



APPENDIX 2-3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



APPENDIX 2-3 Community Report

Client: **Buirios Ltd.**

Project Title: **Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development Community Engagement Report**

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1.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to record the consultation carried out with the local community in respect of the proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development. Buirios Ltd, is an associate company of Enerco Energy, which has been created exclusively for the Proposed Project. Enerco Energy Ltd. has led the community consultation process in relation to the Proposed Project with local residents and interested parties in the wider community. The objective of the consultations was to ensure that the views and concerns of all were considered as part of the Proposed Project design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The Proposed Project has the potential to have significant benefits for the local economy, by means of job creation, landowner payments and commercial rate payments. An important part of any renewable energy development, which the Applicant has been at the forefront of developing, is its Community Benefit Package. The concept of directing benefits from wind farms to the local community is promoted by the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) among others. While it may be simpler and easier to put a total fund aside for a wider community area, Buirios Ltd. is endeavouring to develop new ways to direct increased gain towards the local community with particular focus on those living closest to the Proposed Project.

The 2006 WEDGs 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”.

This was further addressed in the Preferred Draft Approach to Wind Energy Development in Ireland¹ (June 2017) which stated the following with respect to planning applications for wind farms:

“Planning applications must contain a Community Report prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned”.

The 2019 draft WEDGs has retained this position stating the following:

“In order to promote the observance of best practice, planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application and a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report”.

This report outlines the consultation and community engagement initiatives undertaken by the Applicant prior to the submission of the planning application. It also outlines the main issues identified during this process, how the final proposal reflects community consultation and the steps taken to ensure that the Proposed Project will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.

¹ The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Information Note Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 “Preferred Draft Approach”, 2017, p.8

2. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

2.1 Notification of the Local Community

To inform local residents about the Proposed Project, a project Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed and a letter of introduction was sent to all householders within a c.2km radius of the area of the Site with potential for wind turbine development, in June 2021. As Covid-19 restrictions were in place at the time, it was not feasible to call to discuss proposals in person as would ordinarily be the case. The information distributed to each household consisted of:

- A company brochure, which provided an overview on Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy;
- A map highlighting the potential developable area which was under review at that time;
- Dedicated contact details (name, phone and email) for the community liaison officer (CLO) in relation to the project, along with a web address for the dedicated project website.
- All of the information sent to the local community was also made available for public viewing on the project information website.

The community consultation effort was led by Enerco Energy Ltd on behalf of Buirios Ltd. which is a project specific company.

2.1.1 Community Interactions

Following the initial notification of the proposal to the local community, the CLO liaised with interested parties in helping them to understand the proposal and respond to any queries or concerns raised. As the Covid-19 situation eased and more project information became available, further consultations were organised, with the CLO attending in-person meetings with individuals to answer queries relating to the Proposed Project.

The following paragraphs provide an outline of the consultation effort, with further detail provided in the following sections below:

In August 2022 an updated information pack on the project was circulated. This included a letter and a biodiversity brochure which was circulated to the original mailing list, updated accordingly following the initial consultation with the community, and updated throughout the entire consultation period. Details of a change in CLO were provided, including updated contact details for anyone wishing to get in touch. At this stage the CLO also offered face-to-face meetings to discuss the proposal with any interested parties.

In March 2023, an information update was circulated to the original mailing list, this included a letter accompanied by a draft 10 no. wind turbine layout.

In May 2023 correspondence was circulated, notifying the community about the dates and times of the first Public Information Exhibition to be held June 01st, in the Templemore Arms Hotel.

In September 2023 correspondence was circulated, notifying the community about the dates and times of the second Public Information Exhibition to be held October 12th, in the Templemore Arms Hotel.

Throughout the lengthy consultation period the CLO has continued to liaise with any interested parties and answer any questions as promptly as possible. A further round of correspondence will be issued to the usual mailing list informing them about the imminent planning application and reminding them that the CLO continues to be available to address any concerns throughout the application process. This correspondence will be issued in the week prior to lodging the planning application.

2.1.1.1 June 2021

The first round of consultation was carried out by the appointed CLO to houses identified within c.2km of the area of the Site with potential for wind turbine development. Introductions were made and an information pack was given to the householders which contained a brochure with some information on Enerco Energy and some general information about wind, along with a map highlighting the area with the potential for wind development and a letter.

This was an opportunity to further check on the validity of the sensitive receptors that had previously been identified, with a few new ones added and others marked as derelict properties.

The information pack was left in the post box with the CLO's contact details inside. A number of calls were received by the CLO from householders and many queries were answered over the phone. Meetings were arranged for dates and times that suited those residents, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, some of which wished for other family members to be present for the discussion.

2.1.1.2 August 2022

A second round of consultation was carried out with an information pack sent to all households within c.2km of the area of the Site with potential for wind turbine development. The pack included a biodiversity brochure and a letter. The biodiversity brochure provided the householders with some findings from the ecological surveys which had been carried out along with some of the species of interest identified on the site. The opportunity was also taken to introduce a change in project CLO, and updated contact details were provided also.

This round of consultation provided a good opportunity for the new CLO to familiarize themselves with the interested parties in the local community.

2.1.1.3 March 2023

This was the third round of dedicated consultation carried out by the project CLO. This involved providing the usual mailing list with a draft wind turbine layout in relation to their properties. The turbine layout presented in March 2023 included the provision of 10 no. wind turbines. The correspondence outlined that surveys were on-going at the site and the results of these surveys and other factors could result in that draft layout being amended.

A number of phone calls were received and overall, the general sentiment was positive towards the Proposed Project. People were grateful for the continued consultation and for the general flow of information. General queries related to turbine heights, noise levels, over-headlines and the potential impacts of construction traffic and information was provided by the CLO addressing all queries raised. As turbine dimensions had yet to be finalised, residents were informed that this detail would come at a later stage.

2.1.2 Public Information Exhibition

Two Public Information Exhibitions were held in June and October 2023, as follows:

- Templemore Arms Hotel, Templemore (01/06/2023) (approx. 35 attendees)
- Templemore Arms Hotel, Templemore (12/10/2023) (approx. 40 attendees)

The Public Information Exhibitions were attended primarily by people who live in the locality of the Proposed Wind Farm. The exhibitions comprised several graphic and information boards positioned for the public to read. Members of the project team including the prospective Applicant were on hand to answer any queries and discuss the project detail. The information set out included:

- Detail on the wind farm and grid connection sites
- Consultation undertaken
- Application process

- > Site constraints
- > Development design
- > The chapters to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- > Environmental benefits
- > Community benefits
- > Next steps and how to get in touch
- > Selection of photomontages

Members of the public were invited to submit comment, concerns, and opinions regarding the Proposed Project through a feedback form at the event. The project website address, www.borrisbeginfo.com, and the contact details of CLO were on display for the attendees.

