An Bord Pleanála

CÁSANNA BONNEAGAIR STRAITÉISIGH
STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

NA hACHTANNA UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT 2000 GO 2015
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 TO 2015

Uimhir Thagartha an Bhoird Phleanála: 17.PA0038
An Bord Pleanála Reference Number: 17.PA0038

(Údarás Pleanála: Comhairle Contae na Mí)
(Planning Authority: Meath County Council)

IARRATAS ar chead faoi alt 37E den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, leasaithe, de réir na bpleananna agus na sonraí, lena n-áirítear ráiteas tionchair timpeallachta agus ráiteas tionchair Natura, a thaisc North Meath Wind Farm Limited faoi chúram Fehily Timoney and Company Limited as Core House, Bóthar Pholl an Duibh, Corcaigh leis an mBord Pleanála an 6ú lá de Dheireadh Fómhair, 2014**.**

APPLICATION for permission under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, in accordance with plans and particulars, including an environmental impact statement and a Natura impact statement, lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 6th day of October, 2014 by North Meath Wind Farm Limited care of Fehily Timoney and Company Limited of Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork.

AN FHORBAIRT BHEARTAITHE:

i. Tógáil 3 chnuasach feirmeacha gaoithe ag cuimsiú líon iomlán suas le 46 tuirbíní gaoithe le huasairde rinne suas le 169m agus bunsraitheanna na dtuirbíní, limistéir chrua-sheasta agus an draenáil a ghabhann leo,

ii. 1 chrann meitéareolaíoch suas le 80m in airde (i dteannta leis an gcrann meitéareolaíoch eiseach ar airde 80m a bhfuil iarratas ar chead pleanála déanta ina leith faoi thagairt phleanála KA140597),

iii. leagan crann,

iv. trasnuithe srutháin,

v. uasghrádú raonta suímh eiseacha agus soláthar raonta suímh nua, agus uasghrádú/soláthar na draenála a ghabhann leo,

vi. uasghrádú na mbealaí isteach eiseacha agus soláthar bealaí isteach nua,

vii. 6 sloc soláthair agus an bonneagar coimhdeach a ghabhann leo,

viii. 1 fhostáisiún leictreach 110kV lena n-áirítear 2 fhoirgneamh rialaithe, umar stórála fuíolluisce, fálú, tírdhreachú agus an bonneagar coimhdeach a ghabhann leo sin,

ix. cáblú leitreach meánvoltais faoi thalamh agus cáblú cumarsáide gaolmhar idir na tuirbíní agus cáblú atá beartaithe ar fhostáisiún an tsuímh,

x. cáblú leitreach ardvoltais faoi thalamh agus cáblú cumarsáide gaolmhar idir an fostáisiún beartaithe ar an láthair agus an fostáisiún eiseach ag Gorman,

xi. forbairtí/oibreacha sealadacha a bhaineann leis an gcéim thógála lena n-áirítear limistéir sealadacha um stoc-charnadh ábhar, 3 champún sealadach an láithreáin tógála agus an bonneagar coimhdeach a ghabhann leo agus 1 ghléasra baisceála coincréite agus an bonneagar coimhdeach a ghabhann leis,

xii. cead 10 mbliana agus saol feidhme 30 bliain ó dháta coimisiúnaithe na feirme gaoithe trí chéile.

i mbailte fearainn An Baile Nua, Cluain an Ghaill, An Chill Bheag Íochtarach, Bawn, Farranalcock, Dústún, Castletownmoor, Baile Réisc, Mountainstown, St. John's Rath, Páirc na bhFianna, Baile an Drácaigh, Grange Glebe, Droichead Chearbhailáin, Imleach Bheagáin, Baile Órthaí, An Riasc, An Ros Mín, Baile Chraibhil, Curraghtown, Ballair, Peru, An Ráth Nua, Horath, Clonagara, An Chill Bheag Uachtarach, An Ghléib, Stigh Colláin, Dowthstown, Baile an Drácaigh, Baile an Ridire, Knock, Baile Uilcín, Corbailis, Demailestown, Fletcherstown, An Ghléib, Curniaghanstown, Baile an Chabhsaigh, Baile Shadhbha, Dunderk, Scottstown, Rathcoon, An Lagach, Mullach Áithe, Benjerstown, Baile Mhistéil, Cill Fhoibhrigh, Fringestown, Baile Phaghain, Yellowleas, Stokesquarter, Clooney, Baile Rís, Stephenstown, Contae na Mí.

