



Kellystown Wind Farm Community Report

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Louth CC, Planning Department

Department for Planning
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Introduction

EDF Renewables is committed to working closely with the communities around our project sites, and to being a good neighbour. This document sets out how EDF Renewables demonstrated this commitment to continuous community engagement with respect to the Kellystown Wind Farm project in Co. Louth.

It further demonstrates EDF Renewables' commitment to a programme of genuine positive engagement with the local community and stakeholders, and the value placed on their contribution to and involvement in the development of the project. It specifically outlines the actions undertaken as part of a wider community engagement and communications plan since the project was first announced in October 2022.

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Approach to consultation

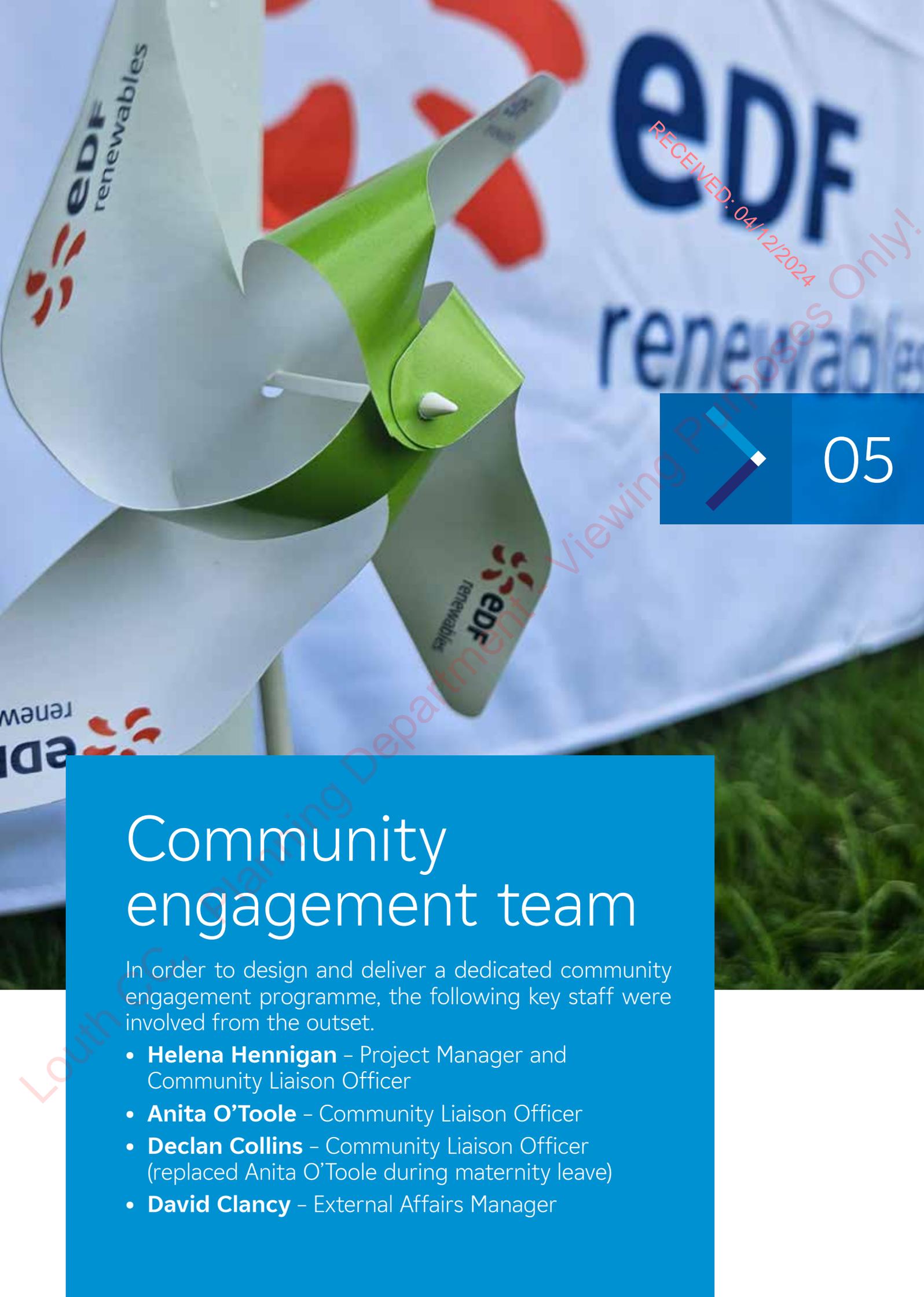
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EDF Renewables recognises the importance of ensuring that communities in the vicinity of our projects are kept fully informed on their progress and receive timely updates on key project milestones. It is also critically important that communities are given every opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed project.

As well as adhering to industry best practices in relation to community consultation, our approach to engagement throughout has focused on:

- Being open and transparent in all our communications
- Communicating project updates and milestones as early as possible
- Providing opportunities for feedback on the proposed project
- Listening and answering any questions
- Identifying and understanding local issues to be considered in the development of the project





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Community engagement team

In order to design and deliver a dedicated community engagement programme, the following key staff were involved from the outset.

- **Helena Hennigan** – Project Manager and Community Liaison Officer
- **Anita O’Toole** – Community Liaison Officer
- **Declan Collins** – Community Liaison Officer (replaced Anita O’Toole during maternity leave)
- **David Clancy** – External Affairs Manager

The consultation process

Phase 1

Introducing the project

Once the initial scope of the project was clear, we announced our intention to develop Kellystown Wind Farm in October 2022. Our aim was to make as many members of the local community aware of the proposed project as possible.

During the week commencing 17 October 2022, an information leaflet (**Appendix A**) was distributed to all homes within 2km of the project site, to introduce the project, provide details of its scope, and encourage positive two-way dialogue from an early stage. Our team also went door-to-door to all homes within 1km of the site, to speak with local residents while providing the information and answer any questions they may have.

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 further public consultation 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. In total, 497 households received this information.

The information leaflet contained information detailing:

- An overview of EDF Renewables
- The potential contribution of onshore wind energy to the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan targets and its impact on electricity bills
- The proposed scope of the project, its location, number of turbines, height of turbines and related infrastructure
- The establishment of a Community Benefit Fund
- Next steps
- Contact details including the project website, email address and phone numbers of two Community Liaison Officers

The project webpage (Kellystown Wind Farm - EDF Renewables (edf-re.ie)) went live this same week. It has been updated on a regular basis at various points since its launch, as the project has developed and more information has become available during the design and assessment process.

A dedicated email address (kellystownwindfarm@edf-re.ie) was also created and included in all information materials. The mailbox is monitored by the project team, and all queries receive a response within 48 hours.

Local elected representatives within the Ardee and Drogheda Rural Electoral Areas were initially contacted by email to provide an overview of the proposed development and to invite initial feedback. The email correspondence (see **Appendix B**) included detailed information on the proposed development, including contact details for further engagement. All Oireachtas members from the Louth constituency were consulted and information brochures were similarly provided.

Phase 2

Updating on the project's progress

In July 2023, following the progression of various site and environmental surveys, we shared an update on the project's progress since the initial project launch. A new information leaflet (see **Appendix C**) containing detail of the project's achievements to date and illustrating a preliminary turbine layout was again distributed to all homes within 2km of the site, and our team again went door-to-door to all homes within 1km, to share the information and answer residents' questions.

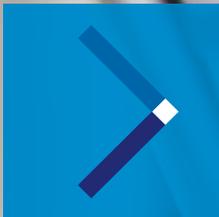
In addition to these events, the team continued to respond to queries received via the website or project mailbox, and Community Liaison Officers carried out home visits where requested to discuss the project with members of the local community in more detail.

Phase 3

Holding a public exhibition

A public exhibition was held at the Drumshallon Forge Heritage Centre on 1 December 2023 from 2-7pm. The purpose of this event was to present detailed project information (**Appendix D**) to the local community, explain the findings of the various studies carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, and show the newly revised layout of the proposed wind farm with accompanying photomontages to help the community assess visual impact.

The exhibition also featured an updated project timeline, information on the proposed Community Benefit Fund, and on other aspects of wind energy. In addition, a leaflet discussing biodiversity at the site (**Appendix E**) was created and made available to attendees. Members of the EDF Renewables project team and project environmental consultants, Jennings O'Donovan, were in attendance on the day. There was no requirement to register in advance and all were welcome to attend.



