



COMMUNITY REPORT



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1.0 Introduction

This Community Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Report has been produced by Bracklyn Wind Farm Limited (BWFL) to meet the objectives for the Bracklyn Wind Farm (BWF) project under a model of continuous community engagement during all phases of the proposed development. It further demonstrates BWFL's commitment to a program of genuine positive engagement with the local community and stakeholders, which values their continuous contribution and involvement.

The purpose of this report is to transparently demonstrate the approach BWFL has taken since project inception and to outline the principles and objectives of the approach to consultation and stakeholder engagement.

This report specifically relates to the development, construction and operational phases of the project and includes a detailed Community Engagement and Stakeholder Management (CESM) plan. This plan will be continually reviewed and updated throughout the lifetime of the proposed development.

This report has been prepared in line with the requirements set out in the *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019*¹ (draft WEDG's) and the Guidelines for Community Engagement (2016)². The draft WEDG's state that wind energy developers "... are therefore now required, in advance of submitting applications for permission, to take active steps to: inform local communities as they begin to develop their proposals; take the views of local communities into account in designing their proposals; demonstrate what practical effect that process of engagement has had; and, set out how the project will perform as a good neighbour in the context of the long-term economic and social development of the community or communities within which it is situated".

It is acknowledged that active consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage is a vital part of any proposed wind energy development.

1.1 Background to Community Consultation

Prior to the commencement of community consultation, BWFL organised and undertook a series of internal community consultation workshops to develop a Community Liaison Strategy. These workshops were arranged to educate BWFL personnel and to develop community consultation skills for those who have and will continue to work with the community on the ground. The Project Manager, Community Liaison Officers, and members of the assigned community engagement team participated in the workshops. On the back of the community consultation workshops, BWFL developed a toolkit for stakeholder engagement as part of the Community Liaison Strategy which has been utilised throughout this consultation process. It should be noted that while BWFL utilised a number of the stakeholder management toolkits to record contact details and issues raised by the public, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, this information cannot be made publicly available.

This report sets out how BWFL carried out the community consultation process in the area of the proposed wind farm. BWFL have carried out extensive consultation in relation to the proposed development with members of the public, including residents, business owners, community groups, schools, church bodies and local representatives. The objective of the community consultation process

¹ Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2019)

² Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland - Guidelines for Community Engagement issued by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (2016)



has been to ensure that the views and concerns of the local community have been addressed and considered in the project design process.

In accordance with the *Guidelines for Community Engagement* (2016), Mr. Malachy McGee & Ms. Deirdre Keegan were appointed as Community Liaison Officer Team (CLO) for the proposed BWF. The CLO has the authority to make publicly available full, clear and comprehensive information about the project during key milestone stages of the proposed development and the resources to receive, record, investigate, respond to and address queries and complaints during the various stages of development and operation.

1.2 Objectives of Community Consultation

The overriding philosophy of BWFL is to manage communications and to proactively disseminate information in a planned and systematic manner, to consult with stakeholders at key stages of the project life cycle, and to continuously evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy and make adjustments to increase its effectiveness over all phases. The objectives of this plan are therefore as follows:

- Describe the approach to community engagement and stakeholder management for the project.
- Identify how community engagement and stakeholder management issues pertaining to the proposed development have been managed to date
- Identify the main stakeholders, their issues and concerns, influence, and participation levels;
- Identify key messages used in communicating with stakeholders and the project phases where they are likely to be impacted or interested.

This plan identifies activities that will facilitate a flow of information between BWFL, the community and stakeholders throughout the life of the project. The plan will be regularly reviewed and will continue to be iteratively shaped and adapted to reflect the needs of the community and key stakeholders as the partnership grows and changes and new issues emerge.

2.0 Consultation process

The approach to consultation adopted by BWFL comprised a range of methodologies including:

- Consultation with local representatives;
- Door-to-door visits to local residences and posted contact cards;
- Meetings with the Local Groups, where appropriate (and within Covid 19 guidelines);
- Public consultation clinics: and
- Telephone, Email & Letter Consultation
- Bracklyn Wind Farm website: www.bracklynwindfarm.ie
- Provision of regular project updates to the dedicated project website

It is important to note that as part of the consultation events, printed copies of maps and leaflets were made available to the clinic attendees

2.1 Consultation with Local Representatives

Local elected representatives within the Mullingar Municipal District were initially contacted by email to provide an outline of the proposed development and to obtain initial feedback. The email correspondence (see **Appendix 1**) included detailed information on the proposed development, including contact details for further engagement.



All Oireachtas members from the Westmeath constituency were consulted and information brochures were provided.

Local Representatives were also contacted on the following dates via various means of communication:

- 06.11.2020 Phone call inviting to clinics
- 06.11.2020 09.11.2020 Updated Project Details
- 05.01.2021 End of year review of project
- 15.01.2021 Courtesy phone call regarding end of year review & to ensure that all updates were received.

2.2 Consultation with Local Community

Whilst it is noted that community consultation is currently not a statutory requirement, it is an important element of the project and, as noted above, BWF recognise the importance of an extensive community consultation process and the benefit that community involvement brings to the proposed development as a whole. BWFL have also been mindful of the requirements set out in the draft WEDG's.

The first point of contact for the community consultation process was the BWFL website. This was published and went live on the 08th May 2020. (https://www.bracklynwindfarm.ie/).

The website was live pre any consultation letters or clinics as a point of contact. It has been updated on a regular basis at various stages since its launch as information has become available throughout the project design and assessment process.

At the early stages of the community consultation process, due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the initial contact with residents within a 2 kilometre radius of the proposed development, was via letter dated 11th May 2020. This letter included a draft media statement, a copy of the initial layout map, a flyer, 'connect with us' cards with free post envelopes and a colouring page for any children that were in the house. The letter also contained contact details for the CLO and the website address, which has regular updates. (see **Appendix 2**)

It should be noted that one resident who was a recipient of a letter made a direct request to be removed from the mailing list. This wish was respected with regard to any future information mailing.

The Bracklyn community engagement team sent further letters on 1st July 2020 to all local residents with a brochure outlining plans to facilitate a community consultation clinic throughout the month. These clinic dates were put in place in order to consult in a way which was compliant with the COVID 19 restrictions, regulations and guidelines. The clinics were held on a one-one basis. There were 4 members of the BWFL's community team and up to 2 members of each household at any given time.

Three clinics were held in total on 15th July, 16th July, and 27th July 2021. The first of the three clinics were held in Bracklyn Estate and last session was held in the local Delvin village hall.

The Bracklyn community engagement team commenced door to door visits to local residents within 2 km of the proposed development. These visits were on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 7th September 2020. These visits were subsequently stopped due to safety regarding the Covid 10 pandemic. The 2 km criteria



was selected as it represented just over 10-times the overall tip height of the proposed turbines which had emerged as the preferred turbine height based on the assessment of project alternatives.

A detailed A4 brochure (see **Appendix 3**) was distributed as part of this door to door visitation and included the following information:

- Location map of the proposed development
- Information on Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd.
- Details on number & location of proposed turbines
- Details on overall proposed project
- The need for wind energy
- How wind turbines operate
- Safety and Environment
- Benefits of the development at local, regional and national level
- Project milestones & timelines, and
- Local impacts & community Engagement
- Contact information for the community liaison team including freephone number & email/website address were also provided

In total 173 dwellings were visited as part of this door-to-door consultation process. Unfortunately due to COVID 19 restrictions, door to door consultation halted on the 9th September 202 and letters were sent to final residents in the area outlining the situation, with a view to revisiting these post the COVID 19 restrictions (see **Appendix 4**). In addition, information brochures were emailed to community groups & organisations.

Local residents were advised of the intention to develop a wind energy project in the area and were provided with initial design details of the project. They were also advised of the intention to carry out community consultation meetings and details of where to find out further information. All residents were provided with contact details of the community engagement team who could be contacted with any further queries.

It is important to note that at the early stages of the project design, the proposed development consisted of an 11 turbine wind farm. In September 2020, following environmental appraisal, detailed consideration of site constraints and early feedback from the community consultation process, two turbines were removed from the project.

Local community groups were contacted via email on 05.01.2021 with an end of year review of the proposed development.

Local schools were contacted via email on 06.11.2020 & on 05.01.2021 with updates to the project and the end of year review.

Telephone consultation

In addition to the measures outlined above a dedicated freephone number (1800 140976) for the proposed development was launched in May 2020. This was a main telephone line for the local community to contact should they have any queries, comments or questions regarding BWF.

The phone line enabled all residents or community members to have direct access with the CLO and indeed any member of the project team. This line has been open in conjunction with the launch of the



website. All requested information via this method has been responded to depending on availability of the information required at the time of its request.

Email Consultation

A dedicated email address (Clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie) was also launched in May 2020. This email address provided the local community with another method of contact. Queries, comments and requests received via the email address have been dealt with In the same manner as telephone queries where all communications were responded to.

2.2.1 Promotion of Consultation Clinic Event

As identified above, BWFL hosted 3 no. consultation clinics during July 2020. A number of mechanisms were used to promote the consultation clinic events including a registration form on the website, radio advertisements, local paper advertisements and an advertisement on the local Delvin Village promotional page. A letter was also sent to each resident in the area on the 01 July 2020. (See **Appendix 5**)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the clinics were held in a controlled environment where each member of the BWF team sat 2.5 meters apart, the member of the public also sat 2.5 meters from the team and clear screens were placed between the team and the member of the public. Masks were provided and worn as part of the process. Sanitiser was in place at point of entry and on each table in the room. Pre-entry into the area of consultation was done via telephone and each area was sanitised before and after entry.

A checklist was also in place for any Covid-19 symptoms and an offer to reschedule if any member of the public was feeling unwell. (See **Appendix 6**)

An offer of a personal call out to the home of a person who was unable to attend the clinic, but required further information was also offered, of which two were taken up. The CLO from BWFL conducted 2 no. home visits to residents who were unable to attend the clinic.

2.2.2 Clinic Consultation Events - Day One

A sign in sheet was not provided due to Covid 19 Restrictions, however, attendees had the opportunity to include their name and contact details to facilitate any further queries. All attendees had requested their name to stay on the list so as to be made aware of any further information and updates pertaining to the proposed development.

The first of the three public consultation days took place on Bracklyn Estate, Bracklin, Co.Westmeath from 12 noon until 8 p.m. on the 15th July 2020.

The time and venue was chosen due to its prominence in the local community, accessibility to individuals and community groups, the availability of showcasing the identified project area, the availability of appropriate technology for the display of maps, plans and full illustrations and leaflets in an understandable format and to maximise participation

The clinic attracted a large number of people who engaged fully with the members from BWFL's community engagement team. Over the course of the day, the appointment schedule was fully booked with 9 slots of 2 participants. All participants chose to leave contact details on file for future correspondence and agreed to be contacted with further updates on the proposed development. The



clinic attendees were shown a visual PowerPoint presentation on one screen as well as detailed mapping of the proposed development and photomontage images from key viewpoints in the surrounding area.

