

Monday 25th November 2013

Under the provisions of standing order 28, we the undersigned request that the following item be dealt with as urgent business for the reasons set out as follows:

- Reasons:
- A). that an Board Pleannala documentation relating to the refusal of the Killymasney, Newmills permission was not publically available by the Friday week preceding the Monday of the meeting.
 - B). that following the presentation by Glenties wind information group last month, it was assumed that such an amendment would be brought forward by the council, The absence of such from the November agenda necessitates the item being brought forward as urgent business as the next such opportunity of inclusion would be over 8 weeks away.

Item: Consideration of the draft Variation to the Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018 and that the Members, by resolution, propose to make the Variation so that the public consultation process can be formally commenced.

Signed:

<u>John Campbell</u>	_____
<u>Michael Mc Bride</u>	_____
<u>James [unclear]</u>	<u>Frank McBrearty</u>
<u>Earl [unclear]</u>	_____
<u>Margie [unclear]</u>	_____
<u>M. [unclear]</u>	<u>Martin Faneen</u>
<u>[unclear]</u>	<u>Garry Docherty</u>
<u>[unclear]</u>	<u>Mark Quinn</u>
<u>[unclear]</u>	<u>Denise Larkin</u>
<u>[unclear]</u>	<u>Seamus O'Donohue</u>
_____	_____

Proposed Variation to Donegal County Development Plan 2012-2018

Context

The proposed variation to the current Plan is to bring the Plan into compliance with the stated Strategic Objectives of the Plan to protect the habitats of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and their environment, to provide a meaningful setback distance of wind farm developments from human habitation, and to protect water quality in the County.

The proposal is for the removal of the 6 Sub Basin District Catchments listed as Special Areas of Conservation for the protection of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel in S.I.296 of the 2009 European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel Regulations 2009) These Regulations came into operation in July 2009 and compliment and support the Environmental Objectives (Surface Water Regulations 2009).

It is proposed that the 6 Sub Basin Districts and their catchments be zoned as "unsuitable for wind farm development" in the County, in order to protect the water qualities of the catchment from sediment and peat which is identified as a pressure on the quality of these habitats. These catchments are Claddy, Eske, Glaskeelan, Leannan, Owencarrow and the Owenea.

Further the recent decision of An Bord Pleanála in relation to the Newmills windfarm (PL05E.241596) again highlights the deficiency of the plan in protecting the residential amenities of homes and that noise impact together with appropriate separation distance from residential homes, and other centres of community gathering, is a major concern of the public in relation to wind energy development.

Variations Proposed

Key

Existing Text

~~Additional Text (Highlighted)~~

~~Removed Text (Strikethrough)~~

Chapter 7 page 108

Not Favoured – Areas where wind energy proposals will not be favoured have been identified due to the significant environmental, heritage and landscape constraints. These include; SAC and SPA (Natura 2000) Sites, NHIAs, unspoiled areas of BHSAs, Areas of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel identified under the Sub Basin Management Plans and Catchments, of Claddy, Eske, Glaskeelin, Leannan, Owencarrow and Owenea (as listed in S.I. 296 of 2009), important views and prospects. It is considered that these areas have little or no capacity for wind energy development.

The wind energy policies herein must be considered in the context of the development and technical standards relating to wind energy set out in Chapter 10 and in the context of all other relevant objectives and policies set out in this Plan.

Chapter 7 page 109

E-O-5: To ensure that wind energy developments meet the requirements and standards set out in the DEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, or any subsequent related Guidelines (or as may be amended).

E-O-6: To ensure that wind energy developments do not adversely impact upon the existing residential amenities of residential properties, and other centres of community gathering.

Chapter 7 page 111

E-P-10 It is a policy of the Council to facilitate the development of renewable energy, through the development of on and offshore wind energy proposals, in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

E-P-11 It is the policy of the Council to:

(1) Facilitate the development of appropriate wind energy proposals in the "Area Open to Consideration" as identified on the Wind Energy Map No. 9, and

(2) Not favourably consider wind energy proposals in those areas identified "Not Favoured" on the Wind Energy Map No. 9.

Map 9 to be amended to show the addition of 6 Sub Basin Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009 (First Schedule) for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel as "not favoured for wind energy developments" * See Appendix 1

Wind energy proposals should accord with Sections 6.3 -- 6.9 of the Wind Energy, Development Guidelines, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2006 and with Chapter 10, section 10.6 (Wind Energy – Development Guidelines and Technical Standards).

E-P-16 It is a policy of the Council to support the clustering of wind farms within the vicinity of existing or proposed grid connections and existing operational and approved wind farms to achieve economies of scale and to minimise the spatial extent of environmental impacts.

Chapter 10 page 142

10.6.5 Wind turbines must meet the requirements and standards set out in the DEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, or any subsequent related Guidelines and in addition must not be located within:

(a) The zone of visual influence (ZVI) of the Glenveagh National Park.

(b) The zone of influence/ flight path at Donegal Airport

(c) The 6 Sub Basin District Catchments of SAC populations listed in S.I. 296 of 2009 for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

(d) A set back distance of ten times the tip height of proposed turbines from human habitation.

Appendix 1

