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23rd June 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

**Re: Objection to the Proposed Tirawley Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure
Development Objection Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála**

Re: Planning permission for the construction of Tirawley Windfarm consisting of 16 no. wind turbines, a permanent 110kV substation, 110kV underground cable and grid connection, and ancillary development in the townlands of Ballymurphy, Ballynaleck, Barnhill Lower & Upper, Barroe, Billoos, Carn, Carrickanass, Carrowmore, Castlelacken Demesne, and other townlands in County Mayo.

Case Number: PAX16.324258

Submission on Behalf of Lacken Enterprise Centre

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Board and Management Committee of Lacken Enterprise Centre wish to formally object to the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development by Constant Energy Limited.

As one of the principal community facilities serving the parish of Lacken and Kilcummin, the Enterprise Centre exists to support local economic development, community activities, social interaction, tourism initiatives, education, training, and the overall sustainability of our rural community. We believe this proposed development poses a serious threat to the long-term future of the area and would fundamentally alter the character of the community that our organisation has worked for many years to support and strengthen.

Our objection is based on concerns regarding the social, economic, environmental and community impacts of the proposed development, together with the failure of the developer to meaningfully engage with the people and organisations most directly affected.

Failure to Engage with the Community

One of the most concerning aspects of this application has been the absence of meaningful engagement with the local community.

Despite the scale of the proposed development, which includes sixteen industrial-scale wind turbines, a large Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), a substantial electrical substation

and extensive associated infrastructure, the developer failed to engage directly with many of the community organisations that form the backbone of life in the area.

Lacken Enterprise Centre received no meaningful consultation from the developer regarding the impact this project could have on the community we serve. At no stage were we afforded an opportunity to participate in a genuine discussion regarding the future of the area or the likely consequences of the proposal.

Particularly concerning is the fact that the BESS and substation proposals were not adequately highlighted during the consultation process. These significant industrial elements carry impacts and risks separate from the turbines themselves and should have been clearly presented to the community from the outset.

The consultation process appears to have been designed primarily to satisfy procedural requirements rather than to genuinely listen to, understand and address local concerns.

Impact on Community Cohesion and Social Wellbeing

As an organisation that works daily with local residents, voluntary groups, community organisations and visitors, we are deeply concerned about the social consequences of this development.

The planning documentation largely focuses on technical assessments and engineering solutions while failing to adequately consider the effect that a development of this scale can have on a rural community.

Over recent years the proposed development has already created division, anxiety and uncertainty amongst neighbours. Families who have lived together in the area for generations now find themselves on opposing sides of a development that will permanently alter the landscape in which they live.

The introduction of industrial infrastructure throughout a rural parish risks undermining the strong community spirit that has long characterised the Lacken area. Community cohesion cannot be measured in decibels or visual impact assessments, yet it remains one of the most important assets any rural community possesses.

The loss of trust between neighbours, the stress associated with prolonged planning disputes, and the perception that local concerns are being ignored all have lasting social consequences that cannot be mitigated through planning conditions.

Risk of Depopulation and Decline of Rural Communities

Lacken and Kilcummin, like many rural communities throughout Ireland, face ongoing challenges in maintaining population levels, supporting local services and encouraging younger generations to remain in the area.

The future sustainability of our schools, sports clubs, community groups, local businesses and community facilities depends upon maintaining and growing the resident population.

We are concerned that the industrialisation of the local landscape will discourage families from settling in the area and may encourage existing residents to relocate elsewhere. The perception of the area as a peaceful, attractive and desirable place to live is one of its greatest strengths.

The introduction of a major industrial energy development throughout the parish risks damaging that reputation.

Many residents have already expressed concerns regarding noise, shadow flicker, visual impacts, construction activity, traffic disruption and the cumulative effect of increasing wind energy infrastructure throughout North Mayo. These concerns are real and should not be dismissed simply because they are difficult to quantify.

If people choose not to move into the area, or if existing residents decide to leave, the consequences will extend far beyond individual households. Every family lost weakens local schools, community organisations, sports clubs, businesses and voluntary groups.

For a rural community already facing demographic challenges, this is a matter of serious concern.

Impact on Tourism and Community-Led Economic Development

Lacken Enterprise Centre has been actively involved in supporting tourism initiatives, community events and projects aimed at promoting the area as a destination for visitors.

The local economy benefits significantly from visitors who come to experience the natural beauty, history and tranquillity of the North Mayo coast.

The area's appeal is built upon its unspoilt landscapes, spectacular coastal scenery, archaeological heritage, walking routes and strong sense of place.

Visitors come to experience:

- The wider Céide Fields cultural landscape.
- The Wild Atlantic Way.
- Downpatrick Head.
- Local walking and cycling routes.
- The area's dark skies and natural tranquillity.
- Historic sites associated with General Humbert and the rich history of North Mayo.
- The unique rural character of the Lacken and Kilcummin area.

The introduction of sixteen 135-metre turbines, aviation lighting, a BESS facility and a major electrical substation will fundamentally alter the visitor experience.

The gradual industrialisation of the North Mayo landscape risks undermining decades of investment by local communities, tourism organisations and businesses seeking to establish the region as a premium tourism destination.

Impact on Landscape Character

The landscape surrounding Lacken is one of the area's most valuable assets.

The visual presence of turbines of this scale will be experienced across a wide area and will permanently alter the character of the local environment.

The proposed development cannot be viewed in isolation. Existing wind farms, consented projects and further proposed developments throughout Mayo and neighbouring counties must be considered collectively.

The cumulative impact of repeated large-scale wind energy developments threatens to transform the wider landscape from a predominantly rural and scenic environment into an increasingly industrialised one.

Environmental and Ecological Concerns

The Enterprise Centre shares the concerns expressed by many residents regarding the potential impacts on protected habitats, designated conservation sites, bird populations, bats, watercourses and biodiversity.

Particular concern exists regarding the hydrological connection between the development site and downstream protected environments including Lacken Saltmarsh and the Killala Bay/Moy Estuary designated sites.

The applicant's reliance on future mitigation and monitoring does not provide sufficient certainty that these sensitive environments can be adequately protected throughout the lifetime of the project.

We also remain concerned regarding the age of certain ecological survey data and whether the information relied upon accurately reflects current conditions.

Traffic and Construction Impacts

The construction phase will place substantial pressure on local infrastructure and create disruption for residents, businesses and visitors.

Many local roads were never designed to accommodate the abnormal loads associated with a project of this scale.

The impact on local road networks, tourism routes, community facilities and daily life has not been adequately addressed.

The disruption associated with construction will extend over a prolonged period and will affect not only residents but also visitors and local enterprises.

Failure to Achieve Sustainable Rural Development

While Lacken Enterprise Centre recognises the importance of renewable energy in addressing climate change, renewable energy development must be located in areas where it can be accommodated without causing unacceptable harm to communities and landscapes.

This proposal fails that test.

The development would impose significant burdens upon the local community while delivering limited long-term benefits to the area itself.

Rather than supporting sustainable rural development, we believe the proposal risks contributing to rural decline by damaging the very qualities that attract people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.

Conclusion

For all of the reasons outlined above, Lacken Enterprise Centre respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Wind Farm development.

The proposal represents a significant threat to community cohesion, rural sustainability, tourism, landscape character and the future development of the Lacken and Kilcummin area.

The strength of rural Ireland lies in its communities. Developments of this scale should not be permitted where they risk weakening those communities, undermining community spirit and contributing to the gradual depopulation of areas that are already working hard to secure their future.

We respectfully request that permission be refused in the interests of proper planning and sustainable development.

Yours faithfully,

Leo Loughney

Lacken Enterprise Centre