2.2.3 Clinic Consultation Events - Day Two

In advance of the second consultation event all local representatives were given a phone call and made aware of the event. The second consultation day was again held on Bracklyn Estate, Bracklin, Co. Westmeath from 12 noon until 8 p.m. on the 16th July 2020. Over the course of the second day, the appointment schedule had 9 slots of mostly 2 participants per slot. Each slot consisted of a 40 minute consultation, one on one with the team and the member of the community.

2.2.4 Clinic Consultation Events - Day Three

The third consultation event date was on Monday the 27th July 2020 in Delvin Village Hall, Delvin, Co. Westmeath, from 12 noon until 9pm. This day was busier, where members of the public whom had not booked in, were facilitated within the busy schedule. Members of the public who had previously attended the consultation events at Bracklyn Estate also attended with further queries for the CLO team and were facilitated to ensure active engagement was maintained. All attendees were again provided with up-to-date project information.

2.2.5 Public Consultation Overview/Issues Raised

Members of the public were invited to make comments, raise any concerns and opinions regarding the proposed development during the clinic events and door to door meetings.

Local residents and attendees were given the opportunity to put their names forward to visit an operational wind farm development, which the CLO would organise at a time that suited them. BWFL intend, post Covid, to facilitate a group visit when restrictions allow us to do so.

The main issues raised during the consultation process are as follows:

Design of Project
Noise
Map/Location
Ecological Sensitivities
Visual impact
Property Values
Why Bracklyn?

2.3 Impact of Community Consultation on Proposed Development

The feedback received from the public consultation process has been a key contributory factor in shaping and influencing the design process of the proposed development, in conjunction with scoping activities and environmental evaluations.

As identified above, some key issues have been identified during the public consultation phase. These issues are outlined below.



2.3.1 Design of the Project

The design and proposed location of the project and the turbine location on the land was raised by numerous members of the public, both on the public information clinics and on door to door visits. Residents and members of the public were advised that one of the key initial criteria for the selection of the site as a feasible location was that favourable separation distances could be provided between wind turbines and dwellings. The public were also advised of the endeavours of BWFL to maximise these distances would also have to be considered in the context of the environmental constraints within the site and the requisite spacing between turbines to ensure operational performance. In the July 2020 clinics, BWFL committed to review the precise turbine locations and, subsequently, some alterations were made to the layout of the proposed development, this included a reduction in the number of proposed turbines, from 11 to 9. This was communicated in a letter in October 2020, with an updated draft map (See **Appendix 7**).

2.3.2 Noise

The maximisation of setback distances between the wind turbines and dwellings also has the effect of lowering the potential for noise effects. Noise was again a common theme of the consultation process. Where concerns were raised, BWFL were able to advise interested parties that noise levels would be compliant with the limits set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines. In addition, BWFL also advised that the development would be required, by law, to comply with any planning conditions set out by the Planning Authority

2.3.3 Map & Location

Similar to design of the project, the map and location of the proposed wind turbines was raised by members of the public. In public consultation, a draft layout map was shown. An updated draft map was shared with residents & the community in October 2020 via letter. Members of the public were looking for a definite location of the turbine locations. In response, BWFL advised extensive ongoing surveying of the area was in progress and a final layout map would be shared with the public once completed.

2.3.4 Ecological Sensitivities

The ecological sensitivity of the site was also raised by a number of concerned residents. In response, BWFL advised that the extensive ecological and biodiversity surveying, including birds, bats, Mammals, aquatic species and habitats, was ongoing by an independent consultancy, across the site to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Following the completion of extensive ecological surveys of the site; it is decided, in addition to feedback from the public regarding the design of the project, to omit two turbines from the scheme. This decision has the knock-on-effect of further reducing the likelihood of noise effect and visual impact.

Subsequently, some alterations were made to the layout of the proposed development, this included a reduction in the number of proposed turbines, from 11 to 9.

2.3.5 Visual Impact

Visual Impact was a common concern raised during the community consultation process. The issue of visual impact is also closely related to the design and the location of the project. The process of



maximising the separation distance between dwellings and wind turbines also has the effect of reducing the potential for significant visual impact.

Some residents raised a concern regarding the Viewpoint images shown in the visual presentation. They felt there wasn't sufficient views from these and the BWFL team explained that the final Viewpoint locations, to be used in the EIAR, would be selected by an independent consultancy in the process of carrying out a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

The LVIA will assess the likelihood for significant adverse effects on the landscape and sensitive receptors. Cable for the BWF will be going underground and BWFL highlighted that this will remove some visual impact in this regard.

2.3.6 Property Values

A number of residents expressed concern in relation to residential property values in the immediate area. A number of those who visited the clinic raised concerns about property values in the Bracklyn area. The BWFL team explained that evidence suggest at a European and UK level, wind farms have not materially impacted on property values. This a reasonable assumption based on the available literature. The BWFL team explained that it has often been the case in previous wind energy developments that BWFL have been involved in, extra income to land owners together with substantial Community benefit funds have helped support local community projects and helped ensure that residents benefit directly from the renewable energy development.

2.3.7 Why Bracklyn?

In response to queries raised about the chosen location for the proposed development the BWFL team highlighted that the site was identified after extensive surveys were carried out in the area. BWFL explained that there is an anemometer mast which is currently 80 meters high, erected to collect wind speeds. Wind turbine technology has changed over the last few years and this allows flat low land areas to work really well with new turbine types. The site shows ample generation of wind speed for generation of electricity. The aim is to maximise energy production towards green energy targets laid out in the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications. It is a clean source of energy and sustainable which is a positive in the area.

Every reasonable effort was made to listen, take into consideration and understand the views of those living in proximity to the proposed BWF development.

2.4 Ongoing Consultation

Contact details of the community engagement team have been provided to the public throughout the door to door consultations, via letter and at clinic events. It has been shared on the BWFL website and on the Delvin Village Community website as well as shared in the local newspapers and advertised on local radio.

In May 2020, BWFL launched a dedicated project website, www.bracklynwindfarm.ie. The website is an additional communications channel to inform members of the public about the proposed development and regular updates are provided. Details for the proposed location, layout drawings and dedicated contact details for the project can be found on the website.

It is noted that a local action/lobby group has been set-up within the local area. The Delvin Raharney Wind Action Group are locally identified as a wind information group. The CLO contacted this group



via letter in December 2020 and via phone call in January 2021 extending an invite to meet with the BWF team.

After a series of emails and letters BWFL met with members of Delvin Raharney Wind Action Group on the 14th of June 2021, on Bracklyn Estate. Again this meeting, which lasted approximately 45 minutes, was conducted in a manner consistent with prevailing regulations and guidance pertaining to the Covid 19 pandemic. In this meeting, all questions regarding the BWF project were answered and BWF team offered further engagement opportunities to these members or any other members should they require them. As explained, community engagement will continue into the future of the proposed development.

2.5 Socio- Economic Benefits

BWF acknowledges that the *Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland - Guidelines for Community Engagement* stipulates that wind energy developers should identify enduring economic and socio-economic benefit to the communities concerned from the proposed development.

These benefits which were expressed in brochures, in consultation clinics and door to door visits, are explained further in the sections below.

2.5.1 Short Term

At a Local Level, it will ensure the continuity of enterprise and employment in the area. It is expected that up to 120 workers would be employed on the project at peak. This will, in turn, have a beneficial effect on the local economy through the generation of local employment and the potential for increased expenditure in local shops and service providers. At a regional level additional employment will be created through the supply of services and materials such as aggregates and construction materials, to the wind farm.

Separately, a grant of planning permission is likely to be accompanied by a requirement to pay a development contribution to Westmeath County Council in respect of public infrastructure. This substantial payment will result in benefits to the local community such as upgrading of roads, waste water facilities, water supply infrastructure, community facilities and amenities.

2.5.2 Long Term

Employment

Once operational, the wind farm will support long term, high quality jobs in operation and maintenance as well as ancillary functions.

Rates

Once in operation; rates, estimated to be €800,000 per annum, that will be paid by BWFL to Westmeath County Council will support the provision of local services in respect of public infrastructure. This substantial payment will result in benefits to the community such as upgrading roads, waste water facilities, water supply infrastructure, community facilities and amenities.

Government Policy



The proposed BWF will play a worthy part in assisting Ireland's commitment to increasing its renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period with the production of renewable electricity. Government policy, arising from the *Climate Action Plan 2019* to Tackle Climate Breakdown 2019 to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 is an increase from its previous target of 55%.

Air Quality

The generation of electricity due to the installation of the proposed wind farm will lead to a net saving in terms of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions. The proposed wind farm will have an export capacity of in excess of 50 MW and an assumed capacity factor of 34%, therefore the power generation from the development is expected to be approximately 149 GWh per annum. The supply of c. 149 GWh of renewable electricity to the national grid will lead to a net saving in terms of NO_X emissions which may have been emitted from fossil fuels to produce electricity.

2.5.3 Neighbour Scheme

The proposed Neighbour Scheme will offer electricity bill payers living within 1km of a wind turbine an annual contribution of €1,000 towards their electricity usage.

2.5.4 Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

BWFL is committed to operating a community benefit fund in accordance with the Wind Energy Ireland best practice and it will be available to the community at a rate of €2 euro per megawatt hour (MWh) produced, should RESS be awarded. An investment of approximately €16,000 per turbine per year for up to 15 years, is committed to on BWFL. There will also be a community investment element available where there will be an opportunity for all local residents to participate if they wish to do so. The structure for the investment scheme will form part of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) design; however, the precise arrangements for the RESS have not yet been published.

The fund will be administered by a committee set up by the operations department of BWFL. Members of the local community are also likely to be appointed to the committee, thus allowing the local community to prioritise the fund for the projects which matter most. Local community groups will be invited to submit funding requests to the committee and preference will be given to local projects, thereby contributing to the vitality of the local population, and to projects which are considered to represent an environmental benefit or incorporate a renewable energy element into the project. This fund will be made available, and distributed annually, for up to 15 years. A full transparent record of all projects funded and made publicly accessible on the website and included in periodic newsletters to the local community.

Since the 7th January 2021 a community benefits registration of interest is available on the BWF website (see **Appendix 8**)

3.0 Conclusions

BWF has actively engaged, consulted and maintained dialogue with the local community and other stakeholders from an early stage, during the pre-application of this project. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable exercise and has provided a detailed and enhanced understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, which have ultimately helped shape the final project design.



