

Glenmore wind turbine earned planning in 2014



the standalone wind turbine now in place at Glenmore.

Councillor Fidelis Doherty (FG) has weighed in on concerns voiced by surprised Glenmore residents that a wind turbine project was erected on June 17th last without prior public consultation.

Speaking to The Munster Express the Piltown District Councillor stated that the planning application was approved by An Bord Pleanála two years previously, citing that everything required by the authority was “provided and above board.”

Cllr Doherty also quelled any local fears that the turbine will be one of many, assuring residents that the planning application put forward by the landowner was for one turbine only.

While Cllr Doherty stated that she had yet to be approached by anyone on the matter, she admitted that the application would easily go unnoticed if one was not taking notice of what was going on in the area: “the planning process was no more significant than your standard a standard bungalow.”

Nevertheless, Cllr Doherty revealed that the turbine’s application was initially rejected only to be overturned.

“From what I know the application for a single turbine was rejected by Kilkenny County Council in 2013. The landowner then successfully appealed the rejection with An Bord Pleanála the following year.”

The Councillor noted that a likely source of confusion among locals was a lack of public consultation. “As wind farms go, it’s as small a development as you will find. One that An Bord Pleanála probably saw as too small for community consultation. To my mind this is why the proposal wasn’t in the public eye to the extent of the Comeragh Mountain Wind Farm application.

“It is very visible and some people don’t like that, said Cllr Doherty. “But I have five wind turbines out my backdoor and seven facing my front door – there wasn’t a single meeting concerning those.”

The power generated by the turbine is set to generate 1.8 KWh per annum – enough to power almost 340 local homes in the same period. Incidentally, the turbine is visible from the press box at Walsh Park, as journalists noted during the recent Waterford/Clare Munster Under-21 semi-final.