

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Rosina Joyce
Castlelambert
Athenry
Galway
H65 XW08

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Date: 26 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissy, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway
Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

A Chara,

I write to formally object to the above-referenced application, which concerns the proposed cable route connecting to the possible peaker plant currently before An Coimisiún Pleanála with the Casla Substation. While the planning file before the authority is confined to this grid connection infrastructure, it forms an integral and inseparable part of a wider development to which I am fundamentally opposed, and which I argue should not be facilitated in any of its constituent parts. The proposed route passes directly across the only vehicular and pedestrian entrance to our property and the construction works associated with it will cause serious and unacceptable disruption to our household. We maintain an organic garden and the prolonged construction activity in such close proximity poses a direct threat to its integrity. Furthermore, our eleven-year-old daughter is transported by car to and from school via this entrance and the daily negotiation of heavy construction traffic and road works on this narrow local road raises serious and legitimate road safety concerns that the applicant has failed to adequately address.

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have outlined my concerns regarding the proposed development.

Disruption to Rural and Residential Communities Along Route

The proposed 8.1km underground cable route would pass through a number of established rural and residential communities, including Rathmorrissey, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East and Cashla. These are active farming and residential areas with homes, schools, farms and local businesses located along narrow rural roads. I am concerned about the level of disruption the proposed works would cause to residents, farms, local roads and daily community life.

Damage to Hedgerows, Root Systems and Green Infrastructure

The proposed cable route passes through established rural hedgerows, mature roadside vegetation, and tree-lined sections that form an integral part of the local biodiversity network, green infrastructure and rural landscape character. I am concerned that trenching and excavation works could cause long-term damage to hedgerows, root systems, and roadside vegetation throughout the area.

Hedgerows in this locality are already under significant pressure, including from ash dieback disease, and further disturbance from construction activities has the potential to result in substantial degradation of this important green infrastructure. These linear features are particularly important as commuting routes for bat species.

The loss or damage of hedgerows may disrupt bat movement through the landscape and could adversely affect protected species, including Annex II species such as the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. In addition, in the context of climate change, maintaining connected habitats will be critical to allow species to adapt and shift their range over time.

Delays to Emergency Response and Defibrillator Access

The proposed works could cause significant delays and disruption for emergency vehicles, home-support services, school transport, agricultural traffic and daily commuters. I am also concerned about possible delays in accessing community defibrillators and emergency response assistance in rural areas where rapid access can be critical for medical emergencies.

Conclusion

I believe the proposed development is not suitable for this rural location and would contribute to the long-term industrialisation of the surrounding countryside. The likely impacts on homes, farms, schools, local roads, biodiversity and community life have not been fully addressed or adequately mitigated within the application documentation. For these reasons, I do not believe the proposal is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rosina Joyce".