The objective of the public consultation process was to ensure the widest possible consultation with individuals, communities and other stakeholders from the commencement of the project in observance with the best industry practices. Every effort was made to identify those to engage with, in a flexible and facilitative manner, in order to build strong and effective relationships with those that will live in the wider vicinity of the proposed wind farm.

Community engagement will be maintained throughout the different stages of the project, right through construction to the entirety of the operational phase and through to decommissioning.

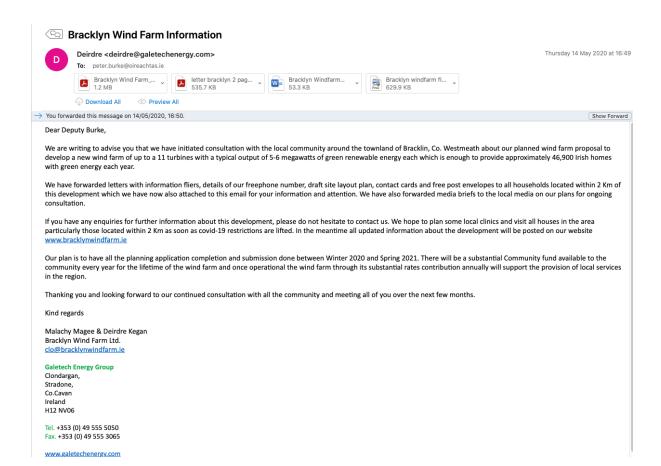
During the planning and consents stage, the CLO will remain available to the community in relation to any local issues and requirements that may arise and respond in a timely manner. It is intended that this best-in-class approach to good-neighbour community consultation will be continued throughout the construction and operation stage and included in an updated Community Liaison Strategy as part of a wider Construction Stage and Operation Stage Management Plan.

BWF will eagerly prioritise community issues, particularly during construction phase e.g., advance warning of any temporary road closures, management of traffic flows and execution of all required mitigation measures and will keep the local community apprised of the net economic benefits of the project, particularly for the local community, through newsletters and periodic updates on the website.

Post-construction and during the operation stage, BWFL shall submit an annual report to the Local Authority of all communications and information provided, queries received, responses to same, recording if these are ongoing or resolved, which will be published on a dedicated and transparent register, available online.



Appendix 1 – Local Representatives





Dear Deputy Troy.

We are writing to advise you that we have initiated consultation with the local community around the townland of Bracklin, Co. Westmeath about our planned wind farm proposal to develop a new wind farm of up to a 11 turbines with a typical output of 5-6 megawatts of green renewable energy each which is enough to provide approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant of the provided approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each was a constant o

We have forwarded letters with information fliers, details of our freephone number, draft site layout plan, contact cards and free post envelopes to all households located within 2 Km of this development which we have now also attached to this email for your information and attention. We have also forwarded media briefs to the local media on our plans for ongoing consultation.

If you have any enquiries for further information about this development, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to plan some local clinics and visit all houses in the area particularly those located within 2 Km as soon as covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the meantime all updated information about the development will be posted on our website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Our plan is to have all the planning application completion and submission done between Winter 2020 and Spring 2021. There will be a substantial Community fund available to the community every every for the lifetime of the wind farm and once operational the wind farm through its substantial rates contribution annually will support the provision of local services in the region

Thanking you and looking forward to our continued consultation with all the community and meeting all of you over the next few months.

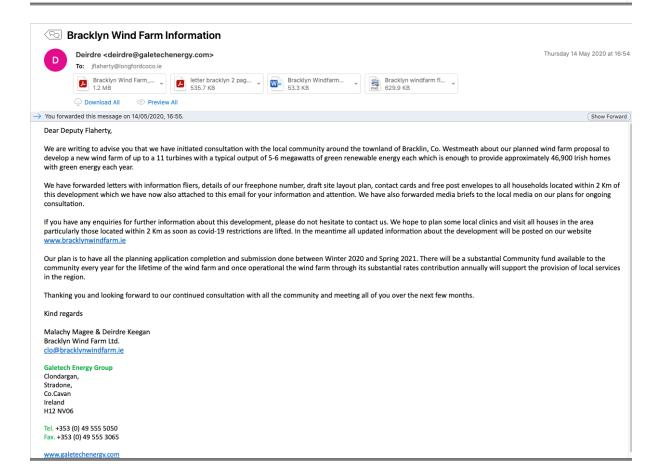
Kind regards

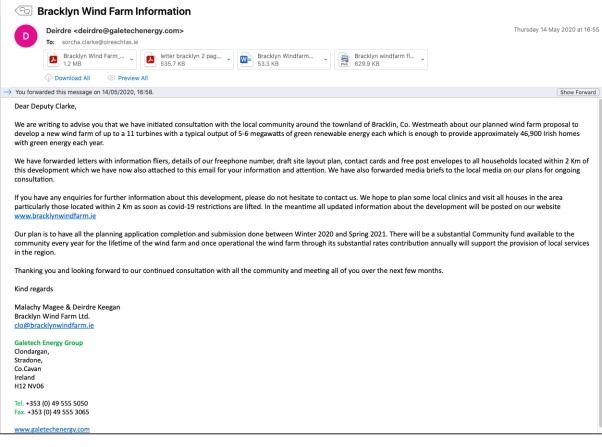
Malachy Magee & Deirdre Keegan Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie

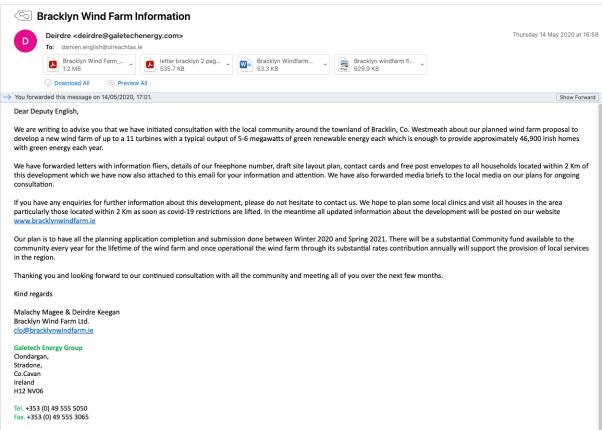
Galetech Energy Group

Clondargan, Stradone, Co.Cavan Ireland H12 NV06

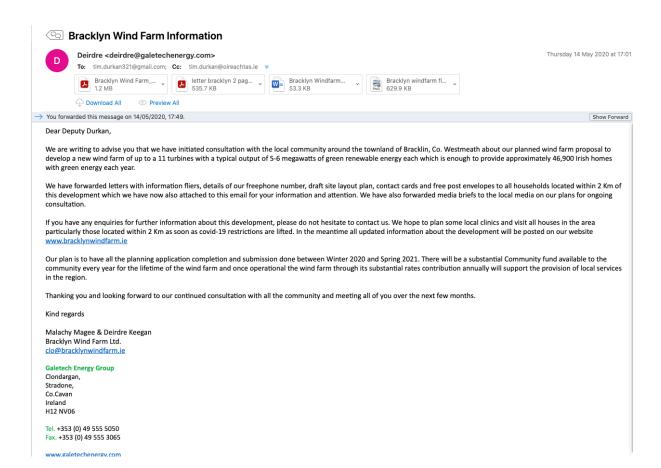
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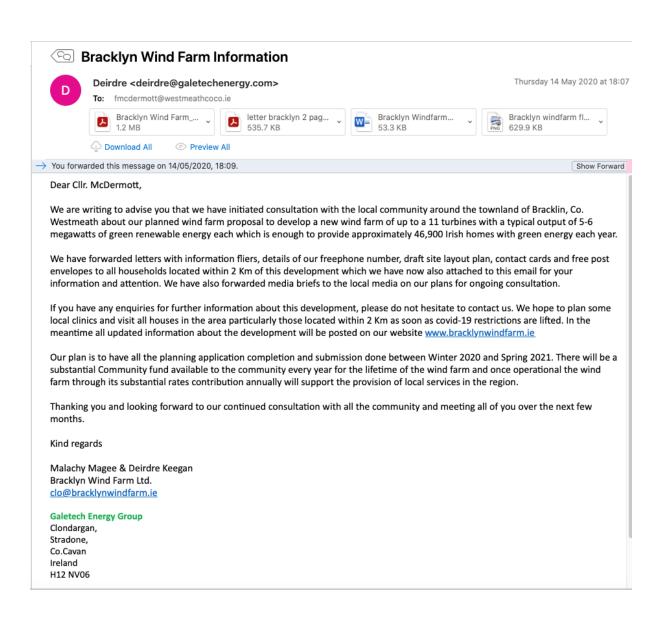


