

OBSERVATION TO AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

Following section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), as applied by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 274 of 2025)

Case Reference:	PAX01.324426
Proposed development:	10-year permission for an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility and ancillary development at Powerstown, Milford, County Carlow
Applicant:	Greengate Biogas 001 Limited
Observer:	Lizzie Dermody
Address:	Powerstown, Milford, Co. Carlow, R93 FK07
This document:	PAX01.324426.LD02

1. My home and my household

I am Lizzie Dermody. I have lived in this house since 1962 - sixty-four years.

I am elderly and partially sighted. Nobody in my household can drive. For us, being able to walk from our own front door is not a nicety - it is the only independence we have.

My family stay with me regularly and keep their own bedrooms in the house. This is a family home in constant use, not a house with occasional visitors.

2. The day I fell

Last year I was out walking with a Home Help carer. We were around by the bridge when a big lorry came around after us, and we had to step up onto the edge of the road to let it pass. There is a pothole there. I fell over it, and I had to be helped up off the road by my carer.

I have not been out for a walk on that road since. I can only go up to the cross and back. That is what my walking has come to.

3. What the road has taken from my family

One of my sons stays with me regularly and keeps his room here. He has a heart condition, and he needs to walk every day to keep his weight in check - his walking is not a pastime, it is part of managing his health. During the week he cannot walk much further than the bridge, because it is dangerous and he does not feel safe. So now he usually has to wait for someone to bring him by car to Milford or somewhere similar, where he can walk safely. I am very concerned for his health, because he is not getting the exercise he needs.

Another of my sons is home part of every week. He used to cycle over the bridge on his electric bike to Leighlinbridge, for Mass and for his social activities. He no longer uses that road. On a number of occasions, large lorries drove right up on him and forced him off the road. Now he travels the long way around, by the Bagenalstown road and Harrow Cross. It is a longer trip, and it is the road telling him he is not safe on the direct one.

I see what this road is doing to my family, one person at a time. Each of them has already given something up, and this facility has not even been built.

4. I remember the dump

When the dump was active - on the land immediately beside the quarry where this facility is now planned - we had problems at the houses and around the farm with flies, and with rats. I remember what that was like to live with.

I fear that time coming back - and worse than before, because what is proposed now would bring in far greater amounts of waste and slurry, and it would run for ten years.

5. Our water

We depend on well water in this house. I do not want to be poisoned by what could leak into our water supply. I truly fear for my own health, and for the health of my family, if this goes ahead.

6. What my life would look like if this is granted

Ten years of heavy lorries on a road I already cannot walk. My walking world shrunk for good to the cross and back. My sons kept off the road that runs past their own home - one waiting on lifts to take his exercise, the other cycling the long way around. And the flies and the rats of the dump years, feared back again, on a bigger scale than before.

That is not a fear I have invented. Every part of it is something I have already lived or am living now. The only question is whether it is made permanent.

7. What I ask of the Commission

I ask the Commission to refuse this application.

If it is granted despite everything, then I ask plainly: keep the lorries off the eastern road past my home and enforce that in a way we can see for ourselves. Protect our wells. Control the flies and the vermin from the very first day, not after we complain.

My sons are described in this observation without their names. Each of them has seen how he is described here and has agreed to it, or an advocate has confirmed that agreement on his behalf. The signed record of that consent is kept privately by my family and is not part of this submission, but it can be shown to the Commission if the Commission asks.

My son Vincent Dermody has made a detailed submission about the roads and the assessments. I am writing about my own life and my own home.

Signed: Elizabeth Dermody

Date: 14.3.26