

Carlow County Council
County Buildings
Athy Road
Co. Carlow
R93 E7R7

Our Ref: P1913/Lett/CL/MG

22 January 2021

Re: Permission to develop a wind farm and associated works within the townlands of Rossacurra, Cranemore, Kilbrannish North, Bealalaw, Raheenliegh, Aclare, Co. Carlow.

Dear Sir/Madam,

1.0 Introduction

Fehily Timoney has been appointed by Coillte GGA to submit an application for permission for a wind farm and associated works within the townlands of Rossacurra, Cranemore, Kilbrannish North, Bealalaw, Raheenliegh, Aclare, Co. Carlow. Permission is sought for the construction of up to 7 no. wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 178m. The development proposed is as per the statutory press and site notice included for in this planning application submission.

2.0 Application Context

The proposed development is being brought forward in response to policies and targets which have been put in place at local, national, regional, and international levels in relation to renewable energy and climate change. As noted, the proposed development comprises of a wind farm development which will allow the production of renewable energy to provide additional energy to the national grid. The proposed development will provide additional renewable energy to aid in offsetting the use of fossil fuels within the electricity generating sector and will contribute to Irelands energy targets. As is demonstrated within the documentation submitted as part of this planning application the proposed development complies with and is supported by the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 which is supportive of the development of renewable energy within the County. The Plan recognizes that the County has the potential to absorb additional wind energy developments and make a contribution to national (renewable energy) targets.

Appendix 5 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 sets out the Wind Energy Strategy for the County. The strategy which was prepared in 2008 sets out development standards for wind energy development in line with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006.

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The strategy identifies Kilbrannish Hill, Tinnamogney and Greenoge as being ‘Open for Consideration’ for wind energy development. The Wind Energy Strategy states the following in relation to these areas:

“In these instances, applications for planning permission will be treated on their merits. It is likely that such instances may arise only in the Mount Leinster/ Blackstairs area, given the requirement for adequate wind speeds.”

The proposed development encompasses, and area designated as ‘Open for Consideration’ for wind energy development. The landscape character-based recommendations of the strategy indicate that development of wind farms in mountain/moorland areas which correspond to the Mount Leinster/ Blackstairs Landscape Character Area, can accommodate wind farms of large spatial extent with generally no restrictions on height in line with recommendations of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines.

Furthermore, there is significant planning precedence for wind farm development in this area. There are four Nordex N60 turbines adjacent the site at Greenoge. Permission was granted in 2008 (PL Ref. 08/527) for a two-turbine extension to the existing Greenoge Wind Farm this was subsequently superseded by consent (11/280) for a single Nordex N90 turbine which has been constructed. Permission was granted for a further single wind turbine 900m east of the site boundary (15/87) which has not been constructed. All of the above was considered to be located in areas considered to be ‘Open for Consideration’ in the Wind Energy Strategy for the County.

Furthermore, whilst now expired, permission was previously granted by Carlow County Council for 10 no. turbines at the subject site and upheld on appeal to An Bord Pleanála who consented 7 no. turbines (PI Ref. 03/180; ABP Ref. PL01.203283) in 2003.

It is considered that the approach taken for the siting and design of the wind farm is consistent with the Section 28 Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and the overarching policies of the Carlow County Development Plan including its Wind Energy Strategy and Landscape Character Assessment. The areas identified on Map 10 and Map 11 of the Wind Energy Strategy are considered to be an indicator for where wind energy development is ‘Open for Consideration’ based on wind speeds only. The siting and design of the proposed development has also had regard to environmental and landscape consideration as well as measured wind speeds in the area.

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3.0 Documents Included

The following documents are included in the application pack.

- Cheque for the sum of €25,183.12 in respect of the statutory planning application fee.
- Carlow County Council Planning Application Form
- Newspaper Notice (dated 12/01/21)
- Site Notice (dated 21/01/21)
- Letters of Consent from Landowners
- EIA Portal Confirmation (2021013)
- Planning Application Drawings including schedule of same
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in 4 volumes
 - Volume 1 – EIAR Non-technical Summary
 - Volume 2 – Main EIAR
 - Volume 3 – Appendices
 - Volume 4 – Photomontages
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

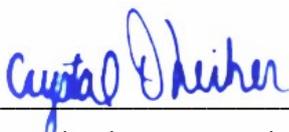
Please note that 10 no. copies of the application and 2 no. electronic copies of the application have been include. Due to the size of the subject site and the nature of the development proposed, the scales and extent of the planning drawings submitted have been discussed and agreed with the Planning Authority in advance of lodgement.

Following the invalidation of a previous application, the items as set out in the invalidation letter have been discussed and agreed with the planning authority.

7.0 Conclusion

I trust the above is in order. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Crystal Leiker, Project Planner
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney and Company**

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