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APPENDIX 2-2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Mayo Planning Authority - Inspection Purposes Only!



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Table of Contents

Report Objective	3
Community Engagement Guidelines	3
Project Overview	3
Site Location	4
Alignment with Mayo County Council Climate Action 2024-2029 and Renewable Energy Policy.....	4
Policy Context	4
Contribution to Climate Mitigation Targets.....	5
Support for Renewable Energy Generation and Capacity Growth	5
Consistency with Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Principles	5
Alignment with Community and Economic Objectives.....	5
Conclusion	6
Community Benefits	7
Strategy Objectives	7
Community Engagement Phases	7
Phase One: Research	7
Phase 2: Engagement	8
Phase 3: Review.....	8
Community Engagement Activity Summary	9
Online Communication	9
Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Website - Key pages:.....	9
Resources	10
Press	10
Mail /Post	11
Information Leaflet	11
Door-to-Door.....	13
Engagement with Local Representatives	13
Community Clinics	13
Key Themes Emerging from the Cunlaghfadda Community Clinic	13
Telephone Consultation	14
Email Consultation	14
Website Analytics	15
Project Survey	15
Public Opinion	15
Conclusion	16
References	17

Report Objective

The purpose of this report is to set out the method by which Cunlaghfadda Green Energy initiated and carried out meaningful community consultation and engagement in the geographical area surrounding the site of the proposed project. This consultation process represents Cunlaghfadda Green Energy's continued commitment to actively engaging with the community, valuing their contributions and involvement, and ensuring their views and queries are taken into consideration during the planning phase for the proposed project.

Community Engagement Guidelines

In relation to national guidance on community engagement and consultation for wind energy developments, the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) state that, "While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application". The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) build on this recommendation, and state that, "It is essential that local communities are properly involved in the planning process, as early inclusion improves confidence in the openness and fairness of the planning process". They further suggest that to promote best practice, "planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application" and that "a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report".

Both the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 (DoEHLG, 2006) herein referred to as the 'Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006)' and the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines' (hereafter referred to as the 'Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation for the proposed development. The way in which the consultation was implemented is aligned with the 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement'. The code's fundamental objectives are to engage with the community in an open, honest, and transparent manner and to provide clear, understandable information to the community, enabling meaningful feedback that can, in turn, can be fed into development during the planning phase.

Project Overview

The proposed development is located (see **Figure 1**) in the townlands of Cunlaghfadda, Cloonbaul, Knockaunakill, Harefield and Knockroe, County Mayo.