All information that was displayed at the Public Information Exhibitions was made publicly available for interested parties to view in their own time, and the website includes a contact page which facilitates any feedback or queries from the community.

The main queries raised during the Public Information Exhibitions, were:

1. Proximity of houses;
2. Community Gain Scheme;
3. Number of turbines;
4. Near Neighbour benefit Scheme;
5. Noise and Vibration;
6. Height of turbines;
7. Visual Impact;
8. Wind Farm Amenities; and
9. Impact on Biodiversity.
10. Geological Impacts;
11. Shadow flicker;
12. Traffic management
13. Impact on flood patterns

Following the Public Information Exhibitions, the CLO followed up with any queries raised at the events. Feedback received at and since the public information evenings has been noted by the CLO and relayed to the design team. The feedback has continued to inform all refinements to the project design and all concerns have been fully addressed in the EIAR and NIS that accompany this planning application.

2.2 Dedicated Contact Details

Since the project was first announced in June 2021, dedicated contact details for the Proposed Project have been provided to the community, including a dedicated phone number and email address. To date, these channels have facilitated several enquiries about the Proposed Project.

2.3 Project Website

In June 2021, a dedicated project website was launched, www.borrisbeginfo.com. The website is an additional communication channel to keep members of the public informed about the Proposed Project. All information that was made available to the community has been uploaded to the website throughout the consultation period.

Following subsequent site layout amendments, the information hosted on the website was updated in line with the various rounds of consultation. This allowed members of the public to access the latest information. It is intended to continue to update the website as any new information becomes available.

2.4 Community Liaison Officer

In February 2021, a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed for the Proposed Project to facilitate on the ground engagement with the local community. As part of this consultation, the CLO introduced the Proposed Project to the local community in June 2021, as outlined in detail above. In correspondence of August 2022, the community were informed of a change in CLO. Throughout the community consultation process a CLO has remained available to liaise with all interested parties in the community to address any concerns raised. To date, having a single point of contact for the community has proved successful in addressing any concerns raised. The CLO will continue to be available to address any queries or concerns that may be raised by the community in relation to the Proposed Project.

3. **ENDURING ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

3.1 **Economic Benefits – Community Benefit Fund**

Throughout the public consultation process, residents were informed about the availability of a community benefit fund, in the event of a grant of planning for the Proposed Project. Details of how other communities had utilised this fund on similar projects were given, to help provide a loose framework of what it could be used for. It was highlighted that this fund could be used, for example, as funding for a range of youth, sport and community facilities, schools, educational and training initiatives, and wider amenity, heritage, and environmental projects.

Initial local suggestions for use of the fund included grants for the local JK Brackens GAA club, Clonmore National School, local enterprise schemes, riparian planting of native species, energy retro-fitting of houses (PV, Heat Pumps, Triple Glazing etc.) and contributions to electrical bills.

3.2 **Short Term Economic Benefits**

During the construction phase, it is estimated that at peak construction approximately 100 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect of the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. While at a regional level additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials (such as stone and concrete) to the Proposed Project.

Additionally, the payment of a development contribution to Tipperary County Council in respect of public infrastructure and facilities will potentially provide benefits to the local community through schemes such as the refurbishment, upgrading or replacement of roads, car parks and car parking places; sewers and wastewater facilities, drains or water mains; provision of open spaces/parks, community facilities, amenities and landscaping works etc.

3.3 **Long Term Economic Benefits**

The Proposed Project will provide many long-term economic benefits to the communities in the surrounding areas, as outlined in the following sections.

3.3.1 **Employment**

It is estimated that approximately 100 jobs will be created during the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the Proposed Project.

3.3.2 **Rates**

Annual rates paid by the Proposed Project to Tipperary County Council will potentially support the provision of local services.

3.3.3 Community Benefit Fund

Based on the current Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) guidelines it is expected that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the first 15 years of operation of the Proposed Project. If this commitment is changed in upcoming Government Policy, the fund would be adjusted accordingly.

Should the Proposed Project be developed under the current RESS T&C's, as a 63MW development it would attract a community contribution in the region of almost €400,000/year for the local community (estimated based on an average energy yield). The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under the current RESS T&Cs, the following is the recommended breakdown of the fund:

- **Direct payments** - to those living closest to the Proposed Wind Farm. A minimum €1,000 payment per annum for houses within 1km of the Proposed Project.
- **Support for local groups** - A minimum of 40% per year would be available for local groups, clubs and not for profit organisations that provide services in the local area. This would include services for the elderly, local community buildings, and the development of sporting facilities such as all-weather playing pitches etc.
- **Administration costs** - a maximum of 10% per year will be made available for the administration and governance costs of the fund.
- **Energy Efficiency** - The remaining balance of this community benefit fund would be available for the development of energy initiatives to benefit people living in the local area. This is to be provided to not-for-profit community enterprises each year.

The Community Benefit Fund belongs to the local community. The premise of the fund is that it should be used to bring about, significant, positive change in the local area. To make this happen, the first task will be to form a benefit fund development working group that clearly represents both the close neighbours to the project as well as nearby communities. The group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund.

Should the Proposed Project not be developed under RESS, the Applicant is committing that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €1 into a community fund for the entire operational life of the Proposed Project. This would equate to an estimated annual fund of almost €200,000 (using the same formula as above), which across the 30-year operational lifespan would result in funding in the order of €6 million to the local community which is a substantial contribution.

The number and size of grant allocations will be decided by a Community Fund liaison committee with various groups and projects benefiting to varying degrees depending on their funding requirement.

4. CONCLUSION

Active engagement and consultation with the local community has taken place from an early stage during the pre-application phase of the Proposed 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 shaped the final project proposal. There is currently on-going consultation with the local community, and it is the intention of the applicant to continue with the consultation for the entire lifespan of the Proposed Project.

The development of the proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Project as outlined in Chapter 2 of the EIAR, through the potential community benefit package for residents and community groups, employment during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project and through the annual rates payable to the local authority.



APPENDIX 2.3.1

JUNE 2021 - INFORMATION



30th June 2021

Proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing as a representative of Enerco Energy, an Irish-owned renewable energy developer, based in Lissarda, near Macroom Co. Cork. We are exploring the potential of a renewable energy development in the area of Borrisbeg and adjacent townlands, which we have identified as being a potentially suitable location for a development of up to 10 no. wind turbines.

