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The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
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RE: Third-Party Observation/Objection – Littleton Wind Farm
Planning Reference: 324370

Proposed Development:

The proposed Littleton Wind Farm development comprising 11 wind turbines and associated infrastructure in the townlands of Longfordpass North, Longfordpass South, Leigh, Bawnreagh, Clonoura, Noard, Derryhogan, Derryvella, Ballybeg, Lanespark, Newhill and Killeen, County Tipperary.

1. Introduction and Standing

I wish to formally submit my third-party observation/objection to the above planning application. I reside in the local area at Longfordpass and have a direct interest in protecting the environmental quality, residential amenity, landscape character, and safety of this community.

I wish to make clear that I am not opposed to renewable energy or Ireland's transition towards carbon neutrality. However, I strongly object to this particular development due to its excessive scale, inappropriate location, and the significant adverse impacts it will have on local residents, the landscape, and the surrounding environment.

The proposed development represents a major industrial-scale intervention in a rural area. The scale of the turbines and associated infrastructure is disproportionate to the receiving environment.

2. Grounds for Objection

(i). Excessive Scale and Visual Impact on Landscape Character

The proposed development consists of 11 industrial-scale turbines with a maximum blade tip height of up to 200 metres. These structures will become dominant features across the landscape and will fundamentally alter the existing character of this rural area.

The height and scale of these turbines cannot be considered comparable with existing rural infrastructure. They will introduce industrial structures of a scale never previously experienced by many local residents and will significantly affect views, rural amenity, and the visual character of the surrounding countryside.

The cumulative impact of existing and proposed wind developments in this area must also be properly assessed. This development cannot be considered in isolation. The continued expansion of wind energy infrastructure risks transforming this rural landscape into an industrial energy corridor.

The landscape has a value beyond its ability to host infrastructure. It is the setting in which local families live, farm, and maintain community connections.

(ii). Environmental Risks and Impact on Water Supplies

The scale of construction associated with this proposal raises significant environmental concerns.

The development includes extensive infrastructure works, including access tracks, turbine foundations, hard-standing areas, drainage infrastructure, electrical infrastructure, and grid connection works.

My property, like many properties in the locality, relies on a private well for its water supply. I have serious concerns regarding the potential impact of this development on groundwater, local drainage patterns, and the quality and reliability of private water supplies.

Large-scale excavation, peat disturbance, construction activity, concrete works, fuel storage, and heavy machinery operations all create risks of contamination and changes to groundwater movement.

I believe the Environmental Impact Assessment does not adequately address the specific concerns of residents dependent on private wells or provide sufficient reassurance that local water supplies will be protected.

(iii). Construction Impacts and Damage to Local Roads

The proposed development will require significant construction activity, including the transportation of oversized turbine components, heavy machinery, construction materials, and ongoing traffic movements.

The local road network is rural in nature and was not designed for the volume and scale of traffic associated with a development of this size.

Residents will face disruption, road safety concerns, increased traffic hazards, and potential damage to local roads during the construction phase.

The impact on local communities, particularly those living along turbine delivery routes and access roads, requires far greater consideration.

(iv). Noise and Loss of Residential Amenity

The operation of large-scale wind turbines has the potential to create significant impacts on nearby residents through audible noise, low-frequency noise, shadow flicker, and general disturbance.

The proposed development would permanently alter the living environment of families in the area.

I previously attended a consultation meeting with the developers in Gortnahoe Hall several years ago and raised specific concerns regarding potential noise impacts. At that meeting, I was informed that a noise monitoring device would be installed at my property. However, despite this assurance, I have never received any further communication or follow-up.

This experience raises concerns regarding the level of meaningful engagement with local residents and whether their concerns have been properly considered.

(v). Impact on Property Values and Future Generations

The introduction of further industrial-scale wind infrastructure close to homes has the potential to negatively affect property values and the future development potential of local farms and family homes.

Many families in this area have lived here for generations and wish to maintain the ability to pass homes and farms on to future generations.

The cumulative effect of surrounding wind infrastructure risks reducing the attractiveness of this area as a place to live, work, and raise families.

(vi). Concern Regarding Future Expansion of Wind Infrastructure

There is a legitimate concern that this development could facilitate further expansion of wind infrastructure in the locality.

Once substantial access roads, electrical infrastructure, and grid connections are established, additional developments may become more likely.

The expansion experienced in other local areas, including the progression from Lisheen towards Templetuohy, demonstrates the importance of considering not only the immediate application but also the potential long-term cumulative impact.

3. Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I believe that the proposed Littleton Wind Farm development is inappropriate for this location and would be contrary to proper planning and sustainable development.

The proposed turbines, reaching up to 200 metres in height, together with extensive associated infrastructure, represent an unacceptable level of industrialisation of a rural landscape.

The cumulative impacts on landscape character, residential amenity, private water supplies, roads, and the future sustainability of the local community have not been adequately addressed.

I respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse planning permission for this application.

Yours sincerely,
Martin Barnaville