

Submission No: 189

From: Meelick Says No To Windfarms
Sent: 16 November 2020 15:50
To: forwardplan
Subject: Development Plan Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

Our community group, Meelick Says No To Windfarms, was recently formed when we became aware of plans to build a windfarm in our local area. Our area is no way suitable for a windfarm. Is there wind in the area. Yes of course there is. Is this the only box that needs to be ticked for Clare County Council to designate an area as suitable? What about the fact that it is a highly populated area? What about the number of houses and especially young families in the area? Does the Clare County Council plan take any serious account off there factors. Is the main factor the size of the levy being gained from these windfarm developers?? We believe these are very genuine questions you need to ask yourself as a Council.

We wish to make the following observations in relation to The Clare County Development Plan. In particular we would like to comment on your wind energy policies and on one particular designated area for wind, the Ballycar/ Cappantymore/Gallows Hill area of Meelick.

We strongly urge you to review the designation of this area as a strategic area for wind for the following reasons:

- 1) This is not a remote area. The Ballycar, Cappantymore and Gallows Hill areas of Meelick are now highly populated and built up areas. There are hundreds of houses in the above named areas with many young families among them. This makes the area totally unsuitable for industrial wind turbines.
- 2) We believe that a windfarm currently under consideration for this area would be too close to existing houses. Under new guidelines due shortly turbines must be more than 500 m from the closest house. We don't believe this will be possible at this location.
- 3) The effects of wind turbines on people's health is still a matter very much open to debate. Noise and shadow flicker are huge concerns. This is a populated area, far more populated than other areas where wind farms have been constructed. We urge you to realise that just because there is wind in an area, other more important human factors may make it unsuitable.

We are of the opinion that Clare County Council should review the designation process and in relation to this particular area deem it unsuitable for a windfarm development and remove it as a designated area for wind energy.

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit my submission and we ask you to carefully consider our submission when developing your plan.

Yours Sincerely,
Meelick Says No To Windfarms Community Action Group