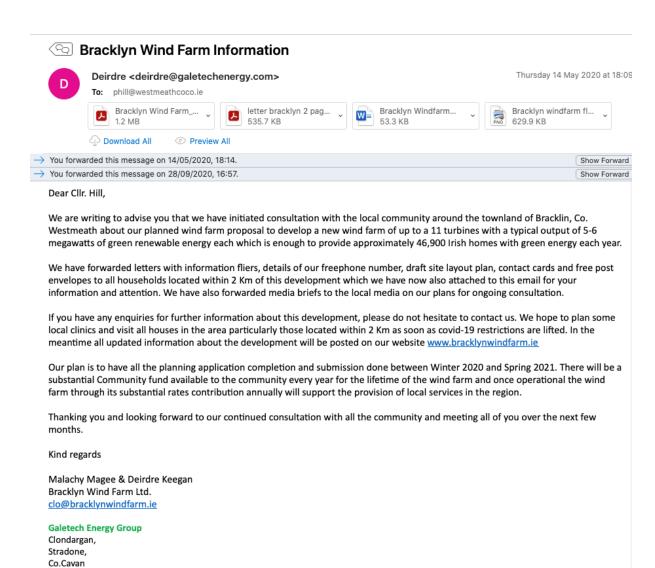




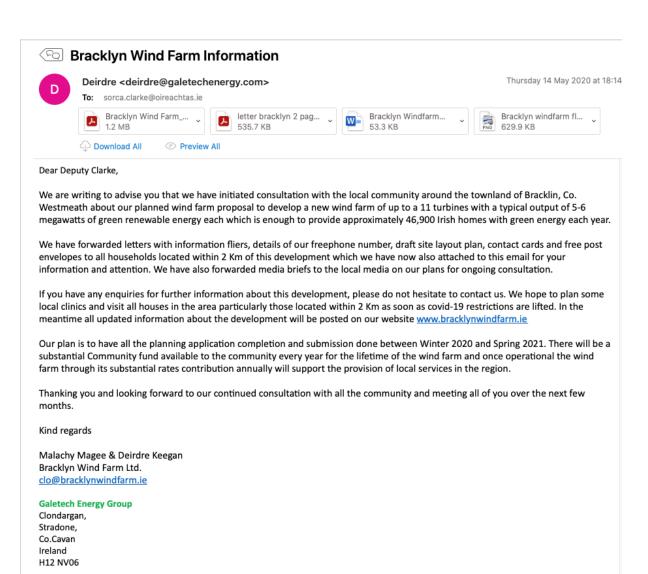
www.galetechenergy.com



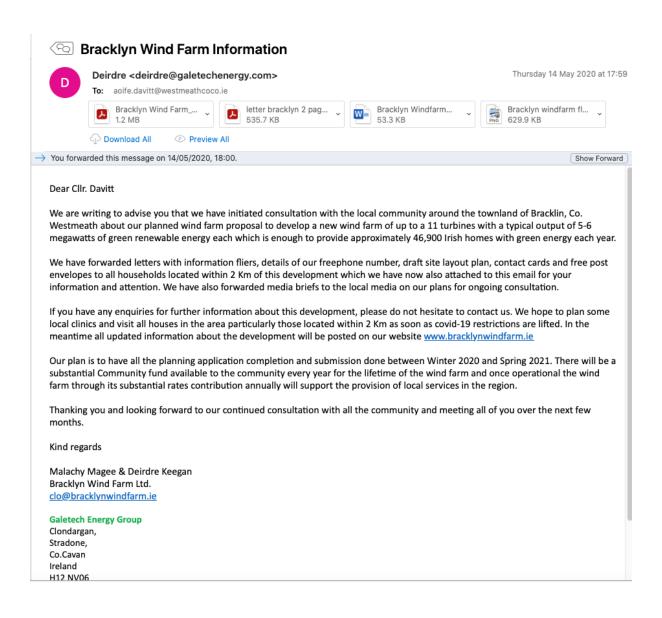


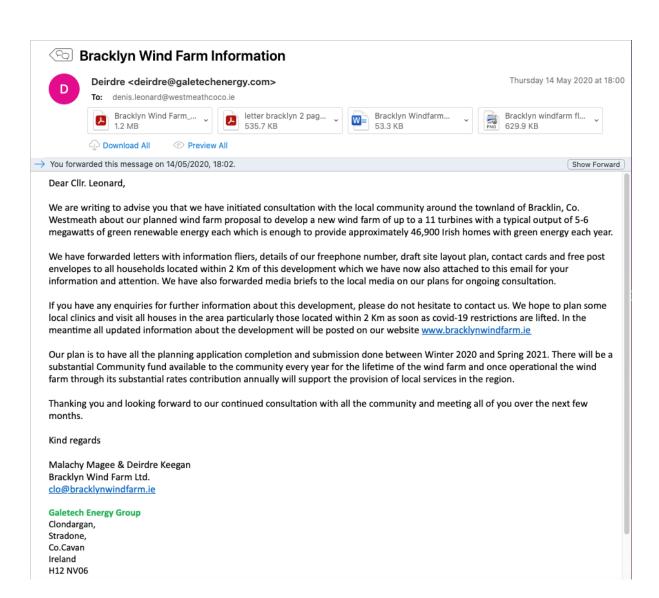


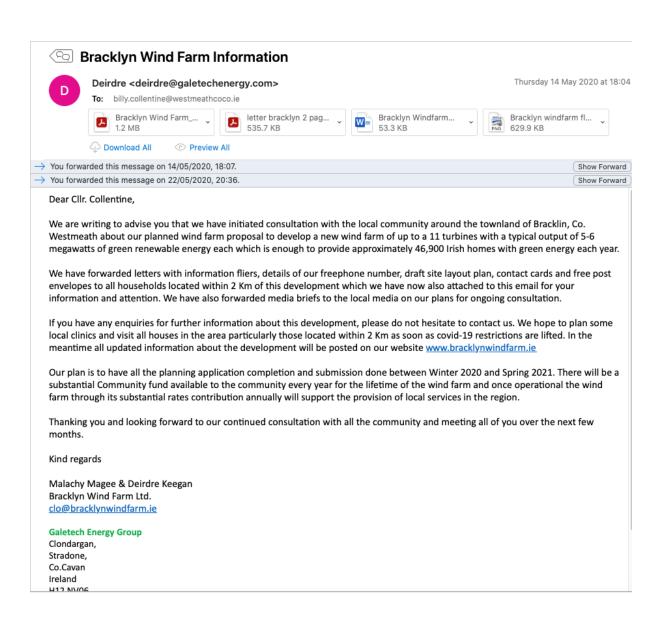
Ireland



Tel. +353 (0) 49 555 5050









Dear Cllr. Wallace,

→ You forwarded this message on 14/05/2020, 17:54.

We are writing to advise you that we have initiated consultation with the local community around the townland of Bracklin, Co. Westmeath about our planned wind farm proposal to develop a new wind farm of up to a 11 turbines with a typical output of 5-6 megawatts of green renewable energy each which is enough to provide approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each year.

We have forwarded letters with information fliers, details of our freephone number, draft site layout plan, contact cards and free post envelopes to all households located within 2 Km of this development which we have now also attached to this email for your information and attention. We have also forwarded media briefs to the local media on our plans for ongoing consultation.

If you have any enquiries for further information about this development, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to plan some local clinics and visit all houses in the area particularly those located within 2 Km as soon as covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the meantime all updated information about the development will be posted on our website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Our plan is to have all the planning application completion and submission done between Winter 2020 and Spring 2021. There will be a substantial Community fund available to the community every year for the lifetime of the wind farm and once operational the wind farm through its substantial rates contribution annually will support the provision of local services in the region.

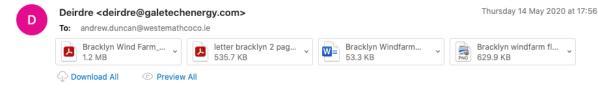
Thanking you and looking forward to our continued consultation with all the community and meeting all of you over the next few months.

Kind regards

Malachy Magee & Deirdre Keegan Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie

Galetech Energy Group

Clondargan, Stradone. Co.Cavan Ireland H12 NIVOS



Dear Cllr. Duncan

→ You forwarded this message on 14/05/2020, 17:57.

We are writing to advise you that we have initiated consultation with the local community around the townland of Bracklin, Co. Westmeath about our planned wind farm proposal to develop a new wind farm of up to a 11 turbines with a typical output of 5-6 megawatts of green renewable energy each which is enough to provide approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each year.

We have forwarded letters with information fliers, details of our freephone number, draft site layout plan, contact cards and free post envelopes to all households located within 2 Km of this development which we have now also attached to this email for your information and attention. We have also forwarded media briefs to the local media on our plans for ongoing consultation.

If you have any enquiries for further information about this development, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to plan some local clinics and visit all houses in the area particularly those located within 2 Km as soon as covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the meantime all updated information about the development will be posted on our website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Our plan is to have all the planning application completion and submission done between Winter 2020 and Spring 2021. There will be a substantial Community fund available to the community every year for the lifetime of the wind farm and once operational the wind farm through its substantial rates contribution annually will support the provision of local services in the region.

Thanking you and looking forward to our continued consultation with all the community and meeting all of you over the next few months.

Kind regards

Malachy Magee & Deirdre Keegan Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie

Galetech Energy Group

Clondargan, Stradone, Co.Cavan Ireland H12 NV06

Show Forward

ightarrow You forwarded this message on 14/05/2020, 18:04.



Dear Cllr. Smyth,

We are writing to advise you that we have initiated consultation with the local community around the townland of Bracklin, Co. Westmeath about our planned wind farm proposal to develop a new wind farm of up to a 11 turbines with a typical output of 5-6 megawatts of green renewable energy each which is enough to provide approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each year.

We have forwarded letters with information fliers, details of our freephone number, draft site layout plan, contact cards and free post envelopes to all households located within 2 Km of this development which we have now also attached to this email for your information and attention. We have also forwarded media briefs to the local media on our plans for ongoing consultation.

If you have any enquiries for further information about this development, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to plan some local clinics and visit all houses in the area particularly those located within 2 Km as soon as covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the meantime all updated information about the development will be posted on our website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Our plan is to have all the planning application completion and submission done between Winter 2020 and Spring 2021. There will be a substantial Community fund available to the community every year for the lifetime of the wind farm and once operational the wind farm through its substantial rates contribution annually will support the provision of local services in the region.

Thanking you and looking forward to our continued consultation with all the community and meeting all of you over the next few months.

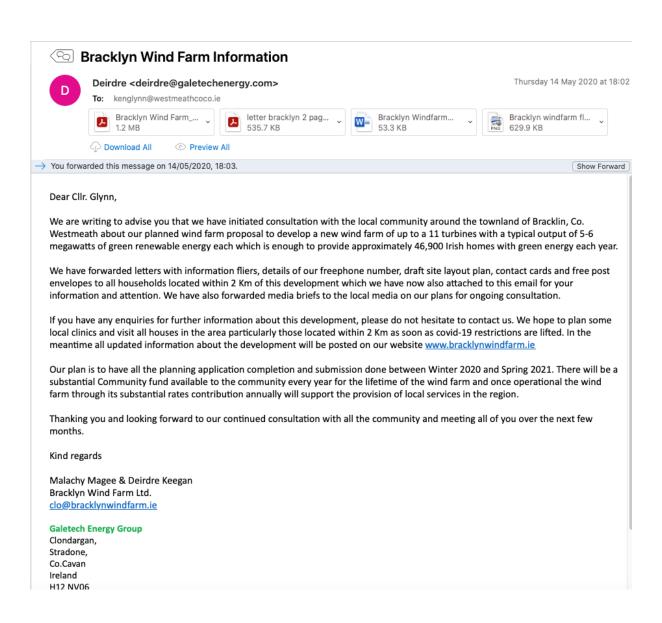
Kind regards

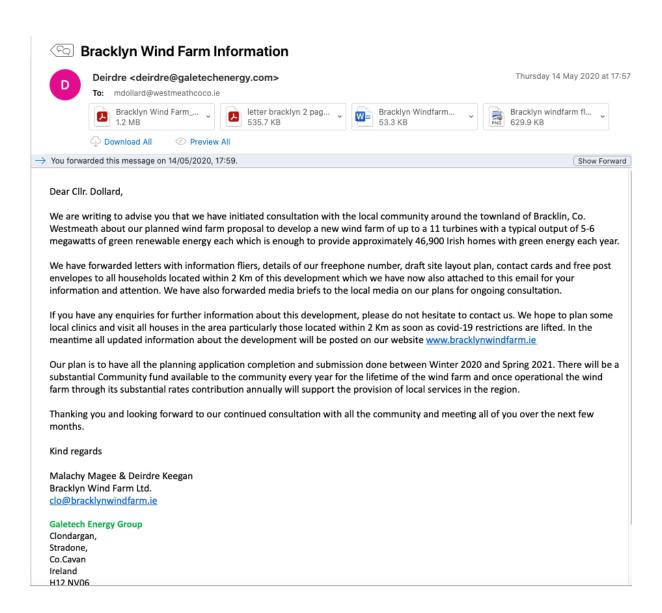
Malachy Magee & Deirdre Keegan Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie

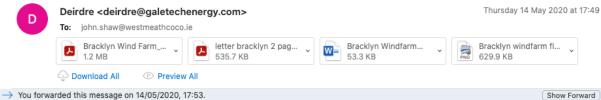
Galetech Energy Group

Clondargan, Stradone, Co.Cavan Ireland H12 NV06

Show Forward







Dear Cllr. Shaw,

We are writing to advise you that we have initiated consultation with the local community around the townland of Bracklin, Co. Westmeath about our planned wind farm proposal to develop a new wind farm of up to a 11 turbines with a typical output of 5-6 megawatts of green renewable energy each which is enough to provide approximately 46,900 Irish homes with green energy each year.

