

Tawnylust  
Manorhamilton  
Co. Leitrim  
F91 F8Y8

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01V902

July 3rd 2026

**Ref Application Details;**  
**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**

Dear Secretary,

I wish to make an observation/objection on the above proposed development. I was born in Lisnagroagh near Manorhamilton in Co. Leitrim. In 2021, I was made aware of the proposed development by a friend who received a copy of FuturEnergy's newsletter, that friend lives 8Km away. Neither I nor any of my neighbours received such a newsletter from the company and we are within the 2km zone. This was the start of a woefully inadequate engagement with the community by FuturEnergy and of a period of huge stress and worry for me, my husband and our community.

### **1 Tourism/Ecotourism**

As someone who operated an eco-tourism business for the last 20 years and a founder member of Leitrim Tourism Network, it is clear that the reason people come to visit North Leitrim is because of the quiet, surrounded by nature, the absence of built environment and the authenticity of the experience. \*Failte Ireland research shows;

***Landscape, culture, key attractions and curiosity are the primary reasons visitors say they consider Ireland.***

Leitrim has been the forerunner in the ecotourism sector for many years with the Greenbox project in 2004 and more recently \*\*Slow Adventure, with Leitrim as the lead partner in this nature based tourism initiative. Its aim is as follows; ***Slow Adventure gives you the chance to explore and engage with wild, open and natural places, creating memories through meaningful experiences as you invest time in a place, in its traditions and community. And as you surrender to the natural forces of the environment while reflecting, reconnecting and***

*becoming closer to nature. The naturally beautiful land of Leitrim is home to Slow Adventure in Ireland. Come on a journey through the breath-taking landscapes of Leitrim at a slower immersive pace.*

Working together with other tourism providers in the area we have put together ‘bundles’ offering eco stays, experiences in nature, local food and education on nature conservation. My home and business located at the base of Dough Mountain means the mountain, being of high nature value is tantamount to the success of these experiences. I believe the development of the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm contravenes the Leitrim County Development Plan 2023-2029 (LCDP) and therefore I urge An Comisiún Pleanála to reject the planning application. The LCDP cites Dough Mountain as being “*An Area of High Visual Amenity and describes it as follows; An upland landscape with a smooth rounded mountain skyline which overlooks the valley landscape to the south presenting a recognizable skyline and conferring a sense of place on the local area. Visitors at elevated locations can enjoy panoramic views of the adjacent hills and lowlands. The mountain summit and surrounding elevated areas features a landcover of peat bog and is generally remote and tranquil*”

It is obvious that an industrial development of 14 turbines x185m with ancillary works, two years construction phase, road widening and constant traffic will certainly render the place untranquil.

## **2 Previous refusal of a wind farm on this mountain**

In 2010 An Bord Pleanála refused planning permission for a wind farm on Dough Mountain (PL.12.2347410) There were two main reasons for the refusal;

1. The protected blanket bog
2. An unacceptable obtrusive feature on the landscape and visual amenity of the area.

The 2010 proposed development was much smaller so the same rules would apply to the current development but even more important with the natural carbon sink on this site

## **3 Ecology**

Living in close proximity to the mountain, I regularly see rare bird and insect species and am aware of the general flora in this upland bog. I am a member of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland and of a local wildlife group Our Native Glens so as well as my own knowledge, I have access to ecologists, ornithologists, bat, moss, lichen and flora specialists who know the area well.

**The Hen Harrier** This is a bird protected under national and European law. The hen harrier is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. This requires Member States to take special measures to protect their habitat, including the designation of Special Protection Areas. A development such as Lissinagroagh Wind Farm would have a hugely detrimental effect on this amber listed bird so I feel this is grounds for ACP to refuse planning permission. FuturEnergy, in their own EIAR, confirms there are three breeding territories, two within and one 1.6Km from the site. We as residents and ACP have a moral and legal obligation to protect this magnificent bird.

### **Marsh Fritillary Butterfly**

This is the only protected insect in Ireland under Annex 11. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) states on their website; *The population of the butterfly fluctuates enormously in a cyclical manner. Colonies need a sufficient area of habitat so that the species can survive natural habitat change and the effect of parasites. Individual sites are thought to exist as part of a network of neighbouring sites that are used periodically as conditions permit. If the habitat patch is large enough, colonies may persist for many years.*

FuturEnergy's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) states that the butterfly is in the proposed area and that they will relocate the colonies. There is no research to show that the colonies will be successful in the new area and the vital plant species Devils Bit Scabious must be flourishing for colonies to be successful. They would also be cut off from existing colonies in the area by the turbines. This I believe is another reason for ACP to refuse planning permission for this development.