Is iad na bailte fearainn de Cluain an Ghaill agus Baile Órthaí i gceantar Gaeltachta.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

i. Construction of three number wind farm clusters comprising a combined total of up to 46 number wind turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 169 metres and associated turbine foundations, hardstanding areas and drainage,

ii. one number permanent meteorological mast up to 80 metres in height (in addition to the one number 80 metre existing meteorological mast for which planning permission has been applied for under planning register reference number KA140597),

iii. tree felling,

iv. stream crossings,

v. upgrade of existing and provision of new site tracks and associated drainage,

vi. upgrade to existing and provision of new entrances,

vii. six number borrow pits and associated ancillary infrastructure,

viii. one number 110-kilovolt electrical substation including two number control buildings, wastewater holding tank, fencing, landscaping and associated ancillary infrastructure,

ix. medium voltage underground electrical cabling and associated communications cabling between the turbines and proposed on-site substation,

x. high voltage underground electrical cabling and associated communications cabling between the proposed on-site substation and the existing substation at Gorman,

xi. temporary developments/works associated with the construction phase including temporary material stockpile areas, three number temporary construction site compounds and associated ancillary infrastructure and one number temporary concrete batching plant and associated ancillary infrastructure,

xii. a 10-year permission and a 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm,

in the townlands of Newtown, Clongill, Kilbeg Lower, Bawn, Farranalcock, Dowdstown, Castletownmoor, Balreask, Mountainstown, St. John's Rath, Deerpark, Drakerath, Grange Glebe, Carlanstown, Emlagh, Oristown, Reask, Rossmeen, Gravelstown, Curraghtown, Ballair, Peru, Newrath, Horath, Clonagara, Kilbeg Upper, Glebe, Stackallan, Dowthstown, Drakestown, Knightstown, Knock, Wilkinstown, Corballis, Demailestown, Fletcherstown, Glebe, Curniaghanstown, Causestown, Balsaw, Dunderk, Scottstown, Rathcoon, Leggagh, Mullagha, Benjerstown, Mitchelstown, Killary, Fringestown, Painestown, Yellowleas, Stokesquarter, Clooney, Ricetown, and Stephenstown, County Meath.

The townlands of Clongill and Oristown are in a Gaeltacht area.

AN CINNEADH

Cead pleanála a DHIÚLTÚ faoi alt 37G den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000, arna leasú, don fhorbairt bheartaithe thuasluaite, de réir pleananna agus sonraí atá ráite, bunaithe ar na cúiseanna agus na nithe le cur san áireamh thíos.

CINNEADH a dhéanamh faoi alt 37H(2)(c) cibé suim a n-íocfaidh an t-iarratasóir maidir le costais an iarratais, mar atá leagtha amach i Sceideal na gCostas thíos.

DECISION

REFUSE permission under section 37G of Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, for the above proposed development based on the reasons and considerations set out below.

DETERMINE under section 37H(2)(c) the sum to be paid by the applicant in respect of costs associated with the application as set out in the Schedule of Costs below.

NITHE CURTHA SAN ÁIREAMH

Ag déanamh a chinnidh, thug an Bord aird ar na nithe úd a raibh dualgas air, de bhun na nAchtanna um Pleanáil agus Forbairt agus na Rialachán arna ndéanamh fúthu, aird a thabhairt orthu. San áireamh bhí aon aighneacht agus tuairim a fuair an Bord de réir forálacha reachtúla.

MATTERS CONSIDERED

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included the submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

CÚISEANNA AGUS ÁBHAIR MACHNAIMH

Ag féachaint do:

(a) na Treoirlínte maidir le Forbairt an Fhuinnimh Ghaoithe – Treoirlínte d'Údaráis Phleanála arna n-eisiúint ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil i Meitheamh, 20046, agus, go háirithe, forálacha Chaibidil 3 'Fuinneamh Gaoithe agus an Plean Forbartha' agus Caibidil 6 'Nithe Aeistéitiúla le Cur san Áireamh maidir le Suíomh agus Dearadh';