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Public Exhibition

Attendance at the exhibition was promoted in advance in a number of ways:

- An event invite (**Appendix F**) was distributed to all homes within 2km of the project site, containing information about the project and the date and time of the public exhibition.
- Adverts (**Appendix G and H**) were placed in the Drogheda Independent newspaper on 22 November and 29 November
- A press release was issued to all local media: [Public exhibition to be held for EDF Renewables Ireland's proposed Louth wind farm - EDF Renewables \(edf-re.uk\)](#)

The press release received extensive coverage in local media:

- o Dundalk Democrat: [EDF Renewables Ireland announces new details about proposed Louth wind farm - Louth Live \(dundalkdemocrat.ie\)](#)
 - o Drogheda Life: [Drogheda Life | Best News & Advertising | Latest News | New details of proposed wind farm announced ahead of public exhibition](#)
 - o Farmers Journal: [Public invited for input into proposed Louth windfarm - 27 November 2023 Free \(farmersjournal.ie\)](#)
 - o Drogheda Independent: [derefer \(truehawkmedia.ie\)](#)
- All TDs, Senators and Cllrs in the relevant area were invited to attend the event



The public exhibition was attended by c.150 people. A virtual exhibition, containing all of the same information presented at the in-person event, was also created: [Kellystown Wind Farm - Virtual Exhibition - Innovision](#). This went live on the same day as the public exhibition, and remains available to view.

The main issues raised by members of the local community during the course of the community consultation process in relation to the project were:

- The visual impact of the project - residents queried the visual impact the turbines would have on the local landscape. Using the photomontages and pano-pods to illustrate how the turbines will look from several local landmarks, the team described how and why the proposed turbine locations were selected. A pano-pod is a modular 180-360 degree backlit display unit that curves about the views in an arc such that the entire panoramic image remains equidistant from the viewer's eyes, thereby displaying a very accurate view of the proposed development.
- Noise - in relation to queries about the level of noise produced by operational wind turbines, the team explained the existing noise limits in Ireland, and how these are among the strictest in Europe, and that a full noise assessment would be carried out as part of the proposed development.
- Shadow flicker - some residents queried whether the turbines would produce shadow flicker. The team explained that no shadow flicker would be created.
- Ecological sensitivities - residents questioned the impact on local biodiversity and the environmental impact of the project, and were provided with details of the mitigation strategies in place and surveys conducted as part of the EIAR.

Impact of community consultation on proposed development

The level of feedback received during the course of the community engagement programme (October 2022 to the present day) has been high, in particular at the public exhibition held in December 2023. At all times the team have aimed to provide the relevant project information and answer any queries or concerns in relation to the project. No requests were received in which stakeholders or members of the local community sought to amend the project design.



Community Benefit Fund

Should the project qualify for the Renewable Electricity Supply Scheme (RESS), it is expected that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 per MWh into a community fund for the first 15 years of operation. If this scheme is changed under any future Government policy, the fund would be adjusted accordingly.

The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under the current T&Cs of RESS, the fund value would be expected to be in the region of c.€180,000 per 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. This group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund.

The types of projects and initiatives that could be supported by such a Community Benefit Fund could include youth, sport and community facilities, schools, educational and training initiatives, and wider heritage, and environmental projects.

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.

Conclusion

EDF Renewables has carried out active engagement, consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage in the development of the Kellystown Wind Farm project.

The consultation process to date has also enhanced our understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community regarding the project and wind energy more generally.

However it has also allowed us to communicate the many environmental and economic benefits of wind energy, the importance of projects like Kellystown Wind Farm to meeting Ireland's renewable energy targets, and the role of the Community Benefit Fund in supporting local initiatives and activities. We are committed to continuing to engage in a positive and proactive manner with the local community around Kellystown Wind Farm over the lifetime of the project, and remain at the community's disposal to address any queries into the future through the channels established as part of this process.



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Kellystown Wind Farm Community Update, October 2022



c.50 MW

A generating capacity of up to c.50MW, powering more than 35,000 homes*



up to 8 Turbines

with tip heights of up to 180m



Introduction

EDF Renewables Ireland is investigating the potential for a wind farm in an area approximately 8km north of Drogheda town. The proposed Kellystown Wind Farm is located within an area of elevated ground of an east-to-west orientated ridge known as 'Carnanbreaga'.

We are committed to engaging with the local community throughout the development of the project. This information is being circulated to all homes within a 2km radius of the site boundary to introduce the project and encourage open and transparent two-way dialogue from an early stage.

About Us

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by more than 300 colleagues in the UK.

In 2020 we acquired 50% of Codling Wind Park, a major offshore wind farm which will be located off the coast of Co. Wicklow, with a dedicated team who have begun developing the project, and 100% of Wexford Solar, which includes eight solar projects across Ireland. In total we have an Irish onshore development pipeline of almost 1GW.

In the UK, EDF Renewables has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and two battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW).

EDF Renewables operates in more than 20 countries around the world.

Delivering low-carbon energy for Ireland

Under the Climate Action Plan 2021, the Irish Government has set a target to increase the share of renewables providing our electricity from 30% in 2018 to 80% by 2030. Onshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of new, large-scale electricity generation in Ireland. Our aim is for the completed Kellystown Wind Farm to generate up to c.50MW of clean energy, powering more than 35,000 homes across Ireland.

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Developing the Project

We believe the site has the potential to accommodate up to eight wind turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 180m. This area has been identified as 'Open to Consideration' under the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The site study area is shown in red on the map below. We are currently in the process of gathering wind data and mapping the environmental constraints on site. We will use this information to create a preliminary wind turbine layout and will consult with you further on this in the coming months. The project will also include access tracks, a substation, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, underground cabling and a grid connection that links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.

Community Benefit Fund

If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of our long-term commitment to the local area. These funds will go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities. A proportion of the Community Benefit Fund will also be allocated to a 'Near Neighbour Fund' that will directly benefit the project's closest neighbours.

Next Steps

- Over the coming months we will be carrying out more detailed environmental studies across the site, including ecology, noise, landscape and visual assessments, and also measuring wind speeds at the site. The results of these studies, along with feedback gathered through consultation with local communities, will be used to determine the final turbine layout.
- We will also be undertaking a transport and access study to assess the best routes for construction vehicles and for bringing turbine components to the site.
- As the project progresses and we have more detailed information to share, we will be holding public consultation events. These will take place in a venue local to the project, or online, depending on Covid-19 guidelines.
- We intend to submit a planning application and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the project to the relevant authority in late 2023.
- Subject to planning permission, Kellystown Wind Farm could be constructed and operational by 2027.



Contact Us

We have created a dedicated website for the project and this will include all key updates as the project progresses:

www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/kellystown

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project: Anita O'Toole (085 107 6089) and Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261)

Alternatively, you can email the project team at kellystownwindfarm@edf-re.ie

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RECEIVED: 04/12/2024

From: David Clancy
Sent: 17 October 2022 15:24
To: eileen.tully@louthcoco.ie
Subject: EDF Renewables plans Kellystown Wind Farm
Attachments: Kellystown Wind Farm Community update.pdf

Dear Cllr Tully,

I hope you're keeping well. I'm writing to let you know that we will shortly be announcing our plans to develop a c.50MW wind farm in an area approximately 8km north of Drogheda.

The final wind farm layout and turbine numbers have yet to be confirmed, but the project could have up to eight turbines. A significant community benefit fund will be established which will support local projects and initiatives.

Our project team is currently gathering wind data and mapping the environmental constraints on site which will be used to create a preliminary wind turbine layout. Detailed environmental studies will also be carried out at the site, including ecology, noise, landscape and visual assessments. The results of these studies, together with feedback gathered in consultation with local communities, will be used to determine the final wind farm layout and number of turbines.

We are committed to keeping the local community informed of progress, and I attach our community leaflet which we will be issuing to all residents within 2km of the project this week, to introduce the project and encourage open dialogue from an early stage. We will also be issuing a press release which will include the same information.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project, and we would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss further if that would be useful.

Best wishes,
David



David Clancy
External Affairs Manager

EDF Renewables Ireland
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Pookiew House, Thomcastle Street
Dublin 4, D04 V9Y9, Ireland
T: +353 87 172 2702
www.edf.ie

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Kellystown Wind Farm Community Update, July 2023



c.50 MW

A generating capacity of up to c.50MW, powering more than 35,000 homes¹



up to 8 Turbines

with tip heights of up to 180m



Introduction

Following the launch of the Kellystown Wind Farm project in October 2022, EDF Renewables Ireland would like to take this opportunity to update local residents on how the project is progressing.