### **Bats:**

Bats are protected by law in the Republic of Ireland under the Wildlife Act 1976 and subsequent amendments. I regularly observe bats foraging at dusk where I live, located 1.3 Km from the proposed Turbine 14, even closer to Turbine 14 at 740m, I have counted, with an expert, over 100 bats leaving a roost. Were planning permission to be granted for this development it would be hugely detrimental to this and other colonies on the mountain.

**White Tailed Eagle** I have recently observed a White Tailed Eagle on Dough Mountain within the collision zone for the proposed development. This is a Red Listed protected species under the following designations; Wildlife Acts || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive || Protected Species: EU Birds Directive Annex I Bird Species || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern || Threatened Species: Birds of Conservation Concern Birds of Conservation Concern - Red List

**Sand Martins** each year these feisty little birds make their way back to Dough Mountain from sub-Saharan Africa, where they nest on a dried bog bank. They have amber conservation status and their next site is located 50m from the nearest turbine. They have not been surveyed or referred to at in the EIAR.

## **4 Recreation**

Having sat on the Leitrim Recreation Forum and a member of its walking and cycling working group for several years, I am very much aware of the tireless work that has gone into developing North Leitrim and Dough Mountain in particular for fantastic cycle and walking routes. Leitrim was the first county in Ireland to develop the bespoke cycling signs showing cyclists the gradient, altitude and distance. We hold an annual Sportive in August with Dough Mountain being one of the favourite and most challenging routes at the event. Cyclists love the signage and the good, safe road surface. Were the proposed development to go ahead, it would seriously adversely affect this event and the economic benefit that it brings annually to the region. Please see attached photo No 1

Our local hill walking group, of which I am a member, regularly hikes on Dough/Thur Mountain. Its stunning scenery, peaceful location and viewpoints over neighbouring mountain ranges and counties make it a very special place.

The roads leading up to the summit of the mountain are regularly used by dog walkers, walkers and runners. Should this area become industrialised, as it would with a proposed development of this scale, it would deny locals and visitors the access and enjoyment of this very beneficial resource.

Leitrim is also a Dark Skies area. The summit of Dough Mountain is an ideal vantage point to view the northern lights with little to no light pollution. This will be lost to locals and visitors if this development is allowed to progress.

## **5 Location**

Renewable energy is a must in our energy mix and a move away from fossil fuels is all of our responsibility but I feel citing a huge development such as Lissinagroagh Wind Farm on upland bog, which itself is a very valuable carbon sink is green washing. The location is totally inappropriate and the area is very prone to landslides, I witness this constantly while hiking on the mountain.. The karst features and hydrological connectivity to two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) Lough Melvin and Lough Gill render it unsuitable for large scale industrial development.

## **6 Lack of Public Engagement**

As referred to earlier in this observation, FuturEnergy did not engage with several residents in close proximity to the proposed development, within 2KM when the initial information was made public in 2021. Since that they have done a newsletter drop to certain houses only within the 2km zone. Indeed passing by inhabited houses to leave copies outside empty houses.

Their public engagement meeting was by appointment only over two days. This was held in Rossinver Youth and Community Centre which is in a very remote location and with no direct public transport.

Due to the high number of residents contacting their local county councilors in the Manorhamilton municipal area to express their dissatisfaction with the lack of engagement by FuturEnergy with the public, the Manorhamilton Municipal District County Councillors passed a motion asking FuturEnergy to hold a public meeting in Manorhamilton. As the proposed development is just 3km from Manorhamilton, the residents felt it was the logical place to hold the meeting and has good access by public transport. FuturEnergy refused same.

I attended a public meeting in Manorhamilton organised by the Save Dough Mountain Community Group. This was an excellent opportunity to fill the information void re Lissinagroagh Wind Farm. There were approx 170 people in attendance and the meeting was very informative and respectful. It was very clear from the response that an overwhelming majority of the people there were not in favour of the development.

In addition to the noise and shadow flicker problems impinging on our communities inability to enjoy their own homes there is the added problem of the development interfering with the broadband signal. This is hugely detrimental to small businesses and those working from home, people who moved to/ back to Leitrim and have thus alleviated some of the housing crisis in urban areas.