We are making initial contact with all dwellings identified within approximately 2km of the proposed site. This letter is intended to inform you about the proposed project and introduce you to the company. Ordinarily, this initial introduction would be completed by way of calling to you in person, however, to ensure we engage with people in a safe and compliant manner, we have opted to write to you first. It is intended to continue this approach in the short-term and we hope that it will evolve to safely meeting with the community in person in accordance with public health guidance.

Along with this letter, you will also find a map and leaflet enclosed. The map illustrates the area which has been identified as being potentially developable, while the leaflet provides an overview on Enerco Energy, with some general information about wind energy. Furthermore, a dedicated project website has been set up to inform the wider community about the proposed renewable energy development. (www.borrisbeginfo.com). The website provides an overview of the proposed project including a copy of this correspondence and it will be updated with further information as the project progresses.

I look forward to a return to normality when I can call to meet you in person, but in the meantime, I am available if you wish to contact me with any queries that you may have, either through the contact form on the website, or by the phone or email details listed below.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Stakelum

Enerco Energy Ltd
aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com
086 1427399

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. 1. Why are the turbines so big?**
- A. Larger turbines maximise the amount of electricity produced from the clean renewable source. Wind energy is key to the Government's Climate Action Plan. The proposed height of the turbines is standard for modern wind turbines, and similar turbines have already been granted planning permission throughout the Country. The landscape and visual impact will be assessed for the project which will involve generating photomontages of the proposed development.
- Q. 2. Are wind turbines noisy?**
- A. Wind turbines do emit noise. However, as the distance from the turbine increases, the noise reduces. The planning application will be accompanied by an EIAR, which will assess the potential impact associated with noise emanating from the proposed development, to ensure that the development can operate in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.
- Q. 3. What is shadow flicker?**
- A. Shadow flicker occurs where the turbine blades cast a shadow over a window in a nearby house and the rotating blades causes the light within the room to flick on and off. This effect lasts only for a short period of time until the sun passes beyond the turbines. Detailed shadow flicker calculations will be carried out for all houses around the site to ensure the guidelines are not exceeded.
- Q. 4. Does the community benefit from the wind farm?**
- A. During construction phase there will be employment opportunities for local contractors and machinery operators and indirect benefits for local shops, B&B's and hotels. A community benefit scheme will be set up to provide yearly funding for community and volunteer groups in the locality of the wind farm.
- Q. 5. Can the land around the wind farm be used for farming?**
- A. The wind farm infrastructure takes up relatively little ground. The surrounding land can continue to be used for farming as normal.
- Q. 6. What carbon dioxide savings from wind farms?**
- A. Using the wind resource to produce Ireland's electricity reduces our need to burn fossil fuels such as coal or gas. In 2018, Irish wind energy led to avoiding 3.15 Million tonnes of carbon emissions. Producing our own electricity helps to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuels. €432 million was saved on fossil fuel imports in 2018 due to wind energy**
- Q. 7. Who can I contact?**
- A. Enerco Offices: +353 (0) 217336034
Aidan Stakelum Mob: +353 (0) 861427399 aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com
We would like to hear any comments or queries you may have

** Energy-Related CO2 Emissions in Ireland Report 2005-2018 (SEAI, 2020)

29-04-2021

Renewable Energy Project Wind Information Leaflet

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Who We Are Enerco Energy

Enerco Energy, based near Macroom, Co.Cork is a 100% Irish owned leading renewable energy company, with the capability to develop, construct and operate projects that contribute towards our goal of creating a sustainable future.

The company's core activity includes the development and operation of medium to large scale wind farms. Enerco also works in other renewable sectors such as solar and battery storage.



To date Enerco has installed a generating capacity of approx. 624 MW, with 195 MW under construction and a further 400 MW in the planning process or already permitted.

Climate Action Plan 2019

Introduction

In August 2019 the Irish government published the Climate Action Plan to build net zero carbon energy systems and create a sustainable country. The principles of the action plan are as follows:

Current situation

- Ireland will miss the target set for 2013-2020 of reducing emissions by 20% (relative to 2005 Levels) by one eighth and more worrying it is expected that recent growth in emissions will put the country on a trajectory to be 25% off target for the 2021-2030 period.

Targets for 2030 and beyond

- Increase percentage of electricity generated from renewables from 30% to 70% by 2030.
- Establish a trajectory which leads to Ireland being net zero carbon by 2050.

Road map to achieve Targets

To meet the required level of emissions reduction by 2030 the Climate Action Plans includes:

- Adding 8.2 gigawatts of onshore wind.
- 100% of new cars and vans to be electric (EV) by 2030.
- 30% Green House Gas reduction
- Ending coal burning in ESB's Moneypoint by 2025 and Bord na Mona transitioning away from peat by 2028.

Source: Climate Action Plan 2019 (01/08/2019)

Wind in Ireland

Ireland has over 300 wind farms with a total installed capacity of 4,235 MW. In 2020, wind energy generated 36.3% of the total electricity consumed in Ireland.

Source: www.windenergyireland.com

On 18th December 2019, wind energy generated in Ireland produced enough electricity to potentially power over 1.9 million houses, and it accounted for approximately 72% of the electricity demand that day. As more wind farms are being built this record will continue to be broken and wind energy will fulfill more and more of our energy demand.

Source: www.eirgridgroup.com

The SEAI reports that in 2017 alone wind energy cut our carbon dioxide emissions by 2.7 million tonnes saving the Irish economy more than €220 million in fossil fuel imports. Wind energy helps reduce both our reliance on imported fossil fuels and our carbon emissions whilst contributing towards a downward pressure on the price of electricity.

Source: SEAI - Renewable Energy in Ireland 2019 (01/2019)

Solar in Ireland

Solar energy currently has low penetration in Ireland, this contrasts with other Northern European countries such as Germany and the UK, which have successfully deployed solar power at a rapid pace over the last decade. Solar has become a much more viable energy source, thanks to both the consistently falling costs and the increasing generational capacities of solar modules.

What is an EIAR?

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is a document that describes the proposed development and all issues relating to the potential impact of the proposed wind farm on the environment.

Each wind farm project undergoes a rigorous environmental impact assessment by the planning authority and/or An Bord Pleanála, prior to being granted planning permission. An EIAR is prepared and forms part of the planning permission application to be submitted to the Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála as appropriate.

