 4-4 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in a south westerly direction. Landscape planting shown at Year 15	28
Figure 4-5 Display material used for the public information event	29

Tables

Table 1-1 – Stakeholder identification	7
Table 3-1 Key themes identified from consultation feedback.....	18
Table 3-2 - Summary of key issues	20



1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

Bord Gáis Energy is planning to develop a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant. This will provide flexible electricity generation which is recognised as a key part of the transition to net zero and to energy security.

As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, flexible gas generation is needed to ensure grid stability and security of supply, and to support the growth of renewable generation through proven technologies that are immediately available. The Irish Government has deemed this a national priority as highlighted in its Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply, November 2021.

The Climate Action Plan 2025 sets a key national target to have at least 2GW of new flexible gas generation by 2030 to deliver a flexible system to support renewables and demand. *“Rapid delivery of flexible gas generation is needed at scale and in a timeframe to replace emissions from coal and oil generation as soon as possible to reduce impacts on the carbon budgets.”*

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will have the ability to ramp up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to fluctuations in renewable generation.

1.2 Proposed location

The proposed location for the new Cashla Peaker Plant is 3.5km west of Athenry, in the townlands of Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, County Galway, see Figure 1-1 below. The new plant will be bounded to the west by the M18 motorway and to the south by the M6 motorway. The site location is crossed by an existing gas transmission pipeline, operated by Gas Networks Ireland, and is close to the existing Cashla 220kV electricity substation.

The proposed site for the Cashla Peaker Plant was selected primarily based on its proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission line, the existing Cashla 220kV substation, and the availability of a suitable area of land. A detailed consideration of the site, and alternative sites is included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).





Figure 1-1 Proposed location for the Cashla Peaker Plant

The area around the proposed peaker plant location and grid connection route encompasses a mix of land uses, primarily agriculture and residential, with some commercial and industrial enterprise. The nearest residential properties are more than 450m away from the site.

1.3 Stakeholder identification

A comprehensive stakeholder identification exercise was undertaken to establish a list of all project stakeholders. This important exercise ensured that all possible stakeholders were identified and afforded the opportunity to participate in the non-statutory public consultation to provide their feedback.

Stakeholder groups identified included:

- Local Authorities
- Councillors and TDs (elected representatives)
- Prescribed Bodies
- Non-Statutory Bodies
- Landowners
- Members of the public and community groups (including local residents, businesses and schools)

Table 1-1 – Stakeholder identification

Stakeholder category	Stakeholders	Communication methods
Local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galway County Council • Galway City Council • Northern and Western Regional Assembly 	Pre-application engagement via face-to-face meetings, virtual (Teams) meetings, and email.
Elected representatives <i>Municipal District of Athenry consisting of the Local Electoral Area of Athenry – Oranmore</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Dolan TD, FF • Peter Roche TD FG • Sean Canney TD, Ind • Louis O'Hara TD, SF • Cllr. James Charity, GCC • Cllr. David Collins, GCC • Cllr. Sean Broderick, GCC • Cllr. Peter Feeney, GCC • Cllr. Tom Grealish, GCC • Cllr. Cillian Keane, GCC • Cllr. Martin McNamara, GCC • Cllr. Declan Kelly 	1-1 engagement prior to the launch of the non-statutory public consultation. Provision of project information e.g. project website, project brochure, and invitation to attend public information drop-in events.
Prescribed bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Transport • Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage • National Parks and Wildlife Service - Development Applications Unit (DAU) • Office of Public Works (OPW) • Health and Safety Authority (HSA) • Failte Ireland • Transport Infrastructure Ireland • Commission for Railway Regulation • The Health Services Executive (HSE) • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) • An Taisce • The Arts Council • Inland Fisheries Ireland • Geological Survey Ireland • Heritage Council • Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) • Uisce Éireann • Gas Networks Ireland • EirGrid • ESB Networks • Port of Galway • Irish Aviation Authority 	Provision of project information and requests for information predominantly via email during the pre-application stage.



Stakeholder category	Stakeholders	Communication methods
Non-statutory bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teagasc • Corrib Airport Limited (Galway Airport) • Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) • Galway Chamber of Commerce • Irish Wildlife Trust • Bird Watch Ireland • An Garda Síochána • Galway Fire and Rescue Service • Bus Eireann 	<p>1-1 engagement during the non-statutory public consultation. Provision of project information e.g. project website, project brochure, email invitation to attend public information drop-in events.</p>
Landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners affected by site of proposed power plant • Landowners affected by proposed transmission cable route 	<p>1-1 engagement during the non-statutory public consultation. Provision of project information e.g. project website, project brochure, invitation to attend public information drop-in events.</p>
Members of the public and / or community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the public • Local schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Lisín na Coille ○ Clarin College ○ Presentation College ○ Gaelscoil Riada ○ Scoil Chroí Naofa • Local businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tribal Foods ○ Creva International ○ Rathmorrissety Lodge • Sports groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Athenry Athletics Club ○ Athenry Football Club ○ Athenry Golf Club ○ St. Mary's GAA Club Athenry • Community groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Athenry Community Council ○ Athenry Tidy Towns ○ Athenry Christmas Lights Committee ○ Community Employment Scheme Committee ○ LEA - Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board ○ Athenry Community Council 	<p>Provision of project information e.g. project website, project brochure, email invitation to attend public information drop-in events.</p> <p>News articles.</p>



2. Non-Statutory Public Consultation

2.1 Overview of the non-statutory public consultation process

Bord Gáis Energy place significant emphasis on community engagement and strive to ensure that all stakeholders are informed and engaged at each stage in the project lifecycle. Our aim is to build relationships and work closely with stakeholders within the Athenry community to address any issues or concerns they may have about the project, whilst also promoting the need for, and the benefits of the project.

To demonstrate our commitment to community engagement, we have appointed John Hayes of Bord Gáis Energy as the dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the Cashla Peaker Plant project. He is the main point of contact for all local stakeholders and is always available to engage with any stakeholder either face-to-face, or via telephone or email.

2.1.1 Public information events

Bord Gáis Energy held a total of three public information events between May and December 2025. The first two public information events were held on Wednesday 7th May 2025 and Tuesday 13th May 2025, in the De Burgo Suite of the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, from 3pm to 8pm, to provide information on the project proposals and to invite feedback from local residents, and the wider community.

The third public information event was held on Thursday 4th December 2025 from 1pm to 8pm in the De Burgo Suite of the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, to provide further information to the local community in advance of the submission of the SID application.

These events provided an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the project, and to engage directly with members of the project team. A total of 184 people attended the three public information events.

The main objectives of the public information events in May 2025 were:

- To establish the project team as the trusted source of all project information
- To build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders, the local community, and landowners, and ensure they are aware of the project and how it may affect them
- To promote the benefits of and the need for the project
- To present the details of the project proposals including the proposed grid connection to the Cashla 220kV substation
- To facilitate meaningful, transparent, and accessible engagement with all stakeholders through a range of methods
- To provide assurance to all stakeholders that any feedback provided would be given due consideration by the project team.

The format of the public information events was an informal drop-in style event, where attendees could view the project information which was displayed on A0 size boards mounted on wooden easels. Several members of the project teams were on-hand within the room at any given time to speak with attendees to answer any queries they had.





Figure 2-1 A0 display boards at the public information events in May 2025

The A0 display boards presented:

- Background information on Bord Gáis Energy
- The need for and benefits of the Cashla Peaker Plant
- The proposed site layout and location
- 3D visualisations of the peaker plant
- Photomontages showing the peaker plant from several viewpoints in the local area
- The proposed grid connection route to the Cashla 220kV substation
- Community benefit fund and interim project sponsorship
- The project timeline and next steps.

Printed copies of the consultation brochure were available, and attendees were encouraged to provide feedback using hardcopy forms or a digital terminal. A secure deposit box was provided to ensure anonymity for those submitting written feedback.

A copy of the consultation boards is included in Appendix A.

Following the public information events in May 2025, our Community Liaison Officer responded to all queries raised in a timely manner.

The following sections describe the various communication materials and channels that were used to inform stakeholders about the public information events, including how they could engage with the process to provide their feedback.

2.2 Communication materials

2.2.1 Project website

A dedicated project website www.cashlapeakerplant.ie was launched in April 2025 to serve as a central hub for all information relating to the Cashla Peaker Plant project. The website was designed to be accessible, informative, and user-friendly, enabling stakeholders to engage with the project information at their convenience (see Figure 2-1).

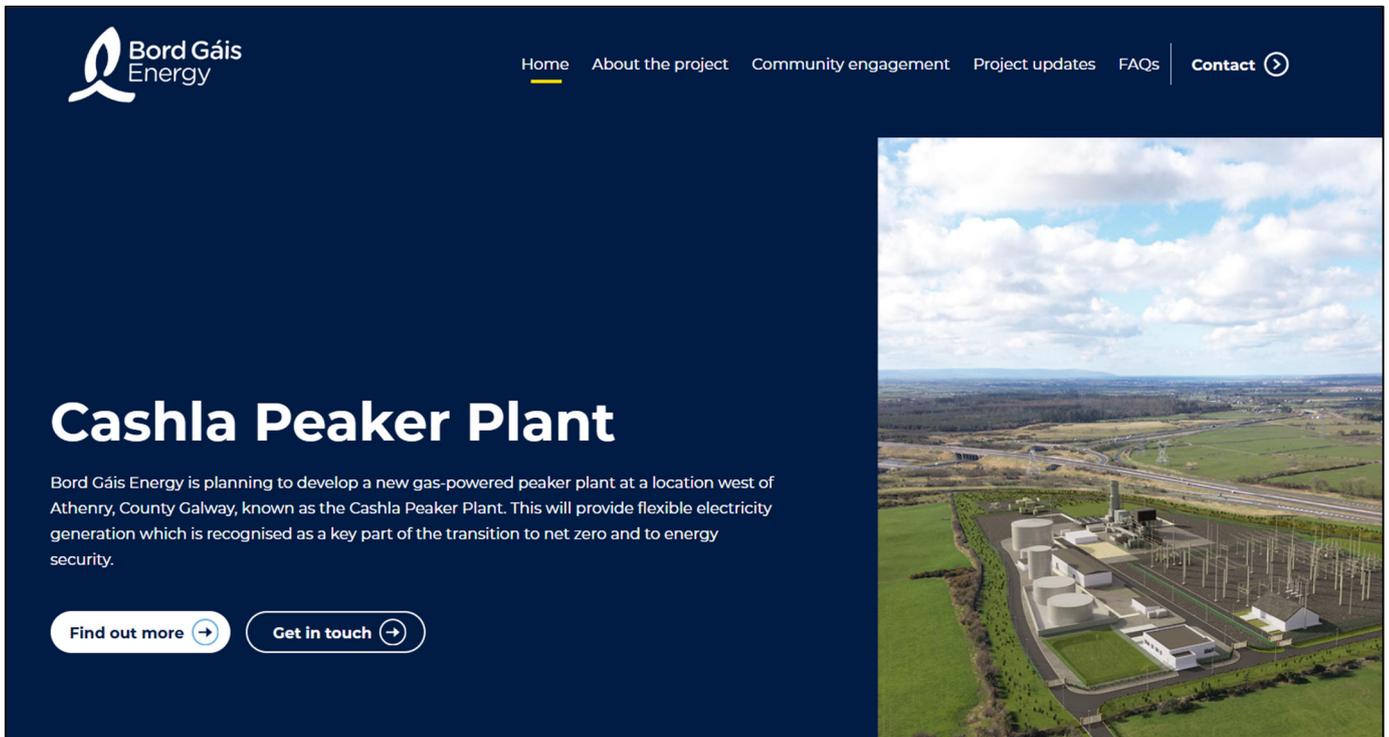


Figure 2-1 Project website homepage

The website included the following information:

- Information about the project including the key benefits
- Visual material, including maps and 3D visualisations of the peaker plant
- A downloadable version of the consultation brochure
- Details about the consultation events i.e. date, time, and venue
- Details of the interim sponsorship fund and longer-term community benefit fund
- A comprehensive set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- A secure online feedback form
- Contact details for the Community Liaison Officer.

The website played a key role in broadening the reach of the non-statutory public consultation, particularly for those unable to attend the in-person public information events. Screenshots of the website layout are included in Appendix B.

2.2.2 Consultation poster

To raise awareness of the non-statutory public consultation and the public information events, posters were designed and displayed in prominent locations throughout Athenry and the surrounding area. A total of 20 consultation posters were erected on local notice boards in community centres, libraries, civic buildings, and business premises in the Athenry area. A copy of the consultation poster along with a plan showing the locations of where the posters were erected is included in Appendix C.

The consultation posters were designed to be visually engaging and accessible, providing key information at a glance. Each poster outlined:

- The dates and times of the public information events
- A summary of the project's purpose and benefits
- Details on how to access further information
- Instructions on how to submit feedback
- A QR code linking directly to the project website - www.cashlapeakerplant.ie

The posters aimed to ensure that local residents and stakeholders in the Athenry area were informed of the public information events and had the opportunity to engage with the project team.

2.2.3 Leaflet to local residents

To ensure local residents and businesses were informed about the public information events, a project leaflet was prepared and distributed to approximately 320 addresses within a 2km – 3km radius of the peaker plant, as well as the proposed underground cable route to the Cashla 220kV substation.

The leaflet served as a formal invitation to the public information events and provided key information about the project, including how to engage and to provide feedback.

The leaflet included:

- A brief overview of the peaker plant
- The dates, times, and venue of the two public information events
- Instructions on how to access the consultation brochure on the project website
- Details on how to submit feedback via the online form, email, or in person at the public information events
- Contact information for the Community Liaison Officer.

