

From: Brian McDowell [REDACTED]
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To: forwardplan
Subject: Development Plan Review

We would like to register our discontent at the amount of wind farms in the county and the amount of zones the county is making available as appropriate to developers. We feel that Clare, especially West Clare, is particularly swamped with turbines and the county has done more than its fair share to contribute to national targets. We feel them detrimental to lives of those live nearby, and unsightly to tourists on the wild Atlantic way. Any benefits for short-term employment or landowner compensation are negligible compared to the financial costs to residents nearby, whose homes are unsellable and therefore their financial legacy to offspring and prospects for retirement are hugely limited. The turbines are imposing as you drive around west Clare and we would like no more. We also feel that community engagement by developers is totally inadequate and we hear of residents only finding out very late, often in the planning process. We also object to the way community engagement divides communities as local clubs and facilities benefit but this prevents many from voicing objections. Landowners compensation also divides communities. Any projects need many more steps taken abs much hugher provision of notice and information from more than just developers prior to planning stages. Dividends should be distributed equally around the community if go ahead is sanctioned.

We also think that where guidelines are used there is little regard for building in repowering of existing wind farms that were built under dated guidelines that them entail more modern, more imposing turbines. The simple Fix to where energy is derived in relation to climate change is simply cultural and entails everyone using less. We have infrastructure based on 240v AC production yet we step this down to 12v to charge a smart phone. Less use and delivery of lower voltage, DC current would allow current sources to easily provide what is actually used. Longer term we need more community energy projects, like water group schemes where solar or other lower scale infrastructure provides energy with less lifestyle impact than huge 275m tall turbines looming over homes in once beautiful places that our county was famed for prior to these scarring the landscape. Brian and Jenny McDowell, Miltown Malbay

