

Planning Application Reference Number: ACP-324165-26

Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd / Enerco

From Daniel and Dolores Healy

As very regular visitors to this part of west cork and particularly as frequent walkers in the area we wish to object to this development which will severely impact many well-known walks such as St Finbarr's Pilgrim path, the fabulous Mealach loop walk and indeed parts of the famous butter road.

There are increasing numbers of wind farms in the countryside and while of course necessary to ensure future clean energy supplies, an over concentration in any one area particularly one of such great natural beauty is not desirable. At this time Deereenacreg Wind Farm has been given conditional approval thus adding further to the number of wind farms in this small area of West Cork. This is the future, and the approval of 14 more massive 169m turbines on the top of Maughanaclea will undoubtedly prove to be completely 'intolerable' not alone from a visual perspective but also of course the significant noise levels which will disrupt not alone nature lovers but more importantly the wildlife, birdlife and natural biodiversity of the area.

From the visual impact map provided by the developers it is clear to see that these turbines will be visible from Banty Bay and indeed over in Glengarriff and on the Sheep's Head Way among other areas of course. I mention the visual impact from Banty Bay as there are currently plans afoot to attract luxury yachts to the Bay. At present the cruise ships stop there and are an important part of the tourism economy. The untouched remote beauty of the West of Ireland is what these tourists want to see - their experience of the natural beauty will of course be negatively impacted upon viewing industrial development on top of the local hills.

I strongly feel that An Coimisiún Pleanála has a responsibility to seriously consider the concept of 'nature experience' which has well proven benefits to both mind and body in the context of a modern and rapidly developing Ireland. Crucial planning decisions severely impact on our citizens' ability to experience unique wild landscape. Decision makers must act to preserve and enhance opportunities for such nature experience. A wind farm adjacent to a defined high value landscape causes as much negative visual impact as if it were on the High value landscape itself when it clearly impacts so severely upon the visual and auditory enjoyment of same

The size of the area of nature available as well as the diversity of landscape and natural elements are key to these positive benefits. The negative visual impact of a wind farm in this area of West Cork potentially negates all this positive health benefit which both locals and tourists benefit from due to its visibility from such great distances.

There is no doubt but that the opportunities for experiencing this type of diverse 'wild' landscape in Ireland, as well as globally, are disappearing rapidly. West Cork is a genuinely unique natural environment which should be preserved, not further diminished by insertion of yet more foreign industrial elements which are so jarring to the senses.

Our tourism industry is so firmly based in the natural environment. There are numerous walking routes throughout the extended area which will be negatively impacted in terms of loss of scenic views. Local accommodation/ retreat and glamping businesses are based on the concept of immersion in nature and the local scenic beauty. Road users will also be affected on two main roads in the area eg Cousane Gap. Cruise ship visitors will be affected. It would be reckless to think that such negative visual impact would not affect tourist numbers in the longer term.

This area also contains a very large number of prehistoric monuments which must be protected at all costs.

Daniel and Dolores Healy

An Beal Ban

Ballinglanna

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