
Dreenacreenig West Wind Farm Limited

**Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm,
Co. Cork**

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

JULY 2025

**Dreenacreenig West
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DERREENACRINNIG WEST WIND FARM

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to The Proposals

The report has been prepared in order to record the consultation that has taken place with the local community. The Report describes the consultation requirements for Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm (the Development), the consultation measures undertaken by Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm Ltd (the Applicant), the feedback received and any resultant modifications to the Development.

The Applicant recognises that it is very important to ensure that communities in the vicinity of a development are afforded appropriate and meaningful opportunities to view and comment on the proposals before they are finalised in accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement¹ and The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines, published for consultation in December 2019². The objective of the consultation is to ensure that the views and concerns of all are taken into consideration as part of the pre-planning process.

This report has been prepared to demonstrate how the Applicant has engaged with the local community and to ensure that the views of stakeholders are taken into account as part of the planning application process. Although community consultation on such projects is not a mandatory requirement under the Irish planning system and the adopted 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines, The Applicant has taken a proactive approach and considers community consultation to be an important element of the project.

2 CONSULTATION GUIDANCE

In December 2016, the Department of Communication, Climate Action and Environment released the aforementioned Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland, Guidelines for Community Engagement. The key driver behind the Code of Practice was *“to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland is undertaken in observance with the best industry practices and with the full engagement of communities around the country”*.

¹ The Department of communication, Climate Action & Environment, 21st December 2016

² The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government -Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines, December 2019

Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm Ltd, have adhered to the guidance set out in the Code of Practice during the pre-planning submission stage with the advertising and hosting of a Public Information Day (PID) in October 2024.

2.1 Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines December 2019

The Applicant has had regard to the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines in the preparation of the Public Information Day. The Draft Guidelines emphasise the importance of early and meaningful engagement with local communities, with a Community Report to accompany all applications.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

3.1 Leaflet Drop

A project leaflet was hand delivered to all residences within a 2km radius of the site. The purpose of the leaflet was to inform the public of The Development, including details of the public information day itself. A copy of the leaflet is set out at **Appendix 1** of this report.

3.2 Public Information Day (PID)

A PID was undertaken on the 9th October 2024 from 3-7 pm, to establish a dialogue with the local community regarding the Development being promoted by Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm Ltd in the local area. The PID took place at the Drimoleague Parish Hall, Main St, Dromdaleague, Drimoleague, Co. Cork. The Applicant who wanted to show their commitment to working with the community and inviting responses to feed into the development process, prior to the submission of an application to the Determining Authority.

The event comprised a comprehensive display of the plans of the Development, via the use of Display Boards and a Tablet portraying the Landscape and Visual Aspects of the Development. This afforded local residents the opportunity to ask any questions specific to the Development. The detail of the PID materials and information banner contents are provided in section 3.5 and illustrated in **Appendix 2**.

3.3 Consultation Events in Detail

Representatives from the Applicant's team Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd. (the Planning and Environmental Consultant), The Developer, Derreenacrinnig West Wind Farm Limited, Land Agent, Macro Works (Landscape and Visuals Consultant) were available to explain the project and answer any questions relating to the Development.

The public were informed of the PID through a variety of methods including a leaflet drop and

newspaper notice as well as direct correspondence to relevant local stakeholders as detailed below.

Leaflets were left at approximately 60 residences in the area on the 2nd October 2024. The leaflets provided an overview of the Development, a site location map, an overview of The Applicant including their projects, an overview of community benefits and details of the date, time and venue of the PID. A copy of the leaflets, which were also used as handouts at each event are contained in **Appendix 1**.

A total of 50 no. people attended the PID at Drimoleague Parish Hall on the 9th October 2024.



Figure 1: The Venue



Figure 2: PID Tablet used for Landscape and Visual Aspects of the Proposed Development



Figure 3: PID



Figure 4: PID

3.4 Community Accessibility

The venue of The Drimoleague Parish Hall was chosen due to its familiarity to local people, proximity to the Development, availability of car parking and sufficient space in the hall to accommodate the information banners and attendees comfortably.

3.5 Public Information Content

At the PID, there were 10 no. information banners. The banners covered details and information including the following:

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- Introduction to the Proposals
 - Development Timeline
 - Environmental Impact Assessment and Development Strategy
 - Landscape and Visual Assessment and Viewpoint Maps
 - Site Layout and Grid Connection Overview
 - Community Benefit and Involvement
 - Climate Benefit

Copies of the information banners are provided at **Appendix 2**.

Other viewpoints were available in A1 hard copies. A computer was also set up using software which enabled the project team to replicate views of the Development from any given property or other location in the locality on request. As noted above, representatives from the project team were available to explain the project and answer questions.

4 COMMENTS RECEIVED

4.1 October 2024

As stated in Section 3, a total of 50 no. people attended the public consultation event. Numerous attendees engaged in discussions with the project team. Responses to each of the questions are provided in the tables below.

It is noted that most of the attendees live in close proximity to the development with less coming from further afield.

All attendees were satisfied with the information that was presented during the event. The most effective forms of communication was the leaflet drop. The range of answers to this question indicates that advertising of the PIDs in the local area was effective.

Most residents acknowledged that clean energy is critical in the fight against climate change.

However, there were a number of residents who raised verbal objections to the Development on the grounds of cumulative impacts of the development; devaluation of property, noise and visual impact from their respective properties.

