

PLANNING**Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended)****THE SUBMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO A DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER REFERENCE NUMBER ABP-316212 LOCATED IN COUNTIES MEATH AND WESTMEATH**

In accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Bord na Mána Powergen Limited gives notice of its furnishing of significant additional information to An Bord Pleanála for a ten year planning permission in relation to the following Proposed Development in the townlands of Lislogher Great, Cockstown, Clonmorrell, Clonleane, Bracklin, Craddastown, Kilagh, Grange More and Riverdale in County Westmeath and the townlands of Clondalee More, Derryconor, Clonycahan, Robinstown, Coolronan, Doolystown and Moyveagher in County Meath.

The Proposed Development will constitute of the following:

- (i) The construction of 26 No. wind turbines and all associated hard-standing areas with the following parameters:
 - a. A total blade tip height of 200m,
 - b. Hub height of 115m, and
 - c. Rotor diameter of 170m.
 - (ii) 2 No. permanent Meteorological Anemometry Masts with a height of 115 metres and associated hardstanding area and removal of existing meteorological mast.
 - (iii) 4 No. temporary construction compounds with temporary site offices and staff facilities, in the townlands of Bracklin and Grange More.
 - (iv) 5 No. temporary security cabins at the main construction site entrances and access points around the site, in the townland of Kilagh, Grange More and Coolronan.
 - (v) 2 No. borrow pits located in the townlands of Grange More and Craddastown and all works associated with the opening, gravel and spoil extraction, and decommissioning of the borrow pits.
 - (vi) 1 No. permanent 110 kV electrical substation, which will be constructed in the townland of Grange More. The electrical substation will have 2 No. single storey control buildings, a 36 metre high telecom tower, associated electrical plant and equipment, a groundwater well and a wastewater holding tank.
 - (vii) All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the turbines and masts to the proposed electrical substation, including road crossings at R156 and a local road between Lislogher and Bracklin Bogs, and all works associated with the connection of the proposed wind farm to the national electricity grid, which will comprise connecting into the existing Mullingar – Corduff 110 kV overhead line that traverses the site.
 - (viii) Provision of new internal site access tracks with passing bays measuring a total length of c. 28km and provision/upgrade of existing/new pathways for amenity uses measuring a total length of c. 3.3km and associated drainage.
 - (ix) Temporary accommodating works to existing public road infrastructure to facilitate delivery of abnormal loads at locations on the R156 and R161 in the townlands of Doolystown and Moyveagher.
 - (x) Accommodating works to widen existing site entrances off the R156 into Ballivor and Carranstown Bogs and reopen entrances at Lislogher and Bracklin Bogs for use as construction site entrances and to facilitate delivery and movement of turbine components and construction materials. Entrances will be used for maintenance and amenity access during the operational period.
 - (xi) Permanent vertical realignment of the R156 in the vicinity of the site entrance to achieve required sight lines.
 - (xii) Construction of permanent site entrances off a local road into Lislogher and Bracklin Bogs to facilitate a crossing point for turbine components, construction materials and operation/amenity access.
 - (xiii) Provision of amenity access and amenity pathways using existing entrances off the R156 and local roads in the townlands of Bracklin, Coolronan, Clondalee More and Craddastown.
 - (xiv) 3 No. permanent amenity carparks in Ballivor Bog (50 no. car parking spaces), Carranstown (15 no. car parking spaces) and Bracklin Bog (15 no. car parking spaces) and the provision of bicycle rack facilities at each location.
 - (xv) All associated site works and ancillary development including access roads, drainage and signage.
 - (xvi) A 10-year planning permission and 30-year operational life of the wind farm from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA/R) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany the planning application. Significant additional information has been furnished to An Bord Pleanála in respect of this Proposed Development. This significant additional information together with the original planning application documentation, EIA/R and NIS, may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of three weeks commencing on the 22nd January 2024 at the following locations:
- i. The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 Y9Q2 (9:15am – 5:30pm, Monday – Friday)
 - ii. The Offices of Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291 (9:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday)
 - iii. Westmeath County Council, Aras An Chonae, Mount St, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, (9:30am – 4:00pm, Monday – Friday)
- The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: www.ballivorwindfarmplanning.ie. Submissions or Observations in relation to the significant additional information may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (‘the Board’) 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 or via the Board’s website <https://www.pleanala.ie/en-fo/observations> during the above-mentioned period of three weeks relating to:
- i. The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
 - ii. The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
 - iii. The likely effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.
- Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Board not later than 5.30pm on the 12th February 2024. There is no fee required to make a submission in relation to those parties/individuals who have already made a valid written submission to the Board regarding the application. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:
- i. The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the submission or observation, should be sent,
 - ii. The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
 - iii. The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers)
- Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.
- Any enquiries relating to the significant additional information should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel: 01 85588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision of the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011), in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed on the Board’s website (www.pleanala.ie) under the following heading: Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice. This information is also available on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