We have forwarded letters with information fliers, details of our freephone number, draft site layout plan, contact cards and free post envelopes to all households located within 2 Km of this development which we have now also attached to this email for your information and attention. We have also forwarded media briefs to the local media on our plans for ongoing consultation.

If you have any enquiries for further information about this development, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope to plan some local clinics and visit all houses in the area particularly those located within 2 Km as soon as covid-19 restrictions are lifted. In the meantime all updated information about the development will be posted on our website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Our plan is to have all the planning application completion and submission done between Winter 2020 and Spring 2021. There will be a substantial Community fund available to the community every year for the lifetime of the wind farm and once operational the wind farm through its substantial rates contribution annually will support the provision of local services in the region.

Thanking you and looking forward to our continued consultation with all the community and meeting all of you over the next few months.

Kind regards

Malachy Magee & Deirdre Keegan Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie

Galetech Energy Group

Clondargan, Stradone, Co.Cavan Ireland H12 NV06



Appendix 2 – Initial Letter – Residents

BRACKLYN WIND FARM

Tel: Freephone 1800140976 Email: clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie Web: www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

> Bracklyn Windfarm Ltd. Clondargan Stradone Co. Cavan H12NV06

11th May 2020

Dear Homeowner,

Community Consultation for proposed Bracklyn wind farm

As you may already know, Galetech Energy Developments Ltd. are developing plans for a proposed wind farm in the townland of Bracklin, Co.Westmeath. The new Wind Farm development proposal will consist of 11 Turbines with a typical output of 5-6 megawatts per turbine, enough to provide around 46,900 households with green energy every year. A met mast will also be installed on site in the coming months to measure the wind resource.

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in line with government guidance, we have cancelled all face-to-face consultations and door-to-door visits, until the restriction of movement has ended. We are committed however to keeping communities safe while still communicating with them about our proposed project.

As a result, the Bracklyn Windfarm project team is exploring every opportunity at this early design stage to continue with its engagement with the local community by providing information and answering questions using freepost, freephone and online services.

- We enclose a pre-paid envelope and comment card for you to send back to us with the option of requesting a follow-up telephone call or email reply from one of our team.
- We also include information flyer which provides project milestones and timelines for the project together with our draft proposed design lay out.
- We have a freephone number 1800140976, which you can dial free of charge to request a call back from the project team.
- We will post regular updates on our project website at <u>www.bracklynwindfarm.ie</u>.

This project will create up to 100 jobs during the construction phase and will also provide a substantial community benefit fund each year to help support local community projects and households within a 2km radius. The substantial community fund will be administered in accordance with Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) best practice and grants will be made available after one year of wind farm operation.

Bracklyn wind farm will play it's part in assisting in Ireland's commitment to increase it's renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period, with the Government pledging to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 forming part of the new climate action plan.

We hope to post answers to the most commonly asked questions on the Bracklyn website over time and will keep it updated over time . An example of a question a lot of people have asked is when would we be submitting a planning application for the project? That will not be until early 2021. We're at a very early design stage and want to continue to engage with the local community within the 2km radius of the proposed site and beyond.

Finally, we have also enclosed a colouring page for young children at home during these difficult times.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any queries you may have and hopefully meet you all in the not to distant future when this Covid-19 pandemic is over.

Yours faithfully

Malachy Magee Community Liaison Officer Bracklyn Team Windfarm Project Deirdre Keegan Community Liaison Officer Bracklyn Team Windfarm Project

Bracklyn Windfarm						
CONNECT WITH US						
Name		Ph				
Email						
Address	5		Eircode			
Questio	ons or comments					
To find out what please read our f	II Video Call Email t personal data we keep, how we process it and how we use it, Privacy Notices at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie		Galetech Energy Developments Ltd. Clondargan, Stradone, Co. Cavan, Ireland H12NV06			



Bracklyn Windfarm Ltd. Clondargan Stradone Co. Cavan H12NV06

Bracklyn Windfarm

Tel: Freephone 1800140976 Email: clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie Web: www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Press Release 7/5/20

Bracklyn Wind Farm, Co. Westmeath initiates Community Consultation Plan

Galetech Energy Developments Ltd. have announced they will be using remote communication methods to engage with local residents and businesses regarding the proposed Bracklyn wind farm energy development, in the townland of Bracklin, County Westmeath in light of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

In line with the Irish Government and HSE guidance, the Bracklyn wind farm project team has postponed all public meetings and halted face-to-face consultations and door-to-door visits, until the restriction of movement has come to an end.

Galetech is committed to safe and proactive engagement with members of the public and have introduced the following measures to facilitate community consultation:

- Households within a 2km radius of the proposed wind farm development will receive information about the proposals by post, together with a pre-paid envelope and comment card, which residents can use to ask questions and request a follow-up telephone call or email from the project team.
- We also include an information flyer which provides project milestones and timelines for the project together with an early draft proposed design lay out plan which will be subject to surveying and Ecology reports as well as our public consultation process.
- A freephone number 1800140976, which residents can dial free of charge to request a call back from the project team is also available.
- Over the coming months, the Bracklyn Project Team will reach out to the wider community in Westmeath and are encouraging people to visit the project website for regular updates at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie.

A spokesperson for the project team Malachy Magee said, "We are following government guidance and will schedule a series of public information drop-in sessions when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we are urging local people to use the freepost facility and freephone number to contact us with their questions".

The proposed development is being designed to the latest best industry standards and we appeal to local residents to have their say at an early stage of the development so as to maximise the project benefits to the neighbouring community. The Bracklyn wind farm development will potentially consist of up to 11 turbines with a typical output of up to 5-6MW per turbine of renewable energy - capable of generating enough green energy to power 46,900 Irish homes . It is estimated that up to 100 jobs will be created during construction . The wind farm when developed will also support long term high quality technical jobs in operations and maintenance as well as ancillary functions.

The planning application for this Bracklyn wind farm will not be submitted until early 2021 following on from our community consultation process and completion of all our surveys and ecology reports. Their will be a substantial community benefit fund available to help support local community projects after consulting and considering community local needs in the area. This fund will be administered in accordance with Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) best practice with the full scheme been operational in the first year after the windfarm commences operation and an initial part of the overall scheme will apply during the construction stage. We will be posting regular updates on our project website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie which will also include answers to the most frequently asked questions.

Galetech Energy Developments Ltd. is part of the wider Galetech Energy Group, based in Co. Cavan, with branches across the island of Ireland. The Group focusses on development, planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of renewable energy projects in Ireland and presently employs over 100 people from their headquarters in Co. Cavan.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Contact Malachy Magee 087 6690803 Galetech Energy Developments Ltd, Clondargan, Stradone, Co. Cavan, H12NV06. Freephone 1800140976

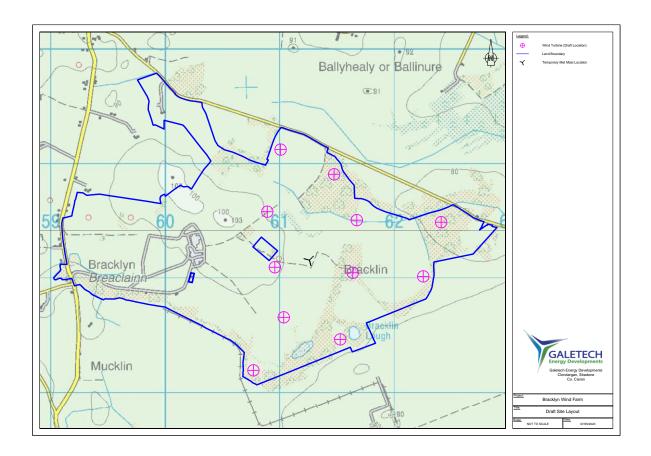
About Galetech Energy Developments

Galetech Energy Developments is part of the wider Galetech Energy Group, based in Co. Cavan, with branches across the island of Ireland. The Group focusses on development, planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of renewable energy projects in Ireland and Europe and currently employs over 100 people and operates over 350 wind turbines presently on the Island of Ireland.

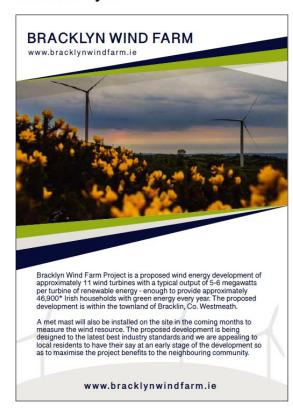
Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd Clondargan Stradone Co. Cavan Ireland H12NV06