Site Location

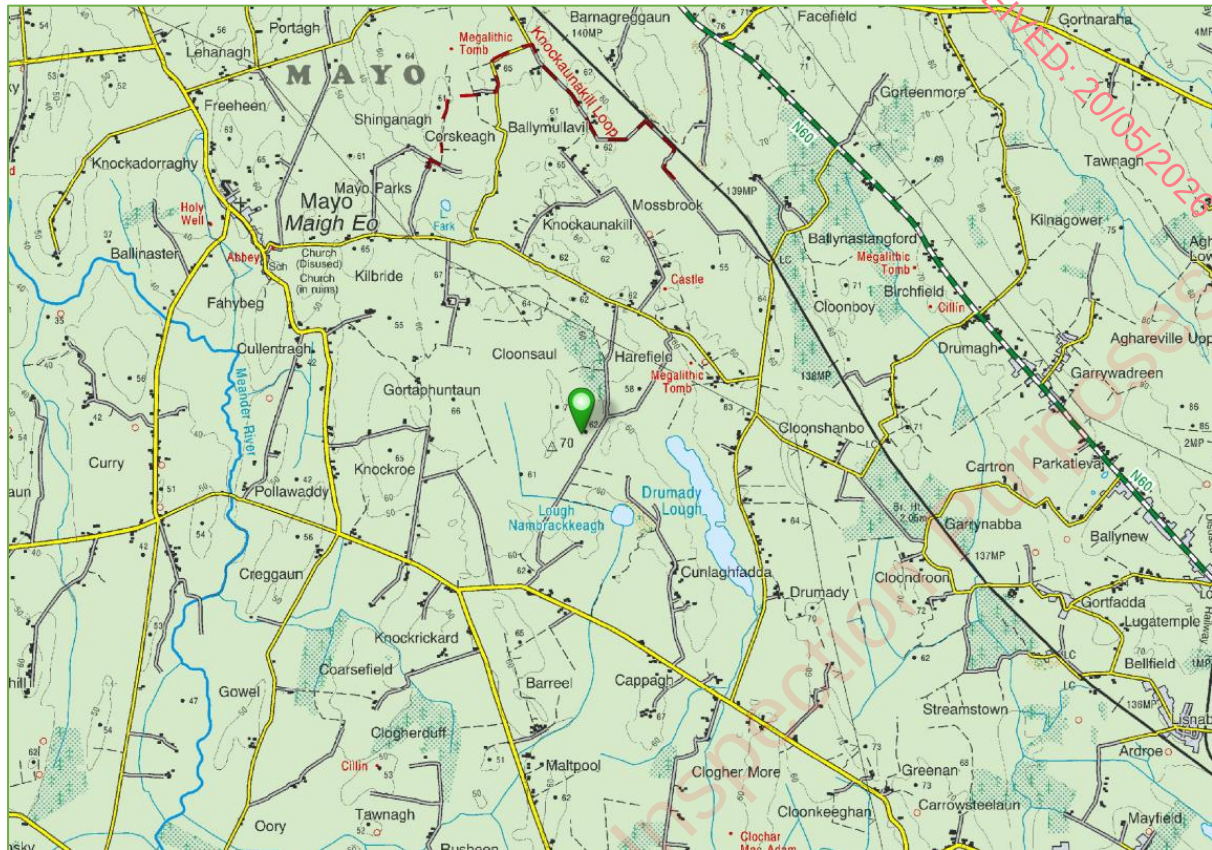


Figure 1: Proposed Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Wind Farm Location

The Proposed Project comprises 7 turbines and associated infrastructure. A 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm is being sought. This reflects the lifespan of modern-day turbines.

Alignment with Mayo County Council Climate Action 2024-2029 and Renewable Energy Policy

Policy Context

Mayo County Council has established a clear policy framework to support the transition to a low carbon, climate-resilient county, as set out in the Climate Action and Renewable Energy chapter of the Mayo County Development Plan 2022–2028 and reinforced through the Mayo County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. The overarching strategic aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase renewable energy generation, and position Mayo as a national leader in renewable energy, while upholding environmental protection and sustainable development principles.

The Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy (RES), originally adopted in 2011 and currently under review, provides the spatial and policy basis for facilitating renewable energy development, particularly onshore wind, so that the county can contribute meaningfully to national and EU renewable energy and decarbonisation targets.

Contribution to Climate Mitigation Targets

The proposed project directly supports Mayo County Council's climate mitigation objectives by delivering new onshore wind capacity, a technology explicitly identified by the Council as a cornerstone of the county's low-carbon transition. The Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 highlights renewable electricity generation as a key mechanism for reducing county level emissions and supporting Ireland's binding 2030 and 2050 climate targets.

Wind energy is recognised within the Development Plan as one of Mayo's most significant indigenous energy resources, capable of reducing reliance on fossil fuels and contributing to a secure, low carbon electricity supply. The proposed project aligns with this objective by displacing carbon-intensive electricity generation on the national grid and supporting long-term emission reductions at both the county and national levels.

Support for Renewable Energy Generation and Capacity Growth

Mayo County Council policy explicitly seeks to maximise the county's renewable energy potential, particularly in locations deemed suitable or open to consideration for wind energy development under the Renewable Energy Strategy and County Development Plan zoning framework. The Council has acknowledged that Mayo already plays a significant role in Ireland's renewable energy supply, with wind energy accounting for the majority of installed capacity and has stated ambitions to significantly increase output over the lifetime of current and forthcoming strategies.

The proposed project will contribute positively to this objective by adding new, modern wind generation capacity in County Mayo, consistent with the Council's goal of facilitating renewable energy projects at a scale capable of making a meaningful contribution to regional and national targets. This approach aligns with the Council's stated intention to move towards a "low-carbon and renewably energised Mayo" by delivering appropriate renewable energy infrastructure.

Consistency with Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development Principles

The Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy and Development Plan emphasises that renewable energy projects must be located, designed, and assessed in a manner that balances energy generation with environmental protection, landscape considerations, and community wellbeing. The proposed development's progression through appropriate environmental assessment, including consideration of hydrology, ecology, landscape, and cumulative impacts, reflects the Council's policy requirement that renewable energy development be subject to robust planning and environmental safeguards.

Furthermore, the Development Plan recognises that enabling renewable energy infrastructure is essential to delivering climate action at the local level, provided that proper planning and sustainable development principles are applied. The proposed project supports this policy direction by contributing to strategic energy objectives while operating within the established planning framework.

Alignment with Community and Economic Objectives

Mayo County Council's climate and renewable energy policies also highlight the role of renewable energy in supporting rural economies, strengthening local resilience, and delivering long-term socioeconomic benefits. The Development Plan acknowledges that wind energy

development can generate economic activity, generate income, and offer potential community benefits, particularly in rural areas well suited for such development.

By delivering clean electricity generation within County Mayo, the proposed project supports the Council's wider objective of enabling sustainable economic development alongside climate action, consistent with the vision outlined in both the Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 and the Renewable Energy Strategy review process.

Conclusion

In summary, the proposed development is strongly aligned with Mayo County Council's Climate Action Strategy, Renewable Energy Strategy, and County Development Plan policies. The project supports core objectives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, expand renewable electricity generation, enhance energy security, and position Mayo as a leading contributor to Ireland's low carbon transition, while adhering to the planning and environmental principles set out in Council documentation. As such, the proposed project represents a practical and policy-consistent response to the climate and energy challenges identified by Mayo County Council.

