

Mark Kielty

From: Bord
Sent: Thursday 17 September 2020 14:57
To: Appeals2
Subject: FW: Submission re Substitute Consent Application PL04.307939 Cleanrath Ltd

From: Catherine Ketch <catherineketch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday 17 September 2020 14:49
To: Bord <bord@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Submission re Substitute Consent Application PL04.307939 Cleanrath Ltd

Submission re Substitute consent Application PL04.307939 Cleanrath Ltd.

From: Catherine Ketch, Coolnacaheragh, Macroom, Co. Cork.

Date 17/09/2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

The development of nine high turbines in the Derrineanig and Cleanrath area of the Lee Valley has created a huge intrusion on an extremely scenic and very rural and wild landscape.

The Upper Lee Catchment area is encircled by the Shehy, Derrynasaggart and Boggeragh Mountains.

The River Lee stretches from Gougane Barra to Cork City including the lakes at Gougane Barra, Lough Allua, and the Gearagh. The catchment area has traditionally been a vital recreation area for the City and surrounding high population areas for both touring and walking within easy access.

I've run guided walks in the Upper Lee Valley area for the past 21 years serving the recreational needs of clients from the local area, Cork City, Ballincollig and other nearby population hubs. The Upper Lee Valley is a pivotal resource for these more populated areas and within easy driving reach.

However with the proliferation of industrial sized wind farms on all the aforementioned mountain ranges with more in the planning system along with those currently under construction, the amenity value of this area is being severely compromised.

Within the past decade I've witnessed the gradual erosion of the wild and beautiful quality of this landscape with the addition of these wind farms. With the addition of the Cleanrath/Derrineanig development there are few high places left within the catchment area that are un-spoilt by both the turbines and the road infrastructure serving them. The cumulative effect of these developments is to severely reduce the area's amenity value.

The development in question sits in the centre of the catchment on a ridge that previously afforded the best 360deg view of the entire upper catchment and the surrounding mountains. The scale of the nine turbines serves to diminish Derrineanig hill and Cleanrath ridge as well as the surrounding landscape including Inchigeelagh village and Lough Allua.

Derrineanig translates as Doire an Aonaigh or the Oak Wood of the Gathering Place - signifying the importance of the eminence in our ancient past.

A new tourist initiative as part of an Interreg project Atlantic Culture Scape sees to develop intangible cultural heritage experiences across the Atlantic area. Gaeltacht Mhúscraí (a stone's throw from this development) is the area chosen to represent the Irish Republic joining areas including Northern Ireland, Wales, Spain and Portugal.

Due attention has not been given to local sensitivities in the context of the National Planning Framework 2018 in developing renewable energy in rural settings "while continuing to protect the integrity of the environment and respecting the needs of people who live in rural areas".

The Cork County Development Plan of 2014 emphasises the significance of the County's landscape as a key green infrastructure asset due to its intrinsic value as places of natural beauty in addition to its importance with regard to recreation and tourism and other uses.

Thank you,

Catherine Ketch
Lee Valley Walking