(b) beartais agus cuspóirí Phlean Forbartha Chontae na Mí 2013-2019 lena n-áirítear, inter alia, maidir le fuinneamh in-athnuaite, fuinneamh gaoithe, turasóireacht, oidhreacht chultúrtha, struchtúir faoi chosaint, radhairc agus measúnú ar charachtar an tírdhreacha (cuirtear san áireamh nach bhfuil Straitéis Fuinneamh Gaoithe sa Phlean);

(c) a riachtanaí atá sé caitheamh le forbairt feirmeacha gaoithe sa cheantar seo le híogaireacht ar leith i bhfianaise a chóngaraí atá an fhorbairt do líon mór tithe atá suite amach faoin tuath agus laistigh de ghréasán sráidbhailte ag Maigh nEalta, Droichead Chearbhalláin, Baile an Chaisleáin, Baile Lóibín, agus i mbaile Cheannannais in aice láimhe;

(d) suíomh na forbartha beartaithe i gceantar ina bhfuil stair lonnaíochta agus oidhreacht ghaolmhar d'áiteanna agus de ghnéithe a bhfuil tábhacht chultúrtha leo ó mhórchuid tréimhsí stairiúla;

(e) carachtar an tírdhreacha fála;

(f) scála, airde agus líon na dtuirbíní gaoithe beartaithe,

(g) na haighneachtaí agus na tuairimí a fuarthas maidir leis an bhforbairt bheartaithe, agus

(h) tuarascáil agus moladh an Chigire,

Meastar go mbeadh feirm ghaoithe den scála, den mhéad agus den airde atá beartaithe ina gné thiarnasach sa cheantar tuaithe faoi líon daoine seo, go ndéanfadh sé dochar mór do thaitneamhachtaí na réadmhaoine sa chomharsanacht, go gcuirfeadh sé isteach ar charachtar an tírdhreacha agus nach mbeadh sé de réir chuspóirí forbartha iomlána Phlean Forbartha Chontae na Mí 2013-2019**.** Ina theannta sin, meastar nach mbeadh an fhorbairt bheartaithe ag teacht leis na Treoirlínte um Fhorbairt Fuinneamh Gaoithe de bhrí nár samhlaíodh sa doiciméad treorach seo go dtógfaí tuirbíní gaoithe a bheadh ar scála chomh mór sin i gceantar atá tréithrithe go príomha mar thírdhreach thalamh feirme cnocach agus réidh agus atá chomh cóngarach sin do líon mór áiteanna cónaithe. Mar sin bheadh an fhorbairt bheartaithe contrártha le pleanáil chuí agus forbairt inbhuanaithe an cheantair.

Agus an cinneadh á dhéanamh gan glacadh le moladh an Chigire chun cead a dheonú, mheas an Bord, d'ainneoin fhorálacha an Phlean Gníomhaíochta Náisiúnta um Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite, agus beartais náisiúnta eile agus beartais de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh ina dtacaítear le forbairt an fhuinnimh in-athnuaite (gaoth san áireamh), nach mbeadh tionchar na forbartha móire seo ar an bpobal cónaithe substaintiúil áitiúil agus tionchar na forbartha beartaithe ar an tírdhreach agus ar an oidhreacht chultúrtha inghlactha sa láthair seo. Measann an Bord, leis, go sáródh líon agus airde na dtuirbíní beartaithe "meánchumas féideartha" an tírdhreacha chun slí a dhéanamh d'fhorbairt feirm ghaoithe mar atá leagtha amach sa Mheasúnú ar Charachtar an Tírdhreacha i bPlean Forbartha Chontae na Mí 2013-2019.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

(a) the Wind Energy Development Guidelines – Guidelines for Planning Authorities issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in June, 2006, and, in particular, the provisions of Chapter 3 'Wind Energy and the Development Plan' and Chapter 6, 'Aesthetic Considerations in Siting and Design';

(b) the policies and objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019, including, inter alia, in respect of renewable energy, wind energy, tourism, cultural heritage, protected structures, views and prospects and landscape character assessment (noting the lack of a Wind Energy Strategy in the Plan);

(c) the need to treat wind farm development in this area with particular sensitivity given the proximity of the development to a large number of houses located in the open countryside and within a network of existing villages at Moynalty, Carlanstown, Castletown, Lobinstown and in the nearby town of Kells;

(d) the location of the proposed development in an area with a history of settlement and an associated legacy of places and features of cultural importance from many historical periods;

