

Environment

- Peaceful community disturbed
- Our beautiful, peaceful area of East Clare with our rolling hills , Knocknahura forest walks is a wonderful place to raise a family. The peace we experience here is good for our mental health and peace of mind. My family left Dublin & Kildare over 20 years ago, to get away from the noise , the traffic, the air pollution. Now I find myself and my family, facing the same obstacles that made us leave our home in Kildare. Noise from these 185m windmills, pollution of our drinking water from the disturbance of the bogs in the area. This was a huge problem with DerryBrien wind farm in South Galway. I look across the valley at that 'Project' everyday and see its ugliness against the beautiful hills. Its there for eternity as contrary to An Bord Pleanála's directive they are not dismantled. Its cheaper to pay fines I believe. I do not want to spend the rest of my life living under these monstrous windmills only to have them still there when they have been decommissioned in 35yrs time. Is this the legacy we are passing on to our children and the future generations?
- Fractured community pitting neighbour against neighbour. Our harmonious community where neighbour helps neighbour and there's always someone to call on in case of need has been thrown into disarray with the advent of these windmills. There are two families selling up along our road having been there for almost 20 years, citing the advent of these monsters as the driving force behind their decision to relocate. Neighbours who are been given tiny bits of money to store soil, use their roads or house these monsters are pitted against those who want these monsters housed out to sea where the wind is proven to be way more significant. Is this right?
- Our local nesting pairs of Hen Harriers will gone forever from our ever decreasing national population of them. The lesser horse shoe bat that lives in the area will also meet the same fate. Also the local wild life that enhance the area making it a beautiful place to live
- Devaluation of our property.
It is proven that property in the shadow of these windmills fetch a much reduced price on the open market . Its as much as 30% . Our neighbours want to get out before this project goes ahead hoping not to be yet affected on the price of their property. Where does that leave the rest of us. During the 'Boom' in Ireland we built a house for which we paid way over the odds as An Bord Pleanála or the County Council did not oversee what builders were doing. Shameful practices were allowed to happen during that time. Yet, if there was a lesser horseshoe bat within an asses roar of your proposed site planning was turned down and An Taisce called in. Planning was refused on numerous occasions because of our heritage: Bats, Fairy forts, etc but in this instance there is no sign of An Taisce objecting or any importance given to our heritage by an Bord Pleanála.
- As I work in the local village of Sixmilebridge I worry about getting to work in a timely fashion as the amount of concrete required to build these monstrosities will be epic. Not to mention the size of these windmills being hauled around these tiny local roads, I will be in a state of anxiety for years trying to find my way to work past all this extra traffic on totally unsuitable roads.
- What amuses me is that the roads that are totally unsuitable to carry these monstrosities will suddenly be upgraded and enhanced for this purpose. No amount of local lobbying can get the roads upgraded right now!!