Padraig O'Connor

Larmorna

Ballydaniel, Lackaroe

Youghal Cork P36VW63

Ireland

20th Oct, 2026

To: The Killeagh Rural Preservation Group
For onward submission to Cork County Council, Planning Department

Re: Objection to proposed solar farm at Ballydaniel, Youghal, Co. Cork.
Case File Number: 324632

Dear Sir or Madam,

I live at the above address, directly across the road from the site of the proposed solar farm. I am writing to object to the application, and I ask that the Council take the following planning concerns into account.

1. Visual impact and landscape character. The development would replace open farmland with many rows of panels, security fencing, cabling, substations and access tracks across a large area. This is a rural landscape with no comparable industrial development. Screening with hedgerows takes years to establish and will not hide panels from higher ground or from the homes closest to the site, including mine.

2. Loss of agricultural land. Solar farms take large areas of farmland out of food production for the life of the project, usually 30 years or more. Grazing between panels is sometimes proposed, but it is rarely a like-for-like replacement for productive farmland. I ask the Council to consider the quality of this land and whether it should be preserved for agriculture.

3. Glint and glare. Panels can reflect sunlight, which may affect nearby homes and road users. I ask that the applicant be required to provide a full glint and glare assessment covering my property and the public road.

4. Traffic and road safety. Construction involves a high volume of heavy vehicles delivering panels, steel and ground works equipment. The local road serving this site is [narrow / rural / describe it], and I am concerned about safety for residents, farm vehicles, cyclists and walkers during construction.

5. Drainage and flooding. Large areas of panels and compacted access tracks change how rainwater runs off the land. I ask that the Council satisfy itself that run-off will not increase flooding or affect watercourses and neighbouring land.

6. Biodiversity. Construction disturbs soil, hedgerows and field margins that support birds, bats and other wildlife. I ask that the Council require thorough ecological surveys, and I note that fencing can restrict the movement of animals across the landscape.

7. Noise and lighting. Inverters and transformers produce a continuous hum, and security lighting can affect nearby homes. I ask for clear conditions on both, and for evidence of how far they will be audible or visible from my house.

8. Decommissioning. There is no guarantee the operator will still exist, or still be willing to remove the equipment, in 30 years. I ask that any permission be conditional on a binding decommissioning plan backed by a financial bond.

For these reasons I ask the Council to refuse permission. If the Council is minded to grant it, I ask that strict conditions be attached addressing the points above.

Yours faithfully,

Padraig O'Connor