As you may be aware, the proposed wind farm site is located within an area of elevated ground of an east-to-west orientated ridge known as 'Carnanbreaga'.

We are committed to engaging with you, to keep you updated on the project's progress. This information is being circulated to you and your neighbours within a 2km radius of the site boundary to give an update on the project and encourage open and transparent two-way dialogue.

Community Benefit Fund

If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of our long-term commitment to the local area. The Community Benefit Fund will see funds from the project go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities.

About Us

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by over 400 colleagues in the UK.

Delivering low-carbon energy for Ireland

Under the Climate Action Plan 2023, the Irish Government has set a target to increase the share of renewables providing our electricity from 30% in 2018 to 80% by 2030. This will require a significant increase in the amount of solar, offshore and onshore wind on our electricity grid. Onshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of new, large-scale electricity generation in Ireland¹. Our aim is for the completed Kellystown Wind Farm to generate up to c.50MW of clean energy, powering more than 35,000 homes across Ireland.

¹ SEAI Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section 7.3.1, Table 33

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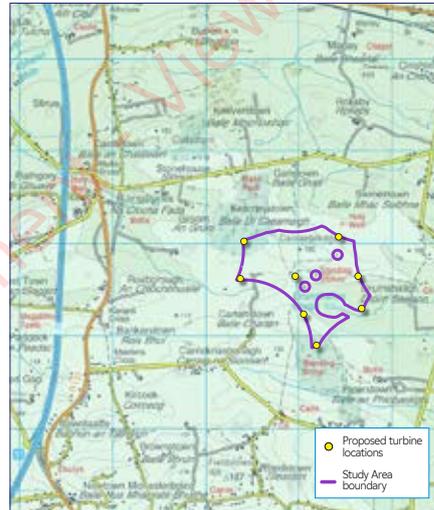
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Project achievements to date

- ✓ Completed **bat surveys**, with bat roost monitoring ongoing
- ✓ Two years **bird surveys** to be completed by September, with ongoing surveys up to planning submission
- ✓ Completed **noise monitoring assessment** at a number of locations around the site, which will contribute to a noise assessment report
- ✓ Compiled six months of **wind speed measurement** data and mapped environmental constraints at the site
- ✓ Completed **archaeological assessment**, and currently carrying out geotechnical, hydrology, habitat, landscape and visual and topographical surveys
- ✓ Designed **proposed wind turbine layout** (right)

The scheme has been developed in line with industry best practice and the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019.

The project will also include access tracks, a substation, battery storage containers, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, underground cabling and a grid connection which links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.



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Based on our site investigations to date, we believe the project could accommodate up to eight wind turbines, with a tip height of up to 180m.

We intend for any future planning application to be based on this proposed layout, however this may be subject to change as we gather more information through detailed environmental studies which will take place in the coming months, and through consultation with local residents and other interested stakeholders.

Next Steps and Timeline

Detailed environmental studies are continuing across the site including ecology, hydrology and landscape and visual assessments. These studies will be compiled into an EIAR report which will accompany the planning application.

We will also be finalising a grid connection route and a delivery route for turbine components and access points into the site.

We will be holding a public consultation event at a local venue in Q4 2023 where we will be presenting detailed project information and photomontages showing what the wind farm could look like from different local viewpoints.

The results of these studies, along with feedback gathered through consultation with local communities and stakeholders, will be used to determine a final turbine and infrastructure layout.

We will be consulting with Louth County Council in pre-planning meetings.

We are aiming to submit a planning application for the project by the end of this year.

Contact Us

Please visit our project website which we will keep updated as the project progresses:

www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/kellystown

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project: Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261) and Declan Collins (087 254 1416)

Alternatively, you can email the project team at kellystownwindfarm@edf-re.ie

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KELLYSTOWN WIND FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Welcome and Project Overview

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for this latest round of public consultation for the proposed Kellystown Wind Farm.

The project was launched in October 2022, and we would like to take this opportunity to update local residents on how the project is progressing and get your feedback on the project and our plans.

The proposed wind farm site is located approximately 8km north of Drogheda town, in an area of elevated ground of an east-to-west orientated ridge known as 'Carnanbreaga'. Following the completion of a number of environmental studies, and earlier rounds of public consultation, we have refined our plans to a five-turbine project, with a tip height of up to 180m. The proposed Kellystown Wind Farm will generate enough low-carbon electricity to power the equivalent of c.22,000 homes across Ireland.

The project will also include access tracks, a substation, battery storage facility, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, underground cabling and a grid connection which links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.

Key Stats:

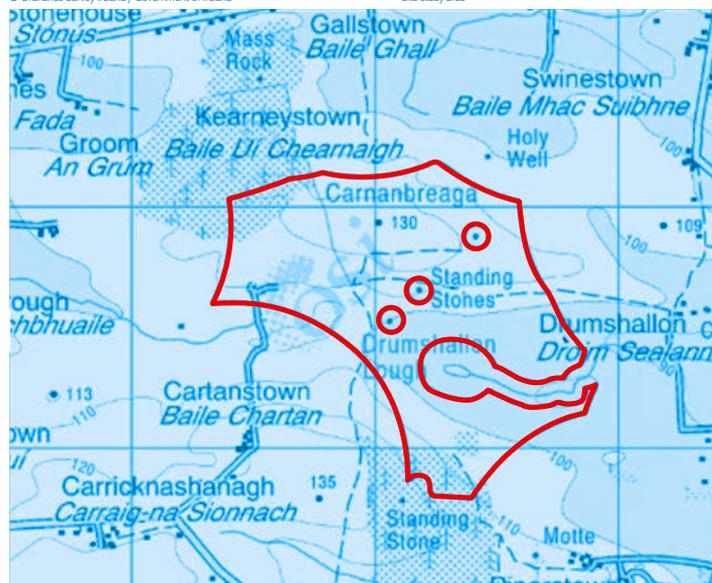
Up to **five turbines**, up to 180m in height

Generating capacity of **c.30MW**

Will power **c.22,000 homes** across Ireland¹

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1 SEAI Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section 7.31, Table 33
Site study area



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About EDF Renewables Ireland

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by over 400 colleagues in the UK.

About Jennings O'Donovan

Jennings O'Donovan are one of the longest established and most reputable multi-disciplinary engineering consultancies in Ireland. Established in 1950, it has grown to be the largest engineering consultancy in the north-west of Ireland. Since August 2023, the company is part of RSK Group. Jennings O'Donovan have been an established presence in the Renewable Energy Wind Farm sector since 1998. To date, the company has a portfolio of project involvement extending to over 2,040 MW of power in Ireland and Northern Ireland and is a recognised market leader in the area of wind energy development. This portfolio will equate, when completed, to an investment of €3 billion in the wind energy sector.

Meet the Project Team



Jenny Howard

Head of Development, EDF Renewables

Jenny has over 15 years' experience in renewable energy, with a focus on onshore wind. She has previously worked on a number of large-scale onshore wind farms across the island of Ireland, with additional expertise in budget and programme management. A chartered engineer, she also holds an MSc in Renewable Energy Systems.



David Kiely

Director, Jennings O'Donovan

David has 35 years' experience in the civil engineering and environmental sector. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's in environmental Protection, has overseen the construction of over 40 wind farms and has carried out numerous soils and geology assessments for EIARs. He has been responsible for the overall preparation of more than 20 EIARs.



Helena Hennigan

Project Manager, EDF Renewables

Helena manages the development of wind energy projects in Ireland, as well as acting as EDF Renewables' Health and Safety Representative for Ireland. With several years' experience in the business, IT and training sectors, she was previously a Senior Test Lead in the software development industry, working on high-profile projects in government, insurance and banking. She holds a Master's Degree in Business from NUI Galway.



Ryan Mitchell

EIA Project Manager, Jennings O'Donovan

Ryan is an Environmental Scientist and has over 6 years' experience in various institutions such as the Civil Service in Northern Ireland and Oxford University. He is a published author of scientific publications in peer reviewed journals. Ryan has become established as a project manager for renewable civil engineering projects at Jennings O'Donovan. He holds a BSc in Animal Conservation and Biodiversity from Greenwich University.



Declan Collins

Community Liaison Officer, EDF Renewables

Declan has 16 years' experience in various aspects of wind energy development, including stakeholder engagement, public consultation and the development of community-owned projects. He holds a degree in Business Studies and is a strong advocate for working closely with rural communities.



