

8th September 2026

TO: An Coimisiún Pleanála Strategic Infrastructure Development

Re: Planning Application Ref. 230841 / ACP Ref. PCX21.320934-24 – Crumhach Wind Farm

Submission/Objection on behalf of Dromore West Community Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to make a formal submission and objection to the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm development on behalf of Dromore West Community Council and the wider community served by Dromore West and its surrounding townlands.

Dromore West is a rural community with a strong network of voluntary organisations, sporting bodies, schools, community groups, social groups, parish activities and local businesses. The community depends on safe and reliable access to local roads, halls, pitches, schools, churches, shops and community facilities throughout the year.

We recognise the importance of renewable energy and do not object to renewable energy development as a matter of principle. However, we have serious concerns regarding the scale, construction impacts, traffic movements, noise, vibration, road safety, abnormal-load movements, road closures, diversions and disruption to ordinary community life arising from this particular proposal and the lasting negative impacts that this will have on the area with regards to wear and tear and disruption to a quiet rural village..

The proposed development involves the removal of existing turbines and the construction of a new 17-turbine wind farm with associated infrastructure, including a new 110kV substation and road accommodation works for abnormal loads. Public information on the project also records consultation events in Dromore West Community Centre and Templeboy, demonstrating that the applicant itself recognises the direct relevance of this locality to the proposal.

1. Community events and activities likely to be affected

The impact of the proposed development should not be assessed only by reference to individual dwellings or general traffic volumes. Dromore West has a year-round pattern of community activity that relies on safe access, predictable journey times and the ability of residents, volunteers, children, older people and visitors to move through the local road network without unnecessary risk or disruption.

The events and activities at risk of disruption include, but are not limited to:

- community centre activities, public meetings, information evenings, classes, fundraisers and parish or voluntary group gatherings;
- sports training, matches, juvenile fixtures, visiting teams, coaches, referees, parents and spectators using local pitches and community facilities;
- school travel, school events, after-school activities and the movement of children walking, cycling or being driven on local roads;
- church services, funerals, wakes, cemetery visits and other occasions where large numbers may gather at sensitive times;
- activities for older people, social clubs, health and wellbeing events, transport supports and community-care activities;
- local festivals, charity events, markets, heritage events, tidy towns activities and seasonal community gatherings;
- access to local shops, businesses, farms, services and homes; and
- emergency access for ambulances, fire services, Gardaí and other essential responders.
- use of the sensory garden and sensory room by children, older people, people with disabilities, people with sensory sensitivities, carers, families and support groups who rely on calm, predictable and accessible community spaces.

2. Significant construction traffic and road safety concerns

The applicant's own project description confirms a substantial construction programme, including turbine removal, new turbine construction, foundations, hard-standing areas, cabling, compounds, borrow pits, a substation, new and upgraded entrances and extensive access-track works. The delivery of turbine components and other abnormal loads will require accommodation works on the road network, including roads used by residents and community groups.

These roads are not major industrial transport routes. They are rural roads used daily by children, parents, older people, walkers, cyclists, farmers, local businesses, school traffic and people travelling to community facilities. The introduction of HGVs, construction vehicles, escorts, road restrictions and abnormal loads into this environment creates a serious and foreseeable road-safety concern.

3. Disruption to community life, access and local services

Road closures, diversions, traffic-management arrangements and abnormal-load movements could interfere with planned community activities that are often arranged weeks or months in advance. Even temporary disruption can have a significant effect where volunteers, clubs, schools, families, vulnerable individuals and service providers depend on fixed times and predictable access.

Potential impacts include cancellation or postponement of events, reduced attendance, delays for visiting groups, difficulty for older people or families travelling to activities, loss of access to venues, congestion at peak times, and uncertainty for organisers who may be unable to plan safely around construction activity.

4. Noise, vibration, dust, mud and road condition

Construction activity, heavy machinery, excavation, turbine-component deliveries, road works and associated traffic have the potential to generate significant noise, vibration, dust, mud and debris. The size, weight and movement of large construction machinery, HGVs, escorts and abnormal-load vehicles may be intimidating for many residents, particularly older people, people with disabilities, people with sensory sensitivities, people living alone, families with young children and other vulnerable members of the community.

Noise and vibration could interfere with coaching, public meetings, classes, local events, worship, funerals, social gatherings and communication at outdoor activities. More importantly, for vulnerable individuals, the repeated noise, vibration and presence of large machinery may discourage them from leaving their homes, attending community-centre activities, travelling to shops or services, visiting neighbours, attending church or taking part in social and wellbeing activities. This would risk increasing social isolation in a rural community where regular contact, informal support and participation in local activities are essential to health, confidence and quality of life.

