

Tel: Freephone 1800 140 240 Email: clo@whitehillwindfarm.ie Web: www.whitehillwindfarm.ie

White Hill Wind Farm, Carlow Wind.Ltd Clondargan, Stradone, Co. Cavan H12NV06

19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Homeowner,

## Community Consultation for proposed White Hill Wind Farm

As you may already know, Galetech Energy Developments Ltd., Co.Cavan, are developing plans for a proposed wind farm in the townland of Knocknabranagh & Knockbaun, Co.Carlow and Coolcullen, Co.Kilkenny.

The White Hill wind farm project is a proposed wind energy development of approximately 7 wind turbines with a typical output of approximately 5-6 Megawatts per turbine of renewable energy – enough to provide approximately 30,500 Irish Households with green energy every year.

A temporary 80 meter met mast will be installed on the proposed wind farm site over the coming weeks to collect wind speeds, wind direction etc. which will be used to predict and analyse the energy that the wind farm can produce on site.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and in line with government guidance, we have cancelled all face-toface consultations and door-to-door visits, until the restriction on movement has ended. We are committed however to keeping communities safe while still communicating with them about our proposed project.

As a result, the White Hill wind farm project team is exploring every opportunity at this early design stage to begin their engagement with the local community by providing information and answering any questions the general public may have using our freepost, freephone and online services listed.

• We enclose a pre-paid envelope and a comment card for you to fill out and to send back to us with an option to request a follow-up telephone call or email reply from one of our team.

• We also include information, which provides project milestones and timelines for the project together with our draft proposed design lay out

• We have a freephone number 1800 140 240, which you can dial free of charge to request a call back from the project team.

• We also commit to post regular updates on our new project website at www.whitehillwindfarm.ie

As part of our pre planning and planning process, we will engage and consult fully with all the community at each stage. We appeal to the local community to have their say at this early stage of the development so as to maximise the project benefits to the neighbouring community. You can do this through our website, through your comment card or by freephone, freepost or by email below. We will be sharing a road map of the planning process and consultation on our website in April.

The White Hill Wind Farm draft layout currently includes sections of Coillte property in its proposal in addition to other third party lands. If you have any Coillte related queries about the proposal, please contact <u>lsinfo@coillte.ie</u>

This project will create up to 100 jobs during the construction phase and will also provide a substantial community benefit fund each year to help support local community projects and proximity payments to households within a 2km radius. The total fund will be approximately  $\leq 252,000$  per year for 15 years ( $\leq 36,000$  per turbine)\*. The substantial community fund will be administered in accordance with Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) best practice and grants will be made available after one year of wind farm operation.

To register your interest or if you have any queries regarding these funds, please contact us on <u>clo@whitehillwindfarm.ie</u> or 087 1163978.

White Hill wind farm will play its part in assisting in Ireland's commitment to increase its renewable energy sources in the post 2020 period, with the Government pledging to generate 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 forming part of the new climate action plan.

We hope to post answers to the most commonly asked questions on the White Hill website over time and will keep it updated on a regular basis.

An example of a question is when would we be submitting a planning application for the project? That will not be until Spring 2022.

We're at a very early design stage and want to engage with the local community of the proposed site and beyond.

We look forward to hearing from you and answering any queries you may have and hopefully meet you all on a one to one basis, door to door, in the not too distant future when Covid restrictions are lifted.

Yours faithfully,

Derdre Kogon

Deirdre Keegan, Community Liaison Officer, White Hill Wind Farm Project Team. E: <u>clo@whitehillwindfarm.ie</u> Freephone: 1800 140 240 T: 090 66 43014 M: 087 1163978

<sup>\*</sup>The community fund is calculated in accordance with the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) terms and conditions at €2 per MWh of electricity produced by the project. This is to be made available to the local community for the duration of the RESS (15 years). The figures are approximate and based on a 7 turbine layout