To address visual impact concerns, a tablet was used during the PID which local residents could use to view the Proposed Development in the context of their property. This alleviated

a lot of concerns as residents worked out that the Project was not visible from the homes.

In the intervening period since the public consultation was held, The Applicant has looked critically at the comments received from local residents and has sought to address those comments where possible. Table 4.1 sets out a summary of the comments received from the public during the Public Information Day.

Table 4.1: Summary of Comments received during the Public Information Day

Comment	Response / Action Taken
Community Benefit	The Applicant will continue to engage with the local community during the Planning and pre-decommissioning and construction phases and will advise of the community benefit package once confirmed. Concerns were raised during the Pid regarding the distribution channels used for the community benefit fund.
Layout of The Development	A concern was raised by a local resident with respect to the layout of the Overhead line poles for the Grid Connection. They requested that the top of the poles stay at the same height to ensure that they blend into the surrounding landscape. The Applicant has increased the range of pole heights from 9m to 15m to overcome the concerns raised.
Broadband and Wi-Fi reception for the area.	The Applicant will consider this matter as part of their community benefits package.
Continued Liaison with Local Community to be addressed.	The Applicant has engaged with the local community during the pre-planning submission phase and will continue to do so during the Planning and construction phases.
To make sure road traffic and disturbance is kept to a minimum.	The Applicant will ensure that a suitable Traffic Management Plan, in consultation with the local residents and Cork County Council, is put in place to the appointed contractor for the construction phase of the Development.
Benefits for Local Communities	A detailed house survey has been completed in the locality of the Development and these have been

Comment	Response / Action Taken
	considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment. Noise and shadow flicker assessments have been completed as part of the EIAR. The work produced to date shows that no significant effects are predicted. The Application will establish a community benefit package for the surrounding area.
To ensure that noise impacts are minimised	Concerns were raised regarding noise impacts of the Proposed Development during the PID. Noise assessments as part of the EIAR have shown that due to the distances from the turbines to the nearest receptors, and mitigation measures to be adopted. There will be minimal noise effects during the operation phase of the project.

5 RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION

5.1 How comments have been considered in the Development design

The project team has carefully considered all comments raised during the consultation process. This was highlighted in the positive discussions, comments and interest received throughout the pre-planning phase, including the public information day.

The Applicant has reviewed all of the interactions, comments and feedback received during the pre-planning phase. As a result of this review, the Applicant has identified four key themes within the consultation. These themes and The Applicant’s response / action taken are presented in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Key themes within consultation

Comment	Response/Action Taken
Construction phase Traffic Disruption to the local road network	The Applicant has extensive experience of working with local residents to minimise disturbance during construction of developments and will produce a Traffic Management Plan in consultation with Statutory Consultees and the local community. The Applicant will also seek to utilise construction material from local sources and on site where possible, minimising transportation impacts and providing a local economic benefit. Chapter 11: Traffic and

Comment	Response/Action Taken
	Transportation of the EIAR contains a detailed assessment of the Traffic and Transportation associated with the Development from initial decommissioning through to operation of the Development. The selected delivery routes are proven for wind farm construction/component delivery.
Community Benefit	If consented, it is proposed that the Development will offer an associated community benefit package. The Applicant have recorded the suggestions made by the attendees at the PIDs in terms of the community aspirations and what benefits could be delivered. As detailed above, The Applicant will continue to liaise with the communities throughout the planning phase and beyond.
Noise from the Development	The Applicant have engaged a specialist Noise consultant to complete a background noise survey and complete an assessment of the predicted noise levels from the Development. The assessment has found that the predicted noise levels are considered acceptable within the terms of the noise assessment guidelines.
Grid Connection overhead line design	A number of concerns were raised with respect to the design of the Grid Connection, specifically the poles used for the overhead line section. The design has been updated to increase the height range of the poles to 9m to 15m. This will help even out the heights of the poles and blend the Grid Connection route into the surrounding landscape.
Landscape and Visual Impacts	A number of residents were concerned about the Landscape and Visual Impacts of the Project on the local environment. There was particular concerns from residents on how the Project would look from their household. At the PID, Macro Works (the LVIA experts for the Project) brought photomontage booklets of the Proposed Development, and a tablet which allowed residents to view the project from the location of their own home.

6 CONCLUSION

In accordance with Industry Good Practice and the '*Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland, Guidelines for Community Engagement*' and '*The Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines -December 2019,*' The Applicant has undertaken extensive consultation, and this has been documented and reported in this Community Consultation report.

The Community Consultation process was focussed around the public consultation held in October 2024. Key themes were identified as a result of the public consultation, including concern around noise impacts during the operational phase and interest in any community benefit package. The consultation process also highlighted support for the windfarm. There was acknowledgement that Ireland needed to provide more clean energy in the wake of a Climate Change Crisis.

In response to the comments expressed by attendees, each of these have been addressed and comments made within this Community Consultation Report. The design and EIA processes have also responded to and taken account of a number of the comments made, particularly with regards to the traffic matters, noise and visual impact.

An explanation of the key design principles and concepts that further informed the Development design process are also covered within **Chapter 2: Development Description** of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

APPENDIX 1

INVITATION TO PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY (LEAFLET)

APPENDIX 2

PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY STAGE– INFORMATION BANNERS