Westmeath workers among best paid in midlands

WESTMEATH workers are among the highest paid in the midlands region. That’s according to a report from the Central Statistics Office (CSO), which found that local workers had the second highest median earnings in the region last year, at €40,076. Workers in Laois had the highest median earnings (€40,294) in the midlands, while Longford people had the lowest median earnings last year were €38,234.

The analysis by the CSO found that Westmeath workers aged between 40 and 49 were the best paid in the county, with median earnings of €44,606, while those aged between 15 and 24 were lowest paid (€21,469). Workers in Dublin (€46,136)

had the highest median earnings in the county last year, followed by Kildare (€45,173), Meath (€43,557) and Wicklow (€43,140). Workers in Donegal are the lowest paid in the county with median earnings of €33,523, followed by Monaghan (€34,707) and Longford. Nationally, the median earnings last year were €41,823, and those in the 40-49 age bracket were the best paid (€47,296).

The report also found that there is relative parity when it comes to the number of men (51%) and women (49%) in active employment. However, when it comes to those within the top 10 percent of earners, 70 per cent are male and the figure rises to 75 per cent when it comes to those in the top one per cent of earners.

LOCAL NOTES**CASTLETOWN-GEOGHEGAN NOTES****BCDL Friendship Club**

The BCDL Friendship Club will recommence in the GAA Complex in Castletown-Geoghegan on Monday, 22 January from 10am to 1pm.

Come along on the day for a cuppa and a chat, and have your say as to what activities you would like to see the club provide. For more information contact Michele (0866321725) or Ciaran (086 827179).

GAA Lucky Numbers Draw

The winning numbers in the draw held on 8 January were: 11, 14, 20 and 28. No jackpot winner. Three number winners: Liam Maher, and Finlan and Catherine Clarke. Promoter’s prize was won by Maree Baker. New Jackpot is €9,800.

Ballingore GAA 50/50 Draw**Results**

Congratulations to Michael Linnane who was the winner in the draw which took place on Sunday, 7 January.

Congrats to Johnny Murphy

Many congratulations and continued best wishes in the years to come to Johnny Murphy, Ballingore on his great achievement of winning an Emmy Award.

Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Clancy Family, Ballynast, Castletown-Geoghegan on the death of Mr Tom Clancy, to the Mulderry Family, Valley Cottages, Patrick Street, Mullingar and California, on the death of Mr Kirk Mulderry, to the Doyle Family, Killeegh,

Castledaly, Moate on the death of Mr Kieran Doyle, to the Price Family, Bellview Heights, Mullingar on the death of Mr Mick Price, and to the Gunning Family, Glascon, Rathconrath on the death of Mrs Mary Gunning. We pray for all their families at this sad time. May they all rest in peace.

CLONMELLON NOTES**Confirmation**

The sacrament of Confirmation will be held on Thursday March 7 in Connellon.

Pat Healy RIP

Much sadness swept through the locality when the news of the passing of Patrick (Pat) Healy, Rosmead, Delvin, and formerly of The Naui, County Dublin became known. Pat was predeceased by his wife Nancy, Loving dad of Catherine, Myra, Geraldine, Tricia and Irene. Pat will be sadly missed by his daughters, his son in law, their partners, grandchildren Shane, Shakira, Jack, Cian and Erin, his brothers and sisters, best friend Gerry, nephews, nieces, neighbours and his many friends. Pat was a real family man and a pure gentleman who was loved by young and old, he was a man of gentle nature and a great neighbour always willing to give a helping hand. The vast attendance at Pat’s removal from Ennis’s Funeral Home, Killikcan and again at his funeral mass the following morning at The Church of the Assumption, Delvin was an indication of the respect Pat and his family are held in. Pat has left a void which will be hard to fill. May his gentle soul rest in peace.