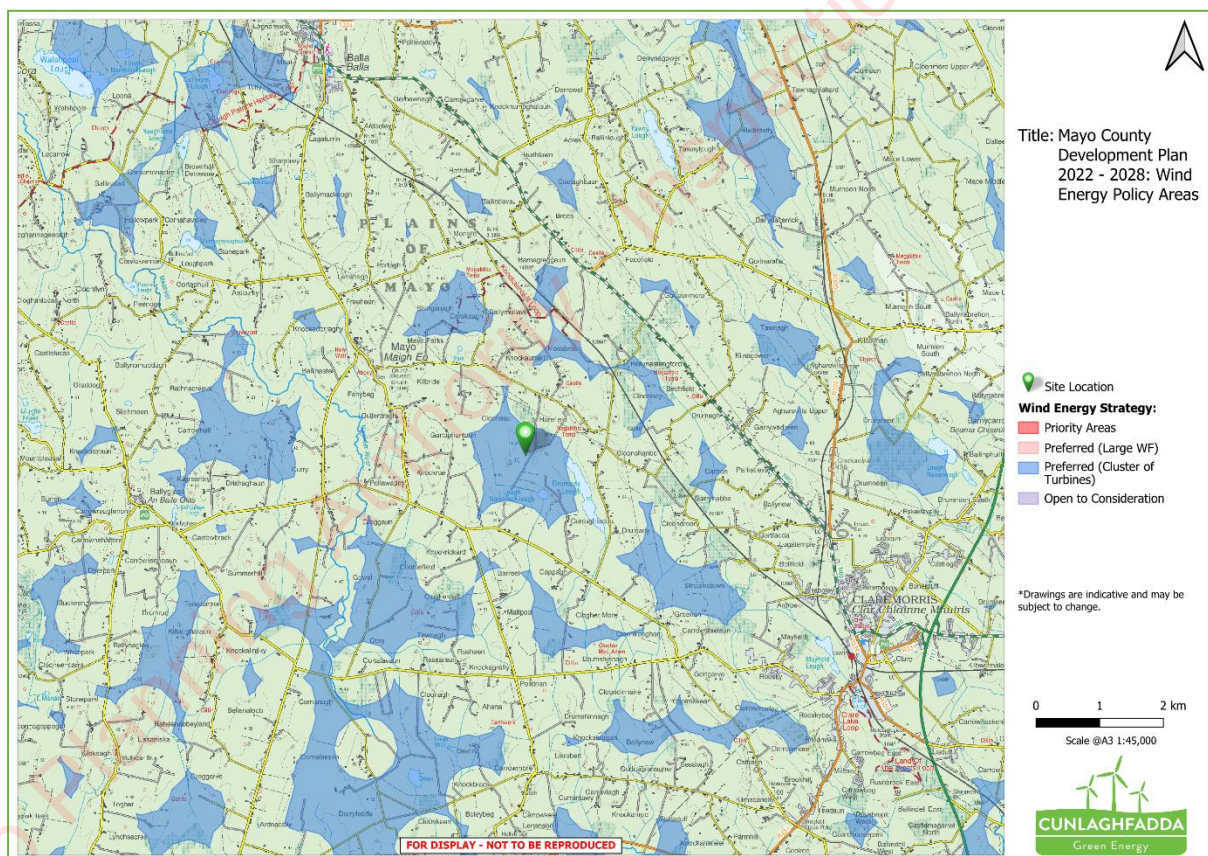


Figure 2: Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy 2011-2020 Wind Energy Map and Proposed Site Location

Community Benefits

- **Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed project has the potential to displace 690,585 tonnes of CO₂ over the proposed thirty-five-year lifetime of the Proposed Development, which equates to over 19,731 tonnes of CO₂ each year, and to provide the capacity to power in the region of 19,542 homes.
- **Employment:** The proposed project will support employment in the energy supply and construction/maintenance sectors, creating approximately 35 jobs during the Construction and Decommissioning Phase, with additional indirect benefits through local sourcing of materials and demand. The team is committed to working with local suppliers where possible to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire and catering.

Financial: In line with the Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, as governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, the development is estimated to generate a Community Benefit Fund of €2.1 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €145,000 per annum. C unlaghfadda Green Energy will work in partnership with residents to form a committee to oversee the administration of the Community Benefit Fund. The committee will be established, subject to the proposed project successfully completing the planning consent and grid connection processes.

Strategy Objectives

The primary aim of the community engagement strategy is to ensure consultation with individuals, communities and other stakeholders in line with best industry practices. Every effort was made to engage with the local community in a flexible and facilitative manner in order to build strong and effective relationships with those who live in the local community. It was also important to share information about the current climate crisis and how this proposed project can help build a more sustainable community for future generations.

Community Engagement Phases

Community Engagement was undertaken in three key phases as follows:

Phase One: Research

- **Housing Registrar:** Mapping of the area to identify all houses within 2km of the project.
- **Electoral District:** Research was conducted to identify elected public representatives, including County Councillors who represent the local area.

Phase 2: Engagement



Figure 4. Community/ Key Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Channels

Our approach to community and stakeholder engagement aims to reach all community members at multiple touchpoints, throughout the life span of the proposed development (i.e., pre-planning, construction, operation, and decommissioning). **Figure 4** summarises the eight key communication channels used to build and maintain relationships with the local community. We will review these channels and take on board stakeholder feedback to optimise the engagement process and ensure it continues to evolve and remain relevant throughout the life cycle of the proposed development. This eight-point interaction process aims to provide residents and other key stakeholders with multiple channels for communication and numerous opportunities to share feedback or discuss the proposed development with our community engagement team. Information on the proposed development is shared in various ways, including face-to-face meetings, video calls (upon request), phone or email contact, through the dedicated website, post/mail, or at the community clinics.

