

R.E. Application to An Bord Pleanála for Substitute Consent for Cleanrath Windfarm Ltd.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	_____
ABP-	_____
11 SEP 2020	
Fee: €	Type: _____
Time: _____	By: <u>909</u>

Goirtínfliuch,
Béal Áthan Ghaorthaidh,
Co. Chorcaí,
9/09/2020

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of myself (Mary Uí Dhuinnín), Shane Ó Duinnín and Donal Kelleher with regard the works that took place in relation to the laying of 38KV cables for the Cleanrath Wind Farm and would like to strongly object to the work and the manner in which the people of our local community were treated.

From the onset of work communication about the project and intended works were nonexistent. Prior to the commencement of these works both Mr. Michael Murnane and Mr. Kevin Dennehy stated clearly that we would be compensated for the inconvenience of same works. In this conversation compensation measures to cover the costs of laying our drive way, paving, curbing and the levelling of the garden were suggested. However, even though we have endured the works and the massive levels of disruptions to date we have not received any compensation bar a single bottle of Paddy's Whiskey which was left at our back door. It was made clear that all households would receive equal compensation and in my opinion a bottle of Paddy's Whiskey is not satisfactory. We had asked Mr. Michael Murnane and Mr. Kevin Dennehy for a public meeting to discuss concerns from the people of this area. This was outright refused and under no circumstance were they going to host a public meeting outlining how the work was going to take place or how we were going to be compensated. My question, without giving us the possibility of a public meeting to discuss work in our local area, how were we to know of the extreme hardship that lay ahead for us with all the disruptions and when were we going to get to speak as a community about compensation?

As we were not having satisfactory communications with Mr. Murnane on several occasions we contacted Mr. James Dwyer both in person and through email. We mentioned on several occasions about worries that work had started before planning permission was granted (road openings and road closures etc.) Unfortunately the information we received from Mr. Dwyer was very ambiguous and I still am very unsure if correct permission was in place or not. If correct planning was not adhered to, I would be very disheartened as I made contact to the County Council several times with my worries and would have thought they would be the people in the best position to ensure correct procedure.

The manner in which work was undertaken was appalling and unsafe. The disruptions caused by these works have been more than just an inconvenience but a massive strain on our family.

- Un-notified road closure: We were not prewarned about road closures on the road. This directly impacted us as both, my husband and I were forced into making a 15 minute detour twice to four times daily. As we were not notified about these works this often

resulted in one or both of us been late to our places of work. Donal is a farmer whose farm is split in two separate areas and as a result had to deal with roadworks in excess of 8 times a day.

- **Damage to vehicles:** The state of the road was appalling. Potholes were not been filled and the road surface was rough and unlevel. All three of us have good cars (mine was only purchased before the commencement of the works) and are not in a good state from conditions we were forced to endure. Both mine and Shane's cars were scratched as we were forced to drive through a passing which was too narrow.
- **Stress:** I was pregnant during the works and the conditions of not knowing if I could get home or not was unacceptable. For example on the 08/02/19 we had to use the detour road due to road closures. This road is narrow and winding with several blind turns. This detour road was blocked by a fallen tree and was impassable. As a result all users were forced into backing long distances to find a suitable place to turn around. This was unacceptable at any time but in my condition I found it very difficult and it caused an enormous amount of stress. Furthermore, the management of the road and the safety measures in place were nonexistent. We had to drive through extremely narrow sections of road along side large open trenches (with men at work inside). Again, our safety was put into disregard and the level of stress we had to endure by passing these trenches was enormous. Let it be noted, I had a premature birth with my baby arriving at 36 weeks gestation. Out of everything, I am truly angry that I was put under such stress and pressure and I honestly believe that this had negative consequences on my pregnancy and unfortunately led to a very difficult start in life for our son.
- **Disrespect:** Unfortunately, I cannot say it was a pleasure dealing with the people involved in the works. I was promised water/flood study works which are important in relation to our house. It was said we would have this report before any commencement of the bridge beside us. However the bridge was erected before any report was made accessible to me. In fact, I arrived home from work one day and the bridge was built, no notice given even though this bridge bounds our lands. I noted my concern about the bridge in a meeting with Mr. Dennehy before its commencement. This meeting left me in tears as my voice was not been heard and my worries not acknowledged. Even though he knew I was concerned he failed to follow through on his promise to update me before the work started. Furthermore there have been several incidents about how disrespectful workers have been around our home, one incident to name a few is a cement lorry been cleaned in our driveway leaving the place in an absolute mess. For a time we had an agreement that pipes could be stored on our land. Mr Murnane broke this agreement but workers were still informed to use our land and driveway as a car park. On several days I came home from work early due to illness and machines and cars were parked in our driveway. I have photographs of this.
- **Stoppage time:** As our road could not be closed due to it being a cul de sac, we had to endure lengthy waiting times. We all had to wait upwards of 45 minutes. Again, this is unacceptable but as a pregnant woman it was extremely difficult and very unfair. On another occasion I was late for a hospital appointment as the road by Mr. Peter Lucey was closed for over 40 minutes as the cables were been fed through, again as with the digging of the road and laying of pipes these road closures were not communicated. The road after the turnoff for Gougane Barra (Cum Dorcha) was completely closed for a number of weeks. There was an apparent stop/go system in place. The stop go system

was not manned and the signage was permanently at stop. This is a road closure and there was definitely no permission.

- Damage to property: Our fences have been knocked and damaged and there has been no compensation for same. I was in contact with James Crowley about simply paying for damages to our property but no retribution was ever received.
- Road ownership: We also have questions about the ownership of the land under the road. We believe that the pipes are buried 3 feet under the road and that the land owners on either side if the road actually possess this land. This land was never purchased from the landowners.

This is only a brief summary of our inconveniences. From start to finish Mr Murnane bullied his way through our community and this needs to be addressed. I have made an appointment with my solicitor in relation to our grievances.

I would like to thank for reading my objections and hope that this matter can finally be dealt with correctly. We eagerly await your response.

Kind Regards,

Mary Uí Dhuinnín, Shane Ó Duinnín and Dónal Kelleher

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