The EIAR usually includes detailed information on impacts relating to the following topics:

1. Introduction to the Project
2. Background to the Proposed Development
3. Site Selection and Alternatives
4. Description of the Proposed Development
5. Human Beings, Population & Human Health including Shadow Flicker
6. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
7. Land, Soils, Geology and Peat Stability
8. Water – Surface Water & Groundwater
9. Air and Climate
10. Noise and Vibration
11. Landscape and Visual
12. Cultural Heritage
13. Material Assists, including Traffic and Telecommunications
14. Interaction of Impacts



Knocknagoum Wind Farm 44.5MW

Wind Resource in Ireland

Wind Energy is one of Ireland's greatest natural resources. Modern wind farms use this natural resource to produce energy to power homes and industries throughout Ireland. Ireland has one of the best wind resources in Europe.

How Wind Turbines Work

When the wind speed rises above 4 metres per second (a gentle breeze) the turbine turns into the wind and the rotor begins to rotate. This causes a shaft inside the rotor to rotate. This shaft is often attached via a gearbox to a generator or may be gearless. The rotation of the generator generates electricity in much the same way as a bicycle dynamo works. The electricity is carried via cables down the turbine tower, and out into the local electricity grid to power homes and industry throughout Ireland.

Environmental Benefits

A wind farm generates clean, renewable, carbon neutral electricity. Every megawatt it generates is the equivalent of powering approximately 650 homes for a year.

Knocknagoum Wind Farm

Knocknagoum Wind Farm generates enough power to supply approximately 28,000 homes every year. Every watt of electricity generated at the wind farm will replace the same amount that would have been generated by burning coal or gas. A wind farm will emit no toxic substances or air pollutants, unlike coal or gas power stations. The carbon emissions created during the construction of the wind farm and the manufacturing of the turbines etc. will typically be offset in the electricity generated by the wind farm in the first 1-2 years of operation, therefore the wind farm generates carbon neutral power for the remaining 23-28 years of the project (Modern turbines typically have a lifespan of 25-30 years).

Economic Benefits

Wind farm developments have a number of long-term and short-term benefits for the local economy. The developments can represent an investment of several million euro in the locality of the development, with a large percentage of the total cost relating to on-site works, which would be relying heavily on local contractors and suppliers. The project will create many local jobs during the construction stage,

which generally lasts in the region of 18 months. The construction phase will see employment opportunities for:

- Local contractors
- Construction plant suppliers
- Machinery operators
- Skilled labourers
- Construction materials suppliers
- Transport companies.

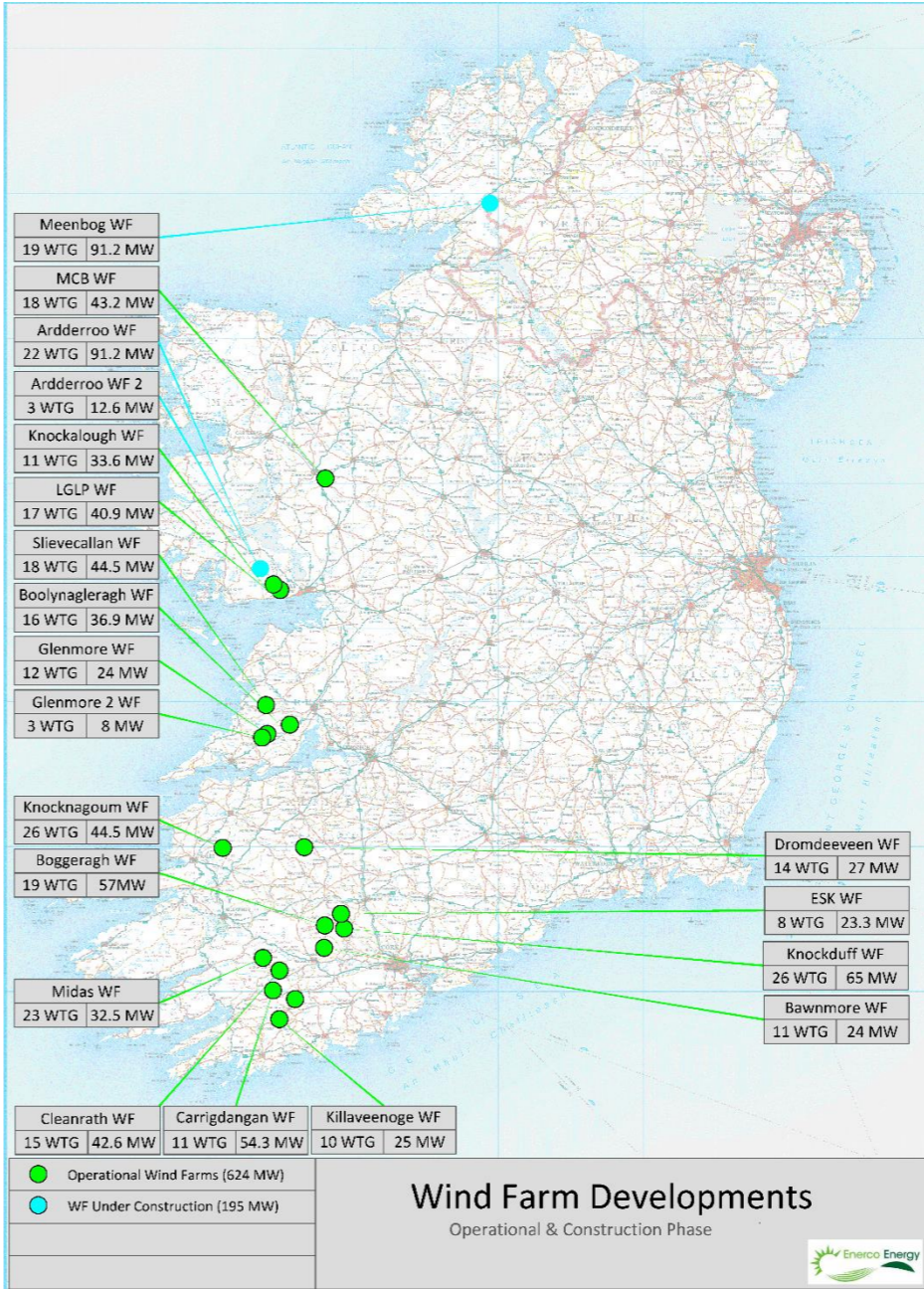
Increased activity in the locality benefits the local hospitality and service sector. Contractors and wind farm employees use shops, restaurants, hotels and B&B's in the wind farm proximity throughout a project lifecycle.