Community Liaison Officers: Malachy Magee, Deirdre Keegan

E. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie Freephone: 1800140976

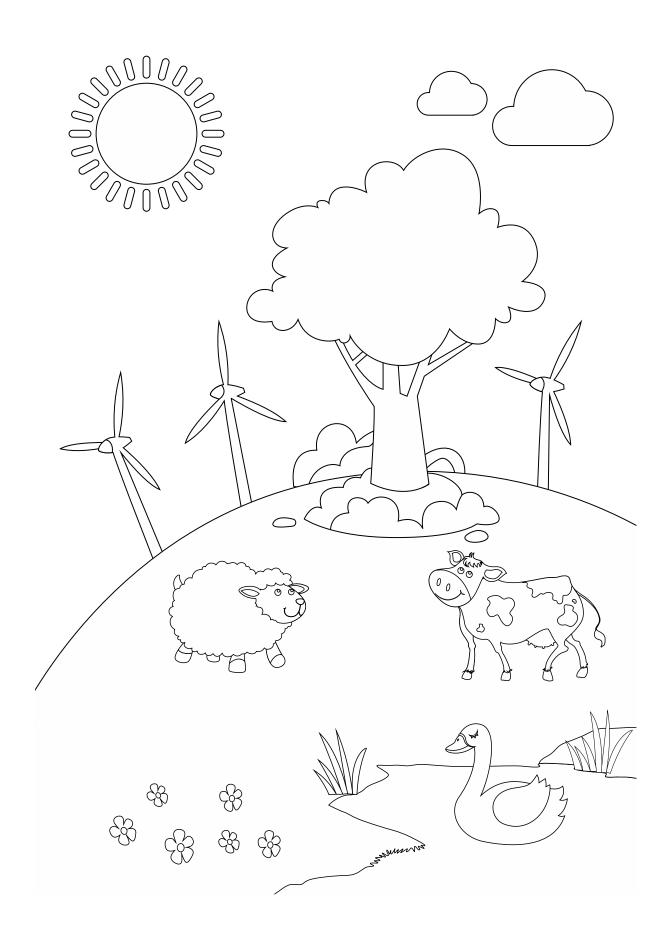


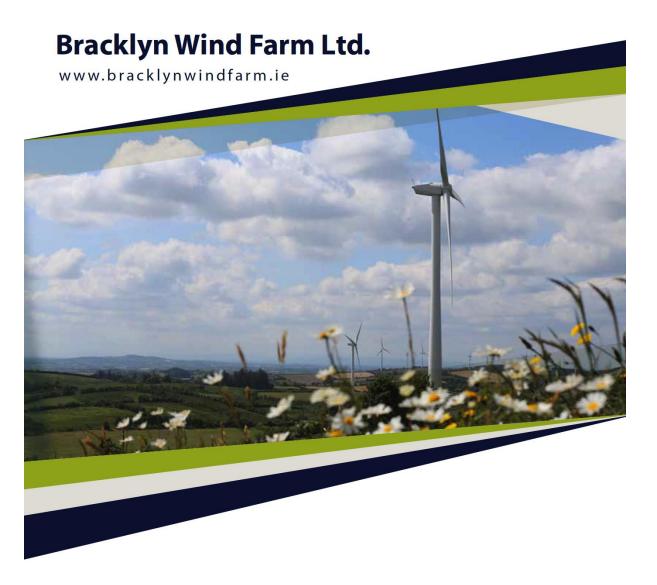
D/S A5 Flyer



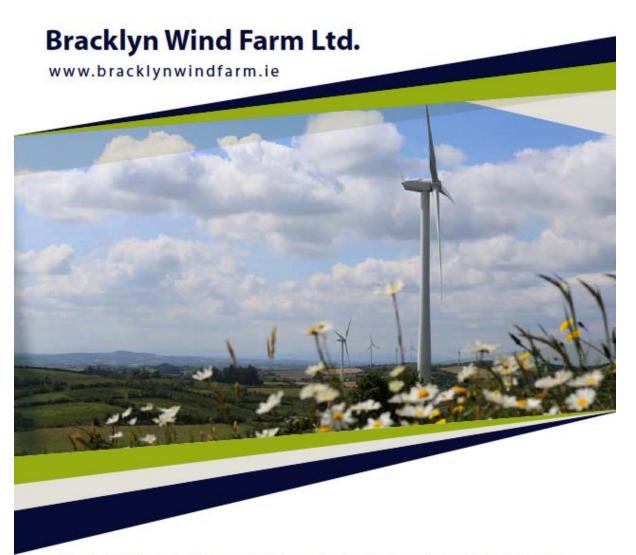


Colouring Page included in Initial Pack





Appendix 3 – A4 Brochure – Door to Door Visits



Bracklyn Wind Farm Project is a proposed wind energy development of approximately 11 wind turbines with a typical output of 5-6 Megawatts per turbine of renewable energy - enough to provide approximately 46,900* Irish households with green energy every year. The proposed development is within the townland of Bracklin, Co Westmeath.

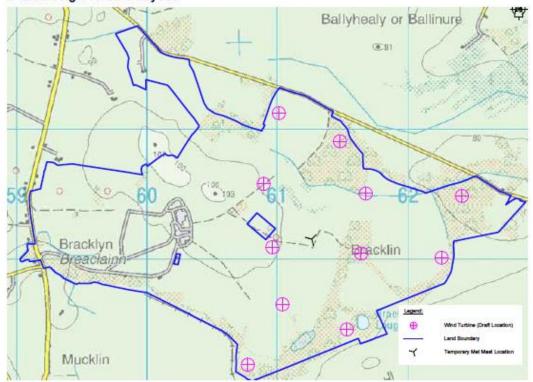
A temporary 80 meter met mast has also been installed on the site over the past few weeks to collect wind speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity and air pressure, which will be used to predict and analyse the energy that the wind farm can produce on the site. The proposed development is being designed to the latest best industry standards and we are appealing to local residents to have their say at an early stage of the development so as to maximise the project benefits to the neighbouring community.

To book an appointment to attend one of our consultation clinics in July please contact us on freephone number 1800 140976

*based on CRU 2017 annual report of 4,200KWhrs electricity consumption per household per annum based on an average dwelling.

www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Draft Design Turbine Layout



Proposed Project:

Assessment work at the proposed Bracklyn Wind Farm site has shown that it is capable of accommodating up to 60 Megawatts (MW) of installed generating capacity. The Project will essentially comprise of up to 11 wind turbines (5-6 Megawatts). Apart from the turbines themselves, the other principal components of the wind farm are the foundations to support the turbine towers, access roads, crane hard-standings, underground cables between the turbines, on-site electricity substation and an electrical connection to the appropriate node on the National Grid. The exact type of turbine that will be used has not yet been finalised, however in order not to underestimate any potential impacts, the largest physical dimensions of all of the wind turbines under construction have been used to assess the visual impact of the project. The maximum turbine envelope has a blade tip height of approx 180 meters.

It is intended to submit a planning application for the proposed project at the end of 2020.

Wind Energy - Climate Action

Government policy has set a target for 70% of the electricity we consume by 2030 to be generated from renewable resources. Wind energy will be the main component of Ireland's renewable electricity by this time in order to play its part in achieving the European climate and energy ambitions.

How Wind Turbines Operate:

Wind turbines convert the kinetic energy in wind to generate electricity. To create electricity from wind, the blades capture the wind which drives the shaft connected to a gear box, as shown in Figure 2.

The tubular towers, carrying the nacelle and rotor, are made of steel or concrete and taper from their base to the top. The nacelle which carries the generator and rotor are designed to rotate 360 degrees, or "yaw", in order to face the prevailing wind.

Sensors High-speed coupling Mechanical brake
Generator Gearbox

Flaure 2 - Nacelle & Hub Components

Bed Frame Yaw drives Yaw bearing Rotor main shaft Main bearing

Safety

Safety is our number 1 priority in the construction and operational phase of all our projects. There will be an opportunity to visit one of our operational wind farms to see how committed we are to health and safety by setting the highest standards.

Environment

Wind power is a low-carbon energy source. When a wind turbine generates electricity it produces virtually zero carbon emissions. The development of clean wind energy avoids significant carbon dioxide (CO2) pollution. In 2019, wind energy met a record 32.5% of our electricity demand, the second highest in Europe and the highest in onshore wind.

Winds as % Demand				
Republic of Ireland				
2015	23%			
2016	21%			
2017	25%			
2018	29%			
2019	32.5%			

**Figures correct on 07/01/2020

** 65 % renewable energy on the national power system at any given time, a milestone reached in April 2017. Bracklyn Wind Farm will supply the needs of approximately 46,900 * homes with green energy every year, based on draft 11 turbine layout.



Benefits of the Development

At National Level, the proposed Bracklyn Wind Farm will play a worthy part in assisting Ireland's commitment to increasing it's renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period with the production of renewable electricity. Our Government's new pledge on the 25 th March 2019 to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 is an increase from its previous target of 55% and will form part of the new Climate Action Plan that is being overseen by the present Minister for Communications, Climate Action, and the Environment. Our proposed Bracklyn project will contribute in reducing our total National greenhouse gas emissions. In doing so, it will reduce our dependence on external energy sources and help to improve our energy security of supply.

At Regional Level, this new proposed development will help to meet the rising demand for electricity especially renewable electricity, resulting from renewed economic growth in the Midlands. The construction phase will create additional employment in the region through the supply of services and materials to the proposed wind farm.

At Local Level, it will ensure the continuity of enterprise and employment in the area. It is expected that up to 100 workers would be employed on the project at peak. It will also support long term high quality technical jobs in operation and maintenance as well as ancillary functions. Once in operation the rates that will be paid by Bracklyn Wind Farm to Westmeath County Council will support the provision of local services. A range of other benefits associated with the development will be provided to the community. There will be a community fund set up in accordance with the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) best practice and it will be available to the community.

PROJECT MILESTONES AND TIMELINES

Oct 2016-Dec 2022

Initial Project Feasibility & Baseline Surveys

May 2020 - Dec 2025

Community Consultation & Stakeholder Engagement

Dec 2019 - Dec 2020

Detailed Surveys & Engineering Design

Winter 2020

Final Turbine Layout & Design Proposals

Winter 2020 - Spring 2021

Planning Application completion & submission

Further Projects Milestones

Planning Decision will determine Further Project Milestones

Galetech Energy Developement

Galetech Energy Group headquartered in Stradone, Co. Cavan, is an Irish wind farm develop and multi-disciplinary renewable energy consultancy and products provider to the wind and solar industries.

The group employ 103 people, providing full-service energy consulting in all areas of wind energy development, consultancy, construction and operation. Galetech Energy is currenty developing over 450MW of wind projects in Ireland; the group is also providing consultancy services to clients in Ireland, UK, France, Sweden, Poland, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kenya and South Africa.

CONTACTS

Malachy Magee, Community Lialson Officer T. 049 4890021 M. 087 6690803 E. clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie W. www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Deirdre Keegan, Community Lialson Officer T. 090 6643014 M. 087 1163978 E clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie W www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Freephone: 1800 140976



Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Contact us on freephone number 1800 140976



Appendix 4 - Further Letters



Bracklyn Windfarm Ltd. Clondargan Stradone Co. Cavan H12NV06

Bracklyn Windfarm

Tel: Freephone 1800140976 Email: clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie Web: www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

30.10.2020

Dear Householder,

Community Consultation update for proposed Bracklyn Windfarm

As you already know, Galetech Energy Developments, in connection with General Electric and Storm, are developing plans for a proposed wind farm in the townland of Bracklin, Co.Westmeath. The new Windfarm development proposal will consist of 9 Turbines with a typical output of up to 6 megawatts per turbine. An 80m met mast is installed on the Bracklyn Estate.