The leaflets were printed locally and distributed by a professional distribution company. A copy of the leaflet and a map showing the distribution area are included in Appendix D.

2.2.4 Invitations to other stakeholders

Email invitations were issued to other stakeholders listed in Table 1-1 i.e. non-statutory bodies, and community organisations. These email invites were issued by the Community Liaison Officer and included the dates, times and venue for the public information events as well as an offer of 1-1 engagement if they were unable to attend either of the events in person.



2.2.5 Consultation brochure

To support the public information events, a non-technical project brochure was developed, to provide stakeholders with key information in a clear and accessible format. The brochure was designed to explain the project proposals in plain English and included 3D visualisations from two separate viewpoints, showing what the plant may look like once constructed (see Figure 2-2 and Figure 2-3).

The 3D visualisations provided stakeholders with a real-world illustration of the peaker plant, including some of the key features such as the turbine, emissions stack, and substation layout. In addition, it indicated how the peaker plant may be screened with landscape planting, to soften and screen the appearance of buildings and structures, helping to integrate the site into its natural surroundings.



Figure 2-2 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in a south westerly direction



Figure 2-3 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in an easterly direction

The brochure also included:

- The rationale for the project and its role in supporting Ireland's energy security
- A summary of the proposed peaker plant layout and infrastructure
- Details of the proposed grid connection to the Cashla 220kV substation
- Information on the consultation timeline
- Details on how to submit feedback via the online form, email, or in person at the public information events
- Contact information for the Community Liaison Officer.

The brochure was made available in both digital and hardcopy formats. A downloadable version was published on the project website, and soft copies were issued to elected representatives in advance of the consultation events. Printed copies were distributed to attendees at the two public information events.

A copy of the consultation brochure is included in Appendix E.

2.2.6 Press release

To coincide with the leaflet drop and erection of consultation posters, Bord Gáis Energy issued a press release to local and regional media outlets. The press release outlined the purpose of the Cashla Peaker Plant project, its importance in supporting Ireland's energy transition and energy security, and the opportunity for the public to provide feedback.

The press release helped generate media interest and was followed by a feature segment on Galway Bay FM's 'Galway Talks' programme, wherein Councillor Declan Kelly shared his views of the project and encouraged local participation.

2.2.7 Newspaper advertisement

To further promote the public information events, a newspaper advertisement was published in the Tuam Herald on Wednesday, 30th March 2025. The advertisement included:

- The dates and times of the public information events
- A summary of the project's purpose and benefits
- Details on how to access further information
- A QR code linking directly to the project website - www.cashlapeakerplant.ie

This print media approach complemented the digital media and in-person engagement efforts, ensuring that stakeholders who may not use online platforms were still informed and invited to participate.

A copy of the newspaper advertisement can be seen in Figure 2-4 below and a copy of the published advertisement is included in Appendix F.



Cashla Peaker Plant Project

Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years. We're playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition and we're building on a heritage of innovation by proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant.

About the project

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will provide flexible power generation to the national grid, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security. As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, back-up conventional generation is needed to ensure stability and security of supply and to support the growth of renewable generation. The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will help bridge this gap, by ramping up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to these fluctuations in renewable generation.



For more information

We invite you to drop in to one of our local public information events where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the project and to speak with some members of the project team.

Dates: Wednesday 7th May and Tuesday 13th May 2025

Venue: Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, County Galway, H65 H443

Time: 3pm to 8pm

You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie

Figure 2-4 Copy of newspaper advertisement submitted for publication in the Tuam Herald

2.2.8 Briefing with elected representatives

In advance of the public information events, our Community Liaison Officer issued invitations to local elected representatives from Galway County Council and TDs from Dáil Éireann to introduce the Cashla Peaker Plant project and offer opportunities for 1-1 engagement.

The briefing process included:

- An email invitation on 13th March 2025, outlining the project objectives and consultation timeline
- A link to the project website and a summary of the forthcoming community engagement activities
- An offer to arrange one-to-one meetings either in-person, or virtually during the week commencing 24th March 2025.

Several representatives availed of this opportunity for 1-1 engagement, including:

- Deputy Albert Dolan
- Deputy Louis O'Hara
- Councillor Martin McNamara
- Councillor Peter Feeney

Meetings were held in-person with Deputy Albert Dolan and Councillor Peter Feeney. Further engagement with other elected representative was carried out via telephone and Microsoft Teams meetings. These sessions allowed for

detailed discussion of the project, clarification of technical aspects, and the opportunity to raise any local concerns ahead of the public information events.

Some elected representatives also posted information about the public information events to their social media channels prior to the events, encouraging their constituents to attend and raise any issues or questions they may have directly with the project team.



3. Non-Statutory Public Consultation Feedback

3.1 Stakeholder Management System

Managing stakeholder information effectively is a complex process. Feedback submissions from stakeholders must be managed carefully and sensitively, and in line with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Bord Gáis Energy employed a stakeholder management software system called 'Atlas' to serve as the central repository for all stakeholder information, including lists of all landowners, members of the public, businesses, community groups, prescribed bodies, and elected representatives. In addition, all interactions between the project team and stakeholders are recorded in the system, including letters, emails, telephone calls, meeting notes, and submissions.

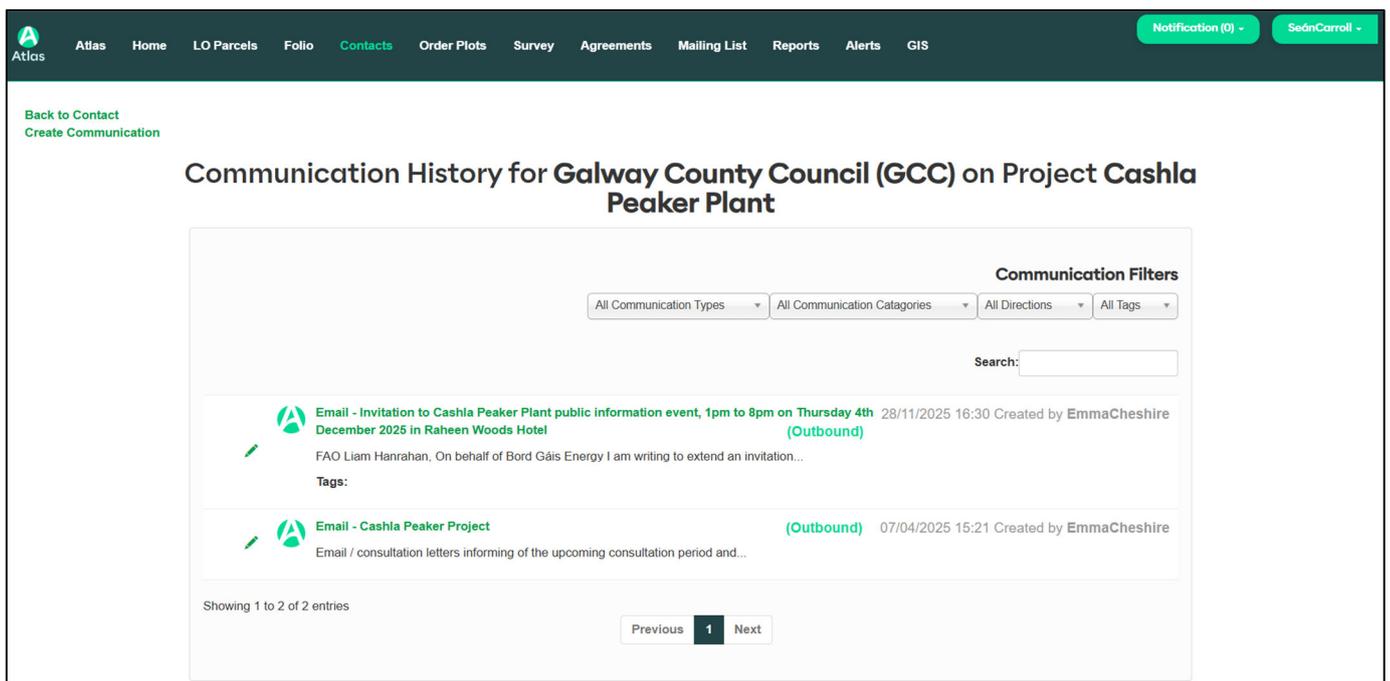


Figure 3-1 Atlas stakeholder management system

3.2 Assessment methodology

All feedback received during the public consultation was systematically recorded and analysed to ensure that stakeholder views were accurately captured and considered. Submissions were received through multiple channels, including:

- Hardcopy forms completed at the public information events
- Verbal feedback provided during 1-1 discussions at the public information events
- Email correspondence
- Verbal feedback provided during telephone conversations.

For consistency, verbal comments were transcribed and treated as equivalent to written submissions. Each submission was reviewed to identify key issues, concerns, and suggestions. Given the manageable volume of responses, a formal coding framework was not required. Instead, recurring themes were manually identified in Microsoft Excel and grouped into categories.

Simple counts were used to track the frequency of specific topics, and representative quotes were extracted to illustrate stakeholder sentiment. Where contact details were provided, responses were issued to acknowledge receipt and, where appropriate, to address specific queries.

This approach ensured that all feedback was given due consideration by the project team.

3.3 Overview of feedback received

The breakdown of feedback from the public consultation in May 2025 via the various channels is as follows:

- 26 written submissions were received over the course of the two public information events
- 6 email submissions were received following the public information events
- 1 online submission was received via the project website

All feedback submission were reviewed and analysed by the project team. These came from a broad range of stakeholders, including local residents, landowners, community groups, and elected representatives.

The feedback reflected a good level of local interest in the project and covered a wide spectrum of topics, from health and environmental concerns to construction logistics and community benefits. All submissions were reviewed and analysed to identify recurring themes

3.4 Key themes

The non-statutory public consultation process for the Cashla Peaker Plant project generated a range of feedback from stakeholders, reflecting a diverse range of views. The feedback was analysed and grouped into overarching themes and issues, to identify specific areas of public interest and / or concern. These themes are summarised in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1 Key themes identified from consultation feedback

Theme	Description
Human health	Comments relating to concern about air emissions, EMFs, and health impacts on nearby residents and schools
Location	Comments relating to the proposed location close to the town of Athenry
Plant operations	Comments relating to operational hours, fuel type, monitoring, and comparisons with other peaker plants
Construction impacts and traffic management	Comments relating to potential traffic disruption, access, safety, existing utilities services during construction
Noise and visual impacts	Comments relating to the visual impact of the emissions stack, landscaping, noise of the turbine, and construction related noise
Impact on private property	Comments relating to concerns in relation to property devaluation and potential restrictions on future land use / development
Grid connection	Comments relating to the potential disruption for local residents from the proposed underground cable route for the grid connection



Theme	Description
Environmental impacts	Comments relating to potential effects on local ecology and wildlife
Community engagement	Comments relating to issues around transparency of information, and notification of public information events
Community benefits	Comments relating to direct benefits to the community and interest in funding opportunities
Other infrastructure projects	Comments relating to other infrastructure projects and regional energy development
Future use	Comments relating to increased future operation, changes in plant function, and decommissioning

Each submission received was analysed, and comments categorised according to the 12 key themes above. The breakdown of feedback across these themes shows that human health concerns, and plant operations were the most frequently raised topics, accounting for 66% of all comments in the submissions. These were followed by concerns relating to construction impacts and traffic management, impact on private property, and noise and visual impacts. A detailed summary of the main issues identified under each theme is provided in Section 3.5 below.



3.5 Summary of issues identified within each theme

Table 3-2 - Summary of key issues

Themes	Issues identified
Human health	<p>Air emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns in relation to possible health implications as a result of air emissions from the peaker plant, particularly for those residents living in close proximity to the site. Queries in relation to the chemical constituents of the air emissions, in particular nitrous oxides (NO_x) and the potential health implications related to respiratory illnesses such as asthma etc. <p>Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small number of respondents also raised some concerns in relation to EMFs from electricity generation and transmission, and how these could impact human health.
Plant operations	<p>Operating hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queries regarding the plant operating hours with some scepticism regarding the infrequency of operation i.e. estimated operating time of approximately 100 hours per year, and concern that this may increase over time. Respondents sought clarity on how often the plant would be required to come online to make up the shortfall in generation. <p>Natural gas supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queries as to the source of the natural gas supply and some comments in relation to the Corrib Gas Field and whether this could sustain the plant for the project lifecycle. Some comments mentioned concerns that biomethane will be generated on site to supply the plant. Queries regarding the potential transition to more renewable fuel sources in the future and whether the plant will continue to operate on natural gas for the duration of its lifecycle if these sources do not become available at commercial scale. <p>Back-up diesel fuel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some concerns regarding the quantities of diesel stored on site as a back-up fuel. There appeared to be some confusion regarding the use of diesel, with some respondents commenting that they believed that the plant would be operating on diesel as a primary fuel source as opposed to natural gas.



Themes	Issues identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queries as to how long diesel could be stored on site before it would need to be removed for treatment and / or disposal. <p>Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queries regarding independent monitoring of the plant – in particular the air emissions.
Construction impacts and traffic management	<p>Traffic management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queries in relation to traffic management during the for the construction of the underground cable route for the grid connection to the Cashla 220kV substation. Respondents wanted to know whether there would be any road closures, and if so, how access to private property would be maintained. • There were a number of comments in relation to the narrow width of the road from Castlelambert to Lisheenkyle and queries as to how access to private property would be maintained. • Concerns about the possible impact on access to schools, with particular reference to Lisheenkyle National School. • Comments regarding the possible impact of heavy plant and machinery on the local road network, in particular the possible impact on private access splays to residential properties.
Location	<p>Site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were a number of comments in relation to the site location and the rationale given the rural nature of the area, proximity to residential properties, and the town of Athenry. <p>Proximity to local schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference was also made in some feedback to the number of schools in the local area and the possible negative impacts in relation to air quality and associated potential health risks.
Noise and visual impacts	<p>Visual impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queries in relation to the height of the emissions stack and what colour it would be once constructed. • Some respondents expressed concerns that the emissions stack would have a significant visual impact in the local area, however there was an also opposing opinion from some respondents who commented that their main concern was air quality and that they were not concerned about the height of the emissions stack so long as the air emissions were safe.