Phase 3: Review

At each stage of the engagement process, our team reviews the feedback (suggestions, requests, etc.) from residents and community stakeholders to help inform/ optimise the next step. This included publishing further details on topics within the frequently asked questions (FAQ) page on the Cunlaghfadda Green Energy website, conducting additional one-to-one meetings or responding to telephone calls/queries.

Community Engagement Activity Summary

The Community Team comprised the Project Manager, Imelda Barry, and the Community Liaison Officer, Nadine Walsh and the communications consultancy firm, Keatings & Associates.

Nadine Walsh responded to all incoming queries via phone, email, and face-to-face interactions with the community residents. Door-to-door engagement was conducted with assistance from Keating's & Associates consultants.

Table 2 below provides a timeline and description of the consultation undertaken to date by the community team.

Date	Description of Activity
27/2/2026	Project Website Launched
3/3/2026	Letter and Brochure posted to each household within 1 km of the project.
3/3/2026	Letter and Brochure posted to each household within 2 km of the project.
12/3/2026	Emails to all local representatives informing them of the proposed development.
10/3/2026	Advert in the Western People newspaper
20/3/2026	Door-to-door visits to all households within 1 km of the site
24/3/2026	A letter was issued to all within 1km of the site, inviting them to a community clinic.
8/4/2026	Community Clinics were held in the McWilliam Park Hotel, Claremorris, Mayo.
May 2026	A letter was issued to residents within 1km to advise them of the planning application submission, with a leaflet detailing the key project facts.
Ongoing	Continued engagement by request

Table 1 Community Consultation Timeline

Online Communication

The proposed development's website, www.cunlaghfaddagreenenergy.ie, went live in February 2026. This represented the launch of the community engagement programme. The website serves as the key information hub, providing comprehensive information on all aspects of the development, including company details, contact information, project-specific details, and insights into renewable energy and climate change. The website was developed with access for both mobile and desktop viewing. Additional measures were taken to support community members without internet/ website access, or who preferred alternative communication methods. Full support was also offered via phone and in person.

Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Website - Key pages:

- **Overview** - Includes the "When, Where and Why" of the project, including a proposed timeline, project details and area map.

- **Community** - Sharing the potential benefits, including the community benefit fund, carbon offset details, and the number of homes that could be powered by the proposed development.
- **FAQs** - Any inbound query received was addressed, and a response was added to the online Frequently Asked Questions site for residents to review.
- **Education** - Detailed information on climate change and Ireland's key renewable energy targets.
- **Survey** – an opportunity for residents to share their feedback and views on the project.
- **Updates** - A notification of any project updates, events, related press, etc.

Resources

Materials were circulated in the community and made publicly available on the project website, including project leaflets, maps and information on Climate Change. Resources were also distributed directly to the local community during various phases of the public consultation process, during door-to-door engagement and at the community clinics. Printed copies of all materials were also available upon request, and the project's key information leaflet was sent by post to residents within a 2-kilometre radius of the project area.

The list of resources included two leaflets with project information, a brochure detailing the effects of climate change and Ireland's renewable energy targets, and maps of the proposed project, turbine layout setback distance from dwellings and the location of the proposed project in relation to the Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy Wind Energy Policy Areas. .

Press

An advertisement was placed in the Western People newspaper on March 10th, 2026, to announce the commencement of the community consultation for the proposed project. Please note that the image shown in **Figure 5** is a copy of the printed advert circulated in March 2026.

