

RE: Your Questions, Answered

Dear Resident,

On Saturday, 14th November 2015, the Castlepook Wind Farm development team held a meeting in Doneraile Community hall.

The purpose of this meeting was to inform local residents about the wind farm project. During the meeting a number questions were raised.

We have prepared a summary of these questions and provide the answers

Many of the queries addressed in this document have already been considered as part of our Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the required guidelines, policies and legislation.

ESB and Coillte welcome a further meeting with local residents on the 9th December 2015 in Doneraile Community Hall and recognise the importance of providing the community with the information they need.

If you require any additional information please feel free to contact our team or visit our website.

Telephone: 1890 800 193

Email: info@castlepookwindfarm.ie

Website: www.castlepookwindfarm.ie

Yours Sincerely,

Noel David
Project Director: Castlepook Wind Farm

Q1. What does the construction of Castlepook Wind Farm involve?

Construction of Castlepook Wind Farm will include:

- Construction of turbine foundations, site access roads and an electrical sub-station.
- The delivery and installation of 14 wind turbines,.
- The installation of 38kV cable which will run underground, from the wind farm site, connecting to the existing electricity grid via Charleville substation.

Q2. Will there be any more turbines on this site?

- Castlepook Wind Farm has planning permission for 14 wind turbines, .ESB/Coillte currently have no plans for additional wind turbines for this development.
- There is an adjacent wind farm, Buttevant Wind Farm, which has secured planning consent for 6 turbines. This is a separate and independent wind farm being developed by local renewables development company, DP Energy based in Buttevant Co, Cork.

Q3. Will noise and interference be an issue with the Castlepook's wind turbines?

- Castlepook Wind Farm will be set back more than 900m from the closest dwelling, and as such it is anticipated noise will not be an issue, (See attached map). As with all Irish wind farms noise monitoring will be conducted on Castlepook to ensure this is the case.
- The Irish Government has issued strict guidance, which all wind farms must comply with on noise. The current Irish noise levels for wind turbines are set in line with international best practices.

Q4. Will the presence of the turbines affect mobile phone communications?

- The layout of the Castlepook Wind Farm show no significant signal impacts are anticipated. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) specifically section 14.4 covers this particular issue in detail. The EIS will be available on our website for your inspection.
- If interference is found to occur, ESB/Coillte will initiate works to reinstate mobile signals to pre-wind farm levels, as per the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Q5. Will the turbines interfere with television reception?

- As part of our planning, we analysed the possibility of interference with television signals. We found that no impacts were predicted. The layout of Castlepool Wind Farm incorporates exclusion corridors, which have been included to avoid interference with signals.
- In the very unlikely event of interference with television reception, all necessary measures will be undertaken by the developer in accordance with a standard protocol developed by RTÉ to fully eliminate any negative impact.

Q6. What happens if there is a water shortage due to damage to springs or contamination from silt?

- A Construction Management Plan was created in response to planning condition No. 18, which makes provision for relevant mitigation proposed in the Environmental Impact Assessment. It includes: surface water management during construction to prevent runoff from the site onto the public roads, unnatural flooding and/or the occurrence of any harmful matter in the rivers, tributaries and watercourse or other waters within and adjoining the site including groundwater in accordance with best practice.
- A well has been identified that is located outside the site boundary. This well will be marked out on a map, monitored on a periodic basis and be included as part of the induction for all site staff, to ensure that staff are made aware of its importance to the local community.

Q7. What type of blades will be used?

- The blades that will be used in Castlepool are of a multi layer structure comprising of high quality fiber-reinforced plastic, Balsa wood and PET (polyethylene terephthalate) foam sheets.
- The blades to be installed at Castlepool windfarm are designed to minimise aerodynamic noise and drag. The variable rotor speed and blade pitch control system means the turbine operates at an optimum blade angle and rotations per minute (RPM) to minimise noise.

Q8. Will any construction traffic use the Skahanagh Road?

- It is intended that construction traffic will access the wind farm site via the N73 and L-1329.
- Skahanagh Road residents and users can be assured that no wind farm construction traffic related to the deliveries of concrete, turbines, and electrical components will use the Skahanagh road to access the wind farm site.
- Signage will be in place to ensure all construction traffic is properly routed.

Q9. Is there compensation for the devaluation of houses?

- The value of a property is influenced by a wide range of factors including age, condition and location factors such as proximity to schools, workplaces, amenities etc.
- ESB and Coillte will not be offering any form of compensation for perceived devaluation of houses.

Q10. Concern was raised with regard to riding of horses in proximity of the turbines and the safety of the riding public?

- While all practical effort will be taken to ensure the safety of the public through awareness and signage, the public must exercise due care and caution when in proximity to wind turbines.
- Horse riding is an activity regulated by permit on Coillte land and given the safety issues associated with this activity, it needs to be regulated and managed to designated sites. When Coillte issues a horse riding permit for use of a forest area, the horse rider must remain strictly on the trails or roads indicated to him/her and where possible, horse riding should be confined to those areas not in everyday use by others. There are no such permits for the Ballyhoura forest.

Q11. Will the development attract criminality to the area, and what measures will be taken?

- On site personnel will 'man' the entrance to site during working hours. Out of hours security, with regular site patrols will be provided during the delivery and constructing of the turbine components on site with a minimum of two security personnel on site during non-working hours.
- It is envisaged that this increased level of security will act as a deterrent for criminal activity.

Q12. Will the local schools benefit from the Community Benefit Scheme?

- It is planned that the Community Fund will be open to the local community in the latter part of 2016. The Community Fund will provide investment of over a million euro to local community projects and initiatives, that benefit the local and wider community, over the lifetime of the wind farm.
- The Community Fund will prioritise projects and initiatives that support and benefit the area surrounding Castlepool Wind Farm. The fund is only available to local community and voluntary groups, schools, not for profit groups or organisations with a charitable status.
- Schools can apply to the fund provided that it is not for direct replacement of statutory funding.

Q13. Will the wind turbines create shadow flicker?

- Shadow and Noise studies were assessed in the layout design phase of the wind farm.
- At distances greater than 10 rotor diameters from a turbine, the potential for shadow flicker is very low. At Castlepool Wind Farm the distances from the turbines to the nearest dwellings outside the site are in excess of this . Please refer to map attached.
- It is acknowledged that shadow flicker does not arise at distances of greater than ten turbine rotor blade diameters (900m in this instance) from turbines. For more information see The Department of the Environment Wind Farm Planning Guidelines (Section 5.12). ,

Request 1: Could ESB/Coillte undertake hedge cutting along a number of local roads in the area?

- We have been in touch with the residents that raised this question, and have agreed to undertake the hedge cutting during February, 2016.

The above questions and answers will be available to view on the Castlepook website under the FAQ section.

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Website: www.castlepookwindfarm.ie