

Submission NO. 150

15/11/2020.

Dear Sir / Madam



I would like to make a submission for your consideration on your County Clare Development Plan.

My submission is in relation to your wind farm strategy for County Clare and in particular the designation of Meelick/Ardnacrusha and surrounding areas as "strategic" for future windfarms as highlighted on your wind farm locations map in your development plan.

I would first of all like to ask you to share the criteria used to come to the conclusion that this area should be detailed as strategic. Can you please share with us the criteria that was used in making this decision - I would like to see such information as?

- Why was this area chosen?
- What population and proximity to people, families, young children, elderly parents and neighbours was used when you came to the conclusion that this was a strategic area.
- What independent environmental studies were carried out as part of this research, by independent I obviously mean with a reputable company with absolutely no ties to the wind farm energy industry. Were they detailed and specific to this area or were they the typical copy and paste generic reports so often used and reused by wind farm companies?
- What research did you carry out and talk to those people already living in the shadows of wind turbines in other parts of this county and in other parts of Ireland who have detailed the ill health they have suffered since turbines were built in the neighbourhoods, did you get their input as part of your research
- What research was carried out to determine the financial impact of the properties of those people who would be severely impacted by proposing wind farms in their areas, you are effectively wiping out the legacy that many of these people want to leave to their children as property values plummet when windfarms are built in close proximity to family homes.
- What expertise was pulled into your research - I include an extract below from a WHO report in relation to the effect noise has on people living in close proximity

- This Guideline recognizes that the "noise" is more than 'annoyance' (and "annoyance" is of lesser concern than **sleep deprivation**)—and that chronic noise contributes to cardiovascular disease; lack of sleep, hearing loss, tinnitus and stress; and increased changes in blood pressure and heart health. These, of course, are well known impacts to communities and professionals worldwide. These negative

impacts have, however, been slow to be recognized at levels such as the WHO.

- The impacts recognized by the WHO Guidelines are likely to cause some concern for the wind industry that has chronically, methodically, and systemically, over a long period of time, blocked the flow of information, denying, obfuscating, and blaming helpless victims for “poor coping skills.”
- What market research did you carry out to do an comparison and analysis of off shore versus on shore wind farms as part of your decision making in designating the Meelick/Ardnacrusha area as a strategic area , there are some main considerations here which you should have researched :
 - Location - there is no limitation to where offshore wind farm can be built as opposed to where there should be obvious and severe limitations to where planning permission is given for on shore wind farms
 - Environmental impact - on shore wind farm pose threats to birds, bats, badgers and many more forms of wild habitat, there is no evidence to offshore wind farms damaging the marine ecosystem
 - Capacity - On shore wind turbines have lower capacity because of their surroundings, the incoming wind they receive will be slowed down by natural landscapes like forests or hills, be blocked by manmade structures like houses, farmhouse building etc. These obstacles affect incoming wind turbine speed and create turbulent wind conditions that are not optimal for operation and this in turn decreases output power performance of wind turbines. Offshore wind turbines however don't experience these problems There is no obstacle over open water that could block or disturb wind activity. Wind over oceans are thus stronger and more consistent, resulting in much greater energy production at higher efficiencies for each turbine.
 - The final input where the council I am sure gives ample consideration relates to the rates that on shore wind farms pay directly to the local county councils , how exactly a county council can remain open , objective and transparent in a planning process when they themselves as a council stand to gain so much financially?
 - The above clearly shows how offshore wind farms are far more beneficial and the gains of offshore wind farms, far exceed the benefits of the onshore wind farms.
 - In conclusion as part of this submission I am really asking Clare County Council to do the right thing here , stop being a follower but be a leader and stand up and do the right thing for your citizens which is stop destroying our beautiful countryside , stop causing ill health and continuous health issues in communities where you impose these turbines , stop causing communities and neighbours to

be so bitterly and utterly divided and stop taking away both the environmental and financial legacies that parents want to leave to their children.

- So I am asking you please to revisit your wind strategy again and update it based on the scientific evidence that exists and is being adopted by many other European countries as they move away from on shore wind energy in favour of off shore . Offshore wind farms will spare the detrimental effect as outlined earlier in this letter on your citizens, young children, elderly parents and neighbourhoods at large.
- If an on shore wind farm is something you as a planning officer or a member of the county council would not want built behind your home that you have worked so hard for so you can pay off your mortgage and own your own home ,that you would not bring into your own community or bring in close proximity to your elderly parents and neighbours who have worked tirelessly all their lives only to be subjected to this in their twilight years , then you cannot with a clear conscience impose these on other people and other communities .

Yours Sincerely

Fiona Hartigan.