

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
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09 JUL 2026
Fee: € 50 Type: CASH
Time: 9:23 By: KAMD



c/o Bee Park Centre
Manorhamilton
Co. Leitrim
F91 HCD9

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1 D01 V902

July 8th 2026

Observation on the Proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind Farm

Applicant: FuturEnergy Ireland

Development: Proposed Dough Mountain (Lissinagroagh) Wind

Farm Case Reference: PAX12.324290

Location: Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Killea, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle and Tullyskeherny, Co. Leitrim

Observation by North Leitrim Sustainable Energy Community (NLSEC)

Established in 2016, NLSEC is one of the earliest SECs in the border region. Our members are drawn from the farming, tourism, technology and cultural sectors. We have been promoting the SEAI's aims of energy transition for the past decade. As such we are fully in favour of sustainable energy sources and we have no issue with wind energy per se, but we do have major concerns regarding the proposed development of 14 large-scale turbines on Dough Mountain by FuturEnergy.

Our main concern is the lack of community engagement, control and ownership in this and indeed all major renewable energy developments. It is well documented (O'Maonaigh et al, 2025, Walsh, 2018), that this approach inevitably leads to local opposition to such developments and is an impediment to the transition to sustainable energy sources. Communities hosting renewable energy developments have legitimate concerns about local impacts, corporate control and lack of direct benefit to the area. We have observed from experience that the distribution of "Community Funds" associated with large-scale renewable energy projects can often be a divisive factor as it can divide the community into beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries and those opposed to such grants in the first place and often fails to benefit those who bear the most impact from the development.

We call instead for an approach that would facilitate community driven and decentralised energy generation. This approach will improve resilience, enhance energy security locally and support fairer energy outcomes. We believe that FuturEnergy Ireland in particular, as an entity comprised of former state or semi-state bodies, should embrace the opportunity to support communities in generating, using and sharing their own energy.

While this approach calls for a paradigm shift in the way that the sustainable energy transition is being rolled out in Ireland, it is not without precedent elsewhere and we believe it is the only way Ireland can achieve its sustainable goals in a just and inclusive manner.

We feel that an upland bog, a natural carbon sink and an area of High Nature Value is not the place for an industrial scale development, Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 states P231 11.4 states; *"Developments near ecologically sensitive sites will need to satisfy the Planning Authority that the development proposals likely to have a significant impact on the area of ecological importance, irrespective of whether they are actually located within the area or not, i.e. through hydrological linkage to designated sites of ecological importance"*.

This site is linked hydro geologically to Lough Melvin and Lough Gill Special Areas of Conservation.

We call on An Coimisiún Pleanála to refuse planning permission for this unsuitable development.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seamus Dunbar'.

Seamus Dunbar

Chair