Aileen Byrne

EIA Assistant Project Manager, Jennings O'Donovan

Aileen Byrne is an Environmental Scientist, who holds a Bachelor (Hons) Degree in Geography and Information Technology from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a Higher Diploma in Environmental Science from the University of Limerick. She forms part of the Environmental team responsible for preparing the EIAR Chapters. Aileen has experience writing EIARs, Feasibility Studies and Shadow Flicker analysis.

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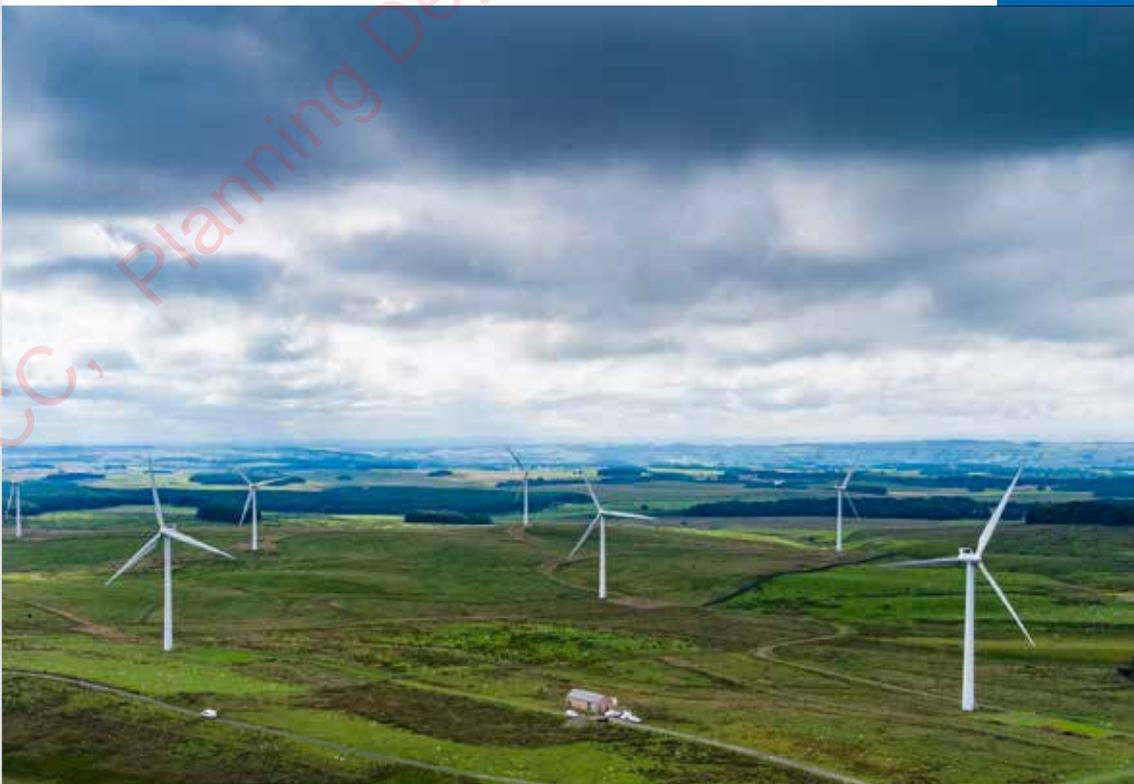
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Benefits of Wind Energy

- **Wind helps lower electricity prices** - wind energy is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity, is quick to build and keeps money in Ireland, supporting local jobs and communities.
- **Wind cuts CO2 emissions** - wind energy saves millions of tonnes of CO2 emissions each year;² and this will increase steadily as new onshore and offshore wind farms provide electricity to the grid.
- **Wind powers Ireland** - wind energy is consistently generating approximately a third of our electricity.³ Generating 50% or more of Ireland's electricity will be a regular occurrence as more onshore wind farms connect to the grid and we begin to build offshore wind farms. The Irish Government is aiming to generate 80% of Ireland's electricity from renewable energy by 2030.
- **Wind is good for the environment** - while CO2 is emitted in the manufacture and installation of a turbine, the CO2 savings delivered by the turbine pay this back in between six months to two years.⁴ A wind farm is only given permission to build if the planning authority is satisfied with environmental impact reports.

2. Climate change and wind energy (windenergyireland.com)
3. Your wind energy questions answered (windenergyireland.com)
4. Your wind energy questions answered (windenergyireland.com)



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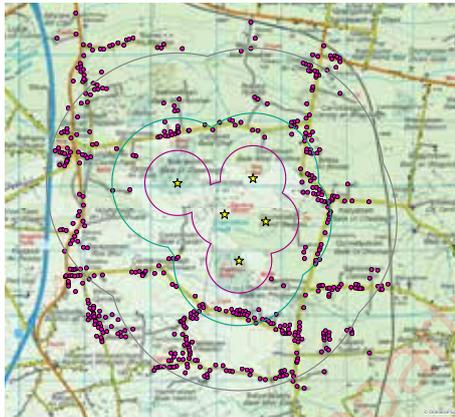
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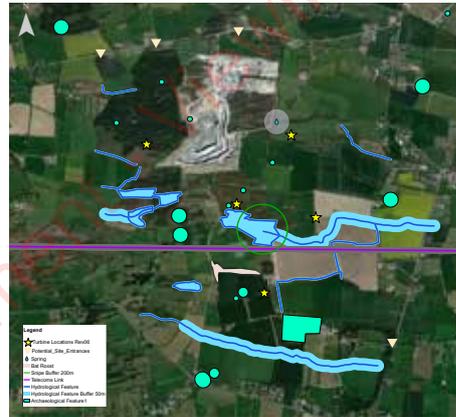
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Design Development and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)



Dwellings map with set-back buffers 500m/1000m/2000m



Constraints map

The site study area has been chosen based in the first instance on the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027, where it was identified as 'Open to Consideration.' This is then refined based on setback distances from homes and environmental constraints, followed by wind resource, land size and the availability of a suitable connection to the national grid.

Gathering information

The first step of the constraint's identification process is the gathering of information through detailed desk-based assessments, field surveys and consultation. Key environmentally sensitive features are mapped and the process of applying design constraints can begin.

These mainly include:

- Private dwellings;
- Protected sites such as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas or Natural Heritage Areas;
- Hydrological features such as rivers and streams;
- Areas prone to flooding;
- Sensitive ecological habitats;
- Known nesting sites of protected bird species.
- Areas of steep terrain or areas which may be potentially susceptible to landslides;
- Designated sensitive views or scenic routes;
- Places of archaeological or cultural heritage significance.

The design is fully compliant with the current 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the project team has committed to the setback recommendations in the new draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines, published in 2019.

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Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

Scoping and Consultation:

Scoping is the process of identifying the significant issues which should be addressed by the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Jennings O'Donovan prepared a Scoping Document, which was circulated to statutory and non-statutory consultees in July 2023, to provide them with an opportunity to comment and to inform the development design and assessment process.

The purpose of the EIAR is to document the current state of the environment on and in the vicinity of the site and to quantify the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment. The EIAR presents an examination that identifies, describes and assesses the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the following:

- a) population and human health
- b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC
- c) land, soil, water, air and climate
- d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape
- e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d)

The planning application for the Proposed Development will be accompanied by an EIAR. This will be publicly accessible and will address the following headings:

1. Introduction

The overall objective is to design a scheme that has the least impact on people living locally and the environment, while optimising the renewable energy generation of the site. Detailed environmental studies are continuing across the site including ecology, hydrology and landscape and visual assessments. These studies will be compiled into an EIAR to accompany the planning application, and we are aiming to submit these to Louth County Council in Q1 of 2024.

2. Background to the Proposed Development
3. Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives
4. Description of the Proposed Development
5. Population & Human Beings
6. Biodiversity
7. Birds
8. Land, Soils and Geology
9. Water
10. Air Quality
11. Climate
12. Noise and Vibration
13. Landscape and Visual
14. Cultural Heritage
15. Material Assets (includes Traffic and Transportation, Telecommunications, and Aviation)
16. Interaction of the Foregoing
17. Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
18. Schedule of Mitigation

Jennings O'Donovan are compiling the EIAR with the input of several other specialist consultants:

- John Cronin & Associates
- TNEI
- Macroworks
- McCloy Consulting
- Biosphere Environmental Services
- APEM
- WSP
- O'Dwyer & Jones Design Partnership

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Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

Transport and Site Access Community

It is proposed to bring the turbine components to the site of the proposed wind farm via the Port of Galway, along the Motorway (M6) national roads (N51 and N2) regional roads (R339, R148) and local roads (L4023, L0424). There are a small number of locations which require temporary additional works to accommodate oversized load delivery to site (for turbine components). These are mostly located at bends and junctions, and typically will require the placement of some temporary hardcore (gravel) surfacing to allow the turbine passage. Turbine components will be transported during suitably quiet times, with Garda and safety vehicle escort as required.

