



East Galway Celtics Basketball Club  
Shudane  
Newcastle  
Athenry  
Galway  
H65WE52

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

19 April 2026

**Re:** Observation to the proposed development of open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) and generator with ancillary equipment (Cashla Peaker Plant)

**Location:** Pollnagroagh and Rathmorrissy (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

**Applicant:** Bord Gáis Energy Limited

**Planning Application Reference Number:** 324113

Dear Sir/Madam,

The East Galway Celtics Basketball Club is submitting this objection to the proposed development above on the basis of significant and avoidable health risks to the surrounding community.

Our club has served the community for almost 10 years, providing essential recreational, social, and health promoting opportunities for children, families, and adults of all ages. The proposed plant poses significant risks to the wellbeing of our members and the wider community. The club was founded in 2017 and currently has a membership just shy of 600 members (from the age of 3 years to 66 years). The club operates through partnership with local schools all of which are 3.5km or less from the site.

Our club hosts teams of all ages, training sessions, games, and community events throughout the year. Many of our members—particularly children—spend extended periods outdoors. Peaker plants emit pollutants such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>), and volatile organic compounds, all of which are linked to:

- Increased asthma attacks
- Reduced lung function
- Cardiovascular stress
- Higher long-term risk of chronic disease

Children, older adults, and individuals with existing respiratory conditions are especially vulnerable.



The location of this site in proximity to the growing population of Athenry which includes numerous schools and sport clubs such as our own directly contradicts public health priorities. The development is 3km from our club's base in Clarin College. The prevailing wind direction is easterly which means the fumes & emissions will blow over the town when it is in use. The peaker plant is expected to run at times of peak demand in the late afternoon and evening when power is most required. This is also when most basketball trainings and games occur.

Furthermore, given that many of our players, coaches, and families live, train, and compete nearby, this could directly affect their health and performance in the long term. Beyond physical wellbeing, such facilities often increase noise pollution and lower overall air quality in surrounding neighbourhoods and are a visual burden creating a less safe environment for recreation and growth.

For the reasons outlined above, we respectfully request that this objection be fully considered.

Yours faithfully

Caroline Walsh

Club Chairperson