Security of Energy Supply

Ireland imported 66% of its energy requirement in 2017, one of the highest ratios in Europe. The more of its own energy Ireland can produce, the less vulnerable it would be to foreign policy and conflict interrupting gas, oil and electricity supply lines. There is an opportunity to continue developing a strong indigenous wind industry, that will take advantage of Ireland's excellent wind resource, reducing our import dependency.



LGLP Wind Farm 40.9MW



Benefits of Wind Turbines



- Carbon Neutral Electricity
- Low Ecology Impacts
- Income directly into the locality
- Employment Generation
- Boost Local Economy
- Improve local road and power infrastructure
- Low Cost Electricity

Community Involvement

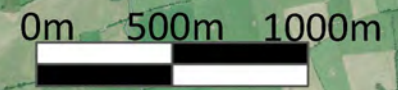
- As a long-term owner, developer and operator of energy assets Enerco Energy Ltd. seeks to be an active partner in the communities in which we develop and operate projects.
- As part of planning a project we like to hear from the community about their vision for its future and how the project might help.
- A community benefit scheme will be made available every year for the operational lifespan of the wind farm.
- "Open up opportunity for community participation in renewable generation and community gain arrangements" is a stated aim of the Climate Action Plan 2019.
- The community benefit scheme will be available to communities and voluntary groups. The benefit will be set out to aid the local community, by supporting projects and the area around the development.
- The community closest to the proposed development will decide how the community benefit scheme is administered and whether the focus is on local groups and clubs, or those living closest to the wind farm.

Borrisbeg - Wind Energy Developable Area for Discussion



Legend:

- Wind Energy Developable Area
- 600m Setback
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location





APPENDIX 2.3.2

AUGUST 2022 - INFORMATION



31st August 2022

RE: Proposed Borrishbeg Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Since our initial correspondence in June 2021, we have continued our consideration of the proposed Borrishbeg site, and it remains viable for potential development. MKO has been appointed as the lead project Planning and Environmental consultant. MKO, a Galway based consultancy with extensive experience in leading environmental assessments for large scale infrastructure projects, will be responsible for the preparation of the planning application for the Proposed Development.

Various surveys continue to be gathered on-site including ornithological, ecological, meteorological, and hydrological, and so you may have noticed some activity in the area. These surveys and others will continue until MKO are confident that sufficient information has been collected to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) that will accompany the planning application.

Please find enclosed a biodiversity brochure, which you may find of interest, presenting some information regarding the biodiversity of the area where the site is located.

In the coming months we intend to present a draft layout of the proposed turbine configuration following feedback from MKO from the on-going surveys. We will write to you again when more information is available and any information in relation to the proposed development that is in circulation will also be publicly available on the project website, www.borrisbeginfo.com.

As you may already know, I took over the role of Community Liaison Officer on this project in August last year. I look forward to continuing to liaise with those that I have already met and to meeting more of the local community as the project progresses. If have you have any queries in relation to this proposal, please feel free to contact me by email at clo@borrisbeginfo.com, by phone at 086-3979248 or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd.

clo@borrisbeginfo.com

086-3979248

Borrisbeg Biodiversity

Borrisbeg is situated within an agricultural grassland landscape with rivers, floodplains and small areas of plantation forestry. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species recorded during ecological surveys of the area.

What is Biodiversity?

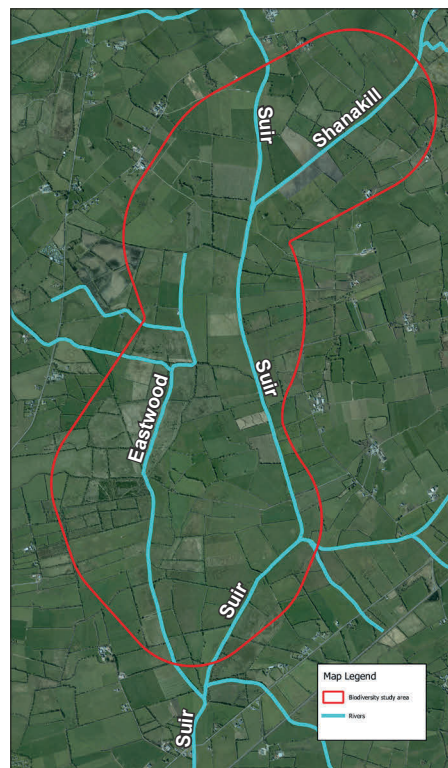
Biodiversity is a term given to the variety of life on earth, including all species and ecosystems.

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys are being undertaken at Borrisbeg by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors. These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area. Species recorded in the study area to date include Badger, Irish Hare and a number of bat and bird species.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.

Habitats

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area. The following habitat types, which may be of interest to the local community, are found within the study area:



Map 1

Watercourses – The site at Borrisbeg is associated with a number of watercourses. The River Suir and tributaries flow southward through the site. This river is known to support a variety of species including Salmon, Brown Trout, Lamprey and Otter amongst others and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation downstream of the site. Aquatic invertebrates such as mayfly play an important role in the food chain for a wide array of faunal species, including fish.

Agricultural grasslands – The grassland habitats on the site comprise mainly improved agricultural grassland as well as wetter grasslands dominated by rushes and Iris close to river margins. Although agricultural grasslands are often of relatively low biodiversity value, they do provide some supporting habitat for foraging fauna such as Badger.

Tree-lines and Hedgerows – The agricultural fields across the site are bounded by a network of tree-lines and hedgerows, often featuring impressive, mature trees such as ash. Other species include hawthorn, hazel and elder. These species provide vital sources of food for insects in spring and summer and berries in autumn for birds and mammals. These linear features provide vital habitat links and shelter for mammals, particularly bats which depend on these features for commuting, foraging and roosting.



Tree-lines and Hedgerows

Conifer forestry – small areas of conifer plantation forestry are present within the site. This habitat is often relatively low in biodiversity value due to the density of trees planted and the monoculture nature of the species composition. Nevertheless, a variety of species can be found utilising its shelter including pine marten, red squirrel and a variety of bird species.

Broadleaved forestry – Small areas of broad-leaved plantations are present within the site and contain a more diverse array of tree species, such as Alder, Birch, and Sessile Oak. These areas provide important areas of shelter for birds and mammal species.



Broadleaved Woodland



Watercourse running through the site

Mammals

A number of mammals including badger and Irish Hare have been recorded in the area. Badgers live in social groups with family members and can live within complex tunnelling systems known as setts. Irish Hare are of a subspecies which is endemic to Ireland and is therefore a particular conservation interest.