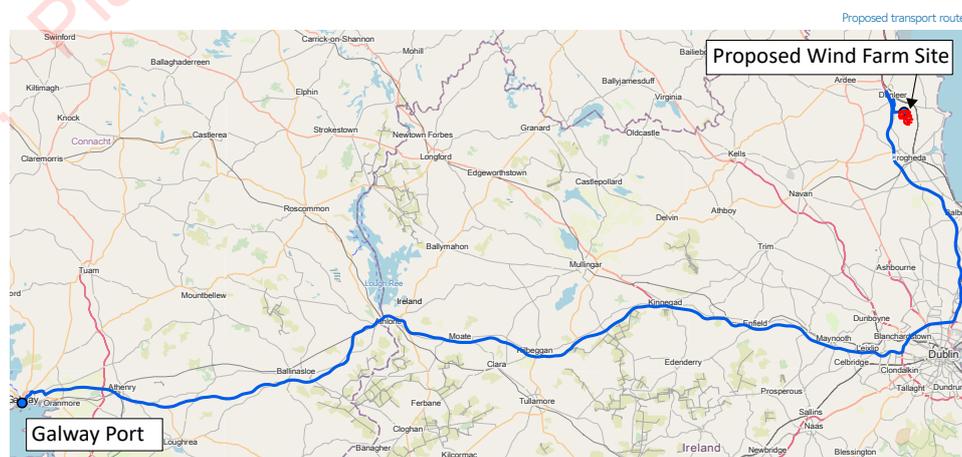
EDF Renewables is committed to delivering local benefits and working in partnership with local communities. If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of our long-term commitment to the local area. The Community Benefit Fund will see funds from the project go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities.

The fund will be set up once the project is energised, and we will appoint an administrator to implement the funding strategy and decisions and ensure good governance in the funding administration.

A volunteer committee, drawn from the local community, will be set up to decide on applications made to the Community Benefit Fund by local groups or individuals for funding.

Grid Connection

It is proposed to connect Kellystown Wind Farm to the national electricity grid by creating a 38kV underground cable connection to Drybridge 110kV substation, which is situated approximately 11.75km southwest from the wind farm site. The grid connection will mostly be located within the existing public road network and run parallel to the site access tracks within the buildable area to the proposed Kellystown Wind Farm substation.



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Other Considerations

Distance to nearest homes

The layout has been designed where possible to keep a setback distance of 720m to the nearest house from each turbine, in accordance with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, which propose a setback distance of four times the tip height of the turbines.

Noise

Currently, the guidelines for wind turbine sound levels in Ireland are set between 35 and 45 decibels depending on the time of day and the level of background noise. These are among the strictest limits in Europe today. To put this in context the fridge in your kitchen would typically generate a sound level of around 50 decibels while 40 decibels would be the noise in a quiet office.⁵

Property Devaluation

There is no research that we have seen which shows that wind farms affect property prices in Ireland. A major recent study in Scotland, a country of a similar size and a similar scale wind industry to Ireland, found no evidence of a negative impact on property prices.⁶

Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker is the name given to the flickering effect caused when the sun is in certain positions in the sky and shines through the rotating turbine blades. Under the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, no shadow flicker is permitted for future wind farms in Ireland. The turbine blades of Kellystown Wind Farm will therefore be turned off at the appropriate times to ensure no flicker effect is created.

⁵ Myths about wind energy (windenergyireland.com)
⁶ Myths about wind energy (windenergyireland.com)



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Next Steps

- Detailed environmental studies are continuing across the site including ecology, hydrology and landscape and visual assessments. These studies will be compiled into an EIAR which will accompany the planning application.
- The results of these studies, along with feedback gathered through consultation with local communities and stakeholders, will be used to determine the final turbine and infrastructure layout.
- Ongoing consultation with Louth County Council and as part of pre-planning meetings.
- We are aiming to submit a planning application for the project and the EIAR in Q1 2024
- Subject to planning permission, the wind farm could be constructed and operational in 2028.

Contact details

Please visit our project website which we are keeping updated as the project progresses:
www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/kellystown

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project, Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261) or Declan Collins (087 254 1416).

Alternatively, you can email the project team at kellystownwindfarm@edf-re.ie



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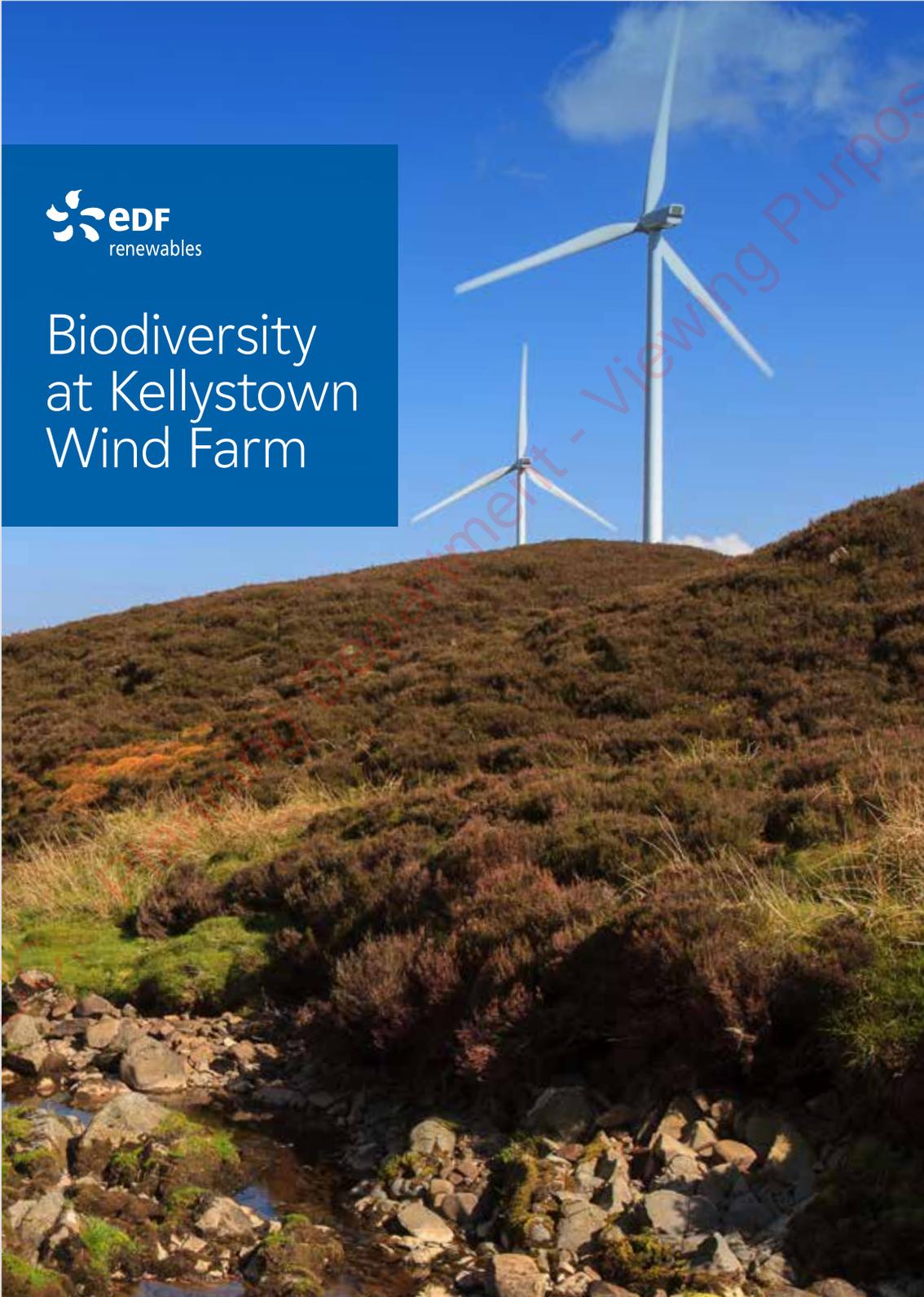
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Biodiversity at Kellystown Wind Farm



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The proposed Kellystown Wind Farm development is located approximately 8km north of Drogheda, Co. Louth. The landscape of the immediate and surrounding areas of the site consists predominantly of agricultural grasslands and some commercial forestry. Drumshallon Lough is also located on the site which consists of a natural lake and a mosaic of marsh habitat. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species recorded during ecological surveys of the area.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which must be submitted alongside the planning application, EDF Renewables and Jennings O'Donovan & Partners (JOD) must document the current state of the environment on and in the vicinity of the site and quantify the likely effects of the proposed development on the environment and the site's biodiversity.



02

Biodiversity Study 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 Kellystown Wind Farm with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors. The 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 a variety of bat, bird, and floral species. The biodiversity study area for the proposed Kellystown Wind Farm development is illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1. The biodiversity study area for the proposed Kellystown Wind Farm development in which a variety of specialist ecological surveys are being conducted to describe the biodiversity.

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Common Pipistrelle
(*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*)

Mammals

The habitats located within the study area can be home to a variety of mammal species such as deer, hare, badgers, bats and pine martin. The mammal species which have been recorded on site include the following species.

Bats (*Vespertilionidae*)

There are a total of nine bat species native in Ireland. A total of 6 bat species have been recorded roosting and foraging within the study area at Kellystown. These include common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Leisler's bat, myotis complex species, brown long-eared bat and Natterer's Bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle and weighs as little as a €1 coin. Bats are almost exclusively insectivorous in Ireland; it has been documented that an individual bat can eat over 3000 midges in a single night.



Buzzard
(*Buteo buteo*)

03

Birds

A wide variety of bird species typical of conifer, agricultural grassland and marshland habitats have been recorded within the general study area. Bird species occurring within and around the biodiversity study area include buzzard, peregrine, black-headed gulls, common snipe, yellowhammer, curlew, golden plover and lapwing. A selection of some of the notable species are highlighted below.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) The common snipe is a ground nesting species which typically utilizes open wet grassy areas such as wet grassland, marshes, and moorlands. While it is a relatively common bird species in Ireland, it is also elusive and rarely seen unless it is startled from its place in the vegetation. Common snipe feeds on invertebrates, such as insect larvae, as well as seeds and other plant material.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) The peregrine falcon is a small sized raptor a widespread species in Ireland. This species breeds primarily on coastal and inland cliffs. Many inland records are associated manmade habitats such as quarry cliffs and tall buildings. The diet of the peregrine falcon consists of other bird species such as pigeons, thrushes, waders and wildfowl, gulls and seabirds. The population is still recovering from a dramatic and well documented decline in the 1950s and 60s due to the effects of pesticide poisoning. Since the responsible pesticides have been banned the species has begun to recover slowly.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) The Buzzard is a medium sized raptor and a widespread resident species in Ireland, though it is found more commonly in the east of the country. This species is vocal for a raptor, they have a loud mewling call which it uses mainly in flight. They can be found in a variety of habitats such as farmland, grassland, heathland, moorland. Their diet consists of a wide variety of prey items including small mammals, birds, rabbits, insects, earthworms and amphibians. Recent range expansion has seen this species becoming widespread and very common throughout Ireland, with populations now reaching the far west of Ireland.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*) The yellowhammer is a declining resident species, formerly a widespread breeding species in Ireland. The populations are now restricted mainly to the east and south of Ireland. This species feeds primarily on grains of grasses and cereals, they are strongly linked with the cultivation of cereals and populations have declined in areas where these are no longer grown.

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Flora

The floral diversity ranges across the site with large areas limited floral diversity within the improved agricultural grassland and commercial forestry habitats. In contrast, the Drumshallon lough and associated wetland habitats have been noted to have a rich floral diversity and a selection of species which have been recorded are listed below.

Ragged- Robin (*Silene flos-cuculi*) Is a reddish pink and occasionally white native flower species found in a variety of habitats such as damp ground, marshes, meadows, roadsides, open damp woodland. Ragged-Robin is no longer as common as it once was due to the draining of marsh and wetlands habitats.

Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) This one of the spotted-orchids species which occur in Ireland. They are known to be extremely variable in colouration; this species is found in various habitats such as marshes, fens, calcareous or neutral soils, roadsides and meadows. The common spotted orchid has a widespread distribution in Ireland the flowers bloom between June and August.

Bog Cotton (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) Bog cotton also known as common cotton grass is a small herbaceous sedge. This species blooms in April and May with tiny insignificant little brown flowers. When it is in fruit that this becomes a most eye-catching and attractive conspicuous plant, the little seeds are held in fluffy white tufts. Bog cotton is found in peaty soils in a variety of habitats such as blanket and raised bogs, mires, marshes and wet grassland. A widespread species in Ireland though restricted to nutrient poor and peaty soils.



Invertebrates

Many species of invertebrates can be observed in commercial forestry, agricultural grassland and wetland habitats. Insects are a very diverse group of invertebrates with approximately 12,500 species are known to occur in Ireland. These include groups such as beetles, butterflies and dragonflies. A selection of the invertebrate species which were recorded on site are listed below:

Four-spotted chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*) A widespread and common species of Dragonfly across Ireland. The adult stage is found between from mid-May to mid-August in Ireland. Larvae have a two-year developmental cycle. Adults feed predominantly on mosquitoes, gnats, and midges; the larvae feed primarily on other aquatic insect larvae and on tadpoles.

Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*) The hairy dragonfly has a short flight period mid-May until mid-July. The larvae have a two-year developmental cycle. This species lives in various wetland habitats such as ponds, lakes, fens, ditches, and canals rich in vegetation. This dragonfly requires open and sunny areas with dense vegetation for protection.



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Habitats

05

Several of the habitat types found within this study area, and which may be of interest to the local community, are highlighted below.

Stream Waterbodies

A number of small streams flow in the east and west areas of the Kellystown Wind Farm proposed development site. There are four streams which run through the Site, these include the Hammondstown Stream, which meets the sea ca. 20 km downstream at Annagassan Port in Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC); the Slieveboy Stream, which goes to sea ca. 11 km downstream at Port/Lurganboy Beach; and the Piperstown Stream and Drumshallon Lough Stream, which join together as the Termonfeekin Stream and enter the sea ca. 8.5 km downstream of the Site, at Termonfeekin Beach, along the edge of the Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC. These streams support a variety of plant and animal species such as aquatic invertebrates. These include species groups such as caddisflies, dragonflies, mayflies, crane flies and beetles. The aquatic vegetation also form part of the stream ecosystem and provide an important food and habitat source for the diversity of species that occur within these streams.

Drumshallon Lough cNHA

This wetland complex is an area of biodiversity importance, comprising of a small mesotrophic lake and associated wetland habitats, including transition mire, marsh and wet grassland (Figure 2 & 3). Wetlands such as this provide habitat for a wide range of flora species, as well as species groups such as birds, mammals, fish and invertebrates. This complex of wetland habitat is of importance at least at a county level. The occurrence of transition mire is of particular note as it is listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive.



Figure 2. View of Drumshallon Lough, showing open water and fringe of swamp vegetation (June 2023).



Figure 3. An extensive area of marsh, wet grassland and transition mire occurs to the west of the lake. Looking westwards (June 2023).

Conifer plantation

Conifer plantation is one of the habitats within the biodiversity study area. 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 badger and bird species.

Improved Agricultural Grassland

A large portion of the site consists of improved agricultural grassland within the biodiversity study area. Agricultural grasslands are highly managed areas of vegetation maintained for the production of silage and/or for grazing by animals. Reseeding and fertilization are typical rotational practices in the maintenance of improved agricultural grasslands. In contrast to permanent grassland, improved agricultural grassland tend to be species-poor and the quality of the grassland dependent upon several factors such as soil type, drainage, and management practices. Despite a low variety of plant species, improved grasslands provide habitat for a range of fauna such as birds and invertebrate species.

Wet Grassland

Wet grassland is a type of semi-natural grassland, of which a few small areas occur within the biodiversity study area (Figure 3). Wet grasslands are described as areas dominated by grass species with sedge and rush species co-occurring, and where the soils are wet or waterlogged. Wet grasslands are prone to seasonal flooding and can be areas of poorly drained farmland that has not been recently improved, turlough basins, or alluvial grassland associated with river bodies. In addition to grass, sedge, and rush species, wet grasslands can support a wide variety herbaceous plant species such as creeping buttercup, meadowsweet, and yellow iris, as well as a variety of bird, and insect and other invertebrate species.

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Learn more:

[www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/
Kellystown](http://www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/Kellystown)

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project, **Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261)** or **Declan Collins (087 254 1416)**.

Alternatively, you can email the project team at Kellystownwindfarm@edf-re.ie



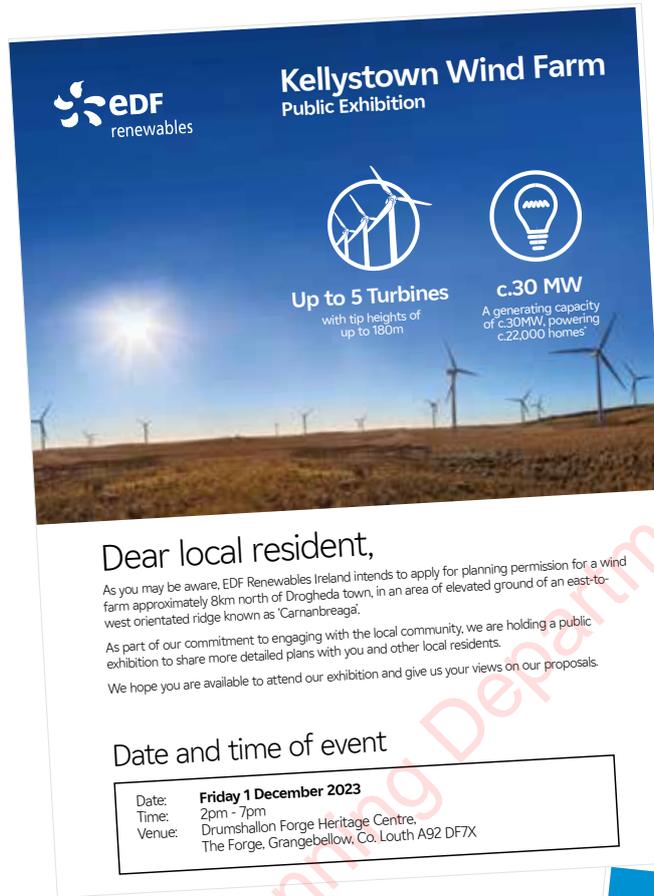
www.edf-re.com

EDF Renewables Ireland
Unit B, Ground Floor, Portview House, Thorncastle Street, Dublin 4, D04 V9Y9, Ireland

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RECEIVED: 04/12/2024



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Kellystown Wind Farm Public Exhibition

 **Up to 5 Turbines**
with tip heights of up to 180m

 **c.30 MW**
A generating capacity of c.30MW, powering c.22,000 homes*

Dear local resident,

As you may be aware, EDF Renewables Ireland intends to apply for planning permission for a wind farm approximately 8km north of Drogheda town, in an area of elevated ground of an east-to-west orientated ridge known as 'Carnanbreaga'.

As part of our commitment to engaging with the local community, we are holding a public exhibition to share more detailed plans with you and other local residents.

We hope you are available to attend our exhibition and give us your views on our proposals.

Date and time of event

Date:	Friday 1 December 2023
Time:	2pm - 7pm
Venue:	Drumshallon Forge Heritage Centre, The Forge, Grangebellow, Co. Louth A92 DF7X

What happens next

At the exhibition we will explain the findings of the various studies carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and show the newly revised layout of the proposed wind farm with accompanying photomontages to help you visualise the project. There will also be a virtual exhibition where you can view these materials online.

If you would prefer to speak to somebody personally, please get in touch.

We expect to submit a planning application for the wind farm to Louth County Council in Q1 2024.

Find out more about the proposed Kellystown wind farm

The proposed project consists of up to five turbines, up to 180m tall. This c.30MW wind farm would generate enough electricity to meet the annual domestic needs of c.22,000 homes each year.

Who we are

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by over 400 colleagues in the UK.

*Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section 7.31, Table 3.3

Contact Us

Please visit our project website which we will keep updated as the project progresses:
www.edf.re.ie/our-sites/kellystown

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project, Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261) or Declan Collins (087 254 1416).

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Louth CC, Planning Department - For Planning Purposes Only

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RECEIVED: 04/12/2024

4 NEWS

DROGHEDA INDEPENDENT | Wednesday, November 22, 2023

First phase of PANCR link road almost ready

The first phase of the Port Area Northern Cross Route (PANCR) is nearing completion and expected to be open to traffic early in the new year - a number of months ahead of schedule.

Contractors are putting the finishing touches to the section of road linking Rosehall roundabout on the north side of town to Ballymakenny Road and Louth County Council Director of Services, David Jones, told councillors at Monday's monthly meeting that it will be open in the new year.

Council CEO, Joan Martin, revealed she has entered preliminary talks with developers in relation to the next phase of the road.

She said she has asked council staff to start looking the crossing point with the Dublin to Belfast railway line, which will be the biggest challenge in constructing the next phase.

Outcomers

DROGHEDA

LGBTQ+ DROP IN

Informal and confidential safe space for LGBTQ+ adults in the Drogheda area.

Thursday, 30th November
7pm-9pm

@ Barlow House, Narrow West St

Join us for a cuppa ☕, a chat and a bit of craic

ALL LGBTQ+ PEOPLE (18+) WELCOME

For More Information:
Email: outcomersdrogheda@gmail.com

Greeting cards from your furry babies by Louth-based designer

BY ALISON CONYIN

For many people, their pets are part of the family, so why wouldn't you expect happy birthday wishes from Fido, congratulations from Fluffy and even commiserations from Swimmy the goldfish?

A Louth woman has found a gap in the competitive handmade greeting card market, by creating cards from pets!

Talented graphic designer Fiona Lynch is the founder of Almondrose Designs and in the past year, has made successful inroads into the market with her innovative and customised cards from animals.

"In this house, the dogs are the centre of our world and we love the way animals communicate with us on a daily basis. We have often asked ourselves wouldn't it be great if our pets could celebrate all the big and little occasions in our lives along with the rest of our friends and family," says Fiona, whose studio overlooks the beautiful seascape at Almondstown, near Cloughthead, Co Louth. "I was always trying to find the right cards from them for my husband or family members, so it kind of grew from there.

"Another thing is pet sympathy cards too, as when my previous dog died, my vet sent me this lovely card, so I decided I could create customised cards for vets or owners, and then it just grew into greeting cards."

Her new venture hasn't come completely out of the blue, as in a past life Fiona was a Graphic Designer for 25 years in a large Financial Services Company in Dublin. But after COVID, like many others, she decided it was time to stop the commute and stress of office life and to start designing things she loves and pets are something she adores.

"My designs are not just a card with a pet stuck on the front, as they are about pets communicating in their language to send funny and sincere messages to humans, so I really try to customise them for the owners," she explains. "I am a small start-up, but to help me, along with my husband, I have two staff members, both collies: Lexie a three-year-old 'Inspiration Manager' and Leia an eight-month-old 'Junior Creative Assistant', so there is a bit of puppy chaos but plenty of creativity."

Fiona is in the very early days in business, but early on she got involved in the Local Enterprise Office in Dundalk for a Start



Fiona Lynch of Almondrose Designs with her 'creative team' Leia and Lexie. Photo: Colin Bell Photography

Your Own Business Course.

"I got fantastic advice and help from them, and then I got involved in a programme called Creative Conversations which tried to gather as many design creatives in Louth, Monaghan and Cavan," explains Fiona.

"This was a great six-month programme, which is coming to a close this month in Creative Spark Dundalk."

Fiona is mainly an online business, selling her designs from her website and Instagram account, however, has been able to display her unique designs at craft fairs and national platforms, thanks to the Louth business initiatives.

"Through the Creative Conversations programme, I heard about Showcase 2024 <http://showcaseireland.com/> in the RDS and was selected along

with two other businesses to

represent County Louth in the LEO section of this prestigious exhibition for local and international buyers," says Fiona.

"I also applied for ACOENS <https://acoenz.ie/> which is a six-month programme that is designed to support early-stage female entrepreneurs living in rural Ireland and runs over six months part-time."

"The ACOENS initiative is centred around interactive round table sessions that are facilitated by female entrepreneurs, known as 'Lead Entrepreneurs', I'm very lucky to be on the team of the fabulous local businesswoman Anne Reilly, along with eight other women from Louth and Meath."

From using stock photos, Fiona is moving more into illustrating the cards, using

customised cartoons.

