

Notice of Motion for Council Meeting 23rd November 2015.

While recognising that there is planning permission in place for this site it is important to note that increasingly rural communities generally are becoming unhappy with proliferation of wind farms, especially where they are moving off the remote hillsides and in among communities. The record number of objections to another planning application east of here is strong evidence of that dissatisfaction (Coppeen application is currently on its way to BP). A question arises as to whether alternatives options, such as solar energy or offshore wind farms, should be examined into the future.

Many local were unaware of the cable part of the development as it was planning exempt. They were surprised at the need of a cable as there is infrastructure linking existing wind farms to the network, also some surprise at it being exempt and not part of the application in view of the land mark high court case just over the hill in Ré na nDoirí. There may be good reasons for the cable but it highlights a gap in the system when it is not part of the planning application. The under-grounding of the cable is a positive move.

We, Cork County Council, agree with the CEO Report that the potential impact to habitats and flooding by the proposed bridge should be requested by BP and that the floods study should be for a 100 year flood. Finally, if BP is minded to grant Planning Permission to the application a realistic community fund should be put in place, so that the local communities can share in any potential profits.