

Submission no. 110

From: Niall Ward [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 16 November 2020 12:38
To: forwardplan
Subject: Development Plan Review



Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to make the following observations in relation to The Clare County Development Plan. In particular I 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.

I believe Clare County Council needs to urgently review it's wind energy policies. I am aware that there are national guidelines that need to be implemented but this should not be done to the detriment of our local communities. Wind Companies seem to be afforded privileges that local communities are not being afforded. The Council is perhaps being too strongly led by the huge financial levies you are gathering from these windfarm developers and you are ignoring the concerns of your own communities.

Regarding my own local area I 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) 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. I also feel as the new wind energy guidelines are imminent, that you should pause all decisions on wind farms until they are in place.
- 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. 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,
Niall Ward