

Presentation to Causeway Coast & Glens Council	
Proposal:	Brishey Wind Farm
Reference:	LA01/2023/0008/F
Item:	5.1
Date:	26 November 2025

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

- Formal assertion of longstanding Public Rights of Way on Benbradagh was issued to the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens Council on 29th October 2025. A decision on this planning application can't be made until the investigation is completed by the Coast and Countryside team in compliance with the council's statutory obligations.
- 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 (ZTV) 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. The 136m rotor diameters would be much larger than existing turbines in Evishagaran windfarm, which already are enormous in impact viewed coming over the Glenshane Pass
- ZTVs show that the hubs would be fully visible up to Derrychrier in the highly important transient view of Benbradagh when approaching Dungiven from the west on the new A6 – the main route between NI's two principal cities.
- NIEA Countryside and Coast Landscape Team (CC&L) submitted two completely polar-opposite responses - to the same 4no. turbine scheme - despite the scheme, and planning policy, being the exact same at the date of both responses
- There continues to be a very significant level of objections from the community, including from cultural and sports groups, and schools – “Ná Díol Ár Sliabh, Ná Scios Ár dTodhchaí (Don't sell our mountain, Don't destroy our future)”, to this application.
- The Council's planning team share the community's concerns regarding the visual impact of the proposal.
- “This is our Ayers Rock” - ‘Binn Fhada Rí Chiannachta’ - the ‘long mountain peak of the King of Ciannacht’ - referencing its form and majesty; also known as “Hill of Thieves”. Benbradagh is one of the most iconic mountains in the North Sperrins AONB, 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 our language, folklore, poems, art, music and song, deeply embedded in our psyche and identity, and referenced in all our activities.

- Cultural significance and impact of the proposed development on local people's sense of place and connection to the land, was 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 a unique selling point in promoting local tourism - there is a vibrant, landscape-dependent, tourism industry within the area, evidenced by 470+ tourism bedspaces within a 4.3mile radius of Dungiven - an important contribution to the of the local rural economy.
- The Roe Valley encircled – cumulative impact distances between existing windfarms in this wide-open landscape non-compliant.
- Outstanding issues – flawed ZTVs; non-assessed listed building; environmental concerns - failure to identify and assess cumulative impact of multiple windfarms on whooper swan flight-lines between feeding areas; non-assessment of radiation and contamination.
- The Climate Change Act 2022 does not place a statutory legal duty on Local Councils, only on “Northern Ireland departments”. The Act requires emission reductions and renewable electricity consumption targets, but does not create a hierarchy where climate outweighs statutory planning duties and environmental and AONB protections.
- SSPS (published September 2015) takes precedence as planning policy in the determination of this application. SPPS 6.225 very clearly states “appropriate weight”, not “significant weight”, should be given to wider environmental, economic and social benefits of renewable energy projects. SPPS 6.223 details that a “cautious approach” will apply within designated landscapes of significant value such as AONBs, and their wider settings.
- Breach of the iconic AONB ridgeline, protected under planning policy – for what – a meagre 19MW....? Consent would undoubtedly pave the way for further development. What would we have left as a community?

The local community respectfully urge the Committee to stand with them, and with their own Planning Officers who continue to have concerns - and refuse permission for this proposed harmful wind farm development on the iconic landmark of Benbradagh. A balanced approach must be taken – SPPS does not detail that our most precious natural and cultural assets must be sacrificed for renewables.

Thank you.