

# Community Relations: Scientific Doubt

11 October 2019

Brendan Slattery, Head of Environment and Planning









### Protection money for criminals given to council official in envelope, High Court told

Dublin City Council official gave €1,200 payments from contractor to criminal, Cab told

@ about 8 hours ago

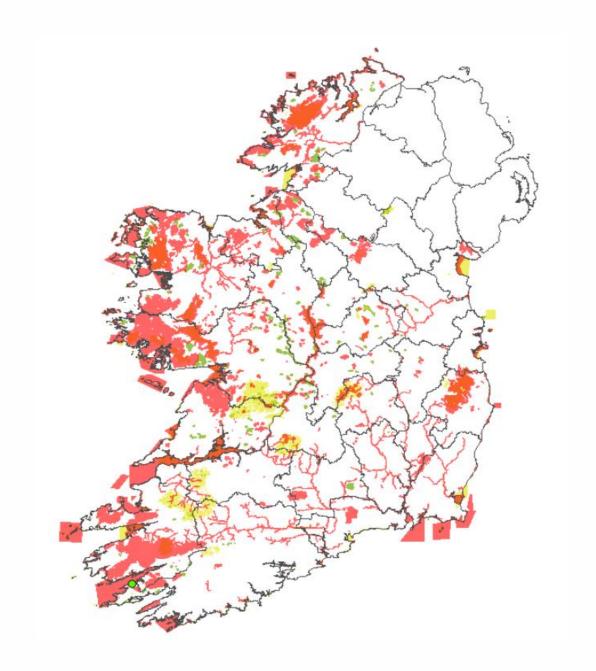
### Conor Lally



Evidence before the High Court set out how two council workers advised contractors to pay two men their demanded fees for "fence maintenance" in order that antisocial behaviour directed against the contractors' sites would stop. Photograph: Aidan Crawley







## Roscommon windfarm planning overturned by High Court

An Bord Pleanala failed to carry out appropriate assesment on two developments, judge says

@ Fri, Jul 25, 2014, 11:54

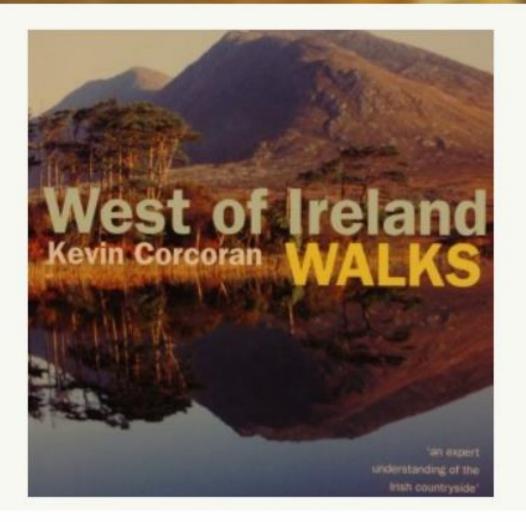
Updated: Fri, Jul 25, 2014, 11:57

### Mary Carolan



File photograph of a wind farm. The High Court today overturned a decision of An Bord Pleanála granting permission for two wind farm developments in Co Roscommon. Photograph: PA

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### West of Ireland Walks by Kevin Corcoran

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## Inver sports hall 'to be paid for by Shell' given planning permission

05 MARCH 2013

NEWS

Inver sports hall 'to be paid for by Shell' given planning permission

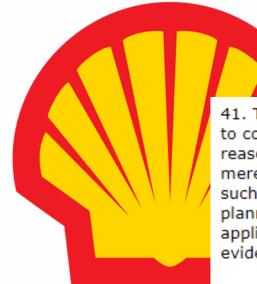
### **Anton McNullty**

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A PROPOSED sports hall and playing pitch in the Erris village of Inver which was described as a 'white elephant' to be 'paid for by Shell' was given planning permission by An Bord Pleanála.

The planning body granted planning permission for the sports hall in Inver despite objections from Maura Harrington who considered the proposed development was 'neither desirable nor sustainable'.

As well as the sports hall, the development also comprises of a playing pitch, dugouts, floodlights, ballstop netting, electronic scoreboard, covered viewing stand, maintenance shed, play area, community facilities, new roadway, carpark and all associated site works.



## Inver sports hall 'to be paid for by Shell' given planning permission

41. There is no doubt that in an appeal to the respondent, there is a duty resting upon the respondent to conduct appropriate enquiries. But there has to be a reason for those enquiries. In my opinion, such reason must be based on credible evidence. It is not sufficient for an objector to a planning permission merely to make a bald assertion, and no more, and thereby place on the respondent a duty to carry out such enquiries as would be necessary to counter that assertion. It would be unfair to applicants for planning permission if they were put to the considerable expense in meeting an objection to their application for planning permission, in an appeal before the respondents, of having to assemble expert evidence to counter mere assertion by an objector.

