'Lights Of Love' ceremony in Fermoy

JOHN AHERN

Amid the hype and excitement associated with Christmas, the festive season is one of mixed emotions for those who have lost loved ones. 'Absent friends' were in the thoughts of those who attended last Sunday evening's 'Lights Of Love' ceremony in Fermoy Resource Centre on MacCurtain Street.

Here, relatives of those who've passed, were invited to write a personal message on a 'Lights Of Love' card and sponsor a light on the magnificent 'living' Christmas tree that dominates the perfectly maintained grounds of the resource centre.

MC for the occasion was Pat Leogue, who welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked the individuals and groups who helped make the event possible, most notably co-ordinator, Jacinta McCormack, who read a poem.

Anne Devine was then invited to address the crowd. Anne, from Lismore, spoke movingly about her late son, Sean. While Sean will never be forgotten, he is especially remembered at Christmas, an occasion that centres around family. Her advice to the bereaved was to take time to grieve in your own way. Pauline O'Grady-Noonan also recited a short poem.

TREE ILLUMINATED

Following a countdown, the Christmas tree (Remembrance Tree) was illuminated. Seasonal music was provided by Julie Buckley and Robin Pender. Mary O'Flynn, Karen Twomey and Pauline Hyland were among several thanked for their input. Killian McCarthy, from Ballyhooly, was acknowledged for the time and effort he put in to preparing the Remembrance Tree.

Those present were treated to refreshments at an event that encouraged everyone to take time out to remember loved ones who won't be around to share in the forthcoming festivities.

Cllr. Frank O'Flynn and Bill Barry, who were at last Sunday evening's 'Lights Of Love' ceremony held in Fermoy Resource Centre. (Pic: John Ahern)

Joanie McCarthy with her grandchildren, Zara and Skye Hogan, who attended last Sunday evening's 'Lights Of Love' ceremony in Fermoy Resource Centre. (Pic: John Ahern)

FERMOY'S REMEMBRANCE TREE LIT UP: Some of those involved in organising last Sunday evening's 'Lights Of Love' event in Fermoy Resource Centre, in front of the illuminated Remembrance Tree. (Pic: John Ahern)

Lismore resurfacing to commence in January

KATIE GLAVIN

Resurfacing of a busy thoroughfare in Lismore has been brought to the centre of attention once again. The section has long been mooted for works, stretching from the bridge in Lismore to the monument, however, these works have yet to commence.

At a meeting of the Dungarvan Lismore District this week, Cllr John Pratt sought an update on the works. He also queried engagement with Uisce Éireann, asking whether there has been any 'linking up' with the services provider regarding works needed in this area.

Senior engineer at Waterford City and County Council, Gabriel Hynes, confirmed that a contractor is ready to commence work on the site. The work, however, has been postponed prior to Christmas, but is expected to commence in the new year.

"We had postponed it for a couple of weeks prior to Christmas but I would expect that work would commence in the middle of January once the tarmacking contractor will remobilise," Mr Hynes said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000, AS AMENDED

NOTICE OF DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA

STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, we, Futurenergy Scart Mountain Designated Activity Company, give notice of our intention to make an application to An Bord Pleanála for permission for a period of 10 years, for development comprising the construction of a wind farm and related works within the townlands of Coolagortboy, Crinnaghtaun West, Feddaun, Glennafallia, Knockboy, Knocknafrehane, Knocknanask, Knocknasheega, Lackenrea, Moneygorm, Moneygorm East, Scartmountain, Toor, and Tooranaraheen, Co. Waterford.

Certain details of the proposed development are unconfirmed in this planning application and an opinion on unconfirmed details from the Board (Case Reference: ABP-319602-24) pursuant to section 287B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) accompanies this planning application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the turbine tip height, rotor diameter and hub height. The range of parameters under which the turbine dimensions will fall are specified on this site notice and in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies this application.

The proposed development will comprise:

- Erection of 15 no. wind turbines with an overall blade tip height range from 179.5 m to 185 m inclusive, a rotor diameter range from 149 m to 163 m inclusive, a hub height range from 102.5 m to 110.5 m inclusive, and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine;
- Permanent upgrade to the existing forest entrance onto the L5055 local road in the townland of Lackenrea to be used as a construction entrance. It will also be used for operational phase access for HGVs only;
- Construction of 6 no. permanent site entrances to form 3 no. local road crossing points to enable site access during construction (on the L5054, L5055 and L1026 in the townlands of Moneygorm, Knocknasheega and Tooranaraheen respectively). The entrance associated with the crossing point on the L5054 will also function as an operational phase access for light vehicles only;
- Temporary improvements and modifications to 1 no. location at the junction of the N72 and the L1027 (known as Boheravaghera Cross or Affane Cross) to facilitate delivery of oversized loads and turbine delivery, in the townland of Crinnaghtaun West, Co. Waterford;
- Construction of 2 no. temporary construction compounds located within the northern and southern ends of the site, with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing;
- Erection of 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 100 metres above existing ground level for the measuring of meteorological conditions, with a lightning finial extending above the mast;
- 2 no. temporary borrow pits;
- Permanent construction of 11.9 km new internal site access roads and upgrade of 7.2 km existing internal site roads, to include passing bays and all associated drainage, all within the wind farm site;
- Construction of temporary and permanent drainage and sediment control systems;
- Construction of 1 no. permanent 110kV electrical substation including:
    - 1 no. EirGrid control building containing worker welfare facilities and equipment store;
    - 1 no. Independent Power Producer control building containing high voltage switch room, site offices, kitchen facilities, storeroom and toilet amenities.
    - All electrical plant and infrastructure and grid ancillary services equipment;
    - Parking;
    - Lighting;
    - Security Fencing;
    - Wastewater holding tank;
    - Rainwater harvesting equipment;
    - All associated infrastructure and services including site works and signage;
- All related site works and ancillary development including signage, berms, landscaping, and soil excavation;
- Forestry felling (both permanent and temporary) to facilitate construction and operation including biodiversity enhancement measures, of the proposed project and any onsite forestry replanting; and
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed wind farm substation.

A 35-year operational life from the date of full commissioning of the entire wind farm is being sought for all works (other than temporary and permanent works specified above), and the subsequent decommissioning. This application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

A separate application to obtain permission for an underground 110kV grid connection to the existing 110kV Dungarvan substation to facilitate the export of power from the wind farm, will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

The planning application, including the EIAR and NIS may be inspected, free of charge or purchased for a specific fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, during public opening hours for a period of 10 weeks (inclusive of the statutory 9-day holiday period) commencing on **20th December 2024** at the following locations:

- **The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902**
- **The Offices of Waterford City and County Council, City Hall, The Mall, Waterford, X91 PK15**

The planning application, including the EIAR and NIS may also be viewed on the following website: www.scartmountainplanning.ie

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (The Board), at 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902 in writing or online on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie during the aforementioned period of 10 weeks (inclusive of the statutory 9-day holiday period) relating to: (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned; (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development if carried out; and (iii) the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board **not later than 5.30pm on the 28th February 2025** and must include the following information; (i) The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent; (ii) the subject matter of the submission or observation, and (iii) the reasons, consideration and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the board.

The Board may in respect of an application for permission decide to – (a); (i) grant the permission, or (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission in respect of the proposed development as so modified or (iii) grant permission in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), or (b) refuse to grant permission. The decision to hold an oral hearing on this planning application is at the absolute discretion of An Bord Pleanála.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of the Board (telephone no. 01-8588100). Any person may question the validity of any such decision of the board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading "Information on cases / Weekly lists" – Judicial Review of planning decisions, on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.