The Bracklyn wind farm liaison team sent letters in June 2020 and held productive clinics both on Brackyn Estate and in Delvin Hall in July 2020. The community liaison officer, Deirdre Keegan, recommenced door to door visits in September 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Level 5 restrictions, we now have to postpone these <u>door to door</u> visits until restriction of movement has ended.

We are committed to keeping the communities we engage in safe.

As a result, the **Bracklyn Windfarm** project team is exploring every opportunity at this early design stage to continue with its engagement with the local community by providing information and answering questions using freephone and online services.

- We have a freephone number 1800 140 976, which you can dial free of charge to request a call back from the project team.
- We will post regular updates on our project website at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie
- Face to face meetings, post level 5 restrictions are now available to book at a time and date convenient to you. Please call 1800 140 976 to organise.
- · We have included an updated draft map for your viewing

Bracklyn Windfarm will play its part in assisting in Ireland's commitment to increase its renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period, with the Government pledging to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 forming part of the new climate action plan.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any queries you may have and hopefully meet those that did not get a door to door call in the near future when the government guidelines on restriction of movement is over.

Yours faithfully,

Devolve Kalegon

Deirdre Keegan Community Liaison Officer Bracklyn Windfarm Project Team

Bracklyn Wind Farm Bolandstown Gastle Bolandstown Gross Had Cross Had C

Legend:

0

Wind Turbine (Draft Location)



Appendix 5 – Notification of Clinics

Bracklyn Wind Farm

Co Westmeath

Community Consultation

The Bracklyn Wind Farm development team is continuing to offer community consultation. Anyone with questions about the proposals can call the freephone number 1800 140 976 or email clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie

More Details>>

www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Freephone Number 1800 140 976

The Bracklyn Wind Farm development team is continuing to offer telephone consultation calls. Anyone with questions about the proposals can call the freephone number 1800 140 976, to schedule a time for a follow up call.

The development team is also preparing to resume limited face-to-face consultation sessions, by appointment only, from Wednesday 15th July, in line with continuing social distancing measures and the most up-to-date government and public health advice.

Local consultation clinics are scheduled to take place throughout the month of July at the following locations:

- Wednesday 15th July at Bracklyn House (Midday until 8 pm.)
- Thursday 16th July at Bracklyn House (Midday until 8 pm.)
- Monday 27th July at Delvin Community Hall (Midday until 8 pm.)



Galetech Energy Developments are committed to safe and proactive engagement with members of the public and will be introducing the following strict social distancing measures to facilitate community consultation during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic:

- Anyone wishing to contact the project team should telephone the freephone number 1800 140 976 to request a call back or book a face-to-face
 appointment, stating their preferred time and venue.
- · Appointments are for individuals or members of the same household only.
- Dividers will be in place, hand sanitiser and face masks (optional) will be provided and surfaces will be wiped down after each appointment.
- Attendees will be asked to arrive no earlier than five minutes before their scheduled appointment.
- The Bracklyn wind farm project team will continue to post development updates on the project website at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

A spokesperson for the Bracklyn wind farm project said, "The safety of residents, staff at our clinic locations and the development team is a priority during this consultation process, while also ensuring we have the opportunity to engage with all local stakeholders. We will therefore continue to follow government guidance and we recommend that local people consult our project website and use the freephone number to contact us with their questions.

"While we encourage people to keep using the services we have in place, we are also preparing to facilitate limited and safe face-to-face meetings to ensure every means is available to the public to engage with the development team."

RADIO ADVERT WORDING - JULY 2020

My name is Deirdre and this is a message on Behalf of Galetech Energy
Developments about our proposed Bracklyn wind farm in Bracklin, Co.Westmeath.

We are now happy to provide consultation Clinics by appointment on Bracklyn Estate and in Delvin Hall starting from 15th July

Strict Social distancing & health & Safety government guidelines will be in place .

We will be on hand to answer your questions and share our most up to date information. Please contact us on 1800 140 976, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm to make your appointment. That's 1800 140 976

Regular updates will also be available on our website https://www.bracklynwindfarm.ie/

We are here to answer your questions.

Link to advert:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ads8nvf5zdkdt4b/Galetech%20-%20Bracklyn%20Clinic%20Radio%20advert%20July%202020Info%20.mp3?dl=0



for all your engagement with us to date.

We are now happy to be in a position to start providing three drop in Clinic opportunities for you by appointment at two locations.

Wednesday 15th July 2020 between 12 and 8 pm

- Bracklyn Estate Consultation Office N91AFH2.

Thursday 16th July 2020 between 12 and 8pm - Bracklyn Estate Consultation Office N91AFH2.

Monday 27th July 2020 between 12 noon and 8pm

- St. Patricks Hall, Main Street. Delvin, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91X449.

Please book your appointment location choice and time by ringing Freephone 1800140976



Bracklyn Wind Farm Project team are very grateful for all your engagement with us to date.

We are happy to provide drop in clinic opportunties for you by appointment as follows:

Monday 27th July 2020

Between 12 noon and 8pm - St. Patricks Hall,

Main Street. Delvin, Mullingar,

Co. Westmeath, N91X449.

Book you appointment time by ringing freephone number 1800140976











Bracklyn Wind Farm Consultation

Galetech Energy Services are urging people to come and meet their project team to discuss early stage proposals for the Bracklyn Wind Farm development.

Our next public consultation day is in St. Patrick's Community Hall, Delvin on Monday 27th July and we would love to meet any local residents who have queries, interests or concerns around our proposals. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we cannot facilitate groups so **please contact** 1800140976 to arrange a personal appointment with us on the day.

It is very important that we hear what local people have to say on the project and their input is most valuable. We also want to hear from you what you feel this proposed wind farm project should be able to do for you in respect of community funding that will greatly benefit the area as Add A Notice a whole.

We look forward to meeting you and should you have any queries regarding the development in the meantime you are most welcome to contact us to arrange for a personal meeting or any information that you may require about the project.

Further information at https://www.bracklynwindfarm.ie



EVENT CALENDAR						
<<	Jul 2020					>>
М	Т	W	Т	F	S	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

WEATHER

Delvin Westmeath Ireland

RAIN

17°C

wind speed: 11 km/h S wind gusts: 22 km/h sunrise: 5:31 am

NOTICEBOARD

- After-school Childminder Available
- · Babysitter/childminder





Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd. Clondargan Stradone Co. Cavan H12NV06 1/7/2020

Bracklyn Wind Farm Ltd.
Tel: Freephone 1800140976
Email: clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie
Web: www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

Community Consultation Clinics for Proposed Bracklyn Wind Farm

Dear Householder,

Bracklyn Wind Farm Project team are very grateful for all your engagement with us to date through our **freephone number**:**1800140976** as well as returning your questions and comments in our freepost envelopes to our address above in relation to our previous correspondence including our initial site layout draft plan and information flyer. We are now happy to be in a position to start providing three drop in Clinic opportunities for you **by appointment** at two locations.**Please book your appointment location choice and time by ringing Freephone 1800140976.**

Wednesday 15th July 2020 between 12 and 8 pm – Bracklyn Estate Consultation Office N91AFH2. Thursday 16th July 2020 between 12 and 8 pm - Bracklyn Estate Consultation Office N91AFH2.

Monday 27th July 2020 between 12 noon and 8pm – St. Patricks Hall, Main Street. Delvin, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, N91X449.

We will be on hand to answer your questions and share our most up to date information at this very early design stage and we are appealing to local residents to have their say so as to maximise the project benefits for the neighbouring community in the future.

We have recently erected our 80 meter high temporary guyed anemometer mast on the proposed site to collect wind speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity and air pressure which we will use to predict and analyse the energy that the wind farm can produce on the site .All of this information as well as our ongoing surveying ,environmental impact accessments and ecologist reports will ensure that any potential impacts on wildlife and the environment are fully mitigated in our final design proposal which will be updated and also shared on our website www.bracklynwindfarm.ie.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any further queries you may have and hopefully meet you all at our upcoming clinics. To book your appointment please ring our freephone:1800140976. We enclose our latest A4 brochure with the most up to date information data on the project for your information which will also be posted on our website.

Additional clinics will be arranged if required . their will be sanatiser and face masks provided at each venue and social distancing measures will be strictly adhered to. Entrance to the Bracklyn Estate Consultation Office Clinics on the 15th & 16th July 2020 will be signed via the main Estate entrance.

Yours faithfully	
Malachy Magee Community Liaison Officer	Deirdre Keegan Community Liaison Officer

Bracklyn Wind Farm Face-to-face consultation by appointment

Irish wind farm developer Galetech Energy Developments (GED) have announced they will be holding consultation clinics by appointment at their <u>Bracklyn</u> Estate consultation office starting Wednesday 15th July at 12 noon with regard to their proposed <u>Bracklyn</u> Wind <u>Farm</u> development.

Their plans will also be available to view online at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie and residents living within a 2km radius of the proposed site in the townland of Bracklin, will receive further details of the development in the post.

The Bracklyn Wind Farm development team is continuing to offer telephone consultation calls. Anyone with questions about the proposals can call the freephone number 1800140976, to schedule a time for a follow up call or to book their appointment for one of the consultation clinics. All the clinics will observe social distancing measures and will adhere to the most up-to-date government and public health advice which will be explained to the public on confirmation of appointments.

Local consultation clinics are scheduled to take place throughout the month of July at the following locations:

Wednesday15th July at <u>Bracklyn</u> Estate, Consultation Office N91AFH2 from 12- 8 pm. Thursday 16th July at <u>Bracklyn</u> Estate, Consultation Office N91AFH2 from 12- 8 pm. Monday 27th July at St. Patricks Hall, Main St, Delvin N91X<u>449 from</u> 12-8 pm.

Galetech are committed to safe and proactive engagement with members of the public and will be introducing the following strict social distancing measures to facilitate community consultation during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic:

- Anyone wishing to contact the project team should telephone the freephone number 1800140976 to request a call back or book a face-to-face appointment, stating their preferred time and venue.
- · Appointments are for individuals or members of the same household only.
- Dividers will be in <u>place</u>, hand sanitiser and face masks (optional) will be provided and surfaces will be wiped down after each appointment.
- Attendees will be asked to arrive no earlier than five minutes before their scheduled appointment.
- The <u>Bracklyn</u> Wind Farm project team will continue to post development updates on the project website at <u>www.bracklynwindfarm.ie</u>

A spokesperson for <u>Bracklyn</u> Wind Farm project said, "The safety of residents, staff at our clinic locations and the development team is a priority during this consultation process, while also ensuring we have the opportunity to engage with all local stakeholders. We will therefore continue to follow government guidance and we recommend that local people consult our project website and use the freephone number to contact us with their questions.

"While we encourage people to keep using the services we have in place, we are also preparing to facilitate limited and safe face-to-face meetings to ensure every means is available to the public to engage with the development team."

