

Medical expert claims up to 120 people could suffer health risks

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FEARS OVERS WIND FARMS

DECLAN MAGEE
News Reporter

A medical expert has claimed that up to 120 people who live within 1.5km of a proposed wind farm in Donegal could suffer health risks if the development goes ahead.

Dr Christopher Hanning, an honorary consultant in sleep disorders medicine at the University Hospitals of Leicester, was giving evidence at an oral hearing on the proposed wind farm at Straboy, near Glenties.

Dr Hanning said there is compelling evidence from recent studies that wind turbine noise can impair the health of people living too close to them.

Donegal County Council says it is adhering to national policy and guidelines. Wind energy guidelines here state that "in general noise is unlikely to be a significant problem where the distance from the nearest turbine to a noise sensitive property is more than 500 metres."

In its submission to the oral hearing the council, said: "It may well be that there are emerging concerns in relation to adverse health affects rising from wind farms, which may ultimately require greater separation distances to houses and centres of population."

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Pictured at a special function to mark the retirement of national school teachers from the South Donegal and North Leitrim areas, organised by the local branch of the INTO in the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran on Friday night. Retired teachers are back row l-r; Pauline McHale, Scoil Caitriona, Ballyshannon; Chris Mahon, Drumkeerin NS.; Ursula McManus, St. Macartan's NS Bundoran; Cathy Griffin, Rossinver NS.; Tony Ryan, Creevy NS. Ballyshannon; Stephen Connolly, Four Masters NS, Kinlough; Kathleen Boyle, Manorhamilton NS.; John Campbell, St. Macartan's NS, Bundoran; Mary McGowan, Clifffoney NS; Rosealeen Toland, Dromahair NS. Seated front left, Ann Lee, Creevy NS, Ballyshannon. Also pictured front l-r; John McGroarty (organiser and MC on the night), Anne Fay, President INTO; Conor Carney, Principal Holy Family NS, Ballyshannon (organiser) and Michael Weed Central Executive Council INTO. Photo: Thomas Gallagher 2210TG08

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