

Appendix 1A

Stakeholder Community Report



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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Report Objective

The purpose of this report is to set out the method in which Ballycar Green Energy initiated and carried out meaningful community consultation and engagement in the geographical area surrounding the site of the proposed wind farm. This consultation process represents Ballycar Green Energy's continued commitment to actively engage with the community, to place value on their contribution and involvement, and to ensure their views and queries were taken into consideration as plans for the proposed wind farm developed.

Community Engagement Guidelines

In relation to national guidance on community engagement and consultation for wind energy developments, the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) state that: "While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application". The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) build on this recommendation, and state that "It is essential that local communities are properly involved in the planning process, as early inclusion improves confidence in the openness and fairness of the planning process". They further suggest that to promote best practice "planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application" and that "a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report".

Both the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the 2019 Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation.

Project Overview

The proposed development is a wind farm including 12-turbines, located on a site spanning the townlands of Glennagross, Cappateemore East, Ballycannon West, Ballycannon East, Ballycar South, Ballycar North, north of Meelick, in Southeast Clare.

The Community Team

The Community Team comprised of the Project Manager; John O'Connor, Communications Manager; Nadine Walsh and the Community Liaison Officer (CLO); Dr Susan Byrne. Dr Byrne acted as the main point of contact for all incoming queries via phone, email and face-to-face interactions with the residents of the community.

Community Benefits

- **Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed development has the potential to displace 1,862,595 tonnes of CO₂ over its lifetime and provide the capacity to power more than 30,000 homes.
- **Employment:** The development will support employment in the energy supply and construction/maintenance sectors, creating approximately 60 direct and indirect jobs, based on estimates from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The team is committed to working with local suppliers where possible to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire and catering.
- **Financial:** In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, the development will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €3.75 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €250,000 per annum. Ballycar Green Energy will work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee to oversee the administration of the Community Benefit Fund. The committee will be established once the project successfully completes the planning permission process and the necessary grid connection process.

Strategy Objectives

The primary aim of the community engagement strategy is to share all key project information relating to the proposed development, thereby providing the community with the necessary information to arrive at well-informed opinions regarding the development. It was also of importance to share information regarding the current climate crisis and how this development can play a role in building a more sustainable community for future generations.

The Approach

Ballycar Green Energy strives for a transparent and interactive engagement with the communities surrounding the proposed development. The aim is to develop a wind farm that will address the four pillars of sustainability: human, social, environmental, and economic. Ballycar Green Energy strives to develop these benefits in cooperation with local communities throughout the stages outlined below.

TYPE	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	Planning Application Submission & Validation	STAGE 4
Online	Website Launch	Website updates section added with e-resources and survey	Website update with public consultation materials including photomontages & maps		Website update with Planning application
Offline	Letter & Leaflet 1	Invitation to Public Exhibition	Follow up Letter		Print materials posted where requested
In-Person	Door to Door	Public Exhibition	Wind Farm Tour		Additional 1-1 meetings where requested
Press/ Advertising	Advert 1 & Press Release	Advert 2 & Press Release	Advert 3: Notice of submission		Press Statement
Print Materials	Leaflet 1	Climate Action Brochure	Planning Application		Project update newsletter
Community Engagement	Landowner meetings & calls to local representatives to announce project	Email invite to Public Exhibition	Follow up for community feedback		Continued engagement

Community Engagements Phases

Community Engagement is undertaken in three distinct phases.

Phase One: Research

- **Housing Registrar:** Mapping of the area to identify houses within 2km of the project. A suitable route is identified for door-to-door consultation with all residents within 1km. Where there is little distance between 1km & 2km houses, these houses are also included.
- **Electoral District:** Research is conducted to identify locally elected public representatives including County Councillors, Senators and TDs that represent the local area.
- **Community Overview:** Using social media and online research, key community groups are identified such as schools, religious organisations, sports clubs, local charities, and businesses to gain a sense of the type of community and the potential associations that could bring about a positive partnership with the residents. Where data is available, we review the demographics of the community.

Phase 2: Engagement



The approach is multifaceted and aims to reach all community members at multiple touch points, from initial inception to operation, and beyond. There are eight options for engagement with the local community and this continues to evolve throughout the process. The aim of this eight-point interaction is to provide residents with multiple means of communications and numerous opportunities to discuss the proposed development with its dedicated team. Interactions are delivered in a number of ways, either face to face or via video call where requested, via phone or email contact, through post, or at a group event such as the public exhibition, and the wind farm tour.