## **7. Arts and Heritage**

Manorhamilton, the second largest town in county Leitrim is located 3km from the proposed development. It has a thriving arts community. The Glens Centre, an intimate theatre based in an old church celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. It is home to a resident bi-lingual drama group, a rock school and hosts a film festival as well as its usual music and theatre calendar and an annual drama festival.

Manorhamilton also boasts the Leitrim Sculpture Centre, established in 1997 which offers artists residencies, print making workshops and exhibitions throughout the year. Interestingly, the majority of artists living in and coming to the area are inspired by the pristine landscape and serenity of the area. There is now a second artists' space in the town as the Sculpture Centre is at capacity,

There is also an artist's collective, Cluainin co-op, a shared space for artists and craftspeople to exhibit and sell their products.

Manorhamilton Castle, the Starfort, the Famine Graveyard and the heritage tour are all wonderful attractions to the town and the local heritage group offers regular talks on the area

Kiltyclogher, a village located 5Km from the proposed wind farm is home to the Heritage Centre and the nearby Sean MacDiarmada cottage.

North Leitrim has a huge number of archaeological remains and many of these are situated on Dough Mountain. The mountain is designated a National Heritage Area.

All of these combine to offer tourists and locals activities and attractions to bring visitors to the area and improve its economic development. To permit a huge industrial scale development between these two centres would totally change the focus of the area for tourists, local and the Diaspora. It would displace the indigenous sustainable eco-tourism sector and cause the socio economic decline of the area and the people do not want it.

## **8 Climate Action Plan 2024-2029**

Leitrim's Climate Action Plan states; ***The vision of Leitrim County Council Climate Action Plan is aligned to the Government's National Climate Objective which seeks to achieve the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 frames Ireland's legally binding climate ambition to deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.***

I believe that the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm development is not environmentally sustainable or biodiversity enriching so should not be granted planning permission.

## 9 Climate Justice

In my personal and business commitment to mitigating climate change, I built a passive house and business twenty years ago. I worked as a mentor with tourism providers on introducing measures to reduce their carbon footprint and reduce waste. There is now a race for renewables which takes little or no account of its effects on communities, heritage, water quality or biodiversity. The system currently in place is totally undemocratic where profit seeking promoters can impose an industrial utility zone on a community, its biodiversity and culture. According to the \*\*\*Achieve report for the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland (2026) authored by Dr. Jeanne Magnetti, Laurie Reilly, Dr. Louise Fitzgerald & Prof. Jennie C. Stephens

***“Spatial disparities further compound these challenges. Renewable energy infrastructure, particularly wind and associated grid development, is often located in rural and peripheral areas, while the primary demand from energy-intensive activities is concentrated elsewhere (Brawley-Chesworth et al., 2026; McCabe et al., 2020; While & Eadson, 2021). This raises critical questions about spatial justice: who hosts energy infrastructure, who benefits from it, and how costs and benefits are distributed across regions. Addressing rebound effects and spatial injustices requires complementing infrastructure expansion with a broader focus on demand, distributional impacts, and governance (McCabe et al., 2020; Sokol & Stephens, 2025). A paradigm shift is required that moves beyond the focus on technology fixes and instead embeds principles of spatial justice and energy democracy within policy design. Practical application of these principles includes stronger curtailment and regulation of data centres in line with Ireland’s carbon budgets and prioritisation of public interest for renewable energy that is added to the national grid.”***

For renewable energy projects to succeed and Ireland meet its climate targets a very different approach must be taken, where communities are stakeholders in the process and have a voice. We currently have almost 1,200 Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in Ireland and I wonder if any of them have been consulted by any wind farm project in their vicinity. Certainly our local North Leitrim SEC was not.

We can not continue to put families and communities under pressure to fight these unjust developments. We need to look to the future for the next generations and leave them a landscape and lifestyle that they can treasure. The stress caused in the community by this proposed development is widespread and in my own case, my eco-friendly development will, I fear be unusable due to the proximity and size of the turbines. Please see Photo No. 2. Also the scale and size of the turbines is an unknown, Please see Photo No. 3 to understand the scale.

## Ode to Dough Mountain



Majestic Mountain, guardian of our farm childhood adventures, a watchful eye on picnics and wild flower expeditions. An inspiration for our imaginings; swallow holes deeper than Kublai Khan's measureless caverns. Meat eating sundew that grew large enough to digest ourselves. Finding an Old Man's Beard lichen on a tree, a testament to clean air, hung there perhaps by a passing Merlin or Emrys off to do their sorcery. Such an inspirational playground we had. Little did we know that there would be a threat of much more sinister monsters; 14 sabre wielding metal monsters chopping at our magnificent raptors, dissecting our community and cutting off our children's' futures, larger and more destructive than anything our childhood selves could ever have imagined.