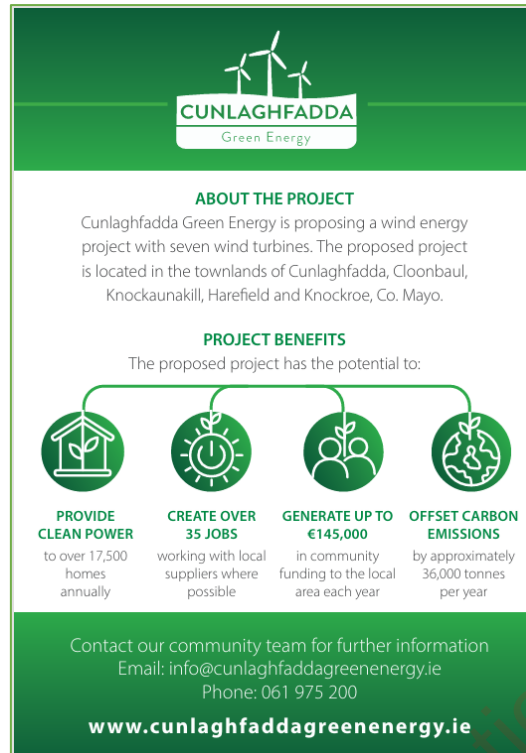


Figure 5. Copy of the first Newspaper Advert

Mail /Post

On the 3rd of March 2026, a letter, brochure, and accompanying leaflet were posted to households within an approximate distance of 2 kilometres of the proposed project.

Information Leaflet

Figure 6 shows a copy of the leaflet that was delivered to each household within an approximate distance of 2 kilometres of the proposed project via post. It was also available to download from the Cunlaghfadda Green Energy website.



Figure 6. Cunlaghfadda Green Energy Project Leaflet

Door-to-Door

In March 2026, the Community Team visited 54 residential properties located within approximately one kilometre (1Km) of the proposed project. Common topics raised included the distance between turbines and homes, potential visual impact on countryside views, particularly towards Croagh Patrick, and whether local roads would be used during construction. Several residents sought basic factual information such as turbine visibility, proximity, and construction arrangements, rather than expressing firm positions. A smaller number of residents expressed stronger concerns, citing previous negative experiences with energy infrastructure, potential impacts on landscape character, noise, wildlife (including curlew populations), and scepticism regarding the adequacy of the near-neighbour Community Benefit Fund. Others were neutral or accepting, including some who stated they would adapt to the development or felt they had no strong objection. Similarly there was a number of residents who were positive and supportive, expressing interest in learning more and understanding environmental impacts. Overall, the engagement reflects a spectrum of views, with many households primarily seeking clearer information and reassurance rather than taking a fixed position on the proposal.

Engagement with Local Representatives

In January 2026, contact in the form of emails and phone calls were made to all local representatives, including councillors and TDs, and ongoing communication with all local representatives has been maintained when requested.

Community Clinics

In April 2026, Community Clinics were held at the McWilliam Park Hotel to allow all community members to engage directly with the project team about the proposed development. Residents could book appointments to review progress, examine updated maps, and ask any questions they had about the development. The clinic aimed to ensure transparency and facilitate open dialogue, allowing community members to voice their concerns, seek clarifications, and gain a better understanding of the project's impact. All homes within 1 kilometre of the proposed project received an invitation via post.

A total of nine appointments were scheduled, with a high level of participation and engagement recorded. Overall, discussions were detailed, engaged and constructive, with participants expressing a wide range of views from strong support to significant concern.

Key Themes Emerging from the Cunalghfadda Community Clinic

Some of the main concerns raised by the attendees in relation to the proposed project and environmental information presented include the following:

- Visual effects on individual properties.
- Potential effects on local wells.
- Potential nuisance effects from construction activities.
- Potential noise and traffic issues as a result of construction works.
- Shadow flicker impacts on dwellings and recreational walking routes.
- Property Value and Future Planning
- Environmental and Ecological queries included:
 - Potential impacts on birds

- Peatland, hydrology, and groundwater protection.
- Disused and active wells in proximity to turbine locations.
- Oil spill prevention and construction-phase pollution risks.
- Assurance that ecological monitoring would continue post-construction
- Infrastructure, Construction and Access queries included:
 - Traffic disruption during construction.
 - Road upgrades and long-term access management.
 - Attendees noted the area was subject to regular power outages, and questioned grid reinforcement.
- Community Benefit related queries included
 - Concerns about taxation of payments.
 - Questions regarding governance, committee formation, and transparency.
- Project Lifecycle and Decommissioning queries included:
 - Decommissioning and site restoration commitments.
 - Responsibility for long-term maintenance and safety.
 - Performance during extreme weather events.