There are nine bat species in Ireland, and a number of these species have been recorded foraging within the study area, including Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Myotis species, Brown Long-eared Bat and Leisler's bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle which weighs as little as a €1 coin. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night! Ireland's largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded.



Badger (Credit - Vincent Van Zalinge, Unsplash)



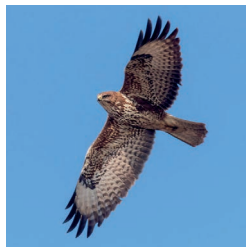
Pipistrelle Bat (Credit - Adobe Stock)

Bird species

A wide variety of common and widespread bird species typical of farmland habitats have been recorded in the study area. Of particular note are Buzzard, Kestrel and Grey Heron. Buzzards are seen and heard soaring above fields. Kestrels are easily distinguished by their trademark hovering behaviour as they search the ground for prey. Grey Heron can be seen perched and slowly wading through watercourses within the study area.



Heron (Credit - Zoltan Tasi Zsgepvackdo, Unsplash)



Buzzard (Credit - Adobe Stock)

Borrisbeg Biodiversity

Information Leaflet

29.08.2022



APPENDIX 2.3.3

MARCH 2023 - INFORMATION



13th March 2023

Proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you today to update you on the proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development. MKO, the project environmental consultants, have continued to carry out various surveys and assessments on the proposed Borrisbeg site. Using the information collected from the site surveys to date, an initial 10 turbine layout has been created. Please find a draft turbine layout map enclosed for your information, your house, HXXX, is marked for convenience.

As MKO continue to prepare all necessary information needed to lodge a planning application, we will continue to update you with new information as it becomes available. Currently MKO expect that a planning application for the proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy development will be ready by the middle of this year.

As the proposal is likely to have a generating capacity in excess of 50 Mega Watts (MW), it will be necessary to query with An Bord Pleanála whether the development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). MKO have requested a meeting with the Board in this regard and the Board will determine whether the application should be submitted to Tipperary County Council or directly to An Bord Pleanála.

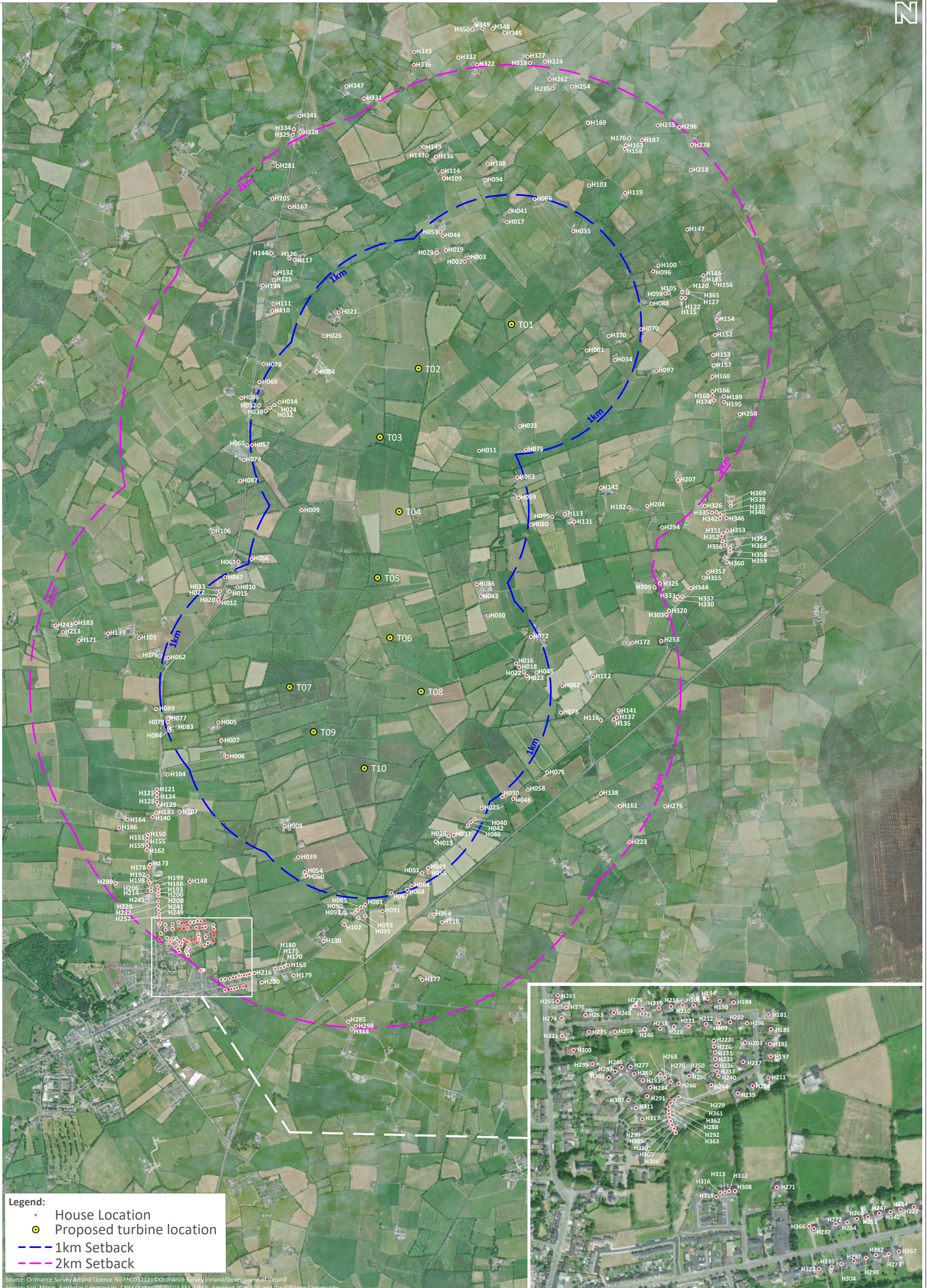
As always should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, by phone at 086-3979248, by email at clo@borrisbeginfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website, www.borrisbeginfo.com.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd
clo@borrisbeginfo.com
086-3979248

Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development Draft Turbine Layout - March 2023



Legend:

- House Location
- ⦿ Proposed turbine location
- - - 1km Setback
- - - 2km Setback

Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No EN0032121 © Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland
 Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA FSA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community



APPENDIX 2.3.4

PIE – LETTERS TO RESIDENTS



16th May 2023

RE: Proposed Borrishbeg Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Borrishbeg Renewable Energy Development. The project Environmental Consultants, MKO, continue their preparation for a planning permission application for the proposed development and as more information becomes available, I will continue to update you.

