

**From:** [Secretary Shannon Rangers Kerry](#)  
**To:** [SIDS](#)  
**Subject:** Case reference PA08.322568 (ABP-322568-25) -- Shannon Rangers observation  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 16, 2025 11:17:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [250916 - SR observation to ABP - STEP SID.pdf](#)

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ACP case reference                      PA08.322568                      (ABP-322568-25)  
*10-year permission for proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park consisting of power plant, battery energy storage system, floating storage and regasification unit, jetty, onshore receiving facilities, above ground installation and all ancillary structures/works.*

Dear Sirs,

Shannon Rangers is a GAA Club based in North Kerry. Our constituent clubs include Ballylongford and Tarbert, and also the GAA clubs of Asdee, Ballydonoghue, Ballyduff and Beale (*Ballybunion*).

On 26th August 2025 we were invited by An Coimisiún Pleanála to make a submission or observation in relation to Further Information responses received by An Coimisiún from Shannon LNG & the Department of Climate, Energy & the Environment.

Shannon Rangers GAA club would like to offer the attached observation in respect of the planning application referenced above. I believe that a fee is unnecessary on this occasion, and that this is a valid observation. An Coimisiún Pleanála might be kind enough to confirm that this is the case upon receipt of this observation.

Please contact me with any queries,

Kind regards,

Alan Kennelly.

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**Secretary,**

**Shannon Rangers GAA.**



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Tá an ríomhphost seo, chomh maith le ceangaltán ar bith a bhaineann leis, faoi rún agus baineann sé leis an duine nó leis an aonán a bhfuil an seoladh seo aige/aici, amháin. Baineann aon tuairim nó barúil a nochtar leis an údar amháin agus ní gá go mbeadh aon bhaint ag na tuairimí sin le tuairimí an Chumainn. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir an duine a chuir chugat é ar an eolas le do thoil. Cé go ndéanann an Cumann scanadh ar r-phoist agus ar cheangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, níl aon chinnteacht go bhfuil ceachtar acu saor ó víris. Ní ghlacann an Cumann le dliteanas ar bith i leith aon damáiste a eascraíonn as víris.



The Secretary,  
An Coimisiún Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902.

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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Shannon Rangers' observation breaks down into two categories –

- Medium term energy security and the Environment,
- Economic and Social benefits.

### 1. Medium term energy security and the Environment.

There is a growing awareness that the current energy crisis will not be solved in the short term. Increased gas storage is needed for Ireland's energy security.

As other fossil fuels (*Oil, Coal & Peat*) are removed from the energy generation grid and in the transition period while we await the capability of renewable energy sources increasing to the point where they can generate enough energy (& *blue hydrogen to power generating sets*) 100% of the time; natural gas will play a key role as an immediately available, cost-effective, reasonably climate-friendly alternative.

Ireland has an ambitious deadline for carbon-free electricity production (*net zero carbon emissions by 2050*). However, achieving this deadline will necessitate the expansion of renewable electricity production and the development of a hydrogen production and energy generation sector. Natural gas comes into play as a bridge technology, as it produces far fewer pollutants and CO<sub>2</sub> during combustion than other currently available energy sources.

The technology and energy park proposed will complement the ESB's ambitious plans for floating wind energy production off the Atlantic coast of counties Kerry and Clare (*and blue hydrogen production at Moneypoint generating station*). If the ESB plans for floating wind to provide 30-gigawatt generation capacity (*at c. 60% efficiency*) are to be realised, an alternative power generation source is required in the medium-term.





This point was reinforced today by Minister of State Deputy Timmy Dooley who is quoted as saying

*“Ireland sat back on its laurels when it came to the development of offshore wind farms.”*

while announcing the National Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy.

We would ask that An Coimisiún Pleanála take particular cognisance of the Department of Climate, Energy & the Environment’s Further Information submission and in particular the confirmation that

*“The Policy Statement on the Importation of Fracked Gas no longer remains in place.”*

## 2. Economic and Social benefits.

North Kerry has been economically disadvantaged for years. All 6 of our constituent clubs are in CLÁR disadvantaged funding areas.

A Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce was recently set up to try and address this disadvantage. The largest employer on the Shannon Estuary in Kerry is Tarbert Comprehensive School. We feel that the provision of jobs is urgently required in North Kerry – to allow our area grow and thrive economically once again. At present our population is dwindling (*see census figures for several recent censuses*), school numbers are falling and employment opportunities are fewer and further between. Our player numbers continue to diminish and we have already amalgamated with Feale Rangers at underage level and now at senior level for the 2025 county football championship. To clarify, this means that 13 clubs must amalgamate to enter a competitive district team in the county championship. No other district must bring together as many clubs simply to compete. We need jobs if our villages in North Kerry are to survive. It is that simple and that stark.





I would urge An Coimisiún to consider recent reports prepared by the recently appointed Kerry GAA Demographics Officer, Mr. Michael Murphy. Mr. Murphy spells out, directly & plainly, the effects of rural depopulation in Kerry, particularly in North Kerry – along the Shannon Estuary & South Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula.

For reference a recent article in the Irish Examiner –  
<https://www.irishexaminer.com/sport/gaa/arid-41407331.html>

I would like to remind An Coimisiún that there is National Policy on Rural Development – particularly the Rural Development Policy 2021-2025. The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. An Ireland which is built on the interdependence of urban and rural areas. An Ireland which recognises the centrality of people, the importance of vibrant and lived-in rural places, and the potential to create quality jobs and sustain our shared environment.

Shannon Rangers GAA urges An Coimisiún to throw the villages along the Shannon Estuary coast of North Kerry a lifeline and grant permission to the proposed Shannon Technology and Energy Park.

Kind regards,

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Alan Kennelly,  
Secretary.