Phase 3: Review

A review takes place at each stage of the consultation process. At each stage, residents feedback is reviewed, and the next step is determined based on the requests received. This has included publishing further details on particular topics on the frequently asked question page on the website or conducting additional one-to-one meetings or phone calls.

Community Engagements Detail

The table below provides a timeline and description of the consultation undertaken to date.

Date	Description of Activity
17 th November 2021	Project Website Launched www.ballycargreenenergy.ie
17 th November 2021	Clare Champion and Limerick Post: Articles on project by Ballycar Green Energy
17 th November 2021	Letter and Leaflet posted to households within 2 km
17 th November 2021	Letter posted to households within 1 km of the development in relation to Covid 19 restrictions
17 th November 2021	Correspondence with local representatives
17 th November 2021 to present	Ongoing communications with residents via phone calls and email
30 th November 2021	Face-to-face meetings were held between the CLO and the residents who requested them. Ongoing communications with residents via phone calls and email.
21 st December 2021	Website update – Engagement to date
1 st March to 30 March 2022	Door to door visits to 102 households within 1km. When nobody was at home, a postcard with the date and time of visit was left for the resident (approx. 30). These included all contact information for follow up options. An information leaflet on climate change and a printed version of the December website update was also provided to residents at the door-to-door interactions. Between these dates a total of 9 visits to the area were carried out with all households within 1km visited.
27 th April 2022	Website update on public consultation
23 rd June 2022	Invite to Public Event issued to Public Representatives via email
24 th June 2022	Advert on Public Event in Clare Champion
24 th June 2022	Postcard to local residents (266) re Community Engagement Event
29 th June 2022	Public Event at Radisson Blu Hotel for local public representatives
30 th June 2022	Public Event at Radisson Blu Hotel (80 attendees)
19 th July 2022	Website update, exhibition materials with all information presented at the Radisson hotel event uploaded.
26 th August 2022	Website Update – Invitation to wind farm visit
28 th September 2022	Wind Farm Visit invite and map posted and emailed to residents who expressed an interest at the Radisson hotel event, and residents who did not receive the original invitation to the public consultation event, as we were made aware that An Post had not delivered to everyone successfully on the first occasion.
8 th October 2022	Leaflet with additional materials added from the public consultation exhibition provided to residents who attended the wind farm visit.
8 th October 2022	Wind Farm Visit in Tullabrack Co. Clare
10 th October 2022	Website update – October 2022 Wind farm visit in Tullabrack wind farm
13 th February 2023	Website update – Archaeological Surveys
10 th May 2023	Website update – Useful Resources
Ongoing	Responses to queries raised in relation to the proposed development.

Online Communication

The proposed development's website, www.ballycargreenenergy.ie went live in November 2021. This represented the launch of the community engagement program. The website is the key information hub, providing information regarding all aspects of the development such as company information, contact details, project specific details and information on renewable energy. The website was developed with access for both mobile and desktop viewing. A sample of the most visited pages is below.

The image displays two screenshots of the Ballycar Green Energy website. The left screenshot shows the homepage with the Ballycar Green Energy logo and the tagline "BUILDING WIND ENERGY, POWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES". The right screenshot shows the "KEY QUESTIONS" page, which includes sections for "ABOUT THE PROJECT", "COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT", and "COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND".

KEY QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

WHAT IS THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED WIND DEVELOPMENT SITE?

The proposed site area is 140-hectares. This site is potentially suitable for 12 wind turbines.

WHY WAS THIS SITE SELECTED?

This site has been designated as a strategic and acceptable in principle area by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 (Renewable Energy Designation) due to its strategic regional and national importance and the favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

WHAT SIZE ARE THE WIND TURBINES EXPECTED TO BE?

The proposed overall height of the turbines (tower plus blade) is expected to be up to 158 meters.

KEY INFORMATION

- Our team has already engaged extensively with landowners in the area.
- Community consultation has commenced with the public, residents and businesses in the local community and vicinity of the proposed wind farm.
- A detailed assessment of the proposed site will be carried out to ensure compliance with all legislative requirements.
- A community benefit fund will be established and administered by a locally elected committee.

