

From: Paul Hannity [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 March 2017 16:15
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Re: Ireland 2040 National Framework Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Minister Sir/Madam

National Framework Planning Ireland 2040.

It's hard to know where to begin but NFP 2040 is important; so we must make a start. They say you should talk about what you know. If you'd forgive me I will arrive at the point eventually. All that I say beforehand lays down some groundwork.

I work in aviation as a pilot. I play a safety critical role. Daily I see the relentless struggle between commercial enterprise competing against safe and efficient operations. There is an ebb and flow. My industry declares itself to have some of the most globally advanced industrial mechanisms and safeguards in place. We have limits not targets and the goal is not to let commercial overreaching make the limits their targets. We have a no blame culture where an individual who reports an unintentional error will not be sanctioned. We have too in recent times embraced the whistleblowers charter which brings questionable practices out into the open, not to destabilise the system but to correct it and make the system stronger and robust. Over time it is hoped that a potentially wide base of errors and oversights will narrow to a point. It is on these 3 tenets, aviation becomes safer for the public and reaffirms their faith in the system. Are there setbacks? Yes of course. But the resolution of observation has increased significantly and that is to everyone's benefit.

Are these tenets transferable to a social charter for NPF 2040?

Ireland needs to be organised and organisation needs money. There I said it; the word that defines everything about the progress of our people going forward. Additionally Ireland needs a "Quality of Life" social charter that will balance our national financial and planning needs with the wellbeing of its citizens through sensible planning regulation.

We may not like it but we all know everything we do to progress as a society needs to be financed. How we raise money has to be done in a fair way. So how? Even with a projected increase in population our tax base is insufficient to achieve many of our goals. With that in mind we have turned to industry for financial help. The question we need to ask is whether the price we have to pay ethically, socially and morally justifies the rewards. Industry does not necessarily behave in such a manner and we look to our government to put in place safeguards to avoid exploitation by big business to the benefit of their bottom line.

We could look to subsidies from the EU but I take a view this infers that we are not equal and need help to achieve parity. This divests control of our own destiny as a people which is unfair but perhaps I'm too late. Maybe this has happened already as part of the European project.

We are never going to achieve 100% consensus so we understand that there is give and take. No single individual has the answer so we must collectively come to some agreement by majority so as it is in a democracy. Within our psyche people seem most agreeable knowing that they've bought and paid for

something through their own efforts. Thus we should live within our means but with a view to be progressive. Additionally Ireland's "attractiveness" as a country and as a people has always been about providing a good quality of life. This is a very broad statement and I accept there are times at a local level that groups and communities can be negatively impacted. My knowledge is from what I experience and is somewhat anecdotal living in Ireland. If we continue to begrudge others for what they have we slip quickly into the subsidy/handout mentality and can quickly descend into the equality versus equilibrium argument. Additionally an aspiration to over achieve and live beyond our means returns the law of unintended consequence. We've seen this already in the last decade. Do we have the resolve not to repeat the mistakes of the past? As Europeans we have a shared identity with the other member states. While it is a very noble aspiration currently not all Europeans are equal. Quotas, tariffs and agreements have seen us lose out on some of our indigenous industries such as fishing and agriculture replaced with quota remuneration and subsidy. This has placed us in a position that certain national industries which have the means to give us certain forms of financial independence (as a country) have been replaced with a mechanism which has disenfranchised us of our own abilities. While some might argue that the subsidies are a fair remuneration it completely ignores the concept of working for your own money and replaces it with a mechanism which has cleverly taken financial control away from us. Production quotas are now a function of mutual agreements, (over) supply and demand.

I am not suggesting some fervent national campaign to leave the EU but perhaps a serious conversation regarding Ireland's financial security could be considered. Being handcuffed to a system with increasingly more reliance on the expertise of others to provide a service which extracts our resources and pays us remuneration is I believe minimising our countries potential. The emerging energy market has the potential to provide excellent indigenous employment opportunities in Ireland.

For many, politics is local. It is government's responsibility to look at the trends in local communities. Energy security is another area of potential exploitation; both financial and social. And so I arrive at my point.