Themes	Issues identified
Impact on private property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 209 2069 304">• Queries were raised in relation to the possible noise impacts from the plant during operation e.g. noise from the turbine and the generator. Reference was also made to possible night time operation and the potential noise implications for local residents living in close proximity to the peaker plant. <p data-bbox="521 331 707 352">Property value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 384 2051 443">• Some concerns were raised by certain respondents regarding the potential impact of the peaker plant on the value of their property. <li data-bbox="568 467 1995 526">• There were also some comments relating to possible damage to their property as a result of vibration from machinery during construction. <p data-bbox="521 550 779 571">Future development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 603 1980 662">• Queries in relation to any possible restriction or impediments to future development of land e.g. new houses, or new services e.g. water and electricity. <li data-bbox="568 686 2069 746">• There were some concerns that the peaker plant could give rise to further industrial type developments similar to the peaker plant in the local area.
Grid connection	<p data-bbox="521 778 1010 799">Route selection for underground cable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 826 2069 885">• There were queries in relation to the route identified for the underground cable to the Cashla 220kV substation, in particular why the route was selected given the narrow width of the road and number of residential properties potentially affected. <li data-bbox="568 909 1854 938">• Some respondents queried the possibility of using an overhead line as opposed to an underground cable.
Environmental impacts	<p data-bbox="521 962 752 983">Ecological impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 1015 1877 1042">• There were some queries in relation to the impact of the peaker plant on sensitive ecology in the local area.
Community engagement	<p data-bbox="521 1066 757 1086">Project awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="568 1118 2007 1177">• A small number of respondents expressed frustration that they did not receive any notification of the public information events or only found out after the events had taken place. <li data-bbox="568 1201 2029 1294">• There were some comments in relation to the transparency of project information, with some respondents frustrated that they were not being provided with full details of the ongoing assessments e.g. air quality assessment, noise assessment etc.



Themes	Issues identified
Community benefits	<p>Community benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was positive feedback in relation to the interim sponsorship fund, and a number of stakeholders submitted requests for funding for their projects / initiatives. • Queries in relation to the longer-term Community Benefit Fund, and how this will be administered.
Other infrastructure projects	<p>Gas supply to Athenry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were some comments from respondents suggesting that a gas supply should be provided for Athenry. <p>Nepin Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some queries in relation to Nepin Energy's anaerobic digestion plant in County Mayo and whether biomethane generated would be used by the Cashla Peaker Plant. <p>Shannonbridge Power Plant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some queries as to how the Cashla Peaker Plant differs from the new power plant at Shannonbridge, in particular whether the Cashla Peaker Plant would also run on diesel.
Future use	<p>Future use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was some interest among respondents regarding the future transition to more renewable fuel sources such as hydrogen, or biomethane. • There were some queries in relation to this transition and whether this would require alteration to the height of the emissions stack.



4. Further community engagement

4.1 Additional Project Information Leaflet

Following the public information events in May 2025, Bord Gáis Energy reviewed the feedback received and continued to engage with stakeholders in relation to any queries or issues raised. To address some misinformation in relation to key aspects of the project, a new leaflet was designed and distributed, providing more information and clarity on the following key aspects:

- When the peaker plant will be required to come online
- The primary fuel that the peaker plant will use
- How the site for the peaker plant was selected
- How air emissions will be monitored
- How the electricity generated by the peaker plant will be connected to the grid
- How traffic will be managed during the laying of the underground cables for the grid connection

When will the Cashla Peaker Plant be used?

As we move towards an electricity grid that is increasingly based on renewable energy, peaker plants will be required to ensure security of supply. The availability of renewable electricity, such as solar or wind, can be intermittent in nature and these generation sources may not always provide the power necessary to meet peak demand on the grid. During these periods, EirGrid may request peaker plants like Cashla to come online to make up the shortfall and ensure the grid has sufficient power to meet demand.

However, as peaker plants are expensive to run they are typically the last line of defence, dispatched only when absolutely required to keep the lights on.

There are several peaker plants either under development or in operation throughout Ireland. Bord Gáis Energy is currently developing two 100MW flexible gas peaking plants in Monkian, Athlone and Profile Park in Dublin.

Example: generation sources dispatched by EirGrid on a day of high demand

Operating day (24 hours)

- Gas Peaker
- Gas Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT)
- Renewables

What fuel will the peaker plant use?

The primary fuel source for the Cashla Peaker Plant will be natural gas, which will be supplied from the Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline that runs through the south of the site. The power station is designed to be adaptable to biomethane or hydrogen blend fuel in the future, if and when it becomes available.

In order to comply with EirGrid requirements to ensure security of electricity supply, low sulphur diesel oil will be stored as a backup fuel. However, operation on diesel oil would only occur in irregular circumstances such as an interruption to gas supply or other electricity grid system emergencies.

How was the site for the peaker plant selected?

A comprehensive site selection process was undertaken and Bord Gáis Energy commissioned consultants AtkinsRéalis to assist in identifying a suitable site for the Cashla Peaker Plant. We then assessed the feasibility of the various sites and found many were unsuitable or unavailable. The site for the Cashla Peaker Plant was selected primarily based on its proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission line, the existing Cashla 220kV substation, and the availability of a suitable area of land. A detailed consideration of the site as well as alternatives will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted alongside the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála later this year.

How will air emissions be monitored?

Bord Gáis Energy will be required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continuously monitor air emissions from the stack any time the plant is in operation. This also forms part of the conditions of the Industrial Emissions licence for the peaker plant. Monitoring of air emissions will be undertaken using regulated and independently verified permanent monitoring equipment, which will be subject to regular maintenance and calibration routines in line with statutory requirements.

We'll also be required to provide these results to the EPA under the conditions of the Industrial Emissions Licence for the peaker plant. They will be available to the public on the EPA's website. The EPA will make regular unannounced inspections to the peaker plant at their discretion and undertake monitoring of their own to verify the accuracy of the monitoring data being reported by the site.

Bord Gáis Energy has been operating the 445MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant at Whitegate, County Cork for the past 15 years. Like our Whitegate Plant, the Cashla Peaker Plant will be operated to the highest safety and environmental standards and will be subject to strict regulation from the Health & Safety Authority (HSA) and the EPA.

How will electricity generated by the peaker plant be connected to the grid?

As per EirGrid guidelines, the preferred option for connecting the peaker plant to the Cashla 220 kV substation is via an underground cable in the public road network. We have considered the feasibility of several options for the underground cable route, however there are constraints with some routes due to the presence of existing underground utilities, restricting the space available for the new cable.

The cable route will be subject to both planning approval by An Coimisiún Pleanála, and approval by EirGrid as part of the grid connection offer for the peaker plant.

How will traffic be managed during the laying of the underground cables?

We're very conscious of the impact that works may have on the local road network and we'll liaise with local residents in relation to traffic management proposals.

A full traffic management plan will be developed and details included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Construction Traffic Management Plan to be submitted alongside the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála later this year.

Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in a south westerly direction

Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in an easterly direction

Figure 4-1 Leaflet issued to stakeholders to provide further information



This leaflet was distributed to the same property addresses as the initial project information leaflet issued prior to the public information events i.e. approximately 320 addresses within a 2km – 3km radius of the peaker plant, as well as the proposed underground cable route to the Cashla 220kV substation.

The leaflet also included contact information for the Community Liaison Officer should any stakeholders wish to engage further to request more information. A copy of the leaflet is included in Appendix G.

In addition to the leaflet distribution, the FAQs on the project were also updated with the latest information.

4.2 Additional Public Information Event

Following the public information events in May 2025, Bord Gáis Energy became aware that a community concern group called the Athenry Peaker Plant Concern Community had been formed, which predominantly consisted of local residents in the Athenry area who are concerned about the project and the potential impacts it could have on the area.

The concern group raised a range of issues, including:

- Health concerns in relation to air quality from the air emissions from the plant
- Plant operations in relation to running time, fuel supply, and storage of backup diesel
- Site location and the associated infrastructure constraints
- Construction impacts and the potential disruption to local residents
- Visual impact in relation to the height of the emissions stack
- Emergency procedures and the risk of fire / explosion
- Stakeholder engagement – lack of awareness of the project in the local community

There was some frustration from the concern group that certain information was not available during the public information events in May 2025 e.g. details of the air quality assessment, and traffic management details for the grid connection route etc. This was due to the fact that the various environmental and technical assessments were ongoing at that time and had not been concluded.

Therefore, following a meeting between Bord Gáis Energy, the Athenry Peaker Plant Concern Community group, and a number of elected representatives in October 2025, Bord Gáis Energy agreed to hold an additional public information event in Athenry to provide further information to the local community in advance of the submission of the SID application. Bord Gáis Energy also made a number of the project Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) available at the public information event to engage with local residents on the particular issues that matter to them.

To facilitate this public information event, further communication materials were developed, and these are outlined in the sections below.

4.2.1 Notification to local residents

Following a number of comments in relation to the extent of the notification exercise for the public information events in May 2025, Bord Gáis Energy decided to extend the notification zone from 2km to 5km around the peaker plant site, to include the whole of the town of Athenry.

There were 2,384 property addresses within this 5km zone, therefore Bord Gáis Energy employed An Post's Admailer service to print and post A5 postcards to all of these property addresses with the key information relating to the public



information event. This included the date, time, and venue i.e. 4th December 2025 in the De Burgo Suite of the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. A copy of the A5 postcard and the 5km distribution zone is included in Appendix H.



Figure 4-2 A5 postcard notification for the public information event in December 2025

4.2.2 Invitations to other stakeholders

Email invitations were issued to other stakeholders listed in Table 1-1 i.e. non-statutory bodies, and community organisations. These email invites were issued by the Community Liaison Officer and included the date, time and venue for the public information event as well as an offer of 1-1 engagement if they were unable to attend the event in person.

4.2.3 Press release and media coverage

Prior to the public information event, Bord Gáis Energy issued a press release. This was covered by a number of local media outlets, including:

- The Tuam Herald, published an article on 26th November 2025, making reference to some concern among local residents in relation to the project, but also outlined Bord Gáis Energy's ongoing engagement with the local community and the planned public information event on 4th December 2025 in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. A copy of this article is included in Appendix I.
- Connacht Tribune published an online piece on 3rd December 2025, referring to the planned public information event. There was also a link to a segment on Galway Bay FM in relation to an interview with Deputy Louis O'Hara. See link to piece: <https://connachttribune.ie/public-information-event-over-plans-for-major-cashla-power-plant/>.
- Galway Bay FM published an online piece on 3rd December 2025 referring to the planned public information event, including an interview with Deputy Louis O'Hara on their Galway Talks programme. See link to piece: <https://www.galwaybayfm.ie/galway-bay-fm-news-desk/public-information-event-over-plans-for-major-cashla-power-plant-208753>.

4.2.4 Project leaflet

To support the public information event, a project leaflet was developed, to re-affirm Bord Gáis Energy's commitment to community engagement based on the three key pillars:

- **Informing**



Keeping stakeholders updated on issues that affect them

- **Involving**

Involving stakeholders in opportunities as we plan and build the Cashla Peaker Plant

- **Responding**

Listening to stakeholders and addressing any questions, concerns and / or aspirations

The leaflet also included the project benefits on the reverse as well as the contact details for the Community Liaison Officer, and a QR code linking directly to the project website.

The leaflet was made available in both digital and hardcopy formats. A downloadable version was published on the project website and print copies were distributed to attendees at the two public information events.

A copy of this leaflet is included in Appendix J.

4.2.5 Update to the project website

In advance of the public information event the project website was updated with the latest information in relation to:

- Plant operations
- Preliminary outcomes of the environmental assessments e.g. air quality assessment
- Landscape and visual impact
- Light and noise impacts
- Plant health and safety

Following ongoing refinement to the project design, the 3D visualisations were also updated to take account of some minor changes to the plant layout. The landscape planting shown in the visualisations was also updated to show the planting for Year 1 and Year 15.

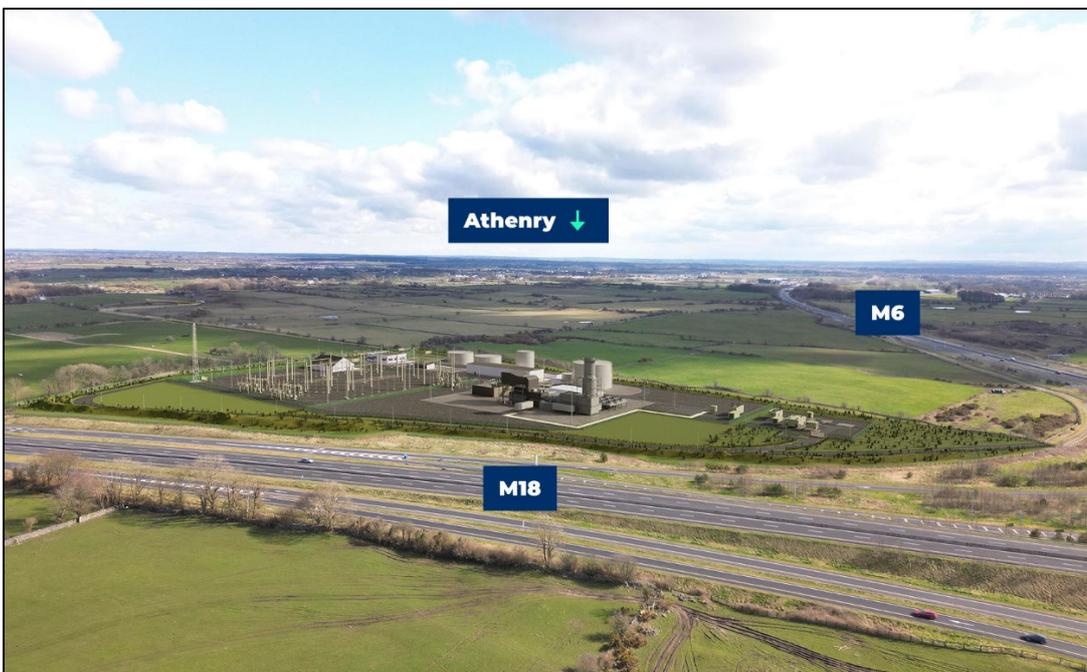


Figure 4-3 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in a south westerly direction. Landscape planting shown at Year 1.

