

James Sweeney

DB

From: Adrian Egan <Adrian.Egan@swsforestry.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 4 November 2025 12:40
To: Appeals2
Subject: CASE SU19.323676
Attachments: appeal peat extraction SU19.323676.docx; 1000005211.jpg; 1000005528.jpg; 1000005527.jpg; 1000005529.jpg; 1000005530.jpg

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Hey An Bord Pleanala

This is my cover Letter and the numerous reasons to why this should not get planning, I hope you take this seriously as this will lead to massive consequences for this community if it gets approved, if it also gets approved it shows that bord na mona can do what they like with no penalties or consequences.

I have also attached a picture showing the difference between drained peatland and waterlogged you can see in the picture drained is dry deserted emitting carbon while the wet side is capturing carbon while providing habitat for biodiversity, this is happening throughout the bog where drains have not been maintained and they have come back to life.

Yours sincerely,
Adrian Egan
Thumbeagh
Ballinahown
Co. Offaly
0874568940

Sent from [Outlook for Android](#)

I have numerous reason to highlight to why Bord na Mona should not receive planning for their application for peat extraction from 1988 to 2020, If a farmer or ordinary contractor extracted this amount of peat out of a bog and with out planning they would not be giving the opportunity to even apply for this.

As I write this I think of reasons why bord na mona should no get planning for such disgraceful carry on over the years and if I was to tell you all the reasons it may take years, first of all they took the land through compulsory acquisition for 1 pound per acre, we had 78 acres taking from us and my grandfather was told by BNM worker to take the money or we will take the bog anyway!

My grandfather was also told that when peat extraction had stopped it will go back to the farmer or to nature, which neither is going to happen as they plan to dig up the last bit of the bog they have left, and install 15 wind turbines at 220 meters high and destroy the area along with the community.

Since bord na mona have stopped harvesting peat, they have left their rubbish plastic from stock piles through out the whole bog, I have attatched pictures to prove this, in a time when littering is a crime and if a farmer left plastic on his land like this he would be heavily penalised and most certainly would not get any planning! If they had some respect for the land and some common courtesy to at least clean up their rubbish.

There was a massive bog fire in 2012 where one of the stock piles went on fire, we phoned BNM numerous times to make them aware of this but they ignored us until it was to late we woke up one morning with the room full of smoke we thought the house was on fire, and we ran outside to the yard full of smoke which was coming from the bog, we then had to go to our own bog and evacuate animals from they bottom fields which were covered in smoke, we then had to draw water to a recently planted plantation which caught fire from the flames from lemanaghan bog, we luckily got to put this out before it was all burnt! we then had to evacuate our house for 2 days until the smoke cleared as you couldn't stay in house, the house smelled of smoke internally for months after, all of which we were never compensated. This proves you what Bord na Mona thinks of community they never even called around to see if everyone was ok.

Since they have stopped harvesting in this bog the wildlife and nature have returned, through flooding in parts of the bog where there is water there is life! foxes hares and all breeds of birds, rare bats even wild geese have started to land here again, with in four years this area is just beginning to come back to life with no intervention from BNM and with all the knowledge we have today of rapid decline of bio diversity why are we allowing corporate companies to still destroy these areas for what to line their pockets with profits!

We now know climate change is real, and BNM have played a big part in emitting carbon through peat drainage and harvesting and peat burning! We also know the important role our bogs play in capturing carbon when the water table is rising for example for every 100mm you raise the water table you capture up to 5 tonnes of carbon per hector and this is locked in for good this bog is made up of 1100 hectors and 1 to 4 meters of peat in places, so you do the maths here this bog can still play a massive role in capturing carbon along with providing for bio diversity and the community.

But if you allow BNM to just tick a box and get planning for this (which if a farmer done the same he would be in the high court slapped with big fine and probably get jail) then im sorry to tell you but you are playing a part in destroying the little bit of bog that they left this community with, and not just the bog you are destroying the community along with the bio diversity that has returned, and this rare habitat.

I really hope you take everything into account when looking at this application. This bog still has a chance of been restored to a somewhat healthy bog, I am working on Eip scheme the past four years and I have learnt so much about the importance of our bogs through out the world, did you know that the worlds surface is made up of 3% of peat and this can capture up to 30% of the worlds carbon, that is twice the amount that our forests can capture and lock in for generations if restored, if this application gets the go ahead they will then apply to dig up the little bit they left and fill over 50% of the bog with concrete, which will destroy the water table and prevent this bog from ever been restored to a healthy bog,

I hope i have highlighted some of the important values of this community and i hope you take these into consideration before allowing BNM to tick a box and continue to destroy this beautiful area.

Regards

Adrian Egan