"We have exciting plans to expand our range of pet cards in 2024 and have loads of ideas and designs bubbling away here in our design studio. I've just invested in a printer so I'll be able to do more personally designed cards, as previously I had to rely on pre-printed," she says.

"From the end of this month, I'll be able to focus more and do more individual ones, so if there are any pets or designs that you would like to see added to our pet card collection, please contact us on info@almondrosedesigns.ie. Lexie would love to hear from you!"

You can find Fiona, Lexie and Leia's design on Instagram at [petscardsbyalmondrosedesigns](https://www.instagram.com/petscardsbyalmondrosedesigns/) or <https://almondrosedesigns.myshopify.com/>.

Kellystown Wind Farm

- Public Exhibition

EDF Renewables Ireland will hold a public exhibition on its proposed Kellystown Wind Farm from 2pm to 7pm on Friday 1 December, at the Drumshallow Forge Heritage Centre.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend to meet with the project team and learn more about the project.

For more information please contact our Community Liaison Officers
Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261)
or
Declan Collins (087 254 1416)
or see
www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/kellystown

DNA used to trace charity shop burglar

Investigators used DNA to track down a 47-year-old man who broke into a charity shop in Drogheda, the district court has heard.

Andrew Keenan, St Joseph's Homeless Aid, North Strand, pleaded guilty to a charge of burglary at the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), West Street, on 15 January last.

The defendant has 109 previous con-

victions, including for theft and burglary.

Sgt John O'Hehir presented evidence that the premises was broken into at approximately 5.30am.

A rock was used to smash a glass door before a sum of money was taken from the till.

The robber cut himself and through DNA a gardai identified Mr Keenan.

Solicitor Patrick Branigan said the ac-

cused man was well-known to the court.

He had a serious addiction problem and was trying to get into Cuan Mhúire.

Mr Keenan did community service in the past, Mr Branigan added.

Judge McKernan indicated a sentence of either 220 hours community service or four months imprisonment and adjourned the case to 15 January 2024 to see if the defendant is suitable for community service.

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RECEIVED: 04/12/2024

6 NEWS

DROGHEDA INDEPENDENT | Wednesday, November 29, 2023

Fellow Drogheda TD Ged Nash pays tribute to O'Dowd

Fellow Drogheda TD, Ged Nash has paid tribute to Fergus O'Dowd following the announcement this evening that he will not contest the upcoming General Election.

"I want to take the opportunity to wish Fergus, Agnes and all the O'Dowd family well into the future", he said.

"Deputy O'Dowd has been a constant and enduring presence in politics and public life in Drogheda and Louth and East Meath since the 1970s".

"Fergus has represented Drogheda, Louth & East Meath with enormous commitment and distinction since he was first elected to Drogheda Corporation in 1974".

"He can count many achievements during his political career, none more important than the role he played in exposing scandalous failures in the care of

older citizens in residential settings and the work he did in campaigning for significant reforms in the regulation of the care sector."

The 75-year-old Fine Gael TD, was first elected to the Dáil in 2002 and has served as an elected public representative for the people of Drogheda and County Louth for nearly 30 years.

At the 2020 General Election, Drogheda elected three TDs for the first time, with the then Senator Nash joining Sinn Féin's Imelda Munster and Deputy O'Dowd in Leinster House.

Concluding Deputy Nash, stated, "After a lifetime of service to the public and when this current mandate comes to an end, I have no doubt that Fergus will continue to play an active role in the life of our community".

Fergus O'Dowd not to stand at next Election

BY JOHN MULLIGAN

In a statement today the Fine Gael TD for Louth and East Meath, Fergus O'Dowd, has announced his intention to stand down at the next General Election.

First elected to the Dáil in 2002 and at each General Election thereafter, he was first elected to Drogheda Borough Council in 1974 and Louth County Council in 1979.

O'Dowd stated "It has been an honour and privilege to represent the people of the Louth constituency for a total of fifty years as an elected representative. I have served as a Councillor, as Mayor of Drogheda for three terms, as Senator, as Dáil Deputy, as Chair of both Droicheadas Transport Committee and Good Friday Implementation Committee and Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources and Environment, Community & Local Govt.

He contested the 1977 General Election as a Labour Party candidate and left the party in 1982 to join Fine Gael. He served as Drogheda Mayor in 1977-78, 1981-82 and 1994-95. A teacher in Drogheda before being elected to Seanad Éireann in 1997.

"Throughout my working life I have enjoyed the heartfelt support of the people of my constituency. I have deeply appreciated their loyalty and goodwill which made my job representing them all that more satisfying.

"I would also like to thank my wonderful wife Agnes, my best friend at all times, and my sons Vincent, Donal and Garrett and my extended family including my six grandchildren some of whom may someday choose the political life too. There is no more noble profession than trying to do good for people I will tell them.

"I want to also pay tribute to my dedicated staff who made my success possible over the years alongside the party members of the Louth constituency whose support was key to my re-election over the years. To my



Senator Fergus O'Dowd with his wife Agnes, sons, Donal, Vincent and Garrett as he arrived at Leinster House for the opening session of the new Seanad.

colleagues in Leinster House of whatever political persuasion, I say thank you for the many friendships and commitments forged to building a better Ireland for everyone.

"I am very proud of my efforts in helping to create a more caring and compassionate Ireland. Among my most important campaigns was to ensure improved quality of care for residents in Nursing Homes and I was honoured to be named Magill TD of the Year in 2006 for putting the national spotlight on this critical issue, an issue that I will continue to prioritise.

"Reform of the Freedom of Information Act was also a high priority for me, to ensure that all nursing home reports were finally placed in the public domain along with ensuring the establishment of HQA to ensure the HSE did not con-

tinue as a provider of care and also remain in charge of the inspection regime.

"I intend to continue to be a strong and forceful advocate nationally for improved care and supports for older people into the future.

"I also ensured that our national heritage was protected by fighting a successful High Court Action against developers who illegally demolished the historic 250 year old Drogheda Grammar School with a wrecking ball in the darkness of night, a protected structure of national importance which was destroyed at 4am on a bank holiday weekend on July 23, 1989.

O'Dowd added "When no one else would act the late Eddie O'Doherty and I took this legal action, forced the developers to sift and sort the rubble by hand to ensure the

eventual reconstruction of the building and that the fines faced by such acts were increased from £10,000 at the time to 1 million. We also obtained an order for the imprisonment of the developers if they refused to continue the sorting of material on site. The rebuilt and restored Drogheda Grammar School building stands proudly today in Laurence Street in the centre of Drogheda.

"I now look forward to working closely with the selected Fine Gael candidates in Louth and East Meath for the upcoming local, European and General Elections.

"Finally, we should always remember the wise Irish adage 'Be seath a chleite a mhairreann na daoine,' that we all live in each others shadows and must never forget that helping one deserving cause is helping all of the community."

Taoiseach pays tribute to party colleague

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar paid tribute to Deputy O'Dowd saying: "Fergus joined Fine Gael during the leadership of Garret FitzGerald. Since then, he has remained true to that mission for social progress and social justice.

"We have served in the Parliamentary Party since 2007 and on many occasions he reminded us, as a party, of our duty of care and empathy to wider society. His voice will be missed in the next Dáil. Deputy O'Dowd has been a powerful advocate for the rights of older people. He is driven by a deep sense of justice and I know that while he will not be in the next Parliamentary Party, he will continue to work and campaign on these issues and I hope I will still be able to work with him on them in some way.

"Fergus has an admirable electoral record having won eight elections in a row to the Seanad, Council and Dáil in which he is serving his fifth consecutive term. This tells us that the people of Drogheda and Louth value him as their public representative.

"I served alongside him as a Minister in the first Eadaí Kenny Government and when I became Leader of Fine Gael and Taoiseach, I was honoured to nominate him as Chairman of the Joint Droicheadas Committee on the Good Friday Agreement, a position he has held since. It's been really useful to have Fergus as a sounding board and advisor on cross-border issues and on Northern Ireland."



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edf renewables

Kellystown Wind Farm - Public Exhibition

EDF Renewables Ireland will hold a public exhibition on its proposed Kellystown Wind Farm from 2pm to 7pm on Friday 1 December, at the Drumshallow Forge Heritage Centre.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend to meet with the project team and learn more about the project.

For more information please contact our **Community Liaison Officers**
Helena Hennigan (087 399 5261)
or
Declan Collins (087 254 1416)
or see
www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/kellystown

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For more information see:

www.edf-re.ie