PROJECT MAP

The Project Map shows a topographic map of the area around Cappateemore East, Co. Clare. A blue line indicates the proposed site boundary. A scale bar shows 0, 0.5, and 1 km. A north arrow is present in the top right corner.

GOOGLE MAPS

The Google Maps screenshot shows the project location near Cappateemore East, Co. Clare. The map includes a red location pin, a search bar with the coordinates 52°43'30.1"N 8°39'55.1"W, and a "Directions" button. The map shows the surrounding area, including Ballycar, Glennagross, Cappateemore West, and Cappateemore.

Where residents were unable to access the website, printed versions of all documents were posted and in some cases, hand delivered to the requestee.

Press

On November 17th, 2021, Ballycar Green Energy provided information in relation to the proposed development to the local press, both the Clare Champion and Limerick Post newspapers.

Below are editorials published by the respective papers in relation to the project.

The Clare Champion

Firm starts consultation on proposed windfarm

Opposition group fears farmers will be bought off at expense of Meelick community

Dan Danaher

Limerick-based Ballycar Green Energy has announced it is commencing pre-planning consultation with local communities and stakeholders in relation to the proposed wind energy development in Meelick.

The Ballycar Green Energy project, a proposed 12-turbine windfarm on a 140-hectare site near Meelick, in South-East Clare will have the capacity to power more than 30,000 homes.

The designated location for the proposed project is on a 140-hectare site neighbouring the townland of Ballycar, north of Meelick.

According to the company, this site has been designated as a strategic and acceptable in principle area by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 due to its strategic regional and national importance and the favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

It is expected this proposed development will prompt opposition from a local group Meelick Says No To Windfarm, which was established last year to stop plans for a windfarm from Ballycar to Cappanymore and on to Gallowes Hill.

The Meelick Says No To Windfarm group has expressed concern local farmers will receive substantial sums of money to permit the construction of the windfarm on their lands as well as guaranteed annual payments "at the expense of the Meelick community".

The group is concerned about the impact of the elevated wind turbines on the picturesque local landscape as well as alleged turbine noise and shadow flicker.

It has also questioned the impact of the windfarm on forestry and the Cropaun River, which is home to a rich array of wildlife, birds including endangered species, flora and fauna.

In a statement issued to the Clare Champion, a spokeswoman for Ballycar Green Energy pledged the company would work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee that will oversee the administration of a Community Benefit Fund, estimated at €3.75 million over the first 15 years of the project.

She outlined the committee will be established once the project successfully completes the planning permission process.

It will then oversee direct financial payments for projects to support community development, education, recreation, health, social inclusion, heritage and culture.

The development will support the creation of local employment, in the supply, construction and maintenance sectors, and based on SEAI estimates, will be in the region of 180 direct and indirect jobs.

Ballycar Green Energy is managed by Irish renewable energy firm Greensource, an Irish-owned and managed company, specialising in the development and management of renewable energy projects.

Asked what form pre-planning consultation will take over the coming weeks, a Greensource spokeswoman said full community engagement process will include house to house visits, meeting with various stakeholders and stakeholder groups, and regular updates via a range of platforms including the project website: www.ballycargreenenergy.ie.

The company was asked if landowners have given their consent to allow the submission of a planning application for wind turbines on their land?

The Greensource spokeswoman stated the team has already engaged with landowners in the area and are commencing an extensive engagement and consultation process with a view to submitting a planning application for the project.

"As part of our consultation process, we will seek the views of stakeholders and residents and take into account their feedback as we develop the project plans."

Regular updates and more detailed information will be made available on the project's website: www.ballycargreenenergy.ie

The Limerick Post

PLANNING

Local consultation starts on Meelick wind farm proposal

by Alan Jacques
alan@limerickpost.ie

LIMERICK-based Ballycar Green Energy has started pre-planning consultation with the local community over its plans to develop a 12-turbine wind farm near Meelick on the outskirts of Limerick City.

The turbines, which will be located on a 140-hectare site, will have the capacity to power more than 30,000 homes.

This site has been zoned as strategic and acceptable in principle by Clare County Council due to its strategic, regional and national importance as well as the favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

Onshore wind energy projects such as Ballycar Green Energy form a key part of the Government's plan to enhance clean electricity generation, reduce CO2 emissions, meet Ireland's environmental targets and to move towards a more secure energy future.