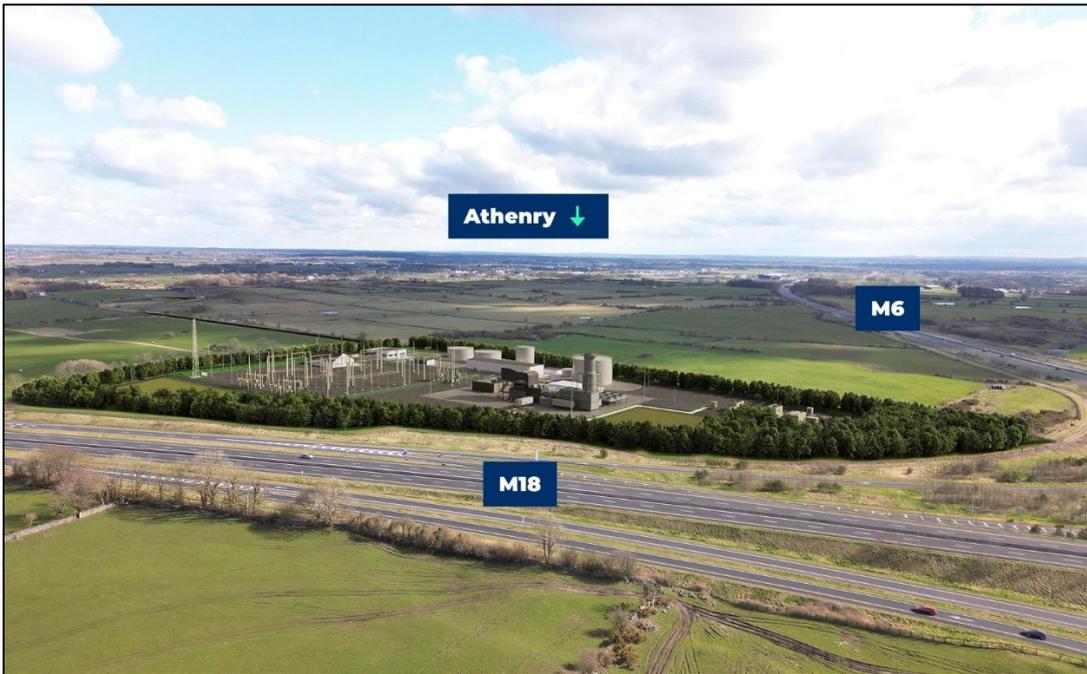


Figure 4-4 3D visualisation of the Cashla Peaker plant looking in a south westerly direction. Landscape planting shown at Year 15

In addition, the FAQs were also updated with this latest information.

4.2.6 Engagement with residents affected by the grid connection

Prior to the public information event, Bord Gáis Energy undertook an exercise to engage directly on a 1-1 basis with local residents living on the road where the underground cable is proposed to be constructed. There are approximately 60 residential properties along this road and the Community Liaison Officer, along with another member of the project team, visited each property to speak with the residents to explain more about the proposals, and to reassure them that we will engage with them at each relevant stage of the project, to keep them informed, and to listen to any queries or concerns they may have. A leaflet was left with each resident with information on the current stage of the project, a map showing the proposed cable route, and details of the public information event on 4th December 2025.

Where no one was home at the time of visiting, a leaflet and calling card were posted through the letterbox of the property. The calling card including contact details for our Community Liaison Officer, and a QR code linking to the project website.

A copy of the leaflet and calling card is included in Appendix K.

4.2.7 Public information event

The event was held on Thursday 4th December 2025 from 1pm to 8pm in the De Burgo Suite of the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry and was attended by 94 people.

The format of the public information event was similar to the public information events in May 2025, in that it was an informal drop-in style event, where attendees could walk around the room and view the project information at their convenience. Members of the project team were on hand to speak with stakeholder to address any queries they had.

For this event, large curved pop-up banners and pull-up banners were used to display the project information, see Figure 4-5.

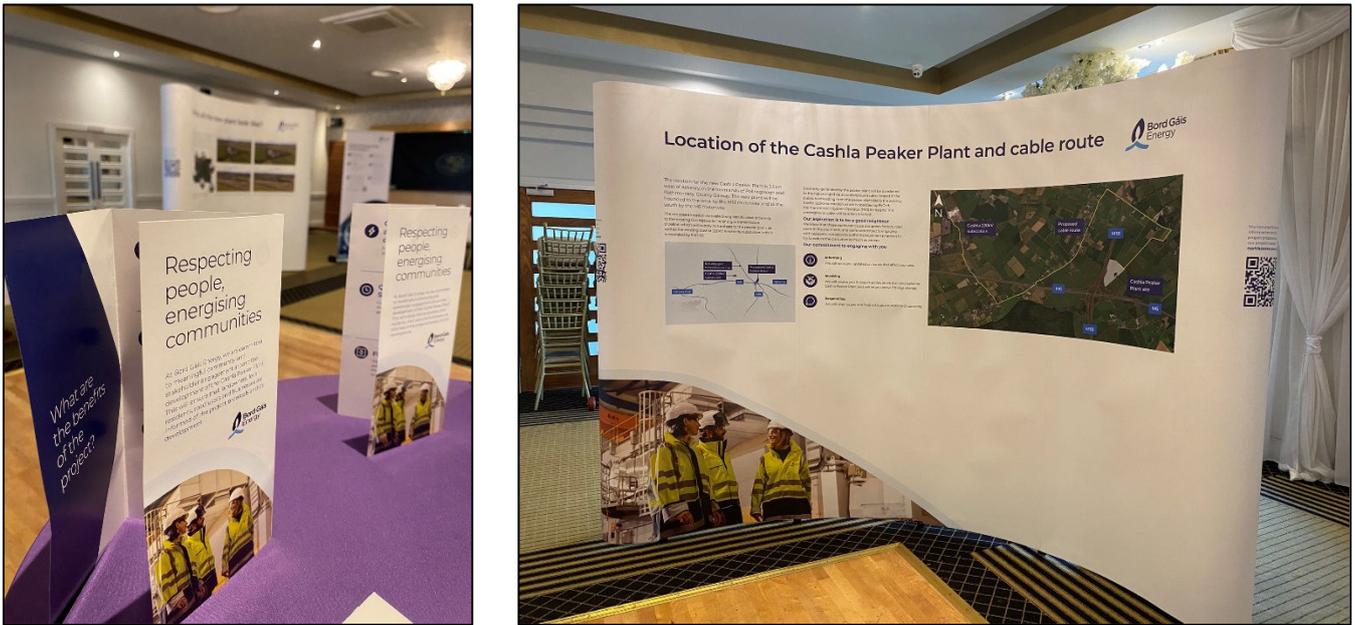


Figure 4-5 Display material used for the public information event

The display material presented:

- Benefits of the project
- Information about the plant operations including:
 - Running time
 - Fuel supply
 - Grid connection
- Project timeline, including information on the forthcoming SID application
- Location of the peaker plant and grid connection route
- 3D visualisations of the peaker plant, including photomontages from various viewpoints in the local area
- Environmental considerations, including:
 - Air emissions
 - Light and noise impacts
 - Landscape and visual impacts
 - Health and safety
- Community benefit fund

A copy of the display material is included in Appendix L.

4.2.8 Post Public Information Event Newspaper Advertorials

Following the public information event on 4th December 2025 Bord Gáis Energy reviewed and updated information on the project website, including the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section, based on feedback received from

stakeholders who attended the event. An advertorial was published in The Tuam Herald, Connacht Tribune, and Galway Advertiser newspapers, to notify people that this information on the project website had been updated, and to further promote the Community Liaison Officer as being available to assist with any queries that anyone may have in relation to the project. The Community Liaison Officer's contact details were shared in this advertorial.

A copy of the advertorial in each newspaper is included in Appendix M.



5. Summary and Next Steps

5.1 Summary

Bord Gáis Energy undertook a comprehensive non-statutory public consultation exercise to inform the local community and other stakeholders about the Cashla Peaker Plant project and to obtain their feedback on the proposals.

A project website was launched in April 2025 to serve as the central hub for all information relating to the Cashla Peaker Plant project. This also included the contact details for the dedicated Community Liaison Officer for the project, who was on hand at all times to address any queries from stakeholders throughout the consultation process.

Two public information events were held in the De Burgo Suite of the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry on Wednesday 7th May 2025 and Tuesday 13th May 2025 which were attended by 90 people. These events were publicised in a range of methods, including a leaflet drop to local residents in a 2km radius around the peaker plant, consultation posters erected in Athenry, newspaper advertisements, and press release. In addition, the public information events were promoted by certain elected representatives on social media.

Members of the project team were available to speak with stakeholders to listen to their feedback and to address any issues or concerns they had. Information was presented to stakeholders who attended the events on large A0 display boards, and hardcopy brochures were also available for stakeholders to take away.

A total of 33 feedback submissions were received at the time of the public information events in May 2025. These were reviewed and analysed to identify 12 key themes, and specific issues related to each theme, as detailed in Sections 3.4 and 3.5.

The most frequent issues raised relate to:

- Possible human health concerns as a result of air emissions from the peaker plant;
- Operating hours of the plant with some concern that this may increase over time;
- Concern that the plant may operate on diesel more frequently;
- Disruption to local residents during construction of the peaker plant and the underground cable;
- Visual impact with particular focus on the height of the emissions stack; and
- How to obtain further information on the Community Benefit Fund.

Following the public information events in May 2025, Bord Gáis Energy issued a further leaflet to clarify some misinformation related to the issues outlined above.

In addition, following ongoing engagement with local stakeholders and elected representatives, a further public information event was held on 4th December 2025 in the De Burgo Suite of the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry. This was attended by 94 people.

Over the course of the project to date, Bord Gáis Energy has responded to all queries received and has consistently sought to engage with stakeholders in a manner that is transparent, respectful, empathetic, and fair.



5.2 Next Steps

Bord Gáis Energy's Community Liaison Officer and the project team will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the submission of the SID application to An Commission Pleanala and beyond. As previously mentioned, Bord Gáis Energy place significant emphasis on community engagement and will strive to be a 'good neighbour' as we aim to develop the Cashla Peaker Plant project.



APPENDICES



Appendix A

A0 Display boards from public information event

Bord Gáis Energy

Cashla Peaker Plant Project

Public Information Event



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposal on our project website: [cashlaplantsite.ie](https://www.bordgais.ie/cashlaplantsite)



Who we are

Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years.

We're playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition and we're committed to achieving net zero by 2040, and to helping our 730,000 customers to get to net zero by 2050.

To support the transition, Bord Gáis Energy is investing in flexible gas generation, which will help balance the grid and support the growth of renewable energy. We're building on a heritage of innovation by proposing a new gas powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant. This plant will provide flexible electricity generation, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security.



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposal on our project website: [cashlaplantsite.ie](https://www.bordgais.ie/cashlaplantsite)





Proposed location

The proposed location for the new Cashla Peaker Plant is 3.5km west of Athenry, in the townlands of Pallaingroagh and Rathmorrisy, County Galway. The new plant will be bounded to the west by the M18 motorway and to the south by the M6 motorway.

The proposed location was selected given its close proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline, which will supply natural gas to the peaker plant, as well as the existing Cashla 220kV electricity substation, which is operated by EirGrid.



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website: cashlappeakerplant.ie



What will the new plant look like?

As part of the proposals, we'll place an emphasis on enhancing biodiversity to improve local habitats and ecosystems. Landscaping, including dense screen planting, will be provided to minimise the impact on the surrounding landscape. This will include native trees and shrubs to soften and screen the appearance of buildings and structures, helping to integrate the site into its natural surroundings.



Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in an easterly direction



What will the new plant look like?

The landscape planting shown in the visualisation is based on five years growth. The specific details of these landscaping measures will be outlined in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EiAR) and the Landscaping Plan.



Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in a south westerly direction

Proposed cable route

Electricity generated by the peaker plant will be fed into the national grid via an underground cable located in the public road leading from the peaker plant site to the existing Cashla 220kV substation which is operated by EirGrid, the Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland. We're currently engaging with EirGrid and Galway County Council regarding the proposed cable route and we'll also be engaging with local residents living on the road where the cable route is proposed to be located. We'll also prepare a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to be submitted with the planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála later this year.



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website cashlopeakerplant.ie



Need for the project

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will provide flexible power generation to the national grid, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security. As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, back-up conventional generation is needed to ensure stability and security of supply and to support the growth of renewable generation. The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will help bridge this gap, by ramping up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to these fluctuations in renewable generation.