(e) the character of the receiving landscape;

(f) the scale, height and number of the proposed wind turbines,

(g) the submissions and observations received in relation to the proposed development, and

(h) the report and recommendation of the Inspector,

it is considered that a wind farm of the scale, extent and height proposed would visually dominate this populated rural area, would seriously injure the amenities of property in the vicinity, would interfere with the character of the landscape and would not be in accordance with the overall development objectives of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019**.** Furthermore, it is considered that the proposed development would not align with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines as this guidance document did not envisage the construction of such extensive large scale turbines in an area primarily characterised as a hilly and flat farmland landscape and in such proximity to high concentrations of dwellings. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

In deciding not to accept the Inspector's recommendation to grant permission, the Board considered that, notwithstanding the provisions of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan, and other national and European Union policies in support of renewable energy development (including wind), the impacts of this very large development on the substantial local residential population, and the impacts of the proposed development on landscape and cultural heritage, would not be acceptable in this location. The Board further considered that the

number and height of the proposed turbines would significantly exceed the landscape's "medium potential capacity" to accommodate wind farm development as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of the Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019.

SCEIDEAL NA gCOSTAS

Chuir an Bord san áireamh sonraí na gcostas a thabhaigh an Bord Pleanála sa chás agus measadh na héilimh a rinne an t-údarás pleanála agus na breathnóirí seo a leanas: Ronan O'Loughlin agus Miriam Reilly; Grúpa Faisnéis Ghaoithe na Mí agus James agus Mary Walsh.

De réir alt 37H den Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000 leasaithe, ceanglaíonn an Bord ar an iarratasóir an ranníocaíocht réasúnach seo a leanas a íoc i leith na gcostas a thabhaigh an Bord Pleanála agus an t-údarás pleanála agus an t-iarratas á bhreithniú ag an mBord.

Leis an mBord Pleanála	€ 70,050
Le Comhairle Contae na Mí	€ 34,870

Chinn an Bord gan íocaíocht dhíreach na gcostas a dhíriú ar na breathnóirí thuasluaite ar na cúiseanna seo a leanas:

Ag féachaint do:

- na haighneachtaí a rinne na breathnóirí i scríbhinn ar an gcás;
- na haighneachtaí a rinneadh agus an pháirt a ghlac na breathnóirí san éisteacht ó bhéal agus freagraí agus rannpháirtíocht an iarratasóra ag an éisteacht;
- Tuarascálacha mionsonraithe agus réasúnaithe chigire an Bhoird, agus
- Cinneadh an Bhoird ar an gcás;

measlar gur chumasaigh an próiseas iarratais d'fhorbairt bonneagair straitéisigh do na breathnóirí a bheith rannpháirteach go hiomlán sa chás agus níl aon tosca ar leith ann a dhlisteanódh iachall a chur ar an iarratasóir ranníocaíocht a dhéanamh i leith chostais na mbreathnóirí sa chás seo.

Gheofar in Aguisín 1 miondealú ar chostais an Bhoird.

SCHEDULE OF COSTS

The Board noted the details of costs arising on the case for An Bord Pleanála and considered the claims made by the planning authority and by the following observers: Ronan O'Loughlin and Miriam Reilly; the Meath Wind Information Group and James and Mary Walsh.

In accordance with section 37H of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board requires the following reasonable contribution to be paid by the applicant towards costs incurred by An Bord Pleanála and by the planning authority in the Board's consideration of the application.

To An Bord Pleanála	€ 70,050
To Meath County Council	€ 34,870

The Board decided not to direct payment of costs to the above-mentioned observers for the following reasons:

Having regard to:

- the submissions made on the case by the observers in writing;
- the submissions made and participation by the observers at the oral hearing and the responses and participation from the applicant at the hearing;
- the detailed and reasoned reports of the Board's inspector, and
- the Board's decision on the case;

it is considered that the strategic infrastructure development application process has enabled full participation by the observers in the case and there are no particular circumstances arising that would justify the applicant having to make a contribution towards the costs of the observers in this case.

A breakdown of the Boards costs is set out in the attached Appendix 1.

Comhalta den Bhord Pleanála a bhfuil údarás cuí aige/aici chun séala an Bhoird a fhíordheimhniú.

Dátaithe an lá seo de Feabhra 2016.