The site surveys continue to be carried out gathering all required data for the compilation of the necessary documentation that will accompany the planning application. In the meantime, we are preparing to hold a public information exhibition to provide an opportunity for public viewing of the information available to date.

The applicant for the planning application will be Buirios Ltd, which is an associate company of Enerco Energy Ltd, formed specifically for the Borrishbeg project. This is a standard procedure for all projects of this nature, and Enerco will continue to manage the proposed development.

The public information exhibition will be hosted in the Templemore Arms Hotel, on Thursday 1st June from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Information about the proposed development will be on display and members of the project team along with myself will be present to answer any queries. See overleaf a copy of the advertisement which will appear in the next edition of the Tipperary Star to inform the wider community of this event.

Everyone is welcome to attend the exhibition, however, there is no obligation. All information made available on the day will also be uploaded to the project website, www.borrisbeginfo.com. I can prepare an information pack for anyone that may not have access to the website and are not able to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and as always if you have any queries regarding the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by email at clo@borrisbeginfo.com, by phone 086-0841815, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Buirios Ltd.

clo@borrisbeginfo.com

086-0841815

Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development

Buirios Ltd. are holding an information exhibition regarding a proposed renewable energy development, comprising up to 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townlands of Skehanagh, Knockanroe, Ballycahill, Borrisbeg, Eastwood and Clonmore, Co. Tipperary, with underground grid connection cabling following the public road network, connecting to the Thurles-Ikerrin overhead line. This exhibition will be held in the Templemore Arms Hotel, Templemore, as follows.

**Templemore Arms Hotel,
Templemore,
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Thursday 01st June
4.00pm – 8.30pm**

The exhibition is open to all interested parties and information in relation to the proposal will be on display with project representatives in attendance to answer any questions. For those that cannot attend, all information on display at the exhibition will also be available on the project website, www.borrisbeginfo.com. If anyone cannot access the website, please contact the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), James Crowley, to arrange an alternative means of sharing the information.

E-mail: clo@borrisbeginfo.com or Phone: 086-0841815



28th September 2023

RE: Proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Borrisbeg Renewable Energy Development. The project Environmental Consultants, MKO, continue their preparation for a planning permission application for the proposed development and it is currently envisaged that all necessary documentation will be prepared by early November with submission of the application planned for late November. I will continue to update you as the project progresses.

At this stage the majority of site surveys are complete and MKO are currently drafting the necessary documentation that will accompany the planning application. In the meantime, we are preparing to hold another public information exhibition to provide an opportunity for public viewing of the information available to date.

The next public information exhibition will be hosted in the Templemore Arms Hotel, on Thursday 12th October from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Information about the proposed development will be on display and members of the project team along with myself will be present to answer any queries. See overleaf a copy of the advertisement which will appear in the this weeks edition of the Tipperary Star to inform the wider community of this event.

Everyone is welcome to attend the exhibition, however, there is no obligation. All information made available on the day will also be uploaded to the project website, www.borrisbeginfo.com. I can prepare an information pack for anyone that may not have access to the website and are not able to attend.

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APPENDIX 2.3.5

PIE – NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

NEW ADDRESS FOR TEMPLEMORE NEWS: You can now e-mail your news, photographs, articles etc. to templemorenews@gmail.com which is a new address set up specifically for Templemore. Alternatively email Ronan Loughnane, ronan.loughnane9@gmail.com

TEMPLEMORE NEWS

JK Brackens GAA

Pride of place this week goes to our U-15 footballers who defeated a much fancied Durlas og side to win the Mid final. Defeated by the same opposition in the Peil final just a few short weeks ago, the boys regrouped to put in a sterling display at the Ragg on Sunday evening. Brackens played with a strong breeze in the opening half but it was the Thurles boys who got off to a flyer with a goal in the opening minute. Brackens responded well with a Sean Burke goal three minutes later and from there on they

always looked likely winners. Padraic O'Shea added a second before half-time to leave Brackens 2-4 to 1-1 ahead at the break. Burke grabbed his second major just after the restart and completed his hat-trick before the end. O'Shea chipped in with 1-4, Burke added two points and Ryan Loughnane scored a lovely point in the first half as Brackens ran out 4-7 to 1-5 winners. But it wasn't just about the scorers. This was a marvellous effort from a well organised team. Niall

Delaney, Ryan Loughnane, Sean Stone, Larry O'Brien and Dan Coffey were relentless in their pursuit of the ball. James Leahy was sound in the goal while Jack Duggan, Kyle Quinlan, Thomas Deegan, Jack Burke and JR Corpez were excellent in defence. Odhran Dalling and Stephen Fogarty worked very hard on the wings while Andrew Quinlan, Peter Breen and Oisín Brophy all made telling contributions when introduced. Special mention too for Kinnian O'Brien who missed out having been injured in the warm-up. The boys now go forward to face

Ballina in the County semi-final. This game takes place in Kilcommon tomorrow night (Thurs) at 7.30pm. Best of luck to all. Well done to Michael Hyland who claimed his second 50/50 Jackpot on Sunday night as he claimed the €425 on offer. Our Senior footballers travel to New Inn on Friday to take on Rockwell Rovers in their final round-robin game in the League.

Throw-in is at 8pm. Hard luck to our Junior B hurlers who lost out to Drom/Inch (2-16 to 0-14) in the league semi-final in the Ragg on Sunday night.



Well done Sinead

Congratulations to Sinéad Maher who attended Templemore College of Further Education on a part-time basis and received house certificates in Nail Treatments & Make-Up Techniques.

Sinead (third from left) is seen here receiving her Certificates from Sinead O'Brien, Beauty Therapy Coordinator. Also included are Micheál Lenihan Principal (left), students Sinéad Maher, Leah Nolan, Rachel Davis, Libby Carroll, and Jane Quinlan Deputy Principal (far right).

Cups come to Tuohy

This photograph was taken outside The Temple Bar pub in Templetuohy following University of Limerick's triumph in this year's Fitzgibbon Cup. The photo includes members of UL's successful Senior and Intermediate teams including local players Gearoid O'Connor (Moyne/Templetuohy), Bryan O'Meara (Holycross/Ballycahill), Conor O'Dwyer (Cashel) and Cian Darcy (Kilruane MacDonaghs). Hugh Dunne (Loughmore/Castleiney) was also part of the management set-up.



Communion in Clonmore

Pictured are the communion class in St. Anne's Church in Clonmore following their First Holy Communion with Fr Francis Mudungwe, Mairead Delaney and Fr Conor Hayes. Photo: Seamus Bourke.

