

26th May 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1, D01 V902

Conor Kelly
Castlelambert,
Athenry
Co. Galway
H65K372

Submission in Objection to Planning Application ACP
324162
Cashla Peaker Plant Cable Route

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as a concerned local resident and parent to formally object to the above planning application. My home is located at H65K372, Co. Galway, in the area directly affected by the proposed cable route. I have strong objections across a number of grounds, which I set out below, and I ask that each be given full consideration by the Inspector.

Ground 1: The Proposed Road Closure is Devastating for Local Families

I am a parent with children attending Lisheenkyle National School. The school operates three separate collection times each day — 12:30pm, 1:30pm and 2:30pm. Under the proposed plans, the Castlelambert–Lisheenkyle road would be closed for up to six months, adding an estimated 15 minutes of detour in each direction to every single school run.

Think about what that actually means in practice. Three pick-up times per day, five days a week, over six months — that is an enormous and wholly unnecessary burden placed on working parents and carers in this community. This is not a minor inconvenience; it is a significant disruption to family life that will be felt every single day for half a year.

Beyond the time and cost implications, I am seriously concerned about the safety of children and parents navigating alternative routes, many of which are narrow rural roads not designed to accommodate increased traffic volumes. The proximity of construction activity and heavy vehicles to a primary school environment is simply not acceptable and must weigh heavily in any decision on this application.

Ground 2: One Project Should Not Have Been Split Into Two Applications

It is my firm view that An Coimisiún Pleanála should not have allowed the Cashla Peaker Plant to be split across two separate planning applications. The cable route and the power plant are two sides of the same coin — you cannot have one without the other. Treating them as independent projects is artificial and, frankly, deeply unfair to the communities who must now engage with and fund objections to two separate processes.

For local residents and community groups like the Athenry Peaker Plant Concern Group, this split means doubled professional fees, doubled legal costs and doubled administrative effort. These are real costs being imposed on ordinary people who are simply trying to have their voices heard. This approach erodes public participation in the planning system and I believe it should be called out for what it is.

I ask that An Coimisiún Pleanála assess this application in full cognisance of the wider project of which it forms a part, including its cumulative environmental, health and community impacts.

Ground 3: The Wider Project is a Threat to Health and to Our Climate Future

The cable route cannot be viewed in isolation. It exists solely to serve the Cashla Peaker Plant — a gas and diesel burning facility that, if built, will pump emissions into the air breathed by local families, farmers and schoolchildren for decades. The health implications of this are deeply troubling and must form part of any proper assessment of this application.

We are at a critical juncture in Ireland's energy transition. Approving this infrastructure is not a neutral act — it is a decision to chain this community and this country to fossil fuels well into the future. Ireland has made legally binding commitments to reduce emissions. Building new fossil fuel infrastructure at this stage is contradictory to those commitments and I believe it should be refused on that basis alone.

Ground 4: The Fields of Athenry Must Be Protected

There is something deeply wrong about placing an industrial chimney stack on the outskirts of Athenry. These are the Fields of Athenry — arguably the most famous fields in Ireland, known the world over. Our landscape is part of who we are. It draws visitors, it connects the diaspora, it is woven into our culture and our identity.

A 30-metre chimney belching emissions as you approach our town is not something that can be undone once built. The cable route infrastructure will add further industrial scarring across a rural landscape that should be protected, not industrialised. I urge the Inspector to give full weight to this visual and cultural impact in reaching a decision.

Summary

This application should be refused. The road closure plans are unacceptable for a community with young families and a primary school. The splitting of this project is unfair and improperly burdens local objectors. The wider development locks us into fossil fuels and will permanently damage both the health of our community and the landscape we love.

I thank the Inspector for their time in reading this submission and I respectfully ask that it be given full weight in the determination of this application.

Yours sincerely,

Conor Kelly

H65K372, Co. Galway