

From: Helen Sharkey [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 November 2023 10:25
To: Planning
Subject: OBJECTION to Magheramore Windfarm – Application Ref: LA01/2019/0922/F

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I object to the above application due to the adverse impact it will have on Dungiven and surrounding areas, the Sperrins AONB, Banagher Glen and Dam, The Glenshane, and throughout the Roe Valley Basin; and historical sites and tourism in the area. I am only learning of the application just now and it's impact, primarily due to the lack of visualisations provided by the applicant demonstrating the true impact the windfarm will have on the area.

I hope that my concerns, as detailed below, and those of others being expressed just now, will be given due and proper/ equal consideration.

My concerns are regarding the huge adverse impact the proposed development will have on:

1. Dungiven - it's character and setting - Teeavan Hill where the proposed development is sited, is the southern backdrop for the whole of Dungiven.
2. Key heritage features such as Dungiven Castle, Standing Stone, and Banagher Old Church, various archaeological monuments and stone circles, and Glor Dhun Geimhin Heritage Trail, (all of these are also identified as Tourism assets).
3. The Sperrins AONB - the tops of the blades of the proposed wind turbines will be 420 to 460m AOD, higher than most of the immediately surrounding mountains (390-407m AOD) and thus the windfarm will become the key dominant visual feature in the area, destroying and upsetting the current natural composition of Sperrins, and damaging the overall high scenic quality.
4. The proposal (with tops of blades at 420 to 460m AOD) will dominate and compete with Benbradagh, the highest and most striking landmark in the wider area, whose ridgeline is 410m AOD rising to 465m at its summit.
5. The whole south elevation/ edge of the Roe Valley Basin, visible for miles, offering wide sweeping views of the proposed windfarm - all of which have not been properly assessed. The tops of the blades of the proposed turbines will be 420 to 460m AOD, higher than the immediately surrounding Sperrin mountains. The windfarm will become the key dominant visual feature and detract from the current high scenic quality of the southern 'elevation' of the whole Roe Valley Basin and other key landmarks.
6. Main A6 route linking the east and west of the province -a main artery for tourism and links to NorthWest/ Donegal etc - especially the wide sweeping views when travelling westwards over The Glenshane.
7. Impact on views along the whole of the Ballyquin Road - Teeavan Hill is essentially the end vista when driving from Limavady.... and this road the Roe Valley Scenic (Loop) Drive.
8. Banagher Glen (Dam) Nature Reserve and walks – ice throw and noise – on a key and hugely popular amenity and leisure/ walking/ cycling area for locals and visitors from all over. The proximity of the turbines to the footpath (sometimes as little as 290m in places) will deter people from using and enjoying to use this key, highly accessible publicly-owned leisure and amenity space and will have consequences of health outcomes and social isolation.
9. Knock-on effect the proposal will have on tourism in the area and the employment and important form of diversified income this provides for this rural area.. (there is approx 420+ tourism bedspaces within a 4.5mile radius of Dungiven - a testament to the high regard and value with which the scenery and heritage in the area is held). Tourism and Leisure in the area has expanded dramatically since the covid pandemic, and has HUGE further potential. The developer has not submitted anything by way of an objective Tourism Impact Assessment, instead putting the onus on Planners and the community to provide an objective assessment. (For note - adverse

visual impact on the Sperrins AONB as impacting Tourism Assets and potential growth of same was cited as a determining factor in PAC Report ref: 2018/C007: Draperstown/ Broughderg).

10. Lack of objective detail/ assessment regarding economic impacts and benefit - thus impossible to make any true assessment regarding the figures. Impossible to fully weigh up economic impacts to the town without inclusion of a Tourist Impact Assessment.

11. No assessment of cumulative impact showing inclusion of Althahullion and Glenconway windfarm, the largest in N.Ireland.

12. Impact on North Sperrins Scenic Drive which lists Banagher Glen and Dungiven as key stopping points.

13. Impact on key walking routes - the Ulster Way, and Banagher Glen, Dam and Forest. Evidence indicates walkers are "sensitive" to and avoid walking in areas where there are turbines. (This was deemed as "likely to detract from the outdoor recreation experience" and "significantly compromise the value of the affected part of the (Sperrins) AONB as a TA (Tourism Asset) and thus be contrary to Policy TSM 8, in PAC Report ref: 2018/C007: Draperstown/ Broughderg).

14. Potential risks and impact on Banagher Dam reservoir as the primary source of fresh water provision for the whole of the Northwest (no consideration has been given to micro-particle cast-off from the blades nor oil dispersal/ leakage being thrown from such close and a high level).

I support the Planners recommendations to REFUSE this application.

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