42. I am quite satisfied that the duty of the respondent to make appropriate enquiries does not go so far as to require them to respond to assertions unsupported by any credible evidence.

43. The making of a bald assertion without any evidence to support it could not be said to give rise to "a scientific doubt" which would require, in the case of a site potentially qualifying as a priority habitat, the respondents to do, by way of enquiry, whatever was necessary to eliminate that doubt. Thus, in my view, the applicant's reliance upon the extensive line of authority open to the court relating to the obligations of public authority, when confronted with a situation of "scientific doubt" relating to the status of either a "European site" or a site in the process of consideration for such status, is misconceived.

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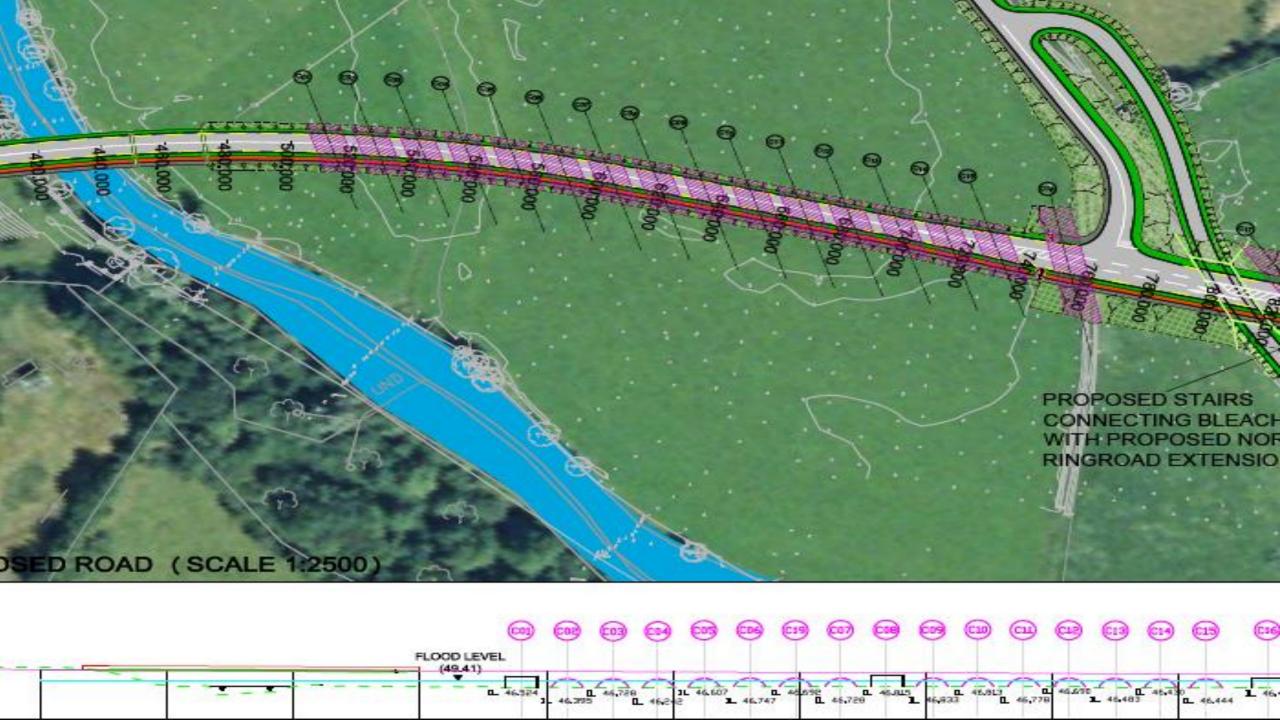
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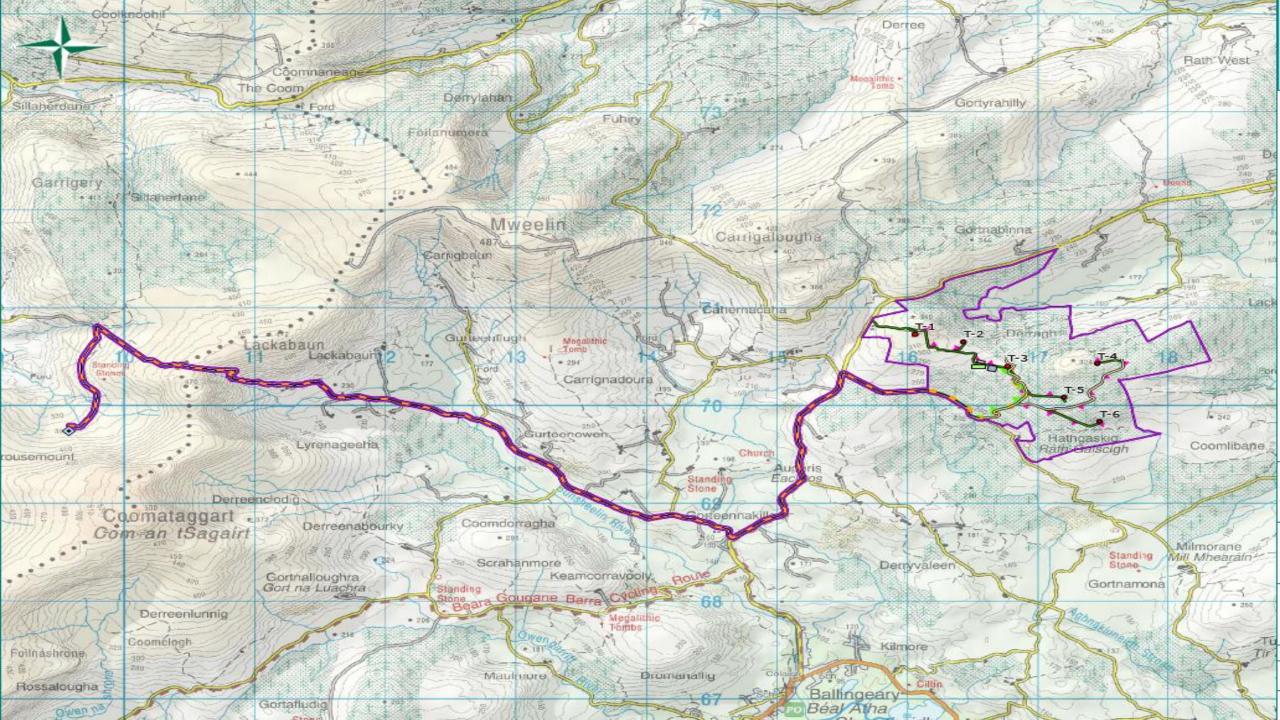
netting, electronic

