

Observation on the Proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm

Application Reference: PAX12.324290

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

I am a resident of 31 Millhill Lawns, Manorhamilton, and I wish to make an observation on the proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm. From my home I have clear views towards Dough Mountain, which forms an important part of the landscape that I enjoy every day. Having reviewed the planning application, I have serious concerns regarding the landscape and visual impact of the proposed development together with the impact of the associated construction traffic on local roads and communities. My observations are based on my experience of living in the area and regularly using the surrounding roads and mountain for recreation. Landscape and Visual Impact

Dough Mountain is one of the defining landscape features of this part of County Leitrim. As a resident of Manorhamilton, it is a constant and prominent feature of my surroundings, and the open upland landscape and natural skyline contribute greatly to the scenic quality and rural character of the area. From my home at 31 Millhill Lawns, I have direct views of Dough Mountain, and this landscape is something that I value every day. I also occasionally walk along the L61801 Faughary Road, where there are extensive views of the mountain, and I regularly enjoy mountain walks on Dough Mountain itself. These walks provide an opportunity to appreciate the area's natural beauty, tranquillity, wildlife and open countryside. I am concerned that turbines of up to 185 metres in height would permanently transform this landscape from a natural upland environment into an industrial energy development. Due to their scale, the turbines would become dominant features across a wide area, fundamentally altering the character of Dough Mountain. In addition to the turbines themselves, the associated access roads, crane hardstands, electrical infrastructure and aviation lighting would have a significant cumulative visual impact. The mountain is an important recreational resource for local people and visitors alike. It is valued for walking, cycling, nature appreciation and its sense of peace and remoteness. In my opinion, the proposed development would significantly diminish these qualities and permanently alter one of the defining natural landscapes of North Leitrim. Roads and Construction Traffic

I also have significant concerns regarding the impact that the construction phase would have on the local road network. I regularly cycle the route from Millhill Lawns, Manorhamilton, along the L61801 through Faughary, climbing Saddle Hill, before continuing along the L6184 through Boleyboy, Cashelaveela and Cherrybrook, joining the N16 and returning to Manorhamilton. This is a challenging and scenic cycling route that is enjoyed by cyclists, walkers, local residents and agricultural traffic. The local roads are narrow, winding and rural in nature and were never designed to accommodate prolonged movements of abnormal loads, turbine blades, tower sections and heavy construction vehicles. The increase in heavy goods vehicle movements during construction is likely to increase risks for cyclists, pedestrians, local residents, farmers moving livestock and machinery, and other road users. As someone who regularly cycles these roads, I have genuine concerns about sharing them with oversized transport vehicles. Even where traffic management measures are proposed, the movement of abnormal loads would reduce road safety and diminish the enjoyment of these quiet rural roads. I am also concerned about the wider traffic impacts on Manorhamilton. Millhill Lawns is accessed directly from the N16, and if the N16 is used as part of the transport route for turbine components and construction

traffic, residents of the estate are likely to experience disruption when entering or leaving their homes. Oversized loads may require temporary traffic management measures, rolling road closures and delays, affecting daily commuting, school transport, local businesses and emergency vehicle access. Given that the entrance to our estate is directly onto the N16, these impacts would be experienced first-hand by residents, including my family. In addition to the inconvenience, prolonged construction traffic would generate increased noise, dust and road wear over an extended period. The impacts of the project would therefore extend well beyond the immediate wind farm site and affect communities throughout the surrounding area.

Conclusion

I recognise the importance of renewable energy and support Ireland's transition to lower-carbon electricity generation. However, I believe that renewable energy developments should be located where they can be accommodated without causing unacceptable harm to the landscape, residential amenity or the safety and functionality of the local road network. In my view, Dough Mountain is not an appropriate location for a development of this scale. As someone who lives with views of the mountain and regularly walks and cycles in the surrounding area, I believe I would experience the impacts of this proposal on a daily basis. The permanent change to the landscape, together with the likely disruption and road safety concerns associated with the construction phase, would have a lasting adverse effect on my family's enjoyment of our home and on the character of the wider area. For these reasons, I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuses permission for the proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm. Thank you for considering my observation.

Yours faithfully,

Gerry Hickey & Órla Hickey
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