

Presentation to Causeway Coast & Glens Council	
Proposal:	Brishey Wind Farm
Reference:	LA01/2023/0008/F
Item:	5.2
Date:	24 September 2024

Save Benbradagh Group welcome the opportunity to speak about the following:

- Concerns regarding incomplete Environmental Impact Assessments and Habitat Regulations Assessment:- radiation and contamination risks, transboundary impacts, and other.
- Failure by developer to provide revised ES (and advertisement of same to public) detailing revised emissions, generation capacity figures and socio economic assessment prevents benefits from being accurately assessed for this major application. Likely generation capacity only 13MW – the harm outweighs the benefits.
- Saturation and Roe Valley encircled – incomplete and inaccurate assessment of cumulative impacts.
- Concerns regarding visual impact and scale. The scale of the proposed turbines are larger than anything built or consented to date in NI. They will have a blade radius of 68m and rotor diameter/ swept path of 136m, which is 1.7 x larger than the radius and diameter of the existing turbines in Evishagaran windfarm, which already are enormous in scale and impact when viewed coming over the Glenshane Pass.
- The proposed development of four industrial-scale, 150m (500 feet) high turbines would breach the distinctive and celebrated ridgeline of Benbradagh that is protected under planning policy (LCA 36), and would be highly visible throughout the area, as can be very clearly seen in the applicant's Zone of Theoretical Visibility Map Figure 10.15. This diagram confirms that the giant blades/ rotors would be clearly visible throughout most of Dungiven and beyond in outlying areas up to over 10-15km away.
- Other ZTVs show that the hubs would be fully visible upto Derrychrier in the highly important transient view of Benbradagh when approaching Dungiven from the west on the new A6.

- Council's planning team share the community's concerns regarding the visual impact of the proposal.
- NIEA Countryside and Coast Landscape Team (CC&L) submission of two polar-opposite responses to the 4no. turbine scheme - despite the scheme and planning policy being the same at the date of both responses.
- Failure to consider cultural significance and impact of the proposed development on local people's sense of place and connection to the land, recognised by the PAC to be a material consideration in Doraville Wind Farm public inquiry –PAC ref no.2018/C007, para 10.116. Benbradagh is one of the most iconic mountains in the North, the ridgeline visible for miles within the Roe Valley and along the new A6. It is synonymous with and forms the backdrop to Dungiven, and is of deep cultural and spiritual significance to the local community, celebrated over the centuries in folklore, poems and song, deeply embedded in their psyche and identity, and referenced in all their activities.
- Nearly 1300 objections.
- Flawed Pre-application Community Consultation that prejudiced the Dungiven community.
- Breach of the iconic ridgeline protected under planning policy will pave the way for further development.
- Benbradagh as a unique selling point in promoting local tourism. The tourism impact assessment is deeply flawed and does not take into consideration the vibrant, landscape-dependent, tourism industry within the area, evidenced by 470+ tourism bedspaces within a 4.3mile radius of Dungiven, and the importance of that to the economy of the local rural community.
- Application of Climate Change Act, and duties therein on Local Councils.

The local community respectfully urge the Committee to stand with them and refuse permission for this proposed harmful wind farm development on the iconic landmark Benbradagh.

Thank you.