Ballycar Green Energy will work in partnership with local residents to form a committee to oversee the administration of a Community Benefit Fund, estimated at €1.75 million over the first 15 years of the project.

The committee will be established if and when the project completes the planning permission process and it will manage financial payments for projects to support community development, education, recreation, health, social inclusion, heritage and culture.

The project will also support the creation of local employment, in the supply, construction and maintenance sectors. Based on SEAI estimates, this will be in the region of 180 direct and indirect jobs. In addition, Ballycar Green Energy has committed to utilising local suppliers where possible.

Ballycar Green Energy is managed by Irish renewable energy firm Greensource which specialising in the development and management of renewable energy projects.

The community engagement process will include house to house visits, meeting with various stakeholders and stakeholder groups, and regular updates through a range of platforms including the project website: www.ballycargreenenergy.ie

Further advertisements were placed to publicise the Public Exhibition on June 24th 2022.

Clare media outlets including Clare FM, The Clare Echo and The Clare Champion have published several articles and aired broadcasts relating to the proposed development at the request of residents in the vicinity of the development. All enquiries received from journalists and media outlets were responded to with the required and relevant information.

Mail

A letter was sent to all residents within 1km of the proposed development providing key information in relation to the development and offering socially distanced one-to-one discussions.



Ballycar Green Energy

Station Road
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Limerick

Telephone: +353 (0)61 975200
Mobile: +353 (0)86 8525000

Email: info@ballycargreenenergy.ie

Dear Resident,

On behalf of Ballycar Green Energy, an Irish-owned and managed renewable energy company based in Adare, County Limerick, we are pleased to begin consultation with you about our preliminary proposals for the Ballycar Green Energy project, which has the potential to deliver clean energy to the equivalent of 30,000 homes.

The project is a proposed 12 turbine windfarm, located on a 140-hectare site neighbouring the townland of Ballycar, north of Meelick, in East Clare. This site has been designated as a strategic and acceptable in principle area by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 (Renewable Energy Designation) due to its strategic regional and national importance and the favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

We wanted to make you aware of the project and let you know that we have a dedicated team in place to provide a direct line of communication for residents and the wider community to engage with us throughout the pre-planning process.

Communities neighbouring onshore wind developments play a vital role in supporting the generation of green energy and benefit from wider investment in the area and key local projects. In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Ballycar Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €3.75 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €250,000 per annum. There will be opportunities for residents to engage directly to allocate financial payments.

As part of this scheme, 40% of the fund will be allocated to sustainable projects in the area, with the balance divided between payments to near neighbours, community-based projects, and administration (capped at 10%). Ballycar Green Energy will work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee to oversee the administration of the Community Benefit Fund for allocation to projects which support community development, education, recreation / health, social inclusion, heritage and culture in the surrounding areas of Meelick, Parteen, Ardnacrusha and Coonagh. The committee will be established once the project successfully completes the planning permission process.

Please find enclosed a leaflet with further information in relation to our proposals or visit our website, which we will keep updated: www.ballycargreenenergy.ie,

This is the beginning of our consultation, our Community Engagement process will involve open discussions with local residents and interested parties, with the outcome of these discussions being used to help maximise the benefits of the project for this community. Should you require any further information or have any questions about our proposed development please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

Susan Byrne, Community Liaison Officer
Ballycar Green Energy

www.ballycargreenenergy.ie

A second letter and leaflet with additional information was posted to all houses within 2km of the project.

Information Leaflet (front)



Building Wind Energy, Powering Sustainable Communities

Providing clean energy for 30,000 households in Ballycar and surrounding communities

BALLYCAR GREEN ENERGY PROJECT

Greensource, an Irish owned and managed renewable energy company, based in Adare, County Limerick, is pleased to announce preliminary plans to develop the Ballycar Green Energy Project - which has the potential to deliver wind energy to the equivalent of 30,000 homes.

The project is a proposed 12 turbine windfarm, located on a 140-hectare site neighbouring the townland of Ballycar, north of Meelick, in East Clare. This site has been designated as a strategic and acceptable in principle area by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (Renewable Energy Designation) due to its strategic regional and national importance and the favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Greensource is committed to creating a wind energy development that is socially responsible, and provides a substantial community benefit fund where community participation plays a central role.

The team has commenced an extensive community engagement and consultation programme to capture views and provide key information to residents. A dedicated team is in place, providing a direct line of communication for residents and the wider community.

Consultation, undertaken in line with the latest public health guidelines, will also take place for those in the wider area to provide up-to-date information and opportunities for the community to understand more about the project.



Information Leaflet (back)



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Communities neighbouring onshore wind developments benefit from wider investment in the area and key local projects
- Through the Community Benefit Fund, the local area will benefit from direct financial investment of an estimated €3.75million over the first 15 years of operation
- Up to 50% of the fund will be paid to near neighbours (within 1km and 2km) and community-based projects, 40% of the fund will be awarded to community projects that relate to the Sustainable Development Goals and 10% will be assigned to the administration of the fund
- A local committee will be elected to manage the investment in projects which support sustainable community development
- Once connected to the grid, the local community will also benefit from the generation of clean electricity
- This project will provide green energy to the equivalent of 30,000 households, offsetting carbon emissions by 32,000 tonnes CO₂ per year
- The project will also provide a range of economic benefits, including approximately 180 direct and indirect jobs in the area, particularly during the construction phase
- We are committed to working with local suppliers, to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire, catering, and other potential services



ABOUT GREENSOURCE

Greensource is an innovative Irish renewable energy company based in Adare, Co. Limerick that specialises in the development of renewable energy projects, working with communities from pre-planning to operation, and creating long-lasting local partnerships. Greensource has over ten years development and operational experience.

Greensource has a highly skilled and experienced team who are committed to developing projects with successful outcomes for all stakeholders.

Working with integrity and care for the local environment, the team has a strong track record, having successfully completed wind energy and other renewable projects in the West of Ireland.

CONTACT DETAILS



OUR ADDRESS

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Co. Limerick



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MESSAGE US

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Door-to-Door

Scheduled door-to-door visits were cancelled on two occasions as this form of engagement contravened public health guidance concerning COVID-19 restrictions in 2021.

The rescheduled round of door-to-door engagement took place in March of 2022. 102 houses were visited and of that, the community team spoke directly to 63 residents, and left contact information in the 37 houses that were unanswered. 2 houses visited appeared to be unoccupied or derelict. When nobody was home, a postcard with the date and time of visit and our contact details was left for the resident (approx. 30).



A total of 9 visits to the area were carried out with all households within 1km visited, and additional households in close proximity, also engaged.

An information leaflet on climate change and a printed version of the December website update was also provided to residents when referenced at the door-to-door visits.

Engagement with Local Representatives

A private information event for the project area's local representatives was held on the 29th of June 2022 from 7pm to 9pm. 20 TD's, Senators and Councillors representing the local area were invited via email to an exhibition-style event to discuss the development proposals. Prior to the event, an email with a link to the project website and materials was issued.



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INVITATION TO PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF BALLYCAR GREEN ENERGY PROJECT PROPOSALS

Dear Councillor [REDACTED]

Ballycar Green Energy would like to invite you to attend a consultation event on Wednesday, 29th June, from 7pm to 9pm, in the Ryan Suite at the Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Ennis Road, Limerick. This invite-only evening is being held ahead of an open day on Thursday 30th June for the local community and general public.

This public consultation has been arranged to provide you with an opportunity to view the preliminary plans for the Ballycar Green Energy project, prior to the full public information event the following day. This will allow you the opportunity to give feedback prior to the submission of a planning application. We value our relationships with all stakeholders, and we are hopeful that you will be able to attend this event for public representatives so that you can both explore our proposals in detail and respond to them with your views, comments, and suggestions.

If you would like to attend our public consultation, please RSVP to this email by Monday 27th June. Alternatively, if you cannot attend but would like to share feedback on our proposals with us directly or have any questions about the development, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@ballycargreenenergy.ie, or call us on 061 975 200. You can also visit our website for further information: www.ballycargreenenergy.ie.

Yours sincerely,



Susan Byrne,
Community Liaison Officer
Ballycar Green Energy

www.ballycargreenenergy.ie

Public Exhibition

A public exhibition took place on June 30th, 2022, following an advertisement in the Clare Champion newspaper on June 25th and an invitation posted to those within 2km of the project. This event attracted approximately 80 attendees from the immediate area.

Comment and feedback forms were provided, and 28 were completed.

The materials displayed at the exhibition were published on the project's website on July 19th 2022.

Residents were also offered a tour to an operational wind farm at this event and this was organised in the months following the exhibition.



It was noted, post the public exhibition event in June that several residents had not received the invitation to the event via post due to an unforeseen issue with the An Post Admailer direct mail service. These residents were re-issued invites to the upcoming wind farm tour and offered further one to one consultation with the project's CLO.

Wind Farm Tour

The wind farm tour continued to be advertised on the project's website and the residents who expressed interest in the tour at the exhibition and subsequently through the website notice were contacted and advised how to register their attendance. The invitation was also posted to residents on 28th September 2022 inviting them to the event to be held on the 8th of October 2022 at Tullabrack Windfarm, near Kilrush Co. Clare. A tour of Tullabrack Wind Farm took place on the 8th of October 2022 which allowed residents to view a site with 13 operational turbines which is representative of the scale of the proposed development. An additional leaflet with materials that were presented at the public exhibition was shared with the attendees of the wind farm tour.

Telephone Consultation

Dedicated project lines (061 975 200 / 086 852 5000) were opened in November of 2021 with business hours of Monday – Friday from 9 – 5 pm for the community to discuss the proposed development with the CLO. This phone number is published on the website and is added to all printed materials. The service remains open to date.

Email Consultation

A dedicated email address: info@ballycargreenenergy.ie was managed and monitored daily by the project's CLO. All emails received were responded to in a timely manner and phone and in person consultations were offered to those seeking additional support.

Queries & Mitigations

Noise: Some residents questioned how the proposed development could potentially impact them from a noise perspective, particularly at nighttime, and questioned how noise impacts could be mitigated. The project team assured residents that Ballycar Green Energy is committed to complying with all relevant noise guideline limits. Ballycar Green Energy will ensure the project is constructed and operated to minimise noise. We have conducted extensive surveys during the pre-planning process to demonstrate that the proposed turbines will not exceed legislated noise levels. During the site optimisation process the wind turbine layout was designed so that noise levels at nearby residential properties will not be in breach of national planning guidelines. The World Health Organisation has published its Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region in which recommendations are made for wind turbine noise. The recommended level of noise produced should be below 45 dB. The current guidelines in Ireland and the UK, which are in line with international best practice, are set at between 35 and 45-dB dependant on the time of day and background noise.

Shadow flicker: Residents and members of the public raised queries about the potential impact of shadow flicker. In response to this and in line with recommendations of the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), Ballycar Green Energy has committed to no shadow flicker at dwellings. The design process, set-back distances and mitigation measures ensure that there will be no instance of shadow flicker at any residential property.

Visual: Throughout the consultation process queries were received from the local community regarding potential visual impact. The project team confirmed that these concerns would be taken into consideration during the design phase and the placement of turbines would aim to reduce visual impact as much as possible, particularly on residents in close proximity to the development. Indicative photomontages of the proposed turbines from several viewpoints were shared at the Public Exhibition event and are also available on the project's website. Turbine layout maps were also available.

Traffic & Construction: Queries were raised by residents living along the proposed turbine delivery and construction traffic route. There is the potential for disruption during the construction phase of the project for short periods of time, however, this will be managed by the project's Traffic Management Plan.

Cumulative Effect: It was noted by some residents that there were several wind energy projects proposed across Clare, and with similar timelines which caused confusion amongst residents and concern as to the cumulative effective both visually and environmentally. Ballycar Green Energy reached out to Wind Energy Ireland to discuss this matter on the local radio station, Clare FM and this was aired on November 24th, 2023.

Archaeology: There were suggestions by a resident that the proposed site area contained archaeological/historical monuments of note with a document submitted via email discussing the matter. There was confusion in this case that the project was partially located on Woodcock Hill. The proposed project is on lands to the east of Woodcock Hill, with no development on Woodcock Hill itself. Archaeology monuments are present within the wider study area of the development, however, none of these shall be removed or disturbed, with appropriate setback distances in place between monuments and proposed infrastructure. A full archaeological assessment has been carried out, with test trenches undertaken (under licence) in the vicinity of monuments, with no evidence of previously unknown features discovered. A notice was placed on the website with the above clarification, and the resident was advised, via email, of the actual site location and surveys conducted.

Key Statistics:

The community team called to 102 houses within the vicinity of the proposed project.

