

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2016

PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 4

COUNTY WICKLOW WIND ENERGY STRATEGY

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) that Wicklow County Council, being the planning authority for the area, is considering making a variation (Variation No. 4) to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010-2016 as follows:

Proposed Variation 4.1

To so vary the Wind Energy Strategy such that more emphasis is placed on the landscape vulnerability; in particular:

- (a) All lands designated 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' currently in the 'Most Favoured' category of the Wind Energy Strategy be re-designated 'Not Favoured', and
- (b) All lands designated 'Area of Special Amenity' currently in the 'Most Favoured' category of the Wind Energy Strategy be re-designated 'Less favoured'.

This proposed variation is embodied by changes to Map No. 05 of the Wind Energy Strategy

Reason: It is considered by Wicklow County Council that the Wind Energy Strategy adopted in 2010 did not adequately take account of landscape vulnerability as described in the Wicklow Landscape Characterisation designations.

Proposed Variation 4.2

To so vary the Wind Energy Strategy by adding the following text under the description of 'Most Favoured' areas for wind farm development:

"In particular, due regard shall be taken of listed views and prospects and any development that would contravene objective VP1 of the Plan¹"

Reason: It is considered by Wicklow County Council that the Wind Energy Strategy adopted in 2010 did not adequately take account of views and prospects listed in the Wicklow County Development Plan.

Proposed Variation 4.3

To so vary the Wind Energy Strategy by including the following text under Section 3:

All applications for wind turbines with a rotor diameter of 50m or less shall include a detailed assessment of noise and shadow flicker impacts on all residences within 500m from any turbine. Applications providing for a rotor diameter in excess of 50m shall include a detailed assessment of noise and shadow flicker on all residences within a minimum radius of 10 times the diameter of the rotor e.g. a wind turbine with a rotor diameter of 65m will be required to carry out an assessment of impacts on all residences within a minimum 650m radius of any turbine.

Reason: It is considered by Wicklow County Council that the Wind Energy Strategy adopted in 2010 did not adequately take account of impacts on residential amenity arising for noise and shadow flicker effects and in particular, the fact that turbine size is increasing results in more extensive impacts than previously envisaged.

A copy of the proposed variation and accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment / Habitats Directive Assessment documentation (*including the decision of the Planning Authority regarding the reasons for not requiring an Environmental Assessment / Appropriate Assessment of the proposed variation*) will be on display at the following locations from **Wednesday 29th January 2014 to Wednesday 26th February 2014** inclusive:

- The Council's website: **www.wicklow.ie**
- Wicklow County Council Offices, Station Road, Wicklow Town
- All branches of Wicklow libraries

Hard copies and CDs of the proposed variation will be available to purchase from the Planning Department, County Buildings, Wicklow Town.

Submissions or observations regarding the proposed variation and the associated documents are hereby invited. Children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children, are entitled to make submissions or observations. Please note that submissions will be available for public viewing.

Submissions may be made during the period **Wednesday 29th January 2014 to Wednesday 26th February 2014 (inclusive) up to 5pm** and any valid submissions so made will be taken into consideration by the Council before the making of the variation.

Submissions should be addressed for the attention of the Administrative Officer, Planning & Development, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town or they may be emailed to planreview@wicklowcoco.ie. All submissions should state the name(s) and address(es) of the person, group or public body from whom same is received. Please make your submission by **one** medium only, i.e. hard copy or e-mail.

Wicklow Local Authorities are committed to Access For All. These documents are available in alternative formats on request.