

**DÚICHE DHÚN GARBHÁN AGUS LIOS MHÓR
DUNGARVAN AND LISMORE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING**

**HELD ON 30th January 2024
at 2.30pm on MS Teams**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Pat Nugent (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. Tom Cronin
Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey
Cllr. Mairead Tobin
Cllr. Conor McGuinness
Cllr. Thomas Phelan

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Paul Johnston, A/DoS, Planning, Corporate, IS, HR & Culture
Mr. Liam McGree, SP, Planning
Ms. Aisling O'Sullivan, SEP, Planning
Mr. Aidan Walsh, EP, Planning
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

1. COUMNAGAPPUL WINDFARM LTD SID

Liam McGree, SP, outlined details of the Coumnagappul application to An Bord Pleanála. He outlined that where a Strategic Development Infrastructure planning application is submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) that the planning authority must prepare and submit a report to the Bord within 10 weeks of the making of the application. He enquired if the councillors had any additional comments to be reflected back to the ABP over what is stated in the CE report.

A. Walsh, EP, outlined the detail of the proposal in a presentation to the meeting noting that the public had up to 29th January 2024 to make submission and WCCC had a 10 week period up to the 19th February to make submission. The CE report is copied to the members to seek views, these views and recommendations are appended to the CE's report along with the Meetings Administrators record of the meeting to An Bord Pleanála. The planning authority puts forward the views of the authority in terms of the effects of the development on the environment and proper and sustainable development of the area. The Bord is the ultimate decision maker and submission by WCCC will form part of their considerations. He outlined the Chief Executive's report to the members which recommends that planning permission be refused, although there are national, regional and local policies regarding renewable energy which would support appropriate proposals. The application has to be considered against wind energy designation maps and the Waterford Landscape and Seascape character assessment which form part of the adopted Development Plan. The subject site is an upland area and is designated as an exclusion area from the point of view of wind development and considered most sensitive in terms of our landscape character assessment so would have low capacity to absorb new development without significant alterations on the character of an extended area. The proposed development would contravene the current Development Plan. There are a number of conditions recommended as part of the submission to An Bord Pleanála including reduced height, reduced application life, standard conditions for noise and shadow flicker and bond conditions, special contribution condition.

Cllr. Doocey welcomed meeting and report as circulated, wind energy policy and exclusions zone for Waterford are clearly outlined in the Development Plan. He supported, endorsed and proposed approval of the CE recommendation to refuse the application.

Cllr. McGuinness outlined details of residents' concerns in relation to the application and anxiety created to communities in relation to the impact of the development on the environment, homes and amenity of the area. He seconded the proposal to endorse the CE report and that the minutes would form an appendix to the submission to ABP. He outlined that it is important that the CE report upholds the wind energy strategy which the submission does very clearly. He noted that ABP must respect local democracy and for the members to set planning policy for the County and to also uphold the Development Plan including the wind energy strategy which clearly stipulates that the area of the proposal is not suitable for wind energy development. It is important to note that the CE report strongly rejects the conclusions in the applicant's environmental assessment report and ABP need to have regard for this and the visual impact of the development. The height of the turbines is excessive and out of line with other developments.

Cllr. Geoghegan indicated that fully support and endorse the recommendation to refuse the development noting that a lot of time and effort was afforded to the Development Plan and associated strategies and this development would breach the plan.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted the councillors support for the CE recommendation, the views of the councillors are consistent with the Development Plan. It is up to ABP to keep in line with the current Development Plan.

Cllr. Phelan fully supports and endorses the recommendation as put forward. Need to ensure that do not undermine the credibility of the Development Plan, this application is in a highly sensitive area and an exclusion zone for wind farms so need to uphold the City & County Development Plan and recommend that development does not go ahead.

Cllr. Pratt concurred with points outlined and in agreement to support CEs recommendation.

Cllr. Cronin noted work involved in the development of the Development Plan and the fact that this area is not zoned for this purpose needs to be upheld.

Cllr. Nugent enquired about the spread of turbines in the development, the type of land (public/private/Coillte), where substation is due to be located and noted that there will be substantial damage to the 22.5km of roads leading to the grid. Enquired when the decision will be made and it is essential that respect the Development Plan.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, ABP will announce a date for decision after closing date for submissions, noting that they are not bound to a timeline, don't have the details of the land ownership and agreed that there will be considerable work involved to the public road network to accommodate the works.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, acknowledged the work of the planners in relation to the CE report noting that the planning authority submits the report to the members to request their views, noted the members support of the CE recommendation.

A. Walsh, EP, outlined that the proposed substation is centrally located within the area of the development by proposed turbine 5.

Proposed by Cllr. McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Phelan that the minutes of today's meeting are attached as a record of the meeting prior to their approval at the February meeting. Agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Resolution of the Elected Members
Waterford City and County Council, Dungarvan Lismore
30th January 2024
Ref: R2024/01

In accordance with section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the members of the Dungarvan Lismore district council fully endorse the recommendation of the Chief Executive of Waterford City & County Council to refuse permission for development comprising the construction of a wind farm consisting of 10no. turbines and related works in the following townlands; Bleantasourmountain, Carrigbrack, Coumnagappul, Glennaneanmountain, Kilkeany, Kilkeany Mountain, Knocavanniamountain and Reanadampaun Commons, County Waterford.

Having regard to the foregoing, Waterford City and County Council recommends that planning permission be refused for the proposed development for the following reason:

- 1. Notwithstanding the general planning policy support for wind energy at National, Regional and Local policy level, including Policy Objective UTL 13 of the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028, which seeks to support where appropriate, proposals for renewable energy generation, transmission and distribution and ancillary support infrastructure facilities, in relation to the specific sites which is the subject of this application, that policy goes on to state that all such proposals shall be considered having regard to the Wind Energy Designation Map (Appendix 2 of the Renewable Energy Strategy) and the Waterford Landscape and Seascape Character Assessment which form an integral part of the adopted Development Plan.*

The subject site is located in an upland area which is designated as “No Go/Exclusion Area” for wind development and as “most sensitive” in terms of landscape character with very distinctive features with a very low capacity to absorb new development without significant alterations of existing character over an extended area.

In addition, Landscape Policy Objective L 02 of the Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 states that protection of the landscape and natural assets of the county shall be a priority having regard to the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of specific areas by ensuring that development proposals are not unduly visually obtrusive in the landscape, in particular, in or adjacent to the uplands, along river corridors, coastal or other distinctive landscape character units.

The proposed development would be sited on lands that area located within an area where wind farm development is not normally permissible for reasons relating to landscape sensitivity and, accordingly, it is considered that the proposed development would materially contravene policies UTL 13 and L 02 of the Development Plan and would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Dungarvan Lismore District of Waterford City & County Council. Proposed by Cllr. Doocey seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed unanimously.

Signed:

Councillor Pat Nugent
Cathaoirleach Dungarvan Lismore District

Witnessed:

Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator