

Submission: Cronan Kennedy, Garbally, Birr, Co. Offaly. R42 AE81 Offaly County Council, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Re: Submission to proposed Offaly County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 Date: 07/10/2020

To whom it concerns, I wish to make a submission in relation to the proposed County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Wind Energy Strategy, specifically area 7(see Map No. 10, Page 3) and any submission by speculators to look to extend the already zoned lands deemed suitable for Windfarms in this area, south of Galross Cross for the following reasons: There are currently 4 turbines with planning permission for 5, each at a height of 169 metres and each generates 2.75 megawatt. Bord na Mona has submitted planning permission for 21 turbines at a height of 185 metres each. These are 4 megawatt turbines which are typically only sited offshore, given the adverse effect on humans. This application from Bord na Mona applies to an area which is not within the already existing zone deemed suitable for Windfarms. NB The average size for windfarm turbines is approximately 2.5MW. The Meenwaun wind farms are 2.75MW and Derrinlough will be 4MW. Born Na Mona have not made any contact with us or our surrounding neighbours in relation to updates/meetings about the development plan. We received a letter through the letter box over a year ago now and have had no correspondence since. We are located 1.81KM from the Meenwaun turbines where you can hear them turning when there is a north wind blowing. That's from 1.81km away. What must it be like for the family whose home is 500 metres from the nearest one? Two of our neighbours have been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease since these turbines were commissioned. Our neighbours autistic son and wife are currently taking sleeping tablets to get to sleep. We are concerned about the consolidated noise and ill health impact of the additional 21 turbines (4 megawatt) in Derrinlough will have, not even considering any request to extend the zone for even more wind turbines. Does the County Council envisage providing residents/victims with a relocation package like that of victims of flooding and other cases nationwide resulting in wind farm developments? Any more turbines will result in persistent sleep loss due to the noise from the turbines and shadow flicker which will come directly into the front of our home which effects the sitting room/dining room/ kitchen & conservatory, areas where the majority of time is spent in the house. In relation to the Impact on biodiversity I would like to refer to the objection from The Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT) in 2019 objecting to Bord Na Mona's plans for a 24-turbine windfarm in Longford, the IWT is increasingly concerned that turbines are being inappropriately located, especially on peatland habitats. "In particular, the presence of turbines can be at odds with biodiversity protection, the restoration of which is equally as important as addressing climate change.

<https://www.newstalk.com/news/irish-wildlife-trust-objects-bord-na-mona-plan-longford-windfarm-842170> We We can currently hear cuckoos in the adjacent Wood lands and peat land and also have Pine Martens very active in the area which will no doubt be affected by the construction of more turbines. I'm sure you are aware the Pine Marten is PROTECTED IN IRELAND BY BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION. It is an offence to destroy or disturb its resting place. Can the council confirm that an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive has been followed in considering any request for extension of zone 7 for Windfarm development? Speculators: We have a situation where absentee landlords/speculators who recently bought parcels of land adjacent to zone 7 should not be able to state to adjacent landowners that the consultation process is just a "rubber stamping exercise" for them to get the land rezoned in the next draft of the plan. Our property value has decreased as the result of a house located close to a turbine can decrease by 50pc or more. We have a right to our views and amenities towards the Slieve Bloom mountains along with the right to no industrial noise at night. People are entitled to their amenities. Below is a quote from an article in the Offaly Independent regarding one of our neighbours. "The windfarm personnel are in regular contact with both local residents and Offaly County Council in the operation of the wind farm and monitoring programme". They may be in touch with Offaly Count Council but they are certainly not in touch with the local residents. WHY? Regards, Cronan Kennedy