Photo No 1, cycling sign on Dough Mountain route



Photo No 2; photomontage of my house from Futureenergy's website. All their photos were taken from low lying locations so the turbines seem smaller. The turbines are actually 11.5 times taller than my house.



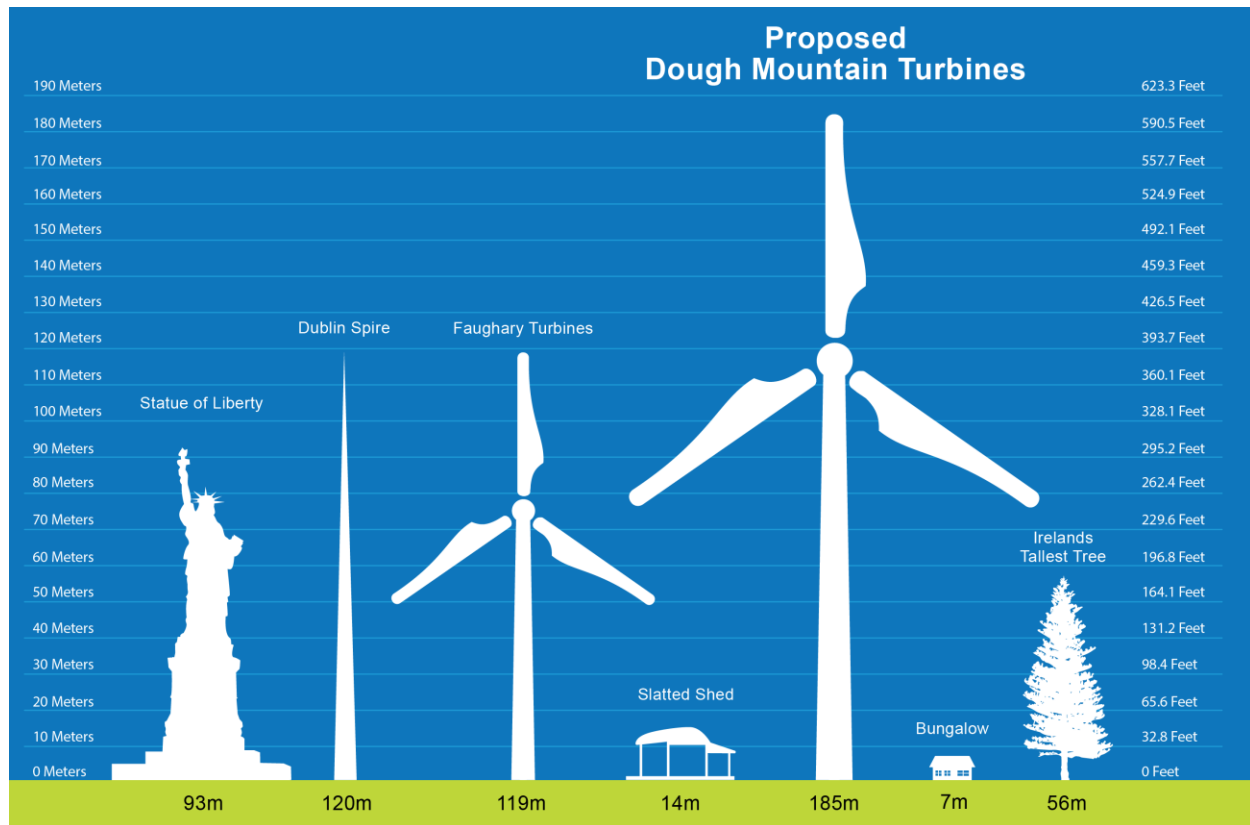


Photo No 3 showing the height of the proposed turbines in relation to the existing turbines at nearby Faughary and other constructions.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read my observation/objection and I urge you to apply the precautionary principle and do not grant planning permission for this development

Yours faithfully,

Nuala McNulty

\* <https://www.tourismireland.com/research-and-insights/visitor-facts-and-figures>

\*\* <https://slowadventure.ie/>

\*\*\* <https://www.seai.ie/seai-research/research-database/research-projects/details/achieve-accelerating-community-energy-harnessing-insights-and-engaging-viable-and-just-energy-transitions#project-description>