At the moment my community is resisting proposals to build an industrial wind farm close to our homes. For us there are many reasons to be opposed but in essence it is a quality of life issue. As you can imagine when something affects you in such a significant way you embark on a lot of research. Separating the wheat from the chaff can be challenging and those that represent the disparate views can be polarised. For my community we do recognise the need to have energy security; our issue lies with how we do it. We cannot victimise some communities with outdated building and planning regulations. The ongoing disquiet with building wind turbines on land in populated areas, versus the building of turbines out to sea and their expense is one of the most pressing issues going forward. Additionally within the energy market the possibility that communities will have no means of redress if a wind farm is sold onto another country is of equal concern and one we believe our government needs to take seriously. Energy (de)regulation is a fertile ground for abuse in Ireland where the only victims are its people. In keeping with the planning framework our community ask that our government see that we do not want wind turbines near our homes. The arguments against wind turbines are many, varied but importantly they are consistent. We are saying no to land built turbines near homes and legacy projects that currently exist should not be a reason to mitigate that view. We need a consistent policy in Ireland to stop the relentless pushback from industry and commercial "interests" that won't take no for an answer.

No one is denying that we need to reduce our carbon footprint as the science is clear that our continuing over reliance in fossil fuels is causing climate change. But in acknowledging that science we also must refute the claims by the IWEA that wind energy extraction in its current format is a suitable replacement. Wind energy can only augment our electricity production because at the moment wind energy (within the management of the national electrical grid) needs 100% contingency from the very fuel it seeks to replace. This we know as science tells us 2 important things. 1 Mother Nature is not a consistent provider of wind. 2 wind turbine

energy generation, distribution and storage are all sub optimal. More importantly there is no current fix available and counter claims are patently false. I am open to the view that this may change in the future but for now we appear to have put the proverbial cart before the horse. Green energy optics cannot be the driver of Irish plans both now and the future as it will only reveal the reality of the folly at great social and financial expense. But at the same time we must do something. We must diversify into wind, wave, hydro, geothermal and solar. We must spread the load of all these technologies lest we tip the scales. We must decouple the optics of the perceived cheapest option in the short term for the long term view. All of this must be wrapped in a charter with the people of Ireland primarily and with Europe and the rest of the world secondly.

Additionally we cannot continue to subject our citizens to a barrage of political mechanisms of subsidy and penalty. Most communities object to wind farms in the first instance. Most if not all cite many homogenous reasons why building them on land near homes is a bad idea. Most objections and counter arguments arrive at the door of An Bord Pleanala. Given that the homogenous nature of the objections is consistent, one is astounded at the variance of the final decisions. This creates huge uncertainty within our society. This feeds a narrative of negative public opinion both in government but on future green energy initiatives. Money is not the issue here. True, at sea, wind turbines will be more expensive to build and maintain but any cost will be easily offset by increasing electricity tariffs. I don't say this in a flippant manner, I'm merely pointing out that funding for any of these projects have the finance stream already in place. Let us not conflate green energy with cheap energy. Those halcyon days are over.

Additionally our planning laws allow industrial wind farm companies to immediately tweak and resubmit new planning proposals if a communities objections are upheld; in some cases within hours of the original decision. This relentless Sword of Damocles has a profound effect on a community, and one wonders if a government has its people's wellbeing foremost in its mind if they allow this to continue unabated ad infinitum.

Fundamentally our communities observe that politics is not working. This statement should carry significant weight but somehow it doesn't. The Politicians mantra is that they are elected by the people for the people rings hollow. Yet how many times have we heard a party manifesto, legislation or strategy that offers hope in its aspirations but becomes mired in complexity and compromise? Let the NFP 2040 set out a way to let Ireland obtain energy security with renewable energy sources. In this situation it is possible for everyone to win. The government hits the global green energy targets, the power companies get their turbines albeit in a different location and the people get their quality of life and Ireland achieves its energy security. Let's do it in such a way that when society reflects back to 2017 we don't shake our heads saying what were we thinking when we took the cheap and politically expedient route?

In 2040 I will be 71 years old. My children will be in the same position I now find myself. I hope for them and their children that Ireland will provide them with a place they can feel secure and confident in the future and that NFP Ireland 2040 puts its people first.

Regards Paul Hannity

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Opposing the proposal for an industrial wind farm at Corracon issued by Gaelectric.

On 16 Mar 2017, at 15:57, National Planning Framework <npf@housing.gov.ie> wrote:

A Chara,

Thank you for your notification regarding your submissions, we will be accepting submissions until Noon on Friday 31st March.

Kind Regards,

National Planning Framework,
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government
Custom House
Dublin 1

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Hannity [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 March 2017 15:55
To: National Planning Framework
Subject: Ireland 2040 National Framework Plan

Dear Sir/Madam

It is my understanding that an extension to submissions has been granted until 31st March 2017 for the Ireland 2040 NFP.

Could you add my email address as I would like to correspond with you shortly on the topic.

Regards Paul Hannity

[REDACTED]

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvórais chun vórais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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