

Re: Planning Application No. 324290 – Proposed Wind Farm Development in the Townlands of Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullysheherry, County Leitrim

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to lodge a formal objection to Planning Application No. 324290 for the proposed wind farm development in the above townlands.

I am a resident living near Killea and will be directly affected by this proposal. While I support the need to develop renewable energy and reduce Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels, I believe this proposal is of an inappropriate scale for this rural area and would have unacceptable long-term impacts on residents, the landscape, and the local environment.

Exceptional Height and Scale

The proposed turbines are approximately 600 feet (183 metres) in height. These are among the tallest structures that can be built in the Irish countryside and would be dramatically out of scale with the existing landscape.

A structure of this height is comparable to a modern city skyscraper yet is proposed within a quiet rural landscape characterised by farmland, forestry, hills, and dispersed housing. Their immense size means they would dominate the skyline for many kilometres and become the defining visual feature of the area.

Unlike many other forms of development, wind turbines of this height cannot be screened by existing vegetation or topography. They would remain highly visible from surrounding roads, homes, farms, public viewpoints, and neighbouring communities throughout the area.

Permanent Industrialisation of the Landscape

The development represents a permanent industrialisation of what is currently an attractive rural landscape. In addition to the turbines themselves, the project requires extensive associated infrastructure, including:

- New and widened access roads.
- Large concrete foundations.
- Crane hardstands.
- Underground cabling.
- Electrical substations.
- Construction compounds.
- Continuous aviation warning lights.

Taken together, these elements would fundamentally alter the character of the countryside around Killea and the surrounding townlands.

Impact on Residential Amenities

Residents living near the proposed development will experience a substantial change to their living environment over the expected operational life of the wind farm.

My concerns include:

- Constant visual dominance from turbines visible from homes and surrounding land.
- The movement of enormous rotating blades, which naturally draw the eye.
- Potential shadow flicker during certain weather and seasonal conditions.
- Operational turbine noise and low-frequency sound.
- Night-time aviation lighting, which may be visible across a wide area and reduce the natural darkness of the rural landscape.

These combined effects have the potential to significantly diminish the peaceful rural environment enjoyed by local residents.

Landscape Character

County Leitrim is widely recognised for its unspoilt scenery, rolling hills, forests, lakes, and rural character. The landscape is an important environmental, cultural, and tourism asset.

The introduction of multiple turbines approximately 183 metres high would permanently change the visual identity of this part of the county. The proposal is not simply a local development but one that would be visible over a very large geographical area.

The cumulative visual effect of multiple turbines of this scale should be carefully assessed, particularly from public roads, scenic viewpoints, neighbouring communities, and nearby dwellings.

Environmental Concerns

I remain concerned regarding the potential impacts on biodiversity, protected bird species, bats, peatlands, watercourses, and local habitats during both construction and operation.

The scale of excavation, road construction, drainage works, and concrete foundations required for turbines of this size has the potential to create lasting environmental impacts. I ask that these matters receive particularly careful scrutiny.

Construction Traffic and Infrastructure

The transportation and installation of turbines of this height will require exceptionally large components and heavy construction traffic.

The local road network is rural in nature and was not designed to accommodate such loads. I am concerned about:

- Road safety.
- Damage to local roads and bridges.

- Traffic disruption over an extended construction period.
- Impacts on local residents, farming activities, and emergency vehicle access.

Cumulative Impacts

This proposal should not be assessed in isolation. The planning authority should consider its cumulative impact alongside any existing or proposed wind energy developments in the wider region.

The combined visual, environmental, and residential effects of several large wind farms could fundamentally alter the character of north Leitrim and place an unreasonable burden on local communities.

Conclusion

I appreciate the need to increase Ireland's renewable energy capacity and recognise that wind energy has an important role in achieving national climate objectives. However, renewable energy developments must be appropriately located and proportionate to their surroundings.

Given the extraordinary height of the proposed turbines, their widespread visual impact, the potential effects on residential amenity, the permanent industrialisation of the landscape, and the concerns outlined above, I respectfully submit that this proposal is unsuitable for this location.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that Planning Application No. 324290 be refused.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Killalea

Resident near Killea

County Leitrim