The Government of Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2024 sets a key national target to have at least 20% of new flexible gas generation by 2030 to deliver a "flexible system to support renewables and demand".

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021 – 2030 and the Government's 'Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply' also highlights new conventional (mainly gas-powered generation) as a key strategic investment priority for the Government.

"The development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gas/oil distillate-fired generation) is a national priority, and should be permitted and supported in order to ensure security of electricity supply and support the growth of renewable electricity generation".

The Government's 'Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply'



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project process on our project website: cashlapeakerplant.ie



What are the benefits of the project?



Grid Stability and Security of Supply

Providing quick start power to react to peaks in demand.



Quick Start-Up

Capability to move from a standing start to full power generation rapidly.



Flexibility

The new plant can be switched on or off to balance the grid when demand is high, or generation is low.



Supports Ireland's Energy Transition

The new plant will act as a bridge technology ensuring a stable transition to more renewable generation without compromising reliability.



Community Benefits

Bord Gáis Energy will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of the project to support local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area.



Economic Benefits

Generates employment during construction and operation, and also attracts investment through the provision of a secure and reliable grid.



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project process on our project website: cashlapeakerplant.ie



Community benefits

We're committed to leaving a positive and lasting legacy in our local community to ensure that the people of Pollnagroagh, Rathmorrisy and the wider area share in the benefits of our project.

We're in the process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund, which will be designed to positively contribute to local groups and organisations, and support local communities. Details regarding how the fund will work and how you can get involved are being developed and we'll be consulting local stakeholders over the coming months. We'll share all information on the project website once finalised.



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website: cashlapoakerplant.ie



Project timeline



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website: cashlapoakerplant.ie





Appendix B

Screenshots from project website

The screenshot shows the 'About the project' section of the website. It features a dark blue header with the Bord Gáis Energy logo and navigation links: Home, About the project, Community engagement, Project updates, FAQs, and Contact. Below the header, the 'About the project' title is followed by two buttons: 'Read More' and 'View key benefits'. The main content is organized into a 2x3 grid of cards, each with an icon and a title:

- Peak demand:** The Cashla Peaker Plant is a gas-fuelled power plant that will operate only during periods of high electricity demand, known as peak demand.
- Open Cycle Gas Turbine:** It will consist of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT). Depending on the technology that is used, the turbines will have a total output capacity of either 325MW or 334MW.
- Emission stack:** The OCGT will also include one emissions stack with a height of 30m.
- Natural gas:** The primary fuel source for the Cashla Peaker Plant will be natural gas, which will be supplied from the Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline that runs through the south of the site.
- Running time:** The Transmission System Operator (EirGrid) will determine when the Peaker Plant is required to come online to ensure the grid has sufficient power to meet demand and ensure stability.
- National grid:** Electricity generated by the peaker plant will be transferred to the national grid via an 8.1 km underground cable which will be located in the public road. This cable will lead from the peaker plant site to the existing Cashla 220kV substation.

The screenshot shows the 'Key benefits' section of the website. It features the same dark blue header with the Bord Gáis Energy logo and navigation links. Below the header, the 'Key benefits' title is followed by the text: 'The key benefits of the project include:'. The main content is organized into a 2x3 grid of cards, each with an icon and a title:

- Grid stability and security of supply:** Providing quick start power to react to peaks in demand.
- Quick start-up:** Capability to move from a standing start to full power generation rapidly.
- Flexibility:** The new plant can be switched on or off to balance the grid when demand is high, or generation is low.
- Supports Ireland's energy transition:** The new plant will act as a bridge technology ensuring a stable transition to more renewable generation without compromising reliability.
- Community benefits:** Bord Gáis Energy will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of the project to support local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area.
- Economic benefits:** Generates employment during construction and operation, and also attracts investment through the provision of a secure and reliable grid.



Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in a south westerly direction. The landscape planting shown in this image is based on 1 year's growth.

Click image to enlarge

As part of the development of the peaker plant landscaping, including dense screen planting, will be provided to minimise the impact on the surrounding landscape. This will include native trees and shrubs to soften and screen the appearance of buildings and structures, helping to integrate the site into its natural surroundings.

The specific details of these landscaping measures will be outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Landscaping Plan to be submitted alongside the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in winter 2025 / 2026.



Location

The location for the new Cashla Peaker Plant is 3.5km west of Athenry, in the townlands of Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, County Galway. The new plant will be bounded to the west by the M18 motorway and to the south by the M6 motorway.

The proposed location was selected given its close proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline, which will supply natural gas to the peaker plant, as well as the existing Cashla 220kV electricity substation, which is operated by EirGrid.





Respecting people, energising communities

We place significant emphasis on community engagement and we'll continue to provide information about the project as it moves through different stages of development.

To demonstrate our commitment to community engagement, we have appointed John Hayes of Bord Gáis Energy as the dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the Cashla Peaker Plant project. He will serve as the main point of contact for all local stakeholders as the project progresses.

Public information event – December 2025

Following ongoing engagement with members of the local community, we held our third public information event in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry on Thursday 4th December 2025 to provide an update on the project in advance of the submission of the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

The event was well attended by members of the local community and elected representatives and demonstrates our commitment to engaging with all stakeholders as the project progresses.



Cashla Peaker Plant project information leaflet - December 2025

[View document](#)

Project timeline



← 3 / 7 →

■ Spring/Summer 2025

Public consultation

Public consultation on scheme proposals including two public information events in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry on Wednesday 7th May and Tuesday 13th May 2025.

Preparation of the EIAR for SID application.

FAQs

We hope this helps



About the project

Who Is Bord Gáis Energy?



What Is the Cashla Peaker Plant project, and why Is It being developed?



What Is flexible gas generation and why Is It important?



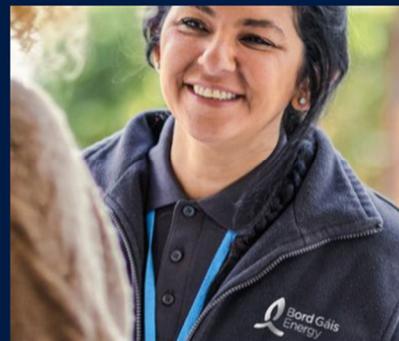
What are the benefits of the project?



Location

Get in touch

We're happy to help



Unanswered questions?

We place significant emphasis on community engagement and we'll continue to provide information about the project as it moves through different stages of development.

We have appointed John Hayes of Bord Gáis Energy as the dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the Cashla Peaker Plant project. He will serve as the main point of contact for all local stakeholders as the project progresses.



John Hayes
Bord Gáis Energy Community Liaison Officer

cashla@bordgais.ie 086 811 1284

Appendix C

Consultation poster



Cashla Peaker Plant Project

Project Information Events

Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years. We're playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition and we're building on a heritage of innovation by proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant.

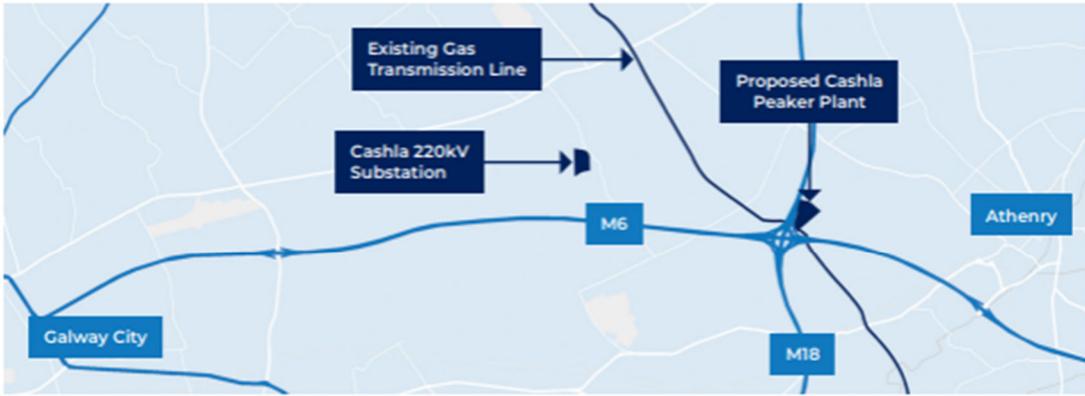
About the project

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will provide flexible power generation to the national grid, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security. As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, back-up conventional generation is needed to ensure stability and security of supply and to support the growth of renewable generation. The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will help bridge this gap, by ramping up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to these fluctuations in renewable generation.

For more information

We invite you to drop in to one of our local public information events where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the project and to speak with some members of the project team.

Dates: Wednesday 7th May and Tuesday 13th May 2025
Venue: Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, County Galway, H65 E443
Time: 3pm to 8pm



You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project cashlapeakerplant.ie



Poster distribution locations in Atherry



Appendix D

Copy of community engagement leaflet - front



Cashla Peaker Plant Project



Who is Bord Gáis Energy and what do we do?

Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years. We're an integrated energy company, which means we make energy, store it, move it, sell it, and help to maintain it.

Bord Gáis Energy is playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition. We're building on a heritage of innovation by investing in projects to help balance the electricity grid and support the growth of renewable energy.

Why is the Cashla Peaker Plant project important?

We're proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant. This will provide flexible electricity generation which is recognised as a key part of the transition to net zero and to energy security. As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, back-up conventional generation is needed to ensure security of supply and to support the growth of renewable generation. The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will help bridge this gap, by ramping up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to these fluctuations in renewable generation.

What are the benefits of the project?



Grid Stability and Security of Supply: providing quick start power to react to peaks in demand.



Quick Start-Up: capability to move from a standing start to full power generation rapidly.



Flexibility: the new plant can be switched on or off to balance the grid when demand is high, or generation is low.



Supports Ireland's Energy Transition: the new plant will act as a bridge technology ensuring a stable transition to more renewable generation without compromising reliability.



Community Benefits: Bord Gáis Energy will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of the project to support local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area.



Economic Benefits: generates employment during construction and operation, and also attracts investment through the provision of a secure and reliable grid.

What is proposed?

The proposed development will consist of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) plant up to 385MW primarily fuelled by natural gas supplied from the Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission network. Electrical power will be exported from the plant's main transformer to the existing Cashla 220kV substation which is operated by EirGrid. The power station is designed to be adaptable to biomethane or hydrogen blend fuel in the future.

The proposed location for the new Cashla Peaker Plant is 3.5km west of Athenry, in the townlands of Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy. The new plant will be bounded to the west by the M18 motorway and to the south by the M6 motorway. The site location is close to an existing gas transmission pipeline, as well as the existing Cashla 220kV electricity substation.



What's happening now?

At Bord Gáis Energy, we're committed to community engagement, ensuring that landowners, local residents, and businesses are informed of the project proposals and have the opportunity to provide their feedback to help shape the proposals.

Having identified a preferred location for the Cashla Peaker Plant we'll host a public consultation to gather feedback on the project proposals. We invite you to drop in to one of our local public information events where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the project and to speak with some members of the project team.

Dates: Wednesday 7th May and
Tuesday 13th May 2025

Venue: Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry

Time: 3pm to 8pm

What's next?

The Cashla Peaker Plant project is considered Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and we intend to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later this year. This planning application will include a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to be submitted with the planning application, detailing the possible environmental and ecological impacts of the project and the measures that will be put in place to reduce these impacts.

Further information

If you have any queries or local information you wish to share, please contact John Hayes, our Community Liaison Officer.



John Hayes
Bord Gáis Energy
Community Liaison Officer
Cashla@bordgais.ie
086 811 1284

You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Leaflet distribution zone showing Eircodes of properties



Appendix E

Copy of consultation brochure



Cashla Peaker Plant Project

Project Information Brochure
May 2025



Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years. We're an integrated energy company, which means we make energy, store it, move it, sell it, and help to maintain it. Our 445MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant at Whitegate, County Cork, puts us at the centre of energy security in Ireland, providing up to 10% of the country's energy needs.

Energising a greener, fairer, future

Bord Gáis Energy is playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition. We're committed to achieving net zero by 2040, and to helping our 730,000 customers to get to net zero by 2050.

To support the transition, Bord Gáis Energy is investing in flexible gas generation, which will help balance the grid and support the growth of renewable energy. We're currently developing two 100MW flexible gas peaking plants in Athlone and Dublin, and we're building on a heritage of innovation by proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant. This plant will provide flexible electricity generation, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security.



About the project

The proposed development will consist of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) plant of up to 385MW. It will be primarily fuelled by natural gas supplied from the existing Gas Networks Ireland transmission pipeline that runs through the south of the site. An Above Ground Installation (AGI) will be constructed on site close to the gas transmission pipeline to regulate pressure and deliver natural gas to the peaker plant. The OCGT will also include one emissions stack with a proposed height up to 30m.

Electricity generated by the OCGT will be fed into a 220kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical substation on site. The AIS substation will step-up the voltage of the electricity using transformers, to ensure the efficient and safe transmission of electricity from the peaker plant into the national grid via the existing Cashla 220kV substation which is operated by EirGrid, the Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland.

The peaker plant is designed to be adaptable to biomethane or hydrogen blend fuel in the future.

As part of the proposals, we'll place an emphasis on enhancing biodiversity to improve local habitats and ecosystems. Landscaping, including dense screen planting, will be provided to minimise the impact on the surrounding landscape. This will include native trees and shrubs to soften and screen the appearance of buildings and structures, helping to integrate the site into its natural surroundings. The landscape planting shown in the visualisations overleaf is based on five years growth. The specific details of these landscaping measures will be outlined in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Landscaping Plan.