63 residents engaged directly with the community team during the initial (socially distanced) face-to-face meetings. This was further supported via email, telephone calls and additional door-to-door visits.

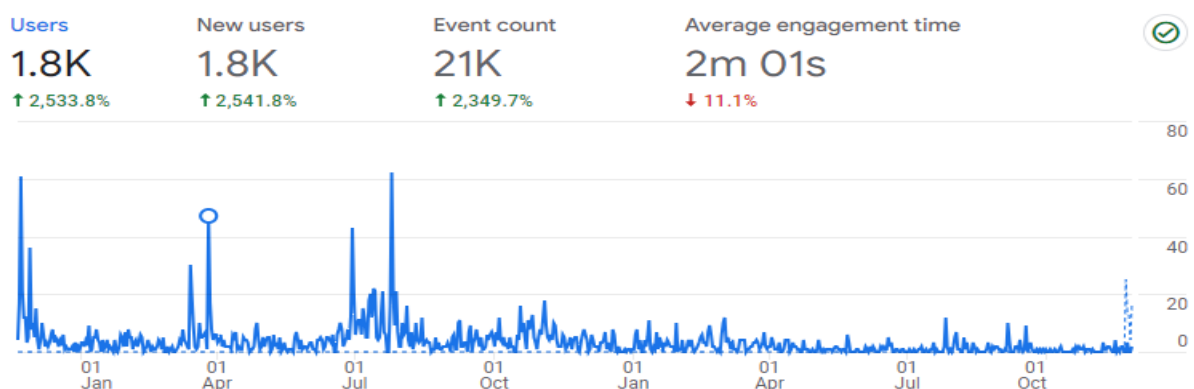
An online survey was available (8 responses received) and printed feedback forms were available at the public exhibition (28 recorded).

Where residents were unable to access the website, printed versions of all documents were posted and, in some cases, hand delivered to the requestee.

Houses Visited	102	Surveys Received	36
Houses Answered	63	Exhibition Attendees	80
Houses Unanswered	37	Wind Farm Tour Attendees	22
Houses Unoccupied	2	Website Visits	1800

In addition to the above, the CLO has conducted significant face-to-face, and phone conversations with residents to date to ensure all project information was shared with the community.

The project website has received over 1800 visits at the time of writing the report. The average user engagement time lasted over 2 minutes which indicates that users found the online material engaging and informative. A project survey was also available on the site for users to provide feedback on the information reviewed on the site.



Sentiment Analysis

Each interaction that took place over the 24-month period with a resident via phone, email, survey, or face to face was ranked in terms of attitude towards the project, be it positive, negative or neutral. This data was then used to create an overall 'sentiment' analysis.

The sentiment analysis based on the queries received is broken down as follows:

- Positive or Neutral towards the development - 75%
- Negative - 25%

Overall comparisons can be drawn against the SEAI survey '*Insights on the attitudes to commercial wind and solar energy farms in Ireland*', where 73% of respondents who live <1km from a RESS1 wind project hold positive or very positive attitudes towards wind energy.

Conclusion

Community engagement and public consultation has been on-going for over 24-months, with a dedicated CLO, who performed door-to-door house calls, issued information letters and leaflets, and was available via phone and email, to ensure that residents were thoroughly informed of the proposed development.

In addition, a dedicated website that acts as a central information hub and contains downloadable versions of all circulated materials is available. Over 1800 visits have been recorded on this website since its launch in November 2021 and the site will continue to act as the key information source. It will be updated regularly to keep the community informed of any relevant progress with the proposed development.

The structure of the engagement process and methods used has allowed for open engagement between the residents and the project team.

Ballycar Green Energy have met the requirements of the 2006 regulations and have also followed industry best practice by preparing and submitting this Community Report as part of this planning application. Both the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the 2019 Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation for the proposed development.

We believe that we have demonstrated a considerable commitment to engaging with the residents throughout the pre-planning process. By proactively engaging with the residents through a variety of mediums, Ballycar Green Energy has shown a genuine desire to create a development that aligns with the needs and preferences of the community. Ballycar Green Energy's responsiveness to community input and feedback underscores our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Through the availability of all information via print and online resources, a public exhibition, one-to-one meetings, surveys, and other engagement initiatives, we have offered multiple opportunities for residents to express their thoughts, concerns, and aspirations.

We welcome continued engagement with residents as the planning application progresses.