

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, AND ONLINE, ON THURSDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 2025, AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Leas Príomh Chomhairleoir Councillor M. Collins

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors, Benson, Butler, Carey, Collins (B), Collins (M), Conway, Daly, Doyle, Foley, Galvin, Gavan, Hartigan (T), Hickey-O'Mara, Keary, Kiely, Kilcoyne, McSweeney, O'Donoghue, O'Sullivan (O), O'Sullivan (T), Pond, Reale, Ruddle, Ryan (E), Ryan (M), Scanlon, Secas, Sheahan (J), Slattery, Stokes, Teefy, Teskey and Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director General (Dr. P. Daly), Deputy Director General and Director, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Organisational Development (Mr. J. Delaney), Director, Finance, Economic Development, Digital and ICT Services (Mr. M. White), A/Director, Housing (Ms. S. Newell), Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Transportation and Mobility (Ms. P. Liddy), Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. C. Farrell), Staff Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. J. Tierney), A/Senior Executive Planner, Planning and Place-Making (Ms. J. Collins), A/Senior Planner, Planning and Place-Making (Mr B. Henn), Senior Staff Officer, Planning and Place-Making (Ms. V. Cullen)

1. Strategic Infrastructure Development

Circulated, Director General's report dated 7th November 2025, as an Agenda item in advance of the Special Meeting.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Council was being asked to consider the Director General's Report under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) following on from the submission of a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) to An Coimisiún Pleanála, known as the Garrane Windfarm.

The Members made the following comments in relation to the proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development:

Land Use:

- Members expressed the view that as the area is an agricultural area there should be input from Department of Agriculture.
- Potential to locate windfarms on lands not suitable for farming/housing e.g. bogland.

- Concerns in relation to the impact of the 'Preferred' areas for windfarm development map contained in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 which covers a large area of central County Limerick.

Community Impact, Residential and Visual Amenity:

- Concerns were raised in relation to the impact of noise and shadow flicker.
- It was noted that there were studies on the impact of noise and shadow flicker on wildlife but not on how persons with medical and sensory issues were affected. It was suggested that the HSE should be consulted.
- Concerns in relation to impact of infrasound from proposed development. Members referenced study by Professor Ken Masterson, which identified safe distances for people.
- Concerns for quality of life of households residing within 1km of proposed site.
- It was noted that there are 36 turbines in the general area at present and further turbines would have a negative impact on the landscape.
- Members considered that the visual impact was understated for the turbines' height.
- Members queried the effects the turbines would have on planning permission applications in the area by rural households.
- Members highlighted mapping errors on submitted documentation e.g. towns and villages are not shown on the submitted maps giving the impression that no towns/villages exist in the area surrounding the proposed site.

Water and Flooding:

- Concerns were raised that the submitted Flood Risk Assessment should be updated. The proposed site access from N20 is currently flooded and has a history of flooding – recent video footage and photographs of same should be attached to inform the An Comisiún Pleanála decision. 5 turbines are to be located in Flood Zone A.
- The volume of concrete required for the base of turbines will impact water seepage to underground flow of water and make flooding worse in the area.

Road Safety, Construction and Decommissioning

- The N20 is limited to two lanes. It was noted that the site access road was already busy, with historical black spots. Concern was expressed that additional construction traffic for an extended period will exacerbate traffic issues.
- Queries on the disposal of soil and subsoil from excavations including licensing.
- Queries on the long-term plan on decommissioning following the 35-year operational period and whether a bond will be put in place.

Archaeology and Ecology:

- It was noted that the Council Archaeologist has identified additional archaeology that needs to be considered.
- Concerns in relation to potential biodiversity issues.
- Water Framework Directive objectives should be considered.

Accident and Emergencies:

- Fire and Emergency Services training required in the event of an incident(s) on the site pre and post construction.

Community Engagement:

- Members expressed concerns about the level of public consultation e.g. 9 households consulted in the door-to-door survey.
- Discussion took place on the possible economic and financial benefit of wind farm development.

In reply to Members' queries, the A/Senior Executive Planner noted the Members comments would be included in the Director General's Report as an addendum. It was noted that the planning decision would rest with An Coimisiún Pleanála. Members were advised that if they wanted to make further submissions to be included with the report they could do so to the Planning Department by close of business Friday 14th November.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Príomh Chomhairleoir

Date:
