

Submission No: 077

From: Sheila Vaughan [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2020 21:31
To: forwardplan
Subject: DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW



Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make the following observations in relation to the wind energy policies of the Clare County Development Plan. In particular the Ballycar/Cappantymore/Gallows Hill area of Meelick. As a farmer and landowner in this area I have concerns about any wind turbines being built in the future.

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

- 1) The designated area for the development of wind energy is an important habitat for many animals particularly birds such as woodcock and snipe. Many of these fly at dusk to the River Shannon and I believe that wind turbines would impact greatly on their flight paths. These native species are already in major decline.
- 2) 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.
- 3) I 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. I don't believe this will be possible at this location.
- 4) 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. The impact on people's sleep patterns is another issue. This is a populated area, far more populated than other areas where wind farms have been constructed. I urge you to realise that just because there is wind in an area, other more important human factors may make it unsuitable.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Eoin and Sheila Ringrose
[REDACTED]