

Michael O'Mahony

Maughanaclea, Kealkill, Co. Cork P75 Y504, Property H049,

16th May 2026

Location: located in Ardrah, Maughanaclea, Ballynamought, Gortloughra, Cousane, Coomclogh, Derragh, Glanycarney, Keenrath, Derrynacaheragh, Shiplough, Coolsnachtig and other townlands Co. Cork

Re: Objection to the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm

ACP Reference: PAX04.324165

To the Planning Authority,

I wish to formally object to the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm development due to the significant negative impacts it will have on my family home, quality of life, and the surrounding rural environment.

As the owner/resident of property H049, I have serious concerns regarding the proximity of the proposed turbines and the long-term consequences of this development on my family, the local residents and the landscape.

My objections are based on the following grounds:

#### **Visual Impact and Loss of Rural Character**

The proposed turbines would fundamentally alter the natural landscape and rural character of the area. The scale and visibility of the turbines would create an intrusive industrial presence in what is currently an unspoilt countryside setting. As it is I can see the Grousemount Windfarm in the distance to the north and on my journey home from Kealkill along the R585 I can see the Shehymore Windfarm. I do not understand how this beautiful area of West Cork is allowed to be saturated with more wind farms.

#### **Noise and Disturbance**

I am concerned about the ongoing noise pollution, including low-frequency noise and shadow flicker effects, which will negatively effect my family's health, wellbeing, sleep, and overall enjoyment of our peaceful home. It is also important to note that while this will cause much stress to humans the extent of stress on my farm animals is unknown and very worrying. Both horses and cattle will possibly be put under undue stress during both construction of these giants and their day to day running if constructed. They do not switch off at night so it would be 24 hours a day, 7 days a week of this low frequency noise and ground vibrations.

Shadow flicker is a highly disorienting indoor phenomenon that occurs when the massive 133-metre rotating turbine blades interrupt sunlight, casting moving, strobe-like shadows into the rooms of nearby homes. The issue of shadow flicker extends beyond the windows of my dwelling and would significantly affect our surrounding agricultural lands and farm buildings associated with my property H049. The strobe-like effect created by the rotating 133-metre turbine blades would sweep repeatedly across open grazing fields and livestock areas. I am deeply concerned that the constant movement of large rotating shadows across pastureland would startle, confuse, and stress my farm animals, negatively affecting their welfare and behaviour. This has the potential to interfere with normal grazing patterns and the day-to-day operation of the farm.

This repetitive flickering effect can seriously interfere with the normal enjoyment of a dwelling and would negatively impact comfort, concentration, wellbeing, and quality of life for anyone living close

to this proposed development. The movement and frequency of these shadows can create an intrusive and distressing environment within what should be a safe and peaceful home setting. Given the proximity of the proposed turbines to property H049, I am highly concerned that shadow flicker would become a regular and unacceptable disturbance affecting the habitability and residential amenity of my home.

### **Impact on Property Value**

The development would significantly reduce the value and desirability of nearby homes and properties, including mine at H049, due to visual intrusion, noise concerns, and industrialisation of the area. My property should I ever want to sell would decrease in price by at least 30%. A local estate agent Denis Harrington of Harrington Estates, Bantry has reported a substantial drop in property sales within the Kealkill area and surrounding townlands and has directly contributed this to the proposed windturbine development.

### **Environmental and Ecological Concerns**

The construction and operation of large-scale wind turbines in a sensitive rural environment has the potential to cause long-term ecological disturbance, habitat fragmentation, and damage to biodiversity. Particular concern exists regarding the effect on protected bird species, local wildlife movement, and the stability of peatland areas, which play an important role in carbon storage, drainage, and environmental balance.

The scale and permanence of the proposed infrastructure mean that any environmental damage could have lasting consequences for the area. I do not believe the full long-term environmental impact has been adequately addressed, and a far more comprehensive assessment should be carried out before any approval is considered.

### **Traffic and Construction Disruption**

The construction phase would likely involve substantial heavy vehicle traffic on local roads that are not suitable for such use, creating safety concerns, road damage, noise, and disruption for local residents. The roads serving this area are already heavily trafficked due to the substantial volume of freight and commercial transport travelling to and from Castletownbere. In their current condition, these roads are not adequately equipped to safely accommodate existing traffic levels, let alone the significant increase in heavy construction traffic associated with the proposed wind farm development.

The transportation of turbine components, including exceptionally large blades, cranes, machinery, and construction materials required to bring the project to operational status, would place enormous strain on local infrastructure. This raises serious concerns regarding road safety, traffic disruption, road deterioration, and the increased risk of accidents for residents, road users, farmers, and emergency services.

Many of the local roads are narrow, winding, and unsuitable for oversized industrial transport vehicles. The scale of the proposed haulage operation would create a substantial and ongoing liability for the local community and surrounding infrastructure.

### **Inadequate Consideration of Local Community Concerns**

I do not believe that sufficient weight has been given to the concerns, objections, and lived experiences of local residents who will be directly affected by this development for decades to come.

The people living closest to the proposed turbines will bear the long-term impacts of noise, shadow flicker, visual intrusion, traffic disruption, and the industrialisation of a rural landscape, yet many residents feel their concerns have not been adequately acknowledged or addressed throughout the planning process.

A development of this scale should not proceed where there remains significant and widespread local opposition, particularly from those whose homes, farms, livelihoods, and quality of life would be permanently affected. Greater consideration must be given to the rights and wellbeing of the local community before any decision is made.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that permission for the proposed Maughanaclea Wind Farm be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Michael O'Mahony  
Maughanaclea, Kealkill, Co. Cork. P75 Y504