

**Minutes of Special Meeting of Kildare County Council held on Tuesday 14th
April 2026 at 11:00
in the Council Chamber, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare and
online via MS Teams**

Members Present: Cllr. Veralouise Behan (Leas Cathaoirleach) in the Chair, Cllr. Anne Breen, Cllr. Aoife Breslin, Cllr. Bernard Caldwell, Cllr. Brian O'Loughlin, Cllr. Ger Dunne, Cllr. Peggy O'Dwyer, Cllr. Suzanne Doyle, Cllr. Tracey O'Dwyer, Cllr. William Durkan
Online: Cllr. Angela Feeney, Cllr. Bill Clear, Cllr. Claire O'Rourke, Cllr. David Trost, Cllr. Declan Ryan, Cllr. Donna Phelan, Cllr. Fintan Brett, Cllr. Kevin Duffy, Cllr. Mark Leigh, Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Robert Power, Cllr. Rupert Heather, Cllr. Tim Durkan.

Apologies: Cllr. Carmel Kelly

Officials Present: Ger Maher - Senior Executive Officer, Jane O'Reilly - Senior Planner, Martin Ryan - Senior Executive Planner, James Kelly – Assistant Planner, Caroline Talbot – Administrative Officer, Catherine Howard – Assistant Staff Officer.

Cllr. Veralouise Behan (Leas Cathaoirleach) welcomed the Members and Officials to the meeting.

The Meetings' Administrator reminded the Members of their obligations under Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

He then moved to Item 1 on the agenda and asked Members if there were any declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended. **There were no such declarations.**

The Meetings' Administrator then moved to the next item on the agenda: "To consider the Chief Executive's Report to An Coimisiún Pleanála regarding an application for permission for development under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) - Dara Energy Ltd. Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application - Derrynadarragh Wind Farm."

Martin Ryan, Senior Executive Planner gave a brief presentation on the proposed project.

Councillors Caldwell, O'Loughlin, Duffy, Trost, Doyle, McEvoy, Clear, Heather, W. Durkan, and O'Rourke expressed their views on the proposed project which are summarised as follows:

- Support generally for the proposal, and the development of own sources of energy and consequent reduction in dependence on oil. As Ireland has the lowest rates of renewables in the EU there needs to be wider goals for their use. Support for issues identified in reports of KCC internal departments must be taken on board by An Coimisiún Pleanála.
- Support in principle for renewable energy.
- Wind Energy Strategy:
Need for an overall plan for windfarms in the area e.g. 1 large windfarm rather than several small ones.
- Ecology / Nature / Biodiversity:
Site located on a flood plain which feeds into River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation.
Assessment needs to be made of potential water displacement by development which may exasperate flooding.
Part of the National Peatlands Park.
Wind farm will not contribute to bog preservation. Project aims to generate green energy but would destroy sections of bog which is currently sequestering carbon.
Impact on wildlife and wild birds. 1 of only 2 sites where curlews breed in Ireland.
- Landscape / Visual Impact:
The Landscape Character Assessment is out of date.
Previous refusal on nearby Umeras Bog.
Turbines dominant in a flat rural landscape.
- Location / Residential Amenity / Access & Infrastructure:
Derrylea and surrounding local roads are unsuitable for heavy construction traffic and cabling works. Avenue of "Game of Thrones" like trees should not be used for access.
Proximity to residents and working farms. Farm and adjacent dwelling close to Turbine 1 omitted from drawings and no consultation with affected landowner.
Proximity to an established Defence Forces flight path.
- Community Development Fund:
Support for the Community Departments report. Need for more specifics about percentage to be ringfenced for Kildare.
- Futureproofing:
Need for adequate security bonds.
Plan for end of use decommissioning to be addressed. Abandonment not an option.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. O'Dwyer, seconded by Cllr. W. Durkan, it was agreed to suspend standing orders at 11:45 to consider a draft resolution.

When the meeting resumed at 11:58, on the proposal of Cllr. A. Breslin, seconded by Cllr. T. Durkan, it was agreed that the Meetings' Administrators record of the meeting reflect the matters raised in addition to the views submitted in writing.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. O'Dwyer, seconded by Cllr. B. O'Loughlin, it was agreed by all Members present in the Chamber and all Members online, that the Chief Executive's Report to An Coimisiún Pleanála regarding an application for permission for development under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) - Dara Energy Ltd. Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application - Derrynadarragh Wind Farm **be noted**.



Ger Maher,
Senior Executive Officer,
Planning Department
Meetings' Administrator