

ARDGLASS WIND TURBINE  
ACTION AWARENESS  
GROUP (AWTAAG)

NEWS UPDATE

- **Many thanks to all those who have supported our fundraising.**

## Can You Help?

Contact any committee member if you feel you can help the group. Any financial contribution or help with fundraising would be greatly appreciated.

**Our Account details are:**

Bank of Ireland

Midleton, Co. Cork.

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**Account No:** 15142941

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# Ardglass Wind Turbine Action Awareness Group

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## Ardglass Windfarm Refused Again!!

As you are probably now aware our communities fight against a wind farm development had a huge success with the refusal of permission by An Bord Pleanala at the end of January 2017.

For the second time, An Bord Pleanala refused permission for the development, in this case for 7 turbines of 140m high. The Bord cited the excessive scale and height of the development and the resulting visual impacts on local residents and the Scenic Route between Ardglass and Peafield Crossroads. The Bord Inspector's Report which assessed the application in detail recommended refusal on visual grounds on the following basis.

The height of the turbines was still deemed excessive. Even with the omission of Turbines 1 and 2 (as granted by Cork County Council) there was still an impact from the remaining 5 turbines on residential amenity for a significant number of properties at Peafield



Crossroads, at Walshes-town and those houses between Ardglass Crossroads and Monalyre Bridge in particular. The impact on the Scenic Route would still exist from Turbines 6, 4 and 3, so the removal of Turbines 1 and 2 by condition would not address this.

### Whats next?

The developer could seek a judicial review of the decision to the High Court but this could only be on a matter of procedure and not the actual decision itself. Only one wind-farm developer has ever sought a judicial review in the past. The developer could also still make a third application on the site, starting the process all over again but in our view,

because these houses which the Bord deemed to be negatively impacted are spread all around the site, a large number if not all of the individual turbines are creating the impact. So to reduce this impact would involve removing more turbines or moving turbines further away from these properties. The applicant would also need to reduce the height of the turbines significantly. This would make the development financially unviable. Our groups view is that the Bord are essentially saying, through their two decisions to date, that this is not a suitable site for a large scale windfarm of any kind. Exactly what we have been saying from the start! Hopefully the developer will finally see this!

The Ardglass Wind Turbine Action Awareness Group would like to thank everyone who supported us in our struggle to stop this countryside from becoming a wasteland littered with enormous industrial turbines.

We are eternally grateful to the many generous people who helped us financially, participated in fund-raising, donated prizes or bought tickets for our raffles, give their time to attend our many events and in particular, all of those who put pen to paper and sent submissions to Cork County Council and An Bord Pleanála. (twice!!). We are humbled by the resolve and community spirit of the residents of East Cork. We would also like to thank the many professional people whose services we availed of to produce highly credible and reasoned arguments in the Ardglass group submissions to Cork County Council and An Bord Pleanála.

We are mindful of the other people in Ireland, who have had the same struggle and maybe were not so lucky. We



also acknowledge that those that have gone before us have helped to pave the way for us. For those that are currently going through a predicament similar to ours, we will endeavour to help other groups and share any experience that may be useful. It is not an easy road and it is important for the whole community to come together as no one person has the resources to fight something like this alone. Remember that when people call you a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard), this is just a lazy and dismissive term. There is nothing wrong with caring about your back yard. If rural Ireland does not look out for its back yard – who will? The populist 'Green' idea of removing our forests, pouring concrete into the fields to support these massive structures and having to connect to the grid with even more pylons is not in Ireland's best interest. The grossly over-estimated energy obtained does not justify the cost, the landscape destruction, or the damage to residents.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you..... our families will be able to sleep at night!!!**

### Let's Celebrate!!!!

The group want to show our appreciation to all of you who have stuck with us for the last five years since this development was first announced. We are having a party in Smarts Bar on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30pm** and we invite all local residents to come down and join us in celebration.



Rural Ireland is not prepared to tolerate the scenario where the countryside is turned into a wasteland of rusted metal towers - the residual mess from experiments with wind-power technology. The concerns of over 200 community groups in Ireland alone are science based and raise real economic and health issues. We need an energy policy that can secure community support, confidence and trust and not just fill the pocket's of developers. (see wind aware.ie) Please ask your local politicians to push for new wind-energy guidelines that put citizens first!!

### Families forced from homes due to wind farm noise win High court case *Irish Examiner, December 2016*

A number of families in Co Cork who were forced to leave their homes because of noise from a nearby wind farm have won a significant case in the High Court. The families claim they have been severely impacted by noise since the wind farm began operating in 2011. This is the first action of its kind in Ireland and may now open many wind farm developers to the prospect of legal challenges from families in similar situations. The case was taken against wind turbine manufacturer Enercon who have accepted full liability for causing nuisance to seven families who live up to 1 km from the wind farm. The case will return to the High Court in April 2017 to discuss punitive damages.

Promises in Government over the last four years to introduce planning regulations regarding wind turbines have failed to materialise. According to out-dated guidelines, turbines may be built 500m from homes. On election, Minister Naughten promised that new planning guidelines would be in place within 3 to 6 months of the formation of the new government.....Where are they???? Other tortured families are likely to take similar legal action. Why do we bring this on our citizens??