

Marie & Sean Conneely
Barretts Park
Athenry
Co Galway
H65 YX81

Ref VA07.324162 - OBJECTION

It is with great distress that we have been made aware of the proposed grid connection work on the L7109 and adjoining routes, and the construction of Joint Bay 02 Comms Chamber Link Box directly outside of our home (H65YX81 Barretts Park). No consideration or indeed communication in relation to the construction and subsequent damage to our property, disruption to our lives and the extent to which this will negatively affect us into the future has been provided. We **STONGLY OBJECT** to this application.

Road Closures: The proposal to have this road L109 and the L7108 fully closed for a number of months with no diversion plan in place is unconscionable and as landowners, we will not be providing access to any land in Barretts Park to facilitate such works as it would be significantly damaging to our home. There are four residents in our home in Barretts Park, two working and two in full time education— one of whom will be undertaking the Leaving Certificate in the Presentation College in Athenry during the proposed construction. The route to this school appears to be closed for at least 6 months; ludicrous. With the proposed road closures, we would effectively be prisoners in our home unable to leave/enter. One resident is a teacher and one other is a business owner. The entrance to our property is also the access point for farm equipment and machinery and blocking this entrance will result in the inability to farm the land.

Joint Bay: We have no communication whatsoever from the applicant in relation to the joint bay that is proposed directly outside of our home. The positioning of the joint bay appears to be directly outside of our gate **therefore stopping access entering or leaving our property.**

We have grave concerns in relation to the traffic & access disruptions which would not only occur during construction but also in the **permanent maintenance or emergency repair access** requiring heavy machinery use in the future. This again, would mean lane closures and complex traffic management directly outside of our home.

Construction Concerns Property and Land Damage: Our understanding is that this construction will require the use of a 22-tonne rock breaker close to our home and farm. There had been no vibration or pre-construction structural survey offered to us as home-owners and land owners directly impacted by the possible damage to our land and property.

EMF Concerns: Another significant concern which has not been address is that of impact of electromagnetic fields for both us as humans, and the cattle on our farm land. The World Health Organisation and the International Agency for Research on Cancer classify ELF magnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans with research ongoing in this area. In relation to cattle, research also indicates that prolonged EMF exposure can alter milk production, stress hormones, and natural magnetic alignment. To our knowledge, the applicant had not addressed any of these concerns.

Safety Concerns: It should be noted that this proposed application is in close proximity to Coshla Quarries – a fully functioning stone quarry which has regular blasting taking place. The effects of blasts can be felt not only in Barretts Park, but as far away as both Lisheenkyle and Carnmore National Schools. Blasting of this nature causes significant ground movement and we are deeply concerned that gas pipes located directly outside of our home could become fractures/damaged, not only causing gas leaks but also the risk of gas migration. If a gas line is damaged and leaks, the natural gas will seep through soil and rock fractures. Because underground quarry voids

can trap and channel this gas, it can migrate to confined spaces or ignite, causing a massive explosion. How a proposal of this nature could even be considered in the area is beyond belief.

Environmental/Farming Concerns: This construction would inevitably be detrimental to the environment with significant hedgerow loss. The necessity of maintaining the hedgerows is particularly important for carbon sequestration as hedgerows lock away substantial amounts of carbon both above ground in woody biomass and below ground in complex root systems, helping to combat climate change. Pest control and pollination would be reduced by the destruction of the hedgerows and this is of particular concern to us as farmers. Where hedgerows are removed there is a reduction in agricultural productivity as hedgerows shelter crops and livestock from harsh weather and host natural predators (like ladybirds and insectivorous birds) that eat crop pests

There have been seven bat species confirmed to nest along the proposed route. Under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), all European bat species are strictly protected under Annex IV, making it an offense to deliberately kill, capture, or disturb them or damage their roosts. Hedgerows are vital linear habitats for bats, acting as essential dark commuting corridors between roosts and foraging grounds, and providing abundant insect prey. By supporting healthy populations of insects and bats, hedgerows provide natural pest control and boost local pollination, which is essential to our environment. A derisory survey comprising of 13 nights in June is wholly insufficient to ensure the compliance with the EU Habitats directive and a much more comprehensive investigation by the applicant into all of our environmental concerns must be undertaken before any consideration is given to this application.

Based on our above concerns, we would strongly urge you to **reject** this application as it is ill thought out and detrimental to the area concerned.