

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] Personal information redacted
Subject: FW:
Date: Friday 3 June 2022 17:48:57

One for you I think.
Kind Regards
Carol

From: MICHAEL CHOLM MacGIOLLAEASBUIG (COUNCILLOR) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 3 June 2022 16:06
To: CAROL MARGEY [REDACTED] Personal information redacted
Subject:

Dear Planner,

I want to support the very important changes Donegal County Council are making on wind energy policies in the 2018 - 2024 County Development Plan. Donegal has done more than its fair share in the production wind energy over the last 30 years. From the top of every hill we can see turbines no matter which way we look. We need to protect our beautiful landscapes and conserve our valuable peatlands – after all they are planet earth’s main carbon store. What is the point in all the current fuss about local people not being allowed to cut turf on their own land if we then allow international speculators come in with €100m projects for industrial wind turbines in some of our best boglands? Of course the current example of that is Orsted a Danish company and their plans for 22 two hundred meter high turbines in the Gweebarra. The other disastrous example in recent times is Meenbog where the development of an Amazon wind farm caused a massive landslide which totally blackened the county’s good name with regard to proper planning. And blackened the Mournebeg river for many years to come.

The time has come to call a halt to any new industrial wind farms and that is the view supported by most councillors. Single turbines or small projects with the backing of the local community and for the full benefit of that community should be treated more favourably if they meet all planning regulations. We have talked this in and out at too many workshops. We need to listen to the communities and that is now what is reflected in the policies out to public consultation. We now need to see them implemented. Ten times tip height is a reasonable separation distance for the massive turbines of today. Remember, we put 10 times tip height in the 2018 plan and the Minister did not oppose it. The idea of four times tip height is still only a draft proposal. Kerry and Roscommon have rejected it. I support the new map which shows all areas with an EPA landslide susceptibility as being not normally permissible for turbines and I am very glad for the sake of the communities involved to see the exclusions zones of Glenveagh, Gweebarra, EHSA, fresh water pearl mussel and St John’s Point.

The Council is also clearly showing to the OPR that we are not against wind energy. The proposals to support the replacement of old redundant turbines on existing sites does make for this idea of sustainable development. An Bord Pleanala are looking at such a proposal in Barnesmore at the moment. There is a similar application in from Cark mountain near Brockagh. Another smaller example is the proposal to repower Cronalaght in Gweedore. The plan is to replace eight 600kW obsolete turbines with three 4.5MW turbines on the same site. Each new turbine generates seven times power of the one it is replacing. That means the site will generate 21 times the power of what is being replaced. This is surely a more sensible approach than destroying more green field sites.

Le gach dea mheas,

Clr Micheál Choilm Mac Giolla Easbuig

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