Borrisoleigh Historical Society

Famine in Borrisoleigh and the Cull will evictions of 1850:


Next Monday night (22nd) local historian, John Connors will deliver a talk on the famine as it played out in his native parish of Borrisoleigh. With material sourced from the National and newspaper archives, this talk paints a sombre picture of hunger, despair and death that prevailed in that village and surrounding countryside 185 years ago. While many valiant efforts were made by some to alleviate the distress and hardship, John's talk will also focus on the landlords who stood by unaffected and disinterested. The talk will also deal with an event of seismic proportions, sadly well forgotten in local history, when in July of 1850, a total of 470 people were dispossessed and evicted from their farms and hovels in the general area of Cullohill. These were left to shelter under the open sky or seek the sanctuary of the dreaded workhouse. The world has sadly seen too many famines and displacements of people since that terrible devastation was visited on Ireland in 1845. One of these, the Holodomor (death by starvation) inflicted by Russia on Ukraine in 1932/33, resulted in the deaths of many millions of Ukrainians. Sofia Mandrusiak from the city of Kolomyia in Ukraine, will briefly address the gathering on that genocidal attack on the people of her native land and also say a few words on the links of common history that bind our two nations. The talk takes place at 8pm in the Community Centre. Admission is free. Refreshments served. All are welcome.

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 Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

TIPPERARY HERITAGE PLAN 2023-2027 CONSULTATION PROCESS - HAVE YOUR SAY

Tipperary County Council is developing its second Heritage Plan for the period 2023 - 2027. The plan will be framed within the context of national heritage policy as set out in the Heritage Act 1995 & Heritage Act 2018, Heritage Ireland 2030, Culture 2025, and the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).

The contribution of all interested parties is being sought in order to fully inform the preparation of the Heritage Plan. This will assist Tipperary County Council in planning and delivering heritage actions in the county for the period 2023-2027.

Survey

Interested parties and members of the public are invited to have their say by completing a short questionnaire which can be accessed by visiting <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage-and-conservation/heritage-plan-consultation>. This questionnaire will be available from Wednesday 17th May 2023 with a closing date for completion by Monday 19th June 2023.

Drop in clinics

Heritage personnel will be available to hear your views at the following locations:

Tuesday 30th May	2 - 4pm	Thurles Municipal District Offices, Castle Avenue
Wednesday 31st May	2 - 4pm	Civic Offices, Tipperary Town
Thursday 1st June	2 - 4pm	Civic Offices, Clonmel
Friday 2nd June	2 - 4pm	Carrick on Suir Municipal District Offices
Tuesday 6th June	2 - 4pm	Civic Offices, Nenagh

Please confirm your intention to attend drop in clinics to Tipperary Heritage Office at heritage@tipperarycoco.ie or phone: 0818 06 5000 so that we can schedule time slots if necessary.

Further info: <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/heritage-and-conservation/>
Phone: 0818 06 5000.

 An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



The late Deirdre Darcy Hogan

Coffee Morning in memory of Deirdre

North Tipperary Hospice and the Irish Cancer Society will benefit from a Coffee Morning being organised in memory of the late Garda Deirdre Darcy Hogan.

Ms Darcy Hogan, who passed away from cancer last year, was a Garda Juvenile Liaison Officer based in Nenagh and was involved in a number of local groups and organisations.

Deirdre of Munlusk, Aghlish, Roscrea; Borrisokane, and Portumna, was married to Noel and had three children Thomas, Jack and Sarah.

The Coffee Morning will take place in the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh, on Monday, October 2, between 11am and 1pm.

The event is being sponsored by the hotel.

Council launches draft Climate Action Plan

Tipperary County Council is Setting the Scene for Going Green by the publication of a Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) for the period 2024-2029, and is now inviting further community and stakeholder input in the process.

The Draft LACAP sets out how Tipperary County Council can incorporate and promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures in the delivery of its services, to support the Government's overall National Climate Objective to achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, a transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

With respect to the Draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029, the Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Councillor Ger Darcy said: "Tipperary County Council has been one of the foremost local authorities in implementing energy efficiency measures over the last number of

years.

"The Council is an important enabler of climate action through the delivery of its functions and services on a daily basis, and by demonstrating leadership in achieving its own emissions reductions and meeting energy efficiency targets.

'POSITIVE' STEP

"This draft LACAP is a positive development for all of us in the county, and addresses a range of important matters such as biodiversity, education and learning, the bioeconomy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport patterns and technologies and co-benefits as a result of climate action."

Director of Services for Environment and Climate Action, Eamon Lonergan, said: "The draft LACAP sets out 100 ambitious, but practical, actions to be delivered by the County Council working with lots of stakeholders over the period 2024 to 2029.

"These actions have been developed with the input of staff across the Council and with the participation of



Tipperary County Council is encouraging people to make submissions to its draft Climate Action plan

external stakeholders.

"The draft LACAP and the actions set out are now for consideration by all, and I encourage everyone to get involved and have your say in our collective response to climate change."

Full details of the draft LACAP and associated

documents, and also how you can make a submission are available to view online at www.consultations.tipperarycoco.ie from

September 21, 2023 to the November 6, 2023.

A list of various locations around the county that the

Draft LACAP will be available to view and where public information events will be held during October.

Submissions received will be considered before the final LACAP will be adopted by the

Tipperary County Council next February.



Some of those who took part in the H&MV Engineering cycle in aid of the Dillon Quirke Foundation and Guide Dogs for the Blind

Cycle raises funds for Dillon Foundation

The Dillon Quirke Foundation and the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind have benefited from last weekend's H&MV Engineering fundraising cycle.

The generosity of the attendees, combined with the unwavering support of the event sponsors, created an atmosphere of shared

dedication to the chosen causes, said the organisers.

H&MV Engineering said it was particularly grateful to its lead sponsor, ABB, for their significant contribution to the success of the event. Their partnership and support played a pivotal role in ensuring the day was a resounding triumph.

"We extend our heartfelt

gratitude to all of our sponsors and to all who made donations, you played a crucial role in making this event a reality. Your support reflects a shared commitment to the invaluable work being done by The Dillon Quirke Foundation and the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind," said PJ Flanagan, CEO at

H&MV Engineering they said.

The event would not have been possible without the dedication and effort of countless individuals who volunteered their time and resources. H&MV Engineering wishes to express sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the charity cycle.

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APPENDIX 2.3.6

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITIONS

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION – 01/06/2023



PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION – 12/10/2023