Once operational, the peaker plant will require minimal staff, with a dedicated core team responsible for carrying out routine maintenance, attending meetings, accepting deliveries and security services. The plant will also be monitored 24/7 from our remote operation base.



Why the need?

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will provide flexible power generation to the national grid, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security. As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, back-up conventional generation is needed to ensure stability and security of supply and to support the growth of renewable generation. The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will help bridge this gap, by ramping up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to these fluctuations in renewable generation.

The Government of Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2024 sets a key national target to have at least 2GW of new flexible gas generation by 2030 to deliver a "flexible system to support renewables and demand". The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021 – 2030 and the Government's 'Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply' also highlights new conventional (mainly gas-powered generation) as a key strategic investment priority for the Government.

"Rapid delivery of flexible gas generation is needed at scale and in a timeframe to replace emissions from coal and oil generation as soon as possible to reduce impacts on the carbon budgets."

The Government's Climate Action Plan 2024

The need for the Cashla Peaker Plant has also recently been endorsed by the operator of Ireland's Single Electricity Market SEMO, which awarded the plant a 10-year capacity market contract. Subject to receiving planning approval, Bord Gáis Energy is planning for the Cashla Peaker Plant to be operational to meet EirGrid's capacity requirements by 2028 / 2029 capacity year.

Community benefits

We're committed to leaving a positive and lasting legacy in our local community to ensure that the people of Pollnagroagh, Rathmorrissy and the wider area share in the benefits of our project.

The Community Benefit Fund will be designed to positively contribute to local groups and organisations, and support local communities. Once finalised we'll share the details via the project website cashlapeakerplant.ie.

What's next?

At Bord Gáis Energy, we're committed to community engagement, ensuring that landowners, local residents, and businesses are informed of the project proposals and have the opportunity to provide their feedback to help shape the proposals. We'll continue to engage with the local community as the project progresses.

The Cashla Peaker Plant project is considered Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and Bord Gáis Energy intends to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála later this year. This planning application will include a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to be submitted with the planning application, detailing the possible environmental and ecological impacts of the project and the measures that will be put in place to reduce these impacts.

Get in touch

If you have any queries or local information you wish to share, please contact John Hayes, our Community Liaison officer.



John Hayes
Bord Gáis Energy
Community Liaison Officer
Cashla@bordgais.ie
086 811 1284

You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Proposed location

The proposed location for the new Cashla Peaker Plant is 3.5km west of Athenry, in the townlands of Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy, County Galway. The new plant will be bounded to the west by the M18 motorway and to the south by the M6 motorway.

The proposed location was selected given its close proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline, which will supply natural gas to the peaker plant, as well as the existing Cashla 220kV electricity substation, which is operated by EirGrid.



What are the benefits of the project?



Grid Stability and Security of Supply: providing quick start power to react to peaks in demand.



Quick Start-Up: capability to move from a standing start to full power generation rapidly.



Flexibility: the new plant can be switched on or off to balance the grid when demand is high, or generation is low.



Supports Ireland's Energy Transition: the new plant will act as a bridge technology ensuring a stable transition to more renewable generation without compromising reliability.



Community Benefits: Bord Gáis Energy will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of the project to support local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area.



Economic Benefits: generates employment during construction and operation, and also attracts investment through the provision of a secure and reliable grid.

Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in a south westerly direction



Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in an easterly direction



Appendix F

Copy of newspaper advertisement as published in the Tuam Herald



Work on City's Ring Road may start in 2027

Project to take three years to complete

By Patrick Flaherty



CEO of Galway County Council Liam Conneally will press for funding.

CONSTRUCTION on the long-awaited Galway City Ring Road could start in 2027 should the latest application to An Bord Pleanála be successful.

The Ring Road is a key component of the Galway Transport Strategy and is being developed by Galway Co Council in partnership with Galway City Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

It aims to address the ever-growing traffic congestion in Galway by taking a significant number of vehicles away from the city centre and providing space for other modes of transport such as walking, cycling and buses.

Speaking at the April meeting of Galway County Council, Director of Services for Transport and Infrastructure Uinsinn Finn said they had submitted a comprehensive response to An Bord Pleanála's Request for Further Information and was hopeful that a final decision will be made before the end of the year.

Should the application be successful, detailed designs

and tendering are anticipated in 2026-2027, with construction expected to start in 2027. In total, it would take approximately three years to complete the project.

News that the Ring Road was welcomed by councillors, however, some did raise concerns.

Cllr Mary Hoade believed they need to make sure funding is secured prior to approval being granted or risk the project being delayed further, while Cllr David Collins said they need to rally national politicians from Galway to make sure the ring road is at the top of the national agenda.

Cllr Collins also suggested that the council investigate beginning design works earlier than planned, while awaiting a decision.

"Why are we waiting up to two years? Can we not be working on the designs in tandem with the application to An Bord Pleanála? Then we will

have our boots to the ground and be ready to go quicker," queried the Turloughmore councillor.

Mr Finn stated he was open to the idea of creating an upfront design for the project prior to any decision from An Bord Pleanála. However, they would need to secure funding from the TII.

CEO of Galway Co Council Liam Conneally said he will meet with cabinet members from Galway and plans to push them to secure TII funding for the Ring Road in 2026.

"This project will be the most important piece of infrastructure seen in the county for the next 20 years."

"Traffic is worsening all the time, and we need this ring road so Galway continues to be the centre of the West of Ireland. I'm hopeful Galway's national politicians will seek a budgetary commitment for the project, as nothing will get done if we don't get the required funding," he said.

Electrical waste can be recycled in M'bellaw

GALWAY householders are being urged to bring their electrical waste to a free collection day to be held at the Mounbellaw-Moylough GAA Club on Sunday, May 10.

Householders can bring in anything with a plug, battery or cable for recycling, including old washing machines, TVs, toasters and kettles, electronic tools and toys, cables, IT equipment, mobile phones, remote controls, batteries, including farm fence batteries and even watches.

"People in Galway have contributed greatly to e-waste recycling every year, with 2,748 tonnes of electrical waste collected in the county in 2023," said Leo Donovan, CEO of WEEE Ireland.

In Galway 9.9 kg of e-waste was recycled per person, falling a bit short of the national average of 10.33kg per person that same year.

WEEE Ireland warns that the nation needs to meet new

forthcoming EU targets to recycle at least 25 per cent of our annual consumption of critical raw materials from e-waste.

Mr. Donovan said that an average of 80 per cent of all e-waste collected by them is recovered for use again in manufacturing through both indigenous operators and specialist processors in Europe.

In 2023, the equivalent of 222,852 tonnes of CO2 emissions were avoided by recycling e-waste through the WEEE Ireland Scheme as opposed to landfilling.

"Recycling e-waste is incredibly beneficial for both the environment and the economy," he added.

The free e-waste collection day would be held on Sunday, May 10 from 10am to 4pm at Mounbellaw-Moylough GAA Club and on Saturday, May 17 in Cooperative Mart on Dominic Street, Portunna from 10am to 4pm.

BUNS FOR HOSPICE



E Kelly and her cousin Saibh Farragher from Sylane held a Bun Sale outside their house to raise money for Galway Hospice. This is the second year the girls held a sale which raised €235. The beautiful baked treats were courtesy of their Aunt Garvey. Well done girls!

Cashla Peaker Plant Project

Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years. We're playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition and we're building on a heritage of innovation by proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athlone, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant.

About the project

The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will provide flexible power generation to the national grid, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security. As the availability of renewable electricity (such as solar or wind) can be intermittent in nature, back-up conventional generation is needed to ensure stability and security of supply and to support the growth of renewable generation. The proposed Cashla Peaker Plant will help bridge this gap by ramping up quickly to meet peak demand. The flexible nature of the plant means that it can be turned on and off to react to these fluctuations in renewable generation.



For more information

We invite you to drop in to one of our local public information events where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the project and to speak with some members of the project team.

Date: Wednesday 7th May and Tuesday 13th May 2025

Venue: Raheen Woods Hotel, Athlone, County Galway, H65 H443

Time: 3pm to 8pm

You can also find more information, and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website [cashlapeakerplant.ie](https://www.cashlapeakerplant.ie)



Appendix G

Copy of further information leaflet



Cashla Peaker Plant Further Information



As you may be aware, Bord Gáis Energy is proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant. This plant will provide flexible electricity generation, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security.

Community engagement

Bord Gáis Energy recently held two public information events in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, to invite feedback from local residents, and the wider community on the project proposals. We've now collated and reviewed all of the feedback received at these events, as well as additional feedback received by email and through the project website, and we've identified some common themes. We hope this leaflet, and the updated FAQs section on the project website cashlapeakerplant.ie, will address any queries you may have.

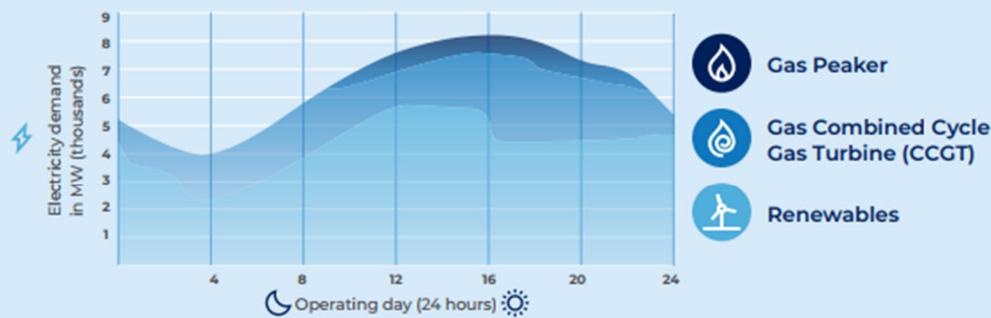
When will the Cashla Peaker Plant be used?

As we move towards an electricity grid that is increasingly based on renewable energy, peaker plants will be required to ensure security of supply. The availability of renewable electricity, such as solar or wind, can be intermittent in nature and these generation sources may not always provide the power necessary to meet peak demand on the grid. During these periods, EirGrid may request peaker plants like Cashla to come online to make up the shortfall and ensure the grid has sufficient power to meet demand.

However, as peaker plants are expensive to run they are typically the last line of defence, dispatched only when absolutely required to keep the lights on.

There are several peaker plants either under development or in operation throughout Ireland. Bord Gáis Energy is currently developing two 100MW flexible gas peaking plants in Monksland, Athlone and Profile Park in Dublin.

Example: generation sources dispatched by EirGrid on a day of high demand



What fuel will the peaker plant use?

The primary fuel source for the Cashla Peaker Plant will be natural gas, which will be supplied from the Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline that runs through the south of the site. The power station is designed to be adaptable to biomethane or hydrogen blend fuel in the future, if and when it becomes available.

In order to comply with EirGrid requirements to ensure security of electricity supply, low sulphur diesel oil will be stored as a backup fuel. However, operation on diesel oil would only occur in irregular circumstances such as an interruption to gas supply or other electricity grid system emergencies.



How was the site for the peaker plant selected?

A comprehensive site selection process was undertaken and Bord Gáis Energy commissioned consultants AtkinsRéalis to assist in identifying a suitable site for the Cashla Peaker Plant. We then assessed the feasibility of the various sites and found many were unsuitable or unavailable. The site for the Cashla Peaker Plant was selected primarily based on its proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission line, the existing Cashla 220kV substation, and the availability of a suitable area of land. A detailed consideration of the site as well as alternatives will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted alongside the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála later this year.



How will air emissions be monitored?

Bord Gáis Energy will be required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continuously monitor air emissions from the stack any time the plant is in operation. This also forms part of the conditions of the Industrial Emissions licence for the peaker plant. Monitoring of air emissions will be undertaken using regulated and independently verified permanent monitoring equipment, which will be subject to regular maintenance and calibration routines in line with statutory requirements.

We'll also be required to provide these results to the EPA under the conditions of the Industrial Emissions Licence for the peaker plant. They will be available to the public on the EPA's website. The EPA will make regular unannounced inspections to the peaker plant at their discretion and undertake monitoring of their own to verify the accuracy of the monitoring data being reported by the site.

Bord Gáis Energy has been operating the 445MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant at Whitegate, County Cork for the past 15 years. Like our Whitegate Plant, the Cashla Peaker Plant will be operated to the highest safety and environmental standards and will be subject to strict regulation from the Health & Safety Authority (HSA) and the EPA.



How will electricity generated by the peaker plant be connected to the grid?

As per EirGrid guidelines, the preferred option for connecting the peaker plant to the Cashla 220 kV substation is via an underground cable in the public road network. We have considered the feasibility of several options for the underground cable route, however there are constraints with some routes due to the presence of existing underground utilities, restricting the space available for the new cable.

The cable route will be subject to both planning approval by An Coimisiún Pleanála, and approval by EirGrid as part of the grid connection offer for the peaker plant.



How will traffic be managed during the laying of the underground cables?

We're very conscious of the impact that works may have on the local road network and we'll liaise with local residents in relation to traffic management proposals.

A full traffic management plan will be developed and details included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Construction Traffic Management Plan to be submitted alongside the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála later this year.



Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in a south westerly direction



Visualisation of the Cashla Peaker Plant looking in an easterly direction





Get in touch

If you have any further queries, please contact John Hayes, our Community Liaison officer.



John Hayes
Bord Gáis Energy
Community Liaison Officer
Cashla@bordgais.ie
086 811 1284

You can also find more information and provide your feedback on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Appendix H

Copy of A5 postcard notification for the public information event in December 2025



Cashla Peaker Plant

Public Information Event
4th December 2025
1pm – 8pm



anpost commerce | AdMailer **Return address:** Unit 4, Broomhill Business Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24

Postage Paid Postas íochta	Baile Átha Cliath
L	Ceadúnas 10154

We are hosting our third Public Information Event to provide you with the details contained within the Cashla Peaker Plant planning applications.

