

Simon Carleton

Subject: Pinewoods Wind Farm

From: Kiely Donal [<mailto:dkiel@laoiscoco.ie>]

Sent: Wednesday 2 September 2020 12:58

To: Simon Carleton

Subject: RE: Pinewoods Wind Farm

Hi Simon, Refeence the above.

Re: Pre-planning minutes

On 30th June 2020 I had a pre-planning discussion [on the telephone] with Mr. Simon Carleton, Senior Planner, Galetech Energy Services regarding a proposed wind energy project in County Laois.

The site of 39.96 hectares is in a rural area straddling the county boundary with Kilkenny. It is located due c. 4 kms north-east of Ballinakill and c. 8 kms south-east of Abbeyleix both County Laois and c. 8 kms due north-west of Castlecomer, County Kilkenny.

Under PI Ref 16/260 Pinewood Wind Limited applied for permission to both Laois and Kilkenny County Councils to develop a wind farm on the site. The proposed development in the main comprised the construction of 11 no. turbines, a 110 kV electricity substation, a meteorological mast, access roads and associated site works.

Laois County Council refused permission for the proposed development for reasons relating to the Habitats Directive, access, consent and visual impact.

Following a first party appeal to An Bord Pleanala, the Board overturned the decision of the local authority and granted permission for the proposed development subject to 24 no. conditions.

Condition no. 4 of the Boards decision reads as follows:

The proposed 110 kV substation at Knockardugar, County Laois is not authorised by this permission.

Reason: The provision of the proposed substation at Knockardugar would represent strategic infrastructure development under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and accordingly is subject to a separate planning application process.

The discussion was therefore focused on the implications of this condition.

Main issues discussed included in relation to the background to the project, the nature and extent of the project, legislative requirements, visual impact, foul and surface water drainage, construction logistics, traffic generation, environmental impact, EIA and AA screening.

Is mise le meas, Donal

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