



## **Keep Shronagree Turbine Free**

Ballybane Wind Farm 2 Ltd are proposing to build a new wind farm, this will comprise 7 turbines, each measuring 150m [492 ft] high, in the townlands of Shronagree, Letterlicky and Ballybane East with a generating capacity of ~30MW, associated structures, and tracks. The proposal also requires development of the turbine delivery route.

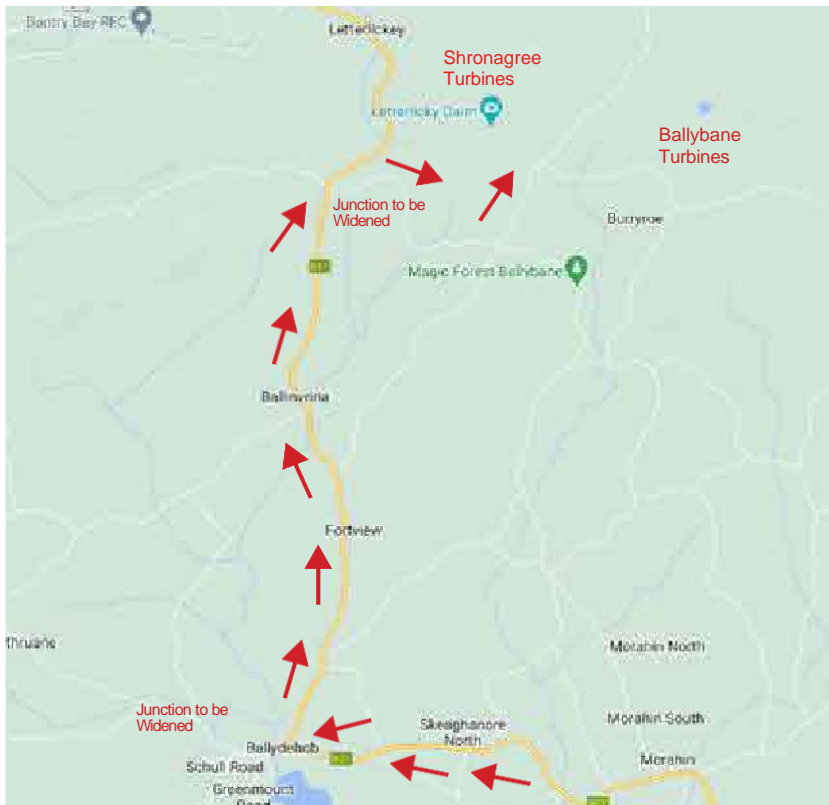
### **WHAT DOES THE PROPOSAL REALLY MEAN?**

- The proposed site is less than 1km from the existing Ballybane Wind Farm
- This will result in a total of 28 Turbines on Ballybane making this the second biggest wind farm in County Cork.
- The 7 new turbines will each be 50m [164 ft] taller than the existing 21 turbines at Ballybane; their tips would be higher than Mount Gabriel. They will be visible from circa 20km away including from Bantry, Drimoleague, Dunmanway, Durrus, Glengarriff, and along routes and places in between.

### **THERE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL, VISUAL, ECONOMIC AND QUALITY OF LIFE IMPACTS ACROSS A 20KM WIDE RADIUS AROUND THE DEVELOPMENT**

- The proposed site is largely peat bog; the United Nations Environment Programme has stated that “globally peatlands hold twice as much carbon as the world’s forests do. They must not be drained and must not be built on as this reverses their unique position”. The building process plus the building of permanent internal site tracks, hardstand areas and site drainage will all irreversibly damage the peatland; resulting in an immediate and ongoing escalation of carbon emissions.

- The proposed site is home to Letterlicky Cairn, a scheduled Neolithic monument. The Cairn is a recognised local beauty spot with 360° panoramic views of the peninsulas of West Cork, visited by locals and tourists alike.
- The area is home to a protected species of butterfly, rare newts, slugs and lizards, hares and birdlife of all sorts; rare birds of prey such as White Tail Eagles are known to fly up to Ballybane from Glengarriff.
- The area is the source for numerous streams that feed and support agriculture and wildlife in the surrounding area. Upgrading of the delivery route, the hard standing, tracks and turbine foundations will damage existing drainage and risks permanently changing water channels with potentially highly damaging impacts for flora and fauna.
- The proposed delivery route for the 50m blades and other materials is outlined on this map. This route:
  - requires the widening of 2 junctions as marked, with the work on the Shronagree junction requiring irreversible destruction of rock outcrop



- encompasses roads and trails that are currently designated scenic drives walking routes, including the Mizen Head Drive (N71 between R595 and Ballydehob), the Sheep's Head Way, Fastnet Walking Trails, and designated cycle routes. Some of these trails pass within less than 200m of the planned turbines.



- There are over 65 homes within 2km of the turbines. The turbines will dominate residents' lives:
  - they will experience 14 months of major disruption during the construction phase
  - once operational, noise disturbance and shadow flicker will be unavoidable.

These factors are known to cause anxiety and sleep disruption with well documented impacts on health and wellbeing of those affected.

Statue of Liberty New York



93M in Height

~~The~~ Spire Dublin



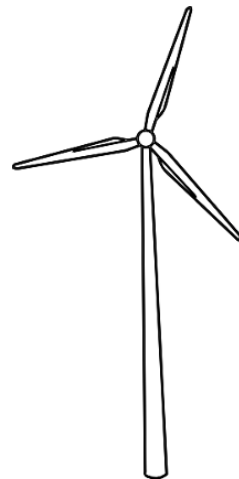
120M in Height

Current Ballybane Turbine



100M in Height

Proposed ~~Shannon~~ Turbine



150M in Height



A development on the same site for 11 turbines, planning application submitted in July 2000, was refused by Cork County Council and An Board Pleanála. The turbines specified in that development were 50m smaller than those now proposed. Planning permission was refused on the basis (of the development being) *visually obtrusive, out of character.... contrary to the proper planning and development of the area.*

Wind turbines are a long way from being a perfectly 'green' solution to energy: the blades need to be replaced circa every 10 years with the majority of used blades going into landfill; the farm in its entirety has a maximum useful life of circa 30 years.

Wind farms are a key component in a national strategy for renewable energy; yet currently no national strategy to inform where wind farms should be sited exists. The result is a scatter gun approach to developments, driven by the corporate developers who benefit financially at the expense of communities and the environment. Cork has the second highest number of turbines in the country at the present time; the load for renewables needs to be spread across the country.

You have the right to object to this development, to play a part in preserving our environment and the biodiversity that is vital to the sustainability of the planet.

To find out more about the impact of these plans and/or how to object to the planning application please email: [shronagree@gmail.com](mailto:shronagree@gmail.com) and / or visit our Facebook page: **Keep Shronagree Turbine Free** or our website [www.shronagree.ie](http://www.shronagree.ie) and you can also follow us on twitter @WestCorkBeauty.