scoreboard, covered viewing stand, maintenance shed, play area, community facilities, new roadway, carpark and all associated site works







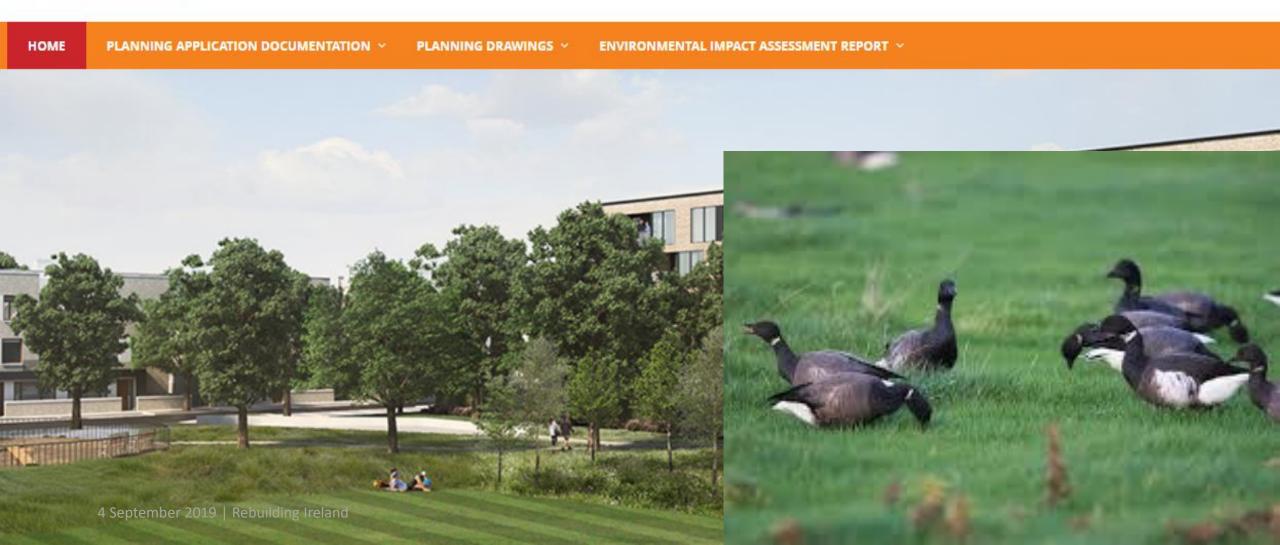




Viewpoint No.2 (Current Layout)











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