This will be a drop-in event where you can learn about the project by viewing our information stands and by speaking to project representatives about the details that matter to you.

Want to find out more about the project?

Attend our Public Information Event on **Thursday 4th December 2025 (1pm-8pm)** at **Raheen Woods Hotel (DeBurgo Suite)**

Email us to request a call with the Project's Community Liaison Officer at cashla@bordgais.ie

3
Dear Neighbour

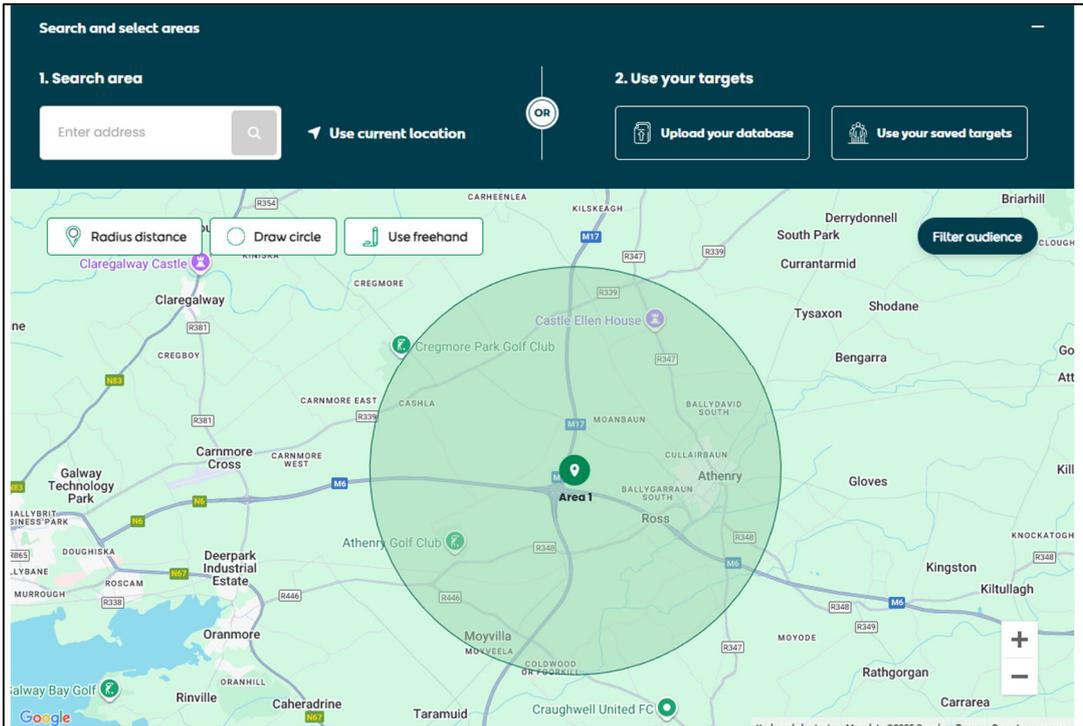


Want to find out more for yourself? Take a look around the project website at www.cashlapeakerplant.ie

Respecting People, Energising Communities 



A5 postcard notification distribution zone for An Post Admailer service



Order details

Prices displayed exclude VAT

14 Nov 2025 | Direct Mail Order reference: **dab05b0dfb52** **€2,336.64 ex VAT**

Pre-Acknowledged

Your order is pending.



la er Plant
nation Event
2025

A5 Postcard

Delivery areas: **1 area, 2,384 addresses**

Delivery date: **20 Nov 2025**

€2,288.64 Includes: printing  + delivery 

 50 additional copies added €48.00



Appendix I

Article in the Tuam Herald published on 26th November 2025

Developers host information meeting on proposed Athenry power plant

- Many residents concerned about the plans

By Mark Walsh

A PUBLIC information event will be held in the Raheen Woods Hotel next regarding the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant on the outskirts of Athenry.

The plans put forward by Bord Gáis Energy have sparked concerns among some local residents. Bord Gáis is organising the meeting which takes place next Thursday, December 4.

A Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application for the Cashla

Peaker Plant, which is an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) power plant, is due to go to An Coimisiún Pleanála for planning in the near future.

Next Thursday's meeting is open to members of the public to attend from 1pm to 8pm and view details of the plans for the power plant. It is the third such public information event that Bord Gáis Energy have commissioned in respect of the proposed project.

The power plant is earmarked for the townlands of Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissey, approximately 3km outside Athenry town. Bord Gáis Energy said this week that they chose the location due to its proximity to the Gas Networks Ireland pipeline and the Cashla 220kV substation in

the area.

The facility, they stated, will be a backup power source for the national grid, becoming operational when renewable energy sources such as wind and solar are not available, and be used for 100 hours or less per year at times when there is a high demand on the national grid.

RAISE QUESTIONS

The power plant will be supplied by natural gas from the Gas Networks Ireland transmission pipeline that runs through the site.

"We understand that projects like this raise questions and concerns, and that's why these events are so important," said John Hayes, Bord Gáis Energy's Community Liaison Officer for the pro-

posed development.

"They give us the chance to meet people face-to-face, listen to their views, and provide clear information about what's proposed. Our goal is to ensure the community feels informed and involved every step of the way."

The Athenry Power Plant Concern Group was set up by local residents in response to the proposal for the power plant.

The group held their own public meeting in the Raheen Woods Hotel in August to highlight their concerns with the planned development, which relate to the impact the facility could have on the surrounding environment, on people's health, and on the heritage of the area.

Appendix J

Tri-fold leaflet for distribution at the public information event

Respecting people, energising communities

At Bord Gáis Energy, we are committed to meaningful community and stakeholder engagement around the development of the Cashla Peaker Plant. This will ensure that landowners, local residents, road users and businesses are informed of the project proposals and its development.




Our commitment to engaging with you

-  **Informing**
We will keep you updated on issues that affect your area
-  **Involving**
We will involve you in opportunities as we plan and build the Cashla Peaker Plant
-  **Responding**
We will listen to you and help with your questions, concerns and aspirations

If you'd like to request time to meet with the Project's Community Liaison Officer, John Hayes, or a member of the Community Engagement Team please contact us on **Cashla Peaker Plant** by email at cashla@bordgais.ie or by phone on 086 811 1284.



Our aspiration is to be a good neighbour

We know that securing our energy supply and transitioning to net zero involves planning and building works. We also know planning and building energy infrastructure can disrupt the lives of local people in the short-term. We will always try to do the right thing and try to reduce disruption as much as we can.

We will:

- Tell you what we are going to do and when
- Let you know if things change; and
- If there is something you feel we haven't fully addressed, we will listen to you and do our best to make it right.

To find out more detail about the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant please visit:
cashlapeakerplant.ie




What are the benefits of the project?



Grid Stability and Security of Supply

Providing quick start power to react to peaks in demand.



Community Benefits

Bord Gáis Energy will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of the project to support local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area.



Quick Start-Up

Capability to move from a standing start to full power generation rapidly.



Supports Ireland's Energy Transition

The new plant will act as a bridge technology ensuring a stable transition to more renewable generation without compromising reliability.



Flexibility

The new plant can be switched on or off to balance the grid when demand is high, or generation is low.



Economic Benefits

Will generate employment opportunities and stimulate the local economy, particularly during construction.



Appendix K

Tri-fold leaflet for distribution during 1-1 engagement with local residents along the grid connection route

Respecting people, energising communities

At Bord Gáis Energy, we are committed to meaningful community and stakeholder engagement around the development of the Cashla Peaker Plant. This will ensure that landowners, local residents, road users and businesses are informed of the project proposals and it's development.




Our commitment to engaging with you

-  **Informing**
We will keep you updated on issues that affect your area
-  **Involving**
We will involve you in opportunities as we plan and build the Cashla Peaker Plant
-  **Responding**
We will listen to you and help with your questions, concerns and aspirations

If you'd like to request time to meet with the Project's Community Liaison Officer, John Hayes, or a member of the Community Engagement Team please contact us on **Cashla Peaker Plant** by email at cashla@bordgais.ie or by phone on 086 811 1284.



Our aspiration is to be a good neighbour

We know that securing our energy supply and transitioning to net zero involves planning and building works. We also know planning and building energy infrastructure can disrupt the lives of local people in the short-term. We will always try to do the right thing and try to reduce disruption as much as we can.

We will:

- Tell you what we are going to do and when
- Let you know if things change; and
- If there is something you feel we haven't fully addressed, we will listen to you and do our best to make it right

To find out more detail about the proposed Cashla Peaker Plant please visit: cashlapeakerplant.ie




Supporting and engaging with the community

As part of the planning applications to build and connect the Cashla Peaker Plant to the grid, it is likely that during the construction phase some short-term disruption to local road users may occur.

To ensure public and road users safety and to raise awareness of any planned disruption, Bord Gáis Energy will:

- Provide Advanced Notice – minimum of 3 weeks, to allow residents to prepare for any disruption
- Work with our contractors to manage and implement a robust Traffic Management plan
- Adhere and comply with all legal and statutory processes connected to road access disruption
- Continue to communicate and engage with all local stakeholders throughout periods of disruption






Sorry we missed you.



A member of our Community Engagement Team visited your property today / /

The reason for our visit was to inform you of the details contained within the Cashla Peaker Plant planning applications.

Want to speak to us?



Attend our Public Information Event on **Thursday 4th December 2025 (1pm-8pm)** Raheen Woods Hotel (DeBurgo Suite)



Email us to ask your questions or arrange another visit by a member of our team cashla@bordgais.ie



Call us directly and speak to a member of the team **086 811 1284**



Want to find out more for yourself? Take a look around the project website at www.cashlapeakerplant.ie

Respecting People, Energising Communities



Appendix L

Display material for the public information event in December 2025 – Pull-up banners



Bord Gáis Energy Cashla Peaker Plant Project Public Information Event

December 2025

You can also find more information on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



What are the benefits of the project?

- Grid Stability and Security of Supply**
Providing quick start power to react to peaks in demand.
- Quick Start-Up**
Capability to move from a standing start to full power generation rapidly.
- Flexibility**
The new plant can be switched on or off to balance the grid when demand is high, or generation is low.
- Supports Ireland's Energy Transition**
The new plant will act as a bridge technology ensuring a stable transition to more renewable generation without compromising reliability.
- Community Benefits**
Bord Gáis Energy will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of the project to support local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area.
- Economic Benefits**
Will generate employment opportunities and stimulate the local economy, particularly during construction.

You can also find more information on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Community benefits

- We're committed to leaving a positive and lasting legacy in our local community to ensure that the people of Pollnagroagh, Rathmorrissy and the wider area share in the benefits of our project.
- We have set up a sponsorship fund to support the valuable work being done by local sports clubs, charitable organisations, and community groups in the area. We'd love to hear from your organisation.
- In the longer term, we plan to establish a Community Benefit Fund, which will contribute to local community projects and initiatives that benefit the area. Details regarding how the fund will work and how you can get involved will be shared on the project website once finalised.

You can also find more information on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Who we are

Bord Gáis Energy is one of Ireland's leading energy companies, providing gas, electricity and home services to Irish families and businesses for almost 50 years.

We're playing a leading role in Ireland's energy transition and we're committed to achieving net zero by 2040, and to helping our 730,000 customers to get to net zero by 2050.

To support the transition, Bord Gáis Energy, along with its parent company Centrica, is investing in flexible gas generation, which will help balance the grid and support the growth of renewable energy. We're building on a heritage of innovation by proposing a new gas-powered peaker plant at a location west of Athenry, County Galway, known as the Cashla Peaker Plant. This plant will provide flexible electricity generation, which is recognised as a key part of the energy transition to net zero and energy security.

You can also find more information on the project proposals on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Display material for the public information event in December 2025 – Curved pop-up stands

Cashla Peaker Plant



The Cashla Peaker Plant is a gas-fuelled power plant that will operate only during periods of high electricity demand, known as peak demand.

About the project

The Cashla Peaker Plant
The Cashla Peaker Plant will consist of an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT). Depending on the technology that is used, the turbines will have a total output capacity of either 220MW or 234MW. The OCGT will also include one emissions stack with a height of 20m.

Fuel supply
The primary fuel source for the Cashla Peaker Plant will be natural gas, which will be supplied from the Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline that runs through the south of the site.
To comply with the Commission for Regulation for Utilities (CRU) requirements to ensure security of energy supply, diesel oil will be stored as a backup fuel and will only be used in highly irregular circumstances such as a national interruption to gas supplies.
The peaker plant is designed to be adaptable to biomethane or hydrogen blend fuel in the future.

Running time
Based on our considered analysis and modelling, we estimate that the plant will operate for approximately 300 hours or less in a given year. The actual running time of the plant is likely to be less than this. The Transmission System Operator (TSO) will determine when the Peaker Plant is required to come online to ensure the grid has sufficient power to meet demand and ensure stability.

Grid connection
Electrical power will be exported from the plant's main transformer to the existing Cashla 220kV substation, via an underground cable in the public road network. The underground cable will be 8.5km in length.
We understand that these works can cause disruption for local road users in the short term, and while committed to engaging with residents in relation to traffic management proposals to reduce the disruption as much as we can,

Planning applications

The Cashla Peaker Plant project is considered Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), meaning that the planning applications will be submitted directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Cashla Peaker Plant will consist of two separate planning applications:
1. Proposed submission in Winter 2024/2025.
2. Planning application for the substation and underground cable route for the electricity grid connection – proposed submission in early 2026.
We have undertaken a robust Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that covers all elements of the project. The outcome of this will be detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will be submitted alongside each planning application.



