

We the Wilson family, would like to formally object to the proposed Wind Farm development on Lemanaghan Bog. As a family living and working in the area for over 100 years, we have a number of concerns that this proposed development will have on our community and daily quality of life. The following is an outline of the concerns raised regarding this development:

- We are concerned about the the risk of flooding of farmland. This flooding may be caused by the extraction of large volumes of peat, the construction of roads and the disruption of underground water courses to facilitate this development. Recent rewetting activities of Bord na Mona in Lemanaghan Bog, has increased the water table and caused flooding in the area, future works has the potential to add to these issues.
- We are also concerned about the damage to roads from the transport of large quantities of building materials and concrete onto the site. The current rural road network is not suited for large volumes of HGV's, and will have lasting effects on local traffic.
- The danger to road users as a result of increased traffic in the vicinity is another concern. This area is predominantly an agricultural region, the road infrastructure is not designed to cater for this increase in traffic. Local cycling, walking and running groups will be impacted by the increased risk on the roads.
- Concern of the environmental impact of such large scale development in an area with sensitive flora and fauna, such as 8 red listed birds species. Large scale construction activities have potential to destroy and harm natural habitats and disrupt wildlife.
- Increase of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere, due to extraction of peat land which is a natural carbon store, and emissions produced through, the production, transport and construction of a number of wind turbines.
- Noise and visual impacts of 220m turbines, other wind farms built in the Offaly area have had lasting impacts on the living standard of residents caused by noise pollution and light flicker from the daily operation of the wind turbines. Due to the location of our home in relation to the proposed wind farm site there is a high probability of excessive noise and light flicker effects on the household residents for prolonged periods of each day.
- Absence of planning laws to cater for size of proposed turbine construction. Proposed 220m turbines were not in existence at the time of said planning law.
- Health and welfare concerns as a result of increased traffic and construction activities, such as noise, dust and contamination concerns.
- Many local residents obtain water supply from wells, due to the nature of the construction activities there is high risk of contamination of local water supplies caused by oil and fuel spills from plant and machinery, concrete wash out, silt run off from excavation activities.

- Lemanaghan Monastic Site (consisting of medieval church, holy well and tree, St Mella's cell and toghers) located in close proximity to the proposed development site, has important heritage value and is a source of historic significance, potential permanent loss of this historic site.

The threat of this proposed development has already caused significant mental stress and anxiety to our family and members of the local community, and there is a worry that this will be amplified by the effects of the proposed works and lasting impact of the wind farm in the vicinity. We sincerely hope that these concerns are acknowledged and acted upon, in the decision to grant planning for this development, we look forward to your reply.

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