

Submission No: 103

**From:** cathal macmahon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday 16 November 2020 12:01  
**To:** forwardplan  
**Subject:** Development Plan Review



Dear Clare CC,

Having read your pre-draft, I would like to offer a few points of interest.

I was delighted to read your goals regarding carbon sequestration and biodiversity. Currently land is zoned in miltown malbay as a possible area for wind turbines. The area is in Claughanmore, Curragh O'Dea, Slievecurry, Silver Hill, Glendine. Most of the land is in GLAS schemes. It is all blanket and basin bogs meaning it is currently absorbing carbon at a massive rate. Because of the low input agriculture, it is home to many species of plants and animals and is a crucial habitat for the Hen Harrier. I have observed 2 roosting pairs there over the past year and this has been echoed by a bird watch ireland. Obviously, wind turbines will affect this protected species.

The area is also an area of natural beauty, the song "johnnys Hill" by sean O'Malley is written about the people and former village of claughanmore. It is pictured by many and can be seen hanging on the walls of a lot of local businesses. The village had strong links to Che Guevara with the Lynch's originating from the house on the hill (<https://www.thejournal.ie/che-guevara-irish-roots-3754700-Dec2017/>). It also has massive potential as a greenway as it comes off a main ennis road and looks down to spanishpoint, quilty and down to the kerry mountains all along the west coast of clare. As a local landowner i can say that many walkers visit the area, walking from letterkelly down to the glendine river. Wind turbines would end this.

The area is highly populated, it is an area where young people starting families and retired people looking for peace have moved into. This echoes your hopes for the county's development. I have hopes to renovate my ancestral home here if these wind turbines could be rejected. The schools of Miltown, Rockmount, Moy and Clonlaha depend on children from the area, while areas close by like Ballinoe, Claughaunmore, Glendine and Rockmount have seen major population increases, these homes would become less valuable and will quickly suffer from the undesirability. Businesses will lose out, Bird watching groups, hikers, walkers and people getting out of the cities all use the site in one way or another.

The wind turbines have already caused huge divides in Mount Callan and are doing the same now in the area. The tactics of harassing and targeting vulnerable people and offering unrealistic bribes during the development is very wrong. The process for the application has purposely been engaged during lockdown conditions, and representatives have broken Covid protocols. In the long run the community suffers, little or no jobs are created, the current turbines are owned and serviced by a german company and were recently sold to a japanese firm.

Wind turbines on shore themselves are not a good source of renewable energy. Research has shown that by the time the carbon footprint of the cement and diesel used to construct the turbines has been taken into account turbines prove to actually raise the carbon footprint. Along with destroying habitats and scenery. The fiberglass blades (<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8294057/Hundreds-non-recyclable-fiberglass-wind-turbine-blades-pictured-piling-landfills.html>) have proven to be impossible to dispose of and so industrial wind turbines are now a quango, no real benefit to the environment only making jobs and money for the already wealthy. <https://www.ipcc->

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The area marked also has many water springs and wells along with tributaries and streams to the Glendine river. The turbines would actually be built around the river itself, which is against guidelines. Another issue is the soil creep and potential for land slides, currently there are areas of creep around the hills from forestry, wind turbines would obviously have a much greater affect and we would end up in a situation similar to what has happened in Donegal. There is no great local interest in these developments, many of the board members of the GAA club will be objecting and anything that has happened in the town has been funded through grants and local collections. The people involved mainly live elsewhere, And the rumours of the wind turbines to continue on through rockmount up to lackamore are deeply troubling considering the implications to tourism and rural development.

I would urge you to reject the application once it comes in and read all the objections. For the future I would ask that this area be re zoned as it is not suitable for wind turbines.

Regards,

Cathal MacMahon