Project timeline



Respecting People, Energising Communities

Location of the Cashla Peaker Plant and cable route



The location for the new Cashla Peaker Plant is 3.5km west of Athlery, in the townlands of Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissey, County Galway. The new plant will be bounded to the west by the M18 motorway and to the south by the M6 motorway.

The proposed location was selected given its close proximity to the existing Gas Networks Ireland gas transmission pipeline, which will supply natural gas to the peaker plant, as well as the existing Cashla 220kV electricity substation, which is operated by EirGrid.



Electricity generated by the peaker plant will be transferred to the national grid via an underground cable located in the public road leading from the peaker plant site to the existing Cashla 220kV substation which is operated by EirGrid, the Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland. This underground cable will be 8.5km in length.

Our aspiration is to be a good neighbour
We know that these works can cause disruption for local road users in the short term, and while committed to engaging with residents in relation to traffic management proposals to try to reduce the disruption as much as we can.

Our commitment to engaging with you

- Informing** - We will keep you updated on issues that affect your area.
- Involving** - We will involve you in opportunities as we plan and build the Cashla Peaker Plant and will let you know if things change.
- Responding** - We will listen to you and help with your questions or concerns.



What will the new plant look like?



As part of the development of the peaker plant landscaping, including dense screen planting, will be provided to minimise the impact on the surrounding landscape. This will include native trees and shrubs to soften and screen the appearance of buildings and structures, helping to integrate the site into its natural surroundings.



The landscape planting shown in these images is based on 1 years growth.

The landscape planting shown in these images is based on 15 years growth.

You can also find more information on the project processes on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



You can also find more information on the project processes on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



These verified view photomontage images show what the Cashla Peaker Plant will look like from various vantage points in the locality.

Respecting People, Energising Communities

Environmental considerations



Air emissions

- The results of our air quality assessment show that there will be no risk to human health during the construction and operation of the Cashla Peaker Plant. All air emissions will be in compliance with the relevant air quality standards.
- The existing air quality conditions for the Cashla Peaker Plant site (a. before any development has occurred) were examined. We accounted for all emission sources in the vicinity of the proposed development (eg. natural sources, industry, traffic, home heating etc.) This helps us to understand the existing air quality environment.
- During the construction phase, the most likely impact on air quality is from construction dust emissions. However, our assessment shows that there is a low risk of dust-related human health impacts associated with the proposed work and we will implement best practice dust mitigation measures during construction of the peaker plant.
- During the operational phase of the Cashla Peaker Plant, our air quality modelling results show that the Cashla Peaker Plant makes a very small contribution to existing air pollutants. However this will not result in air quality levels in the area or pose a risk to human health.
- Pollutant concentrations due to emissions from the plant are in compliance with the relevant air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and sulfur dioxide (SO₂). We will be required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continuously monitor air emissions when the plant is in operation, and we'll also be required to provide these results to the EPA under the conditions of the Industrial Emissions Licence for the peaker plant. They will be available to the public on the EPA's website.

You can also find more information on the project processes on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Light and noise

- A lighting plan has been prepared for the Cashla Peaker Plant. Careful consideration has been given to minimise any potential disturbance to nearby properties and biodiversity.
- An environmental noise survey was undertaken at four locations around the Cashla Peaker Plant site to measure the existing noise environment before any development has occurred. Existing noise sources are from the motorway, local traffic, agriculture, occasional events, and banking.
- The results of our noise assessment show there should be no discernible change in local noise levels at the nearest properties, either during construction or operation of the Cashla Peaker Plant.
- Operational noise sources are from equipment such as the gas turbine and boiler, and additional vehicular traffic on public roads. Noise from the gas turbine will be minimised by incorporating 'blenders' resulting in the site operating to best practice guidance regarding noise limits.

Landscape and visual impact

- The images below utilise verified view modelling to assess visual impact of the proposed development and show the Cashla Peaker Plant will not be visible from these locations.
 - In addition, landscaping, including dense screen planting, will be provided to soften and screen the appearance of buildings and structures, helping to integrate the site into its natural surroundings.
- 

Health and safety

- The Cashla Peaker Plant will be designed, built, and operated to the highest safety and environmental standards and will be subject to strict regulation from the Health & Safety Authority (HSA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- To comply with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) requirements to ensure security of energy supply, low sulfur diesel oil will be stored as a backup fuel on site. It is diesel is classed as a hazardous substance under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations. The Cashla Peaker Plant is considered a lower-tier COMAH site and will be subject to specific requirements to prevent harm to people and the environment, including but not limited to:
 - Preparing and implementing a Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAP)
 - Preparing and implementing an Internal Emergency Plan
 - Facilitating inspections from the HSA and the EPA, who will make site visits to monitor compliance.

You can also find more information on the project processes on our project website cashlapeakerplant.ie



Appendix M

Advertorial in the Tuam Herald published on 17th December 2025

10 Wednesday December 17, 2025 **Tuam Herald** www.tuamherald.com

NEWS

Dunmore school is still wishing for a new building

- No word from Dept in six months

By Neha Kumari

PLEAS from the pupils of Dunmore National School seem to have gone unheard by the Department of Education which has failed to act on calls to provide better conditions at the school.

The school has been campaigning for a new building for the past three years, as the current one has been deemed no longer fit for purpose.

Classrooms aren't able to accommodate the increasing number of pupils while more rooms are needed for special education classes.

Mould covers the walls on many of the toilet facilities while the narrow corridors also being used as storage space – making it difficult for



DUNMORE'S NS is no longer fit for purpose.

pupils and staff to navigate the school.

The problems were presented to former Minister for Education Helen McEntee earlier this year along with letters from the schoolchildren who described their experiences of the cramped conditions.

However, the school representatives have still not received a satisfactory answer from the Minister.

"We are still operating in

crowded and repurposed classrooms, while our students have to head out to the Dunmore Community Centre for PE, gymnastics classes or any other indoor activity," Principal Fergal O'Doherty

told *The Tuam Herald*.

"With Christmas plays for December, pupils have had to walk down to the community centre for rehearsals.

"We also have gymnastics classes coming to school, but we can't facilitate that in the school. So, we will have to walk down the town," said Mr. O'Doherty.

He also highlighted that the school has problems with ventilation, black mould and condensation.

The school board made an application for a new school and the department did send a proposal but this wasn't accepted by the school.

"The proposals that we received were not meeting the standards needed for the new school and we have not received a new proposal in the last six months," explained Principal O'Doherty.

The school's Board of Management held a public meet-

ing earlier this year to highlight the problems and raise awareness of the challenges being faced.

In recent weeks, Fine Gael TD Pete Roche has sought an update on the Dunmore situation from the Department of Education. "The urgency of the situation and the conditions on the ground are clear, and we are fully committed to addressing them," said Deputy Roche.

"We remain in active dialogue with the Department of Education and will continue to our engagement with the Minister," he added. The Department's response was lacking in any specific detail. It stated that the Department of Education is currently engaging with the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform to look for funding with respect to NDP allocations for the period 2026 to 2030.

Project update from Bord Gáis Energy

We would like to sincerely thank the community in Athenry for your engagement and valuable feedback during our third public information event for the **Cashla Peaker Project** on December 4th at the Raheen Woods Hotel.



Project website update

Following the event, we are updating the project website to include answers to additional Frequently Asked Questions based on the feedback received.

Visit: www.cashlappeakerplant.ie

Next steps

We plan to submit the project planning applications in early 2026. Further notifications will be shared through local media and directly with community members who have been in contact with us during the engagement process.

Our commitment to engagement

Before submitting formal planning applications, we have worked hard to ensure an open dialogue and to clearly inform the local community about the project. This commitment to engagement will continue throughout the project.

Community liaison officer

If you have any questions or require further information, John Hayes, our Community Liaison Officer, remains available to assist you:

Email: pasha@bordgais.ie



Thank you for your continued interest as we progress with this important project.



Green light on darkest day

Galway businesses light up for Winter Solstice in solidarity with Samaritans

BY DARA BRADLEY

SEVERAL Galway businesses will light up their premises in green this Sunday to show solidarity with people struggling during the darkest day of the year.

The Longest Night initiative on Winter Solstice (December 21) is run by Samaritans Galway.

It highlights that while the nights may be long, the charity's volunteers are always there to listen, for anyone who is in distress, struggling to cope or at risk of suicide.

Samaritans, which will mark 50 years in Ireland in 2026, provides 100% human support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week 365 days a year.

"Every call and message are answered by a trained volunteer, ensuring compassion, empathy and human understanding are always at the centre of the support offered," Samaritans Galway said.

The Samaritans answered at least 800 calls in the Republic

of Ireland on Christmas Day last year, including volunteers based at its Nuns Island office in Galway City.

In December of last year, some 30,000 calls were answered by Samaritan volunteers in Ireland.

The charity has invited the public to consider volunteering with Samaritans with full training given.

A spokesperson said the Longest Night initiative this weekend "aims to spark conversations around mental health, encourage people to seek help when needed, and remind communities that nobody has to face their darkest nights alone".

Anyone feeling distressed, struggling to cope or suicidal this Christmas can call Samaritans for free on 116 123 at any time, day or night.

Green light...St Nicholas' in the heart of Galway during a previous Longest Night initiative.



Project update from Bord Gáis Energy

We would like to sincerely thank the community in Athenry for your engagement and valuable feedback during our third public information event for the **Cashla Peaker Project** on December 4th at the Raheen Woods Hotel.



Project website update

Following the event, we are updating the project website to include answers to additional Frequently Asked Questions based on the feedback received.

Visit: www.cashlapeakerplant.ie

Next steps

We plan to submit the project planning applications in early 2026. Further notifications will be shared through local media and directly with community members who have been in contact with us during the engagement process.

Our commitment to engagement

Before submitting formal planning applications, we have worked hard to ensure an open dialogue and to clearly inform the local community about the project. This commitment to engagement will continue throughout the project.

Community liaison officer

If you have any questions or require further information, John Hayes, our Community Liaison Officer, remains available to assist you:

Email: cashla@bordgais.ie



Thank you for your continued interest as we progress with this important project.

Galway's Anne O'Connor named as new CEO of the HSE

BY DECLAN VARLEY
Galway woman Anne O'Connor is set to return to the heart of Ireland's public health system, taking up the role of Chief Executive Officer of the Health Service Executive in a move that brings one of the most recognisable figures of the Covid-19 era back into public service.

For many people, Ms O'Connor's calm authority became familiar during the epidemic briefings, when she stood at the centre of decision-making as the HSE's Chief Operations Officer. In those intense months, she was a key figure in steering hospitals and community services through an unprecedented public health emergency, and she later played a pivotal role in managing the response to the cyberattack on the health service in May 2021. Her visibility and steady presence earned

widespread respect across the sector and beyond.

Ms O'Connor will succeed Bernard Gloster, who announced earlier this year that he intended to step down. Following what the HSE described as an open, competitive selection process, she is expected to take up the post in Spring 2026, on a salary of €398,174. She returns to the organisation from the private sector, having most recently served as Managing Director of Vhi Health & Wellbeing, where she broadened her leadership experience and insight into healthcare delivery outside the public system.

Originally trained as an occupational therapist, Anne O'Connor holds a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy as well as a Master of Science in Management Practice. Her career path reflects a rare blend of frontline clinical understanding and senior strategic



Anne O'Connor, Incoming CEO of the HSE.

leadership. During her earlier HSE career, she also served as National Director for Mental Health Services, adding depth to her experience across some of the most complex and sensitive areas of healthcare.

Beyond her professional achievements, Anne O'Connor is well known in her native Galway. She is the sister of popular broadcaster "Doc" O'Connor, formerly of the Warwick Hotel and now a familiar voice on Galway Bay FM.

Welcoming her appointment, HSE Chair Ciarán Devane said he was "very pleased to welcome Anne back to the HSE". He noted that her experience with Vhi, combined with her extensive HSE career as an occupational therapist, mental health leader and Chief Operations Officer through the Covid pandemic, would "stand her in good stead as she leads the HSE on its journey of reform".

Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll McNeill also praised the appointment, saying Ms O'Connor has made a "significant contribution" to healthcare in Ireland. She added that Ms O'Connor now brings "immense capability and experience" to leading the HSE, and spoke of strengthening a service that serves patients, values healthcare workers and delivers high-quality, equitable care.

For her part, Ms O'Connor described herself as "very privileged" to be appointed at a time of great opportunity and challenge. She said she looks forward to leading the organisation and supporting staff as the HSE continues its reform programme, with the ultimate aim of meeting the healthcare needs of the people of Ireland.

Project update from Bord Gáis Energy

We would like to sincerely thank the community in Athenry for your engagement and valuable feedback during our third public information event for the **Cashla Peaker Project** on December 4th at the Raheen Woods Hotel.



Project website update

Following the event, we are updating the project website to include answers to additional Frequently Asked Questions based on the feedback received.

Visit: www.cashlapeakerplant.ie

Next steps

We plan to submit the project planning applications in early 2026. Further notifications will be shared through local media and directly with community members who have been in contact with us during the engagement process.

Our commitment to engagement

Before submitting formal planning applications, we have worked hard to ensure an open dialogue and to clearly inform the local community about the project. This commitment to engagement will continue throughout the project.

Community liaison officer

If you have any questions or require further information, John Hayes, our Community Liaison Officer, remains available to assist you:

Email: cashla@bordgais.ie



Thank you for your continued interest as we progress with this important project.

AtkinsRéalis



Seán Carrroll
AtkinsRéalis Ireland Limited
150-155 Airside Business Park
Swords
Co. Dublin
K67 K5W4

Tel: +353 1 810 8000

© AtkinsRéalis Ireland Limited except where stated otherwise