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21/06/2026

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

LACKEN SARSFIELDS GAA CLUB

Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Proposed Tirawley Windfarm Development

Submitted by: Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club

Planning Application: Tirawley Windfarm

Planning Reference Number: PAX16.324258

Date: 21/06/2026

Summary

Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club objects to the proposed Tirawley Windfarm development on the grounds that it would have a significant adverse impact on community amenity, sporting and recreational facilities, rural sustainability, population retention, community-led regeneration, tourism, health and wellbeing.

The Club has recently invested in excess of €100,000 in upgrading and enhancing its facilities for the benefit of the wider community. These improvements include sporting infrastructure, footpaths, lighting, fencing, accessibility and safety measures.

The Club believes that the proposed development of 16 turbines of approximately 135 metres in height would fundamentally alter the character of the surrounding landscape and diminish the value and enjoyment of these facilities.

The proposal is considered contrary to the objectives of national, regional and local policies that seek to support rural communities, community infrastructure, recreation, wellbeing and sustainable population growth.

For the reasons outlined within this submission, Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club respectfully requests that permission for the proposed Tirawley Windfarm be refused.

1. Introduction

Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club wishes to make a formal submission in relation to the proposed Tirawley Windfarm development.

As one of the principal community organisations in the area, the Club has served generations of families through sport, recreation, volunteerism and community engagement. The Club is deeply embedded in the social, cultural and sporting life of Lacken and provides facilities and opportunities for people of all ages.

The Club is concerned that the proposed development of 16 no. 135-metre turbines and associated infrastructure would have a significant adverse impact on the amenity, character and attractiveness of the area and would undermine substantial community investment that has taken place over many years.

2. Importance of the Club to Rural Sustainability

Rural communities throughout Ireland continue to face challenges relating to population decline, emigration, ageing demographics and the retention of young families.

Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club plays a critical role in addressing these challenges by:

- Providing sporting opportunities for children and young people.
- Supporting physical and mental wellbeing.

- Promoting social inclusion and community engagement.
- Acting as a focal point for community activities and events.
- Encouraging families to remain in the area.
- Helping former residents return home.
- Supporting the long-term sustainability of the rural community.

The Club provides far more than sporting facilities. It serves as a cornerstone of community life and contributes directly to the attractiveness and viability of the area as a place in which to live, work and raise a family.

3. Community-Led Regeneration and Population Growth

For many years, the people of Lacken have worked collectively to strengthen and sustain their community through voluntary effort, local investment and the development of community amenities.

Local organisations and volunteers have invested significant time and resources into making the area an attractive place in which to live, raise a family and enjoy a high quality of life.

The development and enhancement of facilities such as Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club, community amenities, recreational facilities, walking routes, playgrounds and the local sensory garden have all formed part of a wider effort to encourage people to remain in, return to and invest in the area.

Many former residents have returned to Lacken seeking the quality of life, community spirit, tranquillity and natural beauty that the area offers. Equally, new residents continue to choose the area because of its strong sense of community, exceptional landscape and recreational opportunities.

These achievements are not accidental. They are the result of decades of commitment and investment by local people.

4. Significant Community Investment

In excess of €100,000 has been invested in recent years to improve and modernise the Club's facilities for the benefit of the wider community.

These improvements include:

- Upgraded sporting facilities.
- New pedestrian footpaths.
- Improved lighting infrastructure.
- New fencing and safety measures.
- Enhanced accessibility.
- Improvements designed to increase participation in sport and community activities.

This investment represents a significant commitment by club members, volunteers, funding bodies and the wider community to provide a safe, welcoming and attractive environment for people of all ages.

The Club is concerned that the proposed development would fundamentally alter the setting and enjoyment of these facilities and undermine the benefits that this substantial community investment was intended to deliver.

5. Impact on Sporting and Recreational Facilities

The grounds are used throughout the year for training sessions, competitive matches, juvenile activities, recreational walking, community events and social gatherings.

The introduction of 16 turbines measuring approximately 135 metres in height into the surrounding landscape would fundamentally alter the character and visual setting of the Club grounds.

The Club is concerned that the development would adversely affect:

- The enjoyment of sporting activities.
- Spectator experience.
- Community events held at the grounds.
- The attractiveness of the facilities to current and future users.
- The overall amenity value of the Club grounds.
- The ability of the Club to continue promoting the facilities as an attractive place for participation, recreation and community engagement.

6. Attracting and Retaining Families

The future sustainability of rural communities depends on their ability to attract and retain families.

Parents increasingly consider quality of life, recreational opportunities, community facilities and environmental quality when deciding where to live and raise children.

The Club is concerned that the industrialisation of the surrounding landscape would adversely affect the attractiveness of the area and undermine ongoing efforts to sustain and grow the local population.

7. Tourism and Recreation

Lacken is recognised for its scenic coastal landscape, natural beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The area's attractiveness supports tourism and contributes positively to the local economy.

The introduction of turbines of this scale into a highly valued landscape risks damaging the area's reputation as a place of natural beauty, recreation and community enjoyment.

8. Health and Wellbeing

Sport and outdoor recreation provide significant physical, mental and social health benefits.

The Club has invested heavily in facilities designed to encourage active lifestyles, social interaction and community wellbeing.

These facilities play an important role in promoting healthy lifestyles and strengthening community cohesion.

9. Conflict with National, Regional and Local Policy

Our Rural Future

The Government's Our Rural Future policy seeks to support population growth in rural areas, strengthen rural communities, improve quality of life and encourage investment in community infrastructure.

National Planning Framework – Project Ireland 2040

The National Planning Framework supports:

- Strong and sustainable rural communities.
- Improved quality of life in rural areas.
- Investment in community infrastructure.
- Recreation and sporting participation.
- Protection of community assets and amenities.

Mayo County Development Plan

The Mayo County Development Plan supports:

- Sustainable rural communities.
- Recreation and sporting facilities.
- Community infrastructure.
- Healthy lifestyles.
- Protection of landscape character and visual amenity.
- Tourism and recreation.

Healthy Ireland Framework

National health policy recognises the importance of access to outdoor recreation, organised sport and community facilities in supporting physical and mental wellbeing.

10. Conclusion

Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club is far more than a sporting organisation. It is a vital piece of community infrastructure that contributes significantly to the social, cultural, recreational and economic life of the Lacken area.

Through decades of volunteer commitment and community effort, the Club has helped sustain rural life, support families, encourage participation in sport, promote health and wellbeing and strengthen community cohesion.

In recent years alone, in excess of €100,000 has been invested in upgrading the Club's facilities. These investments were made to enhance quality of life, encourage participation in sport and recreation, attract and retain families and strengthen the long-term sustainability of the local community.

The proposed Tirawley Windfarm would fundamentally alter the character and setting of the Club's facilities, adversely affect the amenity enjoyed by players, spectators and visitors, diminish the value of substantial recent community investment and undermine wider community-led efforts aimed at rural regeneration, population retention and the attraction of new residents to the area.

The Club respectfully submits that the long-term social, recreational and community benefits provided by its facilities, together with the considerable efforts being made to sustain and grow the population of the Lacken area, outweigh any perceived benefits arising from the proposed development.

For all of the reasons outlined above, Lacken Sarsfields GAA Club respectfully requests that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed Tirawley Windfarm.

Yours faithfully

Donal Flannelly

Chairperson

Lacken Sarsfield GAA Club