

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PLANNING CPU](#)
Subject: Donegal County Development Plans
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Coiste Timpeallacht Gaoth Beara
Gweebarra Conservation Group
Cloghercor, Doochary, Co. Donegal

To. Central Planning Unit, Donegal County Council, Lifford, Co. Donegal

Donegal County Council have asked the public to comment on the current and next County Development Plans regarding wind energy in the County.

The Gweebarra Conservation Group was formed in 1998. We have witnessed over 20 years of failed wind energy policy in the County such as turbines erected on an SAC at Maas where a turbine fell down - were the concrete foundations tested for mica or can we expect more of the same?;

the debacle at Meenbog where locals and experts alike were ignored and a major environmental catastrophe ensued;
and the facilitating of the erection of a wind measuring mast at Cloghercor by a multinational during bird nesting season in July, 2020.

The Gweebarra River is a Natura 2000 River, one of the last Atlantic Salmon rivers in Ireland. NO industrial construction can occur on this river and Donegal County Council Planners would do well to acquaint themselves with the Habitats Directives and the Water Framework Directive.

There are no mitigation measures which would allow an industrial wind plant on the Gweebarra River. Nor will the locals allow it. It is a ridiculous idea. As Minister of the Environment Eamon Ryan insisted on Highland Radio "Donegal has done its bit as far as wind turbines go".

The Council Planners would do well to remember their obligation to preserve 30% of the County's land bank by 2030 and the fact that the Gweebarra River rises within Glenveagh National Park.

The entire valley and the wilderness it contains must be preserved for future generations, for wildlife, for tourism and for the mental health of the indigenous population whose way of life and traditional farming methods have sustained the valley for thousands of years.

We cannot engineer our way out of the climate emergency and the bright green


lies of industrial wind are the very antithesis of land preservation and conservation.

We fully support the local Councillors from the Glenties Electoral District and other parts of Donegal, who have proposed that the Gweebarra River Valley, Areas of High Scenic Amenity including St John's Point, areas prone to landslides and our Freshwater Pearl Mussel River catchements be EXCLUDED from areas open to wind farm development in the 2018-2024 and 2024-2030 County Donegal Development Plans.

We do not agree with the ten times tip height as being an appropriate distance of turbines from houses as all the most recent studies show that illnesses induced by infrasound from industrial wind turbines are consistent out to 20km. Donegal County Council does not want to be sued by numerous members of the public for illnesses sustained by bad planning.

We wish to keep our traditional small farming community as it is and we do not want the area to be industrialised. We trust the Council Planners will heed our wishes otherwise public consultation is a box ticking exercise.

Yours Sincerely,

Signed: 

for Gweebarra Conservation Group

Coiste Timpeallacht Gaoth Beara