

Kinletter
Ballybofey
Co. Donegal
F93 T92H

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Bord Pleanála Case reference: 319466-24

To whom it concerns,

This letter is to make a formal observation to the case cited above. The applicant (Planree Ltd) seeks permission to pursue the completion of Meenbog wind farm development.

This proposal from its initiation was strongly opposed with concerns from the local community and specialists in their fields which proved to be authentic considering the devastation it caused upon the landscape with the peat slide that caused altering impacts in November 2020.

The reservations previously expressed have been on the grounds of visual impact, environmental impact, tourism, noise, hydrology, peat stability, sustainability. Planree have already been found guilty for the pollution of the Shruhangarve and Mourne beg stream. All of which have important qualities and provide significant habitats for protected species like Salmon etc. The vulnerability of these waters to sedimentation etc as a result of the construction of the proposed development and ongoing erosion and disturbance of peat etc were not fully or properly considered by the applicants in bringing forward the application in the past. Yet, permission was granted and led to a catastrophic ecological disaster. Though remediation works were completed, such devastating consequences may occur again and the landscape has been altered. Further points of concern:

1. The High Court has deemed to entire development unauthorised as a result of the Council's actions to prevent completion of the development until the substitute consent application has been determined.

This consent is required in light of the fact that 25 significant deviations were identified by the council from that which had been granted permission. The identification of these planning irregularities happened after the peat slide of Nov 2020. This is important in the Planning context. Especially as the entire site area is deemed extremely environmentally vulnerable. There can be no doubts about that or its significance with the resulting consequences on local water ways from the peat slide. The deviations from planning are found to be significant and these will

have altered the overall environmental impact on a sensitive habitat. There is no such thing as localised impacts in an area such as this.

2. The applicants have shown literal contempt for the planning laws and in particular the intended purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process under which context this application and the original application for planning are subject to.
3. The concept of the integrity of the site in terms of conservation objectives and the close proximity of listed sites immediately across the border with Northern Ireland needs to be properly considered. There has been adverse affect here from the peat slide in 2020. But the concept of the integrity of sites and their dynamic ecological context has to be considered. The integrity of the site is not defined by international borders but the cohesion of the site's ecological structure and function across its entire area.

Request that all past observations submitted in relation to this case are taken into consideration. The community living here valued all aspects of their environment and An Bord Pleanála were previously made fully aware of the complexity of a development on this scale and of this nature in this sensitive environment. The potential for further irreversible damage is a potential risk and again could cause another catastrophic ecological disaster

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Aíne Conaghan, Ph.D.