Community Contact

From the initial design stages and throughout all pre-planning stages of the proposed project, the dedicated Community Team was contactable by telephone and email. The frequency and nature of interactions and communications varied. Additionally, as the design and pre-planning stages progressed, status updates were posted on the project website.

Engagement with the local community through house visits and Community Clinics provided the project team with a detailed insight into the primary concerns of near neighbours and the wider community.

One-to-one engagement through house visits, telephone calls, email correspondence, and public consultations was of significant benefit to the project team in understanding the local area, its terrain, and biodiversity.

Telephone Consultation

A dedicated telephone number (061 975 200) was opened in January 2026 for the community to discuss the proposed development with the Community Liaison Officer (CLO). This telephone number is published on the website and included on all printed materials. The line is monitored by the Community Team, and all calls are returned within 24 – 48 hours.

Email Consultation

A dedicated email address, info@cunlaghfaddagreenenergy.ie, is managed and monitored daily by the project's community team. All emails received were responded to promptly. Additionally, telephone and in-person consultations were offered to those seeking additional support.

Website Analytics

The project website has received over 85 visitors to date, with the average user spending just over 1 minute and 45 seconds on the site.

Project Survey

A project survey was also available on the site, allowing users to provide feedback on the information reviewed. The survey is viewable via this link: <https://forms.gle/7Sf4B6RLoYeLvKQE8>

Based on the survey responses received to date, only two submissions have been made, and therefore, the findings represent a very small and non-representative sample of local opinion. The issues raised by respondents primarily concerned early communication and awareness of the project, the proximity and scale of the proposed turbines, and potential impacts on residential amenity, landscape character, and wildlife. Respondents also referenced the evolving policy context for wind energy development in County Mayo and expressed queries regarding the suitability of the site relative to alternative locations, including offshore development. Views on the proposed Community Benefit Fund were expressed by two individuals, with uncertainty expressed regarding its relevance to dispersed rural communities. While both respondents acknowledged renewable energy and climate considerations to varying degrees, the limited number of responses means these findings should be interpreted with caution and considered alongside broader, ongoing community engagement activities.

Public Opinion

Public opinion on wind farms in Ireland remains overwhelmingly positive, particularly among those living in proximity to a development. According to the SEAI RESS National Survey (May 2023¹), a significant 73% of respondents who reside within 1 Km of a RESS1 wind project hold positive or very positive attitudes towards wind energy. Furthermore, 65% of these respondents believe that Ireland has too few wind farms, indicating strong local support for expanding wind energy infrastructure.

¹ <https://www.seai.ie/publications/SEAI-RESS-National-Survey.pdf>.

Conclusion

Community engagement has been ongoing since February 2026 with a dedicated Community Team who conducted door-to-door house calls, issued information letters and leaflets, and was available by phone and email to ensure residents were thoroughly informed of the proposed development.

Additionally, a dedicated website serves as a central information hub, offering downloadable versions of all circulated materials. The project website will continue to act as the key information source. It will be updated to keep the community informed of any relevant progress with the proposed development.

The structure of the engagement process and the methods used have enabled open engagement between residents and the project team.

Cunlaghfadda Green Energy has complied with the requirements of the 2006 guidelines and has also followed industry best practice by preparing and submitting this Community Report as part of this planning application. Both the current Wind Energy Development Guidelines (DoHLG, 2006) and the Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019) have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation for the proposed development.

The communication efforts summarised herein demonstrate the considerable commitment to engaging with residents and the community throughout the pre-planning process. By proactively engaging with residents through various media, Cunlaghfadda Green Energy has demonstrated a genuine commitment to open dialogue with the community. Cunlaghfadda Green Energy's responsiveness to community input and feedback underscores our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Through the availability of all information via print and online resources, community clinics, one-to-one meetings, surveys, and other engagement initiatives, we have offered multiple opportunities for residents to express their thoughts, queries, and aspirations.

We welcome continued engagement with residents as the planning application progresses.

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