Particular consideration should be given to users of the sensory garden and sensory room. These spaces are intended to provide calm, accessible and supportive environments for people who may be especially affected by excessive noise, vibration, dust, traffic disruption, unexpected road restrictions or the intimidating presence of large machinery. If access to these facilities becomes difficult, unpredictable or distressing, users may lose an important local support for regulation, wellbeing, social connection and inclusion.

5. Safety of children, older people and vulnerable road users and residents

A central concern of Dromore West Community Council is the safety of children, older people and vulnerable road users. Children travel to school, training, matches, youth activities and community events at predictable times. Older residents and people with mobility needs may rely on community transport, lifts from neighbours or short local journeys to attend social, health, religious and community activities.

The Board should also consider the psychological and practical effect of very large machinery operating close to homes, local roads and community facilities. The presence of oversized vehicles, machinery noise, ground vibration, warning signals, traffic escorts and temporary

restrictions may create a sense of intimidation or unease for those who already find travel or public activity difficult. If vulnerable residents feel unsafe or anxious using the roads, they may choose not to attend community activities, which would deepen isolation and reduce access to the supports that community life provides.

The traffic assessment should therefore address practical local conditions, including pedestrian movements, children crossing roads, school and activity times, match-day traffic, parking pressures, emergency access, and the interaction between abnormal loads and local community activity.

6. Requested safeguards if permission is considered

Should An Coimisiún Pleanála be minded to grant permission, Dromore West Community Council respectfully requests that robust and enforceable conditions be imposed, including at a minimum:

1. A detailed construction traffic management plan specifically addressing Dromore West, Templeboy and surrounding community facilities.
2. No abnormal-load movements during agreed peak times for school travel, church services, funerals, sporting fixtures, community-centre activities and other notified community events.
3. Prior consultation with Dromore West Community Council and relevant local groups before construction commences.
4. Advance notification of all planned road closures, diversions, abnormal-load movements and significant construction-traffic periods.
5. Safe and continuous access to community facilities, homes, farms, businesses, schools, churches and sports grounds throughout construction.
6. Maintenance of emergency access at all times.
7. Appropriate speed restrictions, signage, escorts and traffic marshals where construction traffic interacts with local road users.
8. Strict controls on construction hours, machinery operation, vibration-generating works and noise-generating activities during scheduled community events and at times when vulnerable residents are most likely to travel to essential services or social activities.
9. Specific mitigation measures to protect vulnerable community members from isolation, including advance notice of disruptive works, safe travel arrangements where necessary, and direct liaison with community groups supporting older people and vulnerable residents.
10. Specific protection for the sensory garden and sensory room, including maintaining safe access, minimising noise, vibration, dust and visual disturbance during opening or booked-use times, and consulting with those responsible for these facilities before disruptive works are scheduled.
11. Effective road-cleaning, wheel-washing, dust-control and road-maintenance measures.

12. A mechanism for immediate reporting and resolution of road-safety, access or nuisance issues.
13. A named community liaison officer with authority to respond promptly to concerns.
14. A system whereby local event calendars, school times, sporting fixtures, funerals and community-centre bookings can be communicated in advance so that construction and abnormal-load movements can be planned to avoid conflict.

Conclusion

We respectfully submit that the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm development presents significant potential impacts on Dromore West and the wider community, including impacts on community events, sporting activities, school travel, church and parish activities, older persons' activities, users of the sensory garden and sensory room, local businesses, farming activity, emergency access and day-to-day use of local roads.

We are not opposed to renewable energy development in principle. Our objection is based on the specific and foreseeable impacts of this project on the safety, accessibility and functioning of an established rural community. The scale of the works, the use of abnormal loads, the likely road restrictions, the risk to vulnerable road users, the noise and vibration from heavy machinery, and the intimidating presence of large construction vehicles may all combine to deter older people and vulnerable residents from participating in community life. This risk of increased isolation warrants much more specific consideration than a general assessment of traffic and noise impacts.

We therefore respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála refuse permission for the proposed development on the basis of the unacceptable impacts identified above. Alternatively, should permission be granted, we request that robust, enforceable conditions be imposed to protect the safety and continued operation of Dromore West's community facilities, events, services and activities, and that Dromore West Community Council be formally consulted throughout the construction programme.

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of Dromore West Community Council