The <u>Bracklyn</u> Wind energy development will potentially consist of up to 11 turbines with a typical output of up to 6MW per turbine - capable of generating enough green energy to power nearly 46,900 Irish homes.

It is estimated that up to 100 jobs will be created during construction.

The Bracklyn Wind Farm will also provide a substantial community benefit fund to help support local community projects, taking account of local needs.

GED is part of the wider Galetech Energy Group, based in Co. Cavan, with branches across the island of Ireland. The Group specialises in development, planning, construction, operation and maintenance of renewable energy projects in Ireland and currently employs over 100 people and operates over 350 wind turbines.

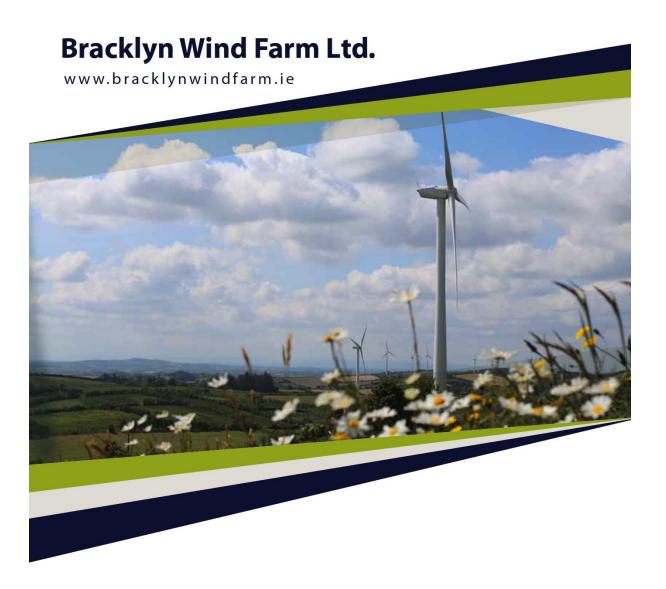
ENDS

Notes to Editors

Contact
Deirdre Keegan
Community Liaison Officer
Bracklyn Wind Farm
090 6643014
087 1163978

About Galetech Energy Developments

Galetech Energy Developments is part of the wider Galetech Energy Group, based in Co. Cavan, with branches across the island of Ireland. The Group specialises in development, planning, construction, operation and maintenance of renewable energy projects in Ireland and currently employs over 100 people and operates over 350 wind turbines.



Appendix 6 – Covid 19 Checklist

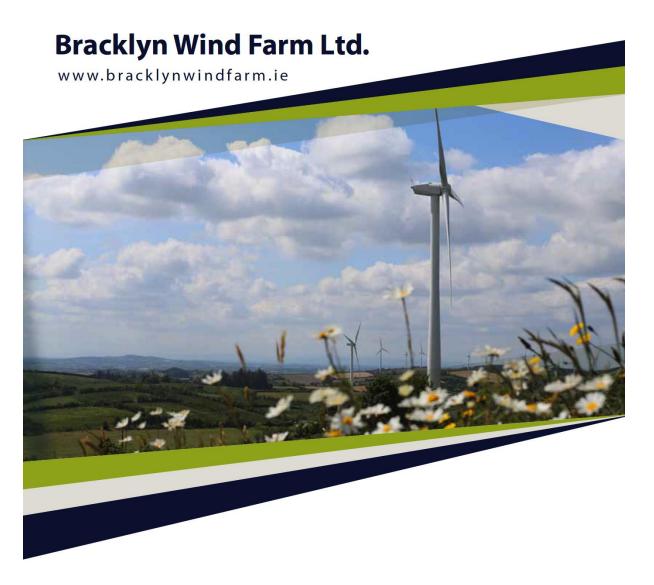
Questions before the clinic appointment can be confirmed: (To be answered by you and person attending the clinic with you)

- Have you returned to Ireland from any other country (other than Northern Ireland) in the past 14 days?
- · Are you a close contact of a confirmed or suspected case in Ireland?
- Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms: cough; shortness of breath; breathing difficulties; high temperature?
- Are you in a high risk bracket? (le pregnant, over 70, organ transplant, currently having chemo/radiation, steroids taking, lung condition) – if so we can schedule an appointment when all COVID restrictions end
- · Appointment must be made via freephone number before coming to clinic
- No children to attend clinics
- Name, address, phone number and Eircode supplied for identification purposes
- Arrive at gate (for Bracklyn, it will be open)
- · Drive up and park
- 40 minute time slots, we can do more slots if necessary 5 minutes clean down
- We will call you to come in
- All areas to be sanitised before entry and after exit (i.e., door handles, frames, glass Perspex, seats
- Perspex between attendee and staff member
- Yellow 2m signage on doors and markings on floors
- · Hand sanitising station at the door
- Masks to be worn where necessary (less than 2m)
- · Safety face shield worn where necessary
- 2 meters distance between all members of staff as well as members of the public at all times
- If you are sick, running a temperature or have a cough or shortness of breath, please
 do not attend your appointment we will accommodate you at a later stage outside
 clinic times if needs be
- Covid information course completed by all staff
- · Yellow tape on the floor for distance rules



Screens:





Appendix 7 – Letter update & Map Update



Bracklyn Windfarm Ltd. Clondargan Stradone Co. Cavan H12NV06

Bracklyn Windfarm

Tel: Freephone 1800140976 Email: clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie Web: www.bracklynwindfarm.ie

30.10.2020

Dear Householder,

Community Consultation update for proposed Bracklyn Windfarm

As you already know, Galetech Energy Developments, in connection with General Electric and Storm, are developing plans for a proposed wind farm in the townland of Bracklin, <u>Co.Westmeath</u>. The new Windfarm development proposal will consist of 9 Turbines with a typical output of up to 6 megawatts per turbine. An 80m met mast is installed on the Bracklyn Estate.

The Bracklyn wind farm liaison team sent letters in June 2020 and held productive clinics both on Brackyn Estate and in Delvin Hall in July 2020. The community liaison officer, Deirdre Keegan, recommenced door to door visits in September 2020. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Level 5 restrictions, we now have to postpone these door to door visits until restriction of movement has ended.

We are committed to keeping the communities we engage in safe.

As a result, the **Bracklyn Windfarm** project team is exploring every opportunity at this early design stage to continue with its engagement with the local community by providing information and answering questions using freephone and online services.

- We have a freephone number 1800 140 976, which you can dial free of charge to request a call back from the project team.
- We will post regular updates on our project website at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie
- Face to face meetings, post level 5 restrictions are now available to book at a time and date convenient to you. Please call 1800 140 976 to organise.
- We have included an updated draft map for your viewing

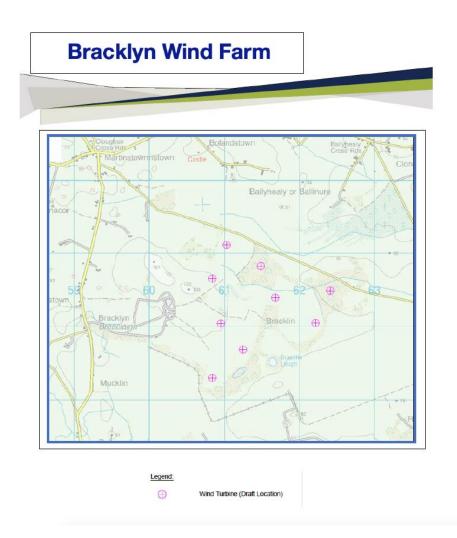
Bracklyn Windfarm will play its part in assisting in Ireland's commitment to increase its renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period, with the Government pledging to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 forming part of the new climate action plan.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any queries you may have and hopefully meet those that did not get a door to door call in the near future when the government guidelines on restriction of movement is over.

Yours faithfully,

Devolve Kalegon

Deirdre Keegan Community Liaison Officer Bracklyn Windfarm Project Team





Bracklyn Windfarm Reduced from 11 turbine project to 9

Galetech Energy Developments, in connection with General Electric and Storm, are developing plans for a proposed windfarm in the townland of Bracklin, Co. Westmeath. The new Windfarm development proposal will consist of 9 Turbines with a typical output of up to 6 megawatts per turbine.

A spokesperson for Galetech has stated: "Due to some contributing factors such as environment, ground surveys and feedback from local residents, we have decided to remove 2 of the turbines from the original draft layout. We are still assessing further and a more definite turbine location will be available in the coming months."

Continuing Consultation:

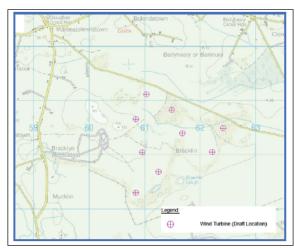
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We are committed to keeping the communities we engage in safe.
As a result, the Bracklyn Windfarm project

As a result, the Bracklyn Windfarm project team is exploring every opportunity at this early design stage to continue with its engagement with the local community by providing information and answering questions using freephone and online services

- We have a freephone number 1800 140 976, which you can dial free of charge to request a call back from the project team
- We will post regular updates on our project website at www.bracklynwindfarm.ie
- Face to face meetings, post level 5 restrictions are now available to book at a time and date convenient to you. Please call 1800 140 976 to organise
- Email clo@bracklynwindfarm.ie with any queries or comments regarding the progress of the proposed wind farm

A spokesperson for the Bracklyn Windfarm development has stated "We are continuing to engage with the local residents, community groups and representatives on this proposed project. Covid has restricted movement where door to door is concerned, however we are available to contact through other channels and will endeavour to ensure the information regarding the project is available and the lines of communication



are well and truly open."

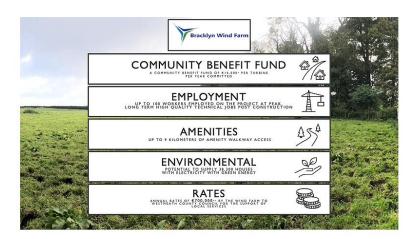
Bracklyn Windfarm will play its part in assisting in Ireland's commitment to increase its renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period, with the Government pledging to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 forming part of the new climate action plan.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any queries you may have.



Appendix 8 – Community Benefits

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUNDS

As part of Bracklyn Wind farm we are engaging with local groups, committees, voluntary organisations and not for profit organisations in the allocation of funding*. To register your interest in these funds please fill out our contact form $\underline{\text{here.}}$

^{*}Further details to follow on community investment opportunities once the Dept. Communication, Climate Action and the Environment(DCCAE) issue new Renewable Energy Support Scheme(RESS)

^{°€16,000} per turbine per year minimum °°Rates of €700,00 based on €15,000 €21,000 per MWh, per year once development is operational. Subject to change

Appendix 9 – Local Community Maps

