

Submission to An Coimisiún Pleanála

Objection to the Proposed Wind Farm Development At Lissinagroagh (Dough Mountain, County Leitrim.

Your Reference: PA12.324290

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I am making these observations in an individual capacity as a concerned long term resident of North Leitrim. My comments are informed by my membership of several community based tourism activity groups which include Leitrim Recreation Forum and Sligo Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway Rail to Trail Working Group. I am also a member of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council. Therefore, I am very aware of the need for very thorough environmental assessments in relation to large scale developments and their impact on our environment.

The proposed Windfarm on Dough Mountain, overlooking the town of Manorhamilton will contravene the County Leitrim Development Plan, which aims to “ensure the sustainable physical & social development of the county, ensuring the conservation & protection of the built & natural environment”

The proposed Windfarm will also contravene the County Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan which is supported by the Heritage Council & the National Parks & Wildlife Service, both of which are funded through the Government and therefore by the Taxpaying Public. Support for this proposal would be an example of “Robbing Peter to pay Paul” as the Department of Energy would likely be giving funding towards this proposed development.

Leitrim has a very diverse geography which offers various opportunities for a wide range of outdoor activities, from walking, cycling, canoeing to the less energetic of painting, photography, birdwatching etc. Environmentally sensitive and sustainable tourism is very important to the county’s prosperity. Development of facilities for such activities must always include consultation with landowners and farmers, let alone numerous environmental investigations. The protection of existing biodiversity and restoration of some lost elements are important actions.

The construction of a Windfarm on Dough Mountain would be totally inappropriate and in contravention of European Biodiversity & Carbon Emission Policies; also many of the aims of the County’s development & biodiversity plans. Destroying the Blanket Bog on Dough Mountain would release volumes of Carbon, damage the flora and fauna biodiversity, and lead to loss of the Hen Harrier, the Golden Eagle and other endangered species, eg the Fritillary Butterfly.

Farming activity would be severely impinged by construction activities, leading to loss of income for farming families.

The International Meteorological Scientists frequently warn the World of stronger severe storms increasing in frequency and strengthening in the future. Will Wind turbines, however well anchored, be able to resist such storms or Dough Mountain remain intact? It is already considered to be prone to landslides and this development could lead to further disruption of underground water systems, seriously impacting aquatic wildlife.

I am not against renewable energies. (I have solar panels) Renewable energy plants need to be situated on sites suitable to their needs. Fitting solar panels on ALL NEW INSTITUTIONAL Buildings, e.g. hospitals, libraries, office blocks etc. would generate energy silently and safely. Wind Turbines are NOT silent, and those proposed for Dough Mountain will be far from silent and just how safe will they be when we do not know what strength storms will become in the future?

I would appreciate if my concerns for this proposed Windfarm would be taken into consideration and would result in a refusal of planning permission.

Rosemary Kerrigan