

**Glencreagh East  
Mealagh Valley  
Bantry, Co. Cork  
P75HK19**

**Date: 23.05.2026**

**SID Planning**

**An Coimisiún Pleanála**

**64 Marlborough Street**

**Dublin 1**

**D01 V902**

**Planning Application Reference Number: ACP-324165-26**

**Applicant: Maughanaclea Ltd aka Enerco**

**Description of Development: Construction of 14 Industrial Wind Turbines Maughanaclea**

**Location: Maughanaclea, County Cork**

A Chara,

I was born and raised in the heart of the Mealagh Valley, Bantry, and West Cork. Although I left home and moved to the city for education & career opportunities. This was short lived and I have since returned home again to live in the Mealagh Valley. Those years living in the city for me highlighted the comparison of living in a noisy, busy, hustle environment compared to the peaceful, calm, tranquil, and scenic and warmth that is gained by living in the middle of the countryside, a place I love, a place I am proud to call HOME. In fact, there is no comparison. No job opportunity could persuade me to continue living in the city.

A home and farm built by my recently deceased parents, whom both of which worked hard to buy and turned it into a prosperous land in order to raise their children. A place their children and grandchildren are so proud to call home.

The proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm would have a devastating impact on all that is to love about living in the Mealagh Valley. These turbines would be visible from my home, my garden, my farm. They will have a dreadful impact on the character of the Mealagh Valley landscape. This landscape, the views it gives is valued by more than just residents of the valley, it also includes many hillwalkers that walk the beautiful routes over Mullaghmesha, and along the St Finbarr's Pilgrim connecting Drimoleague to Gougane Barra. This sensitivity has already been recognised by An Coimisiun Pleanala, which has already refused planning in the same valley as it would seriously damage the visual character of the area and lead to unacceptable impact.

These proposed turbines along with those for the Dereenacrinning development on the opposite ridge would place large turbines on both sides of the valley. This would result in the industrialisation of a highly sensitive rural valley and that level of change is not acceptable in this location.

I object to the EIAR's assessment of this landscape, I believe this significantly undervalues its importance and sensitivity. The Cork County Development Plan clearly classifies this area as having High Landscape Value & High Landscape Sensitivity. However, the EIAR reduces both to 'Medium' without any clear reasons. The EIAR itself highlights key features such as wide scenic views, remoteness and a strong sense of wildness- all signs of a High Value upland landscape. It also reflects a narrow view of recreational value by focusing on land ownership. In reality, this countryside contributes significantly to public enjoyment through nearby walking scenic routes that depend on the surrounding landscapes. There have been numerous articles in the Irish Times about these walking routes describing it as simply breath taking!

One example for reference. 'The Irish Times' – 'The Irish Caminos: stunning St Finbarr's Path is the result of volunteers scraping, working and sweating together'

THE EIAR does not properly assess the combined impact of two wind farms in the one small area and the impact this will have on noise or quality of life.

Noise from turbines on higher ground can travel further, especially in quiet rural areas. This will have detrimental impact on quality of life; peoples sleep patterns, our animals. My own health to be precise along with the health of my farm animals. Not alone the noise of the turbines but also the noise impact in the process of erecting these turbines. Rock breaking in the valley can be heard miles away on a calm day not to mind when there is wind. Therefore, rock breaking on top of a mountain will have a significant impact and will echo across the valley for months to years in the construction phase.

This development will also contradict West Cork's tourism strategy, the dark skies and its tranquillity.

The Mealagh Valley community is actively pursuing Dark Sky Community accreditation from DarkSky International — which would be the first in Ireland. A formal committee has been established and the application is at an advanced stage. Amber Harrison, Dark Sky Places Programme Manager at DarkSky International, has been in direct correspondence with The Mealagh Valley Dark Skies Committee since October 2025, and Georgia MacMillan of Mayo Dark Sky Park (Ireland's first dark sky designation) has offered practical guidance on the accreditation process. Cork County Council's Roads Management division held an active meeting with The Mealagh Valley Dark Skies Committee on the lighting policy, with follow-up correspondence dated 8 May 2026 — just 17 days before the deadline for observations on this planning application. Deputy Christopher O'Sullivan TD, Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, engaged personally with the project and subsequently provided a formal written Letter of Support describing the Committee's approach as "innovative and forward-thinking" and stating that Dark Sky Park accreditation would be "a very positive addition to the region"

For these reasons, I believe this development would cause unacceptable harm to the landscape, environment, residential amenity and community of the area and should be refused.

Yours sincerely



Joan O'Sullivan.