

## DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting:** Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Venue:** Online Zoom

**Participating:**

Irish Rural Link

EirGrid

East Cork Community Representatives

Development Perspectives – Bobby McCormack

Apologies:

Cork PPN

**Compiled by:** Irish Rural Link

Item	Description
1.	<b>Introduction and Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> Seamus Boland (Chairperson) opened the meeting and introduced the agenda.  The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
2.	<b>Presentation from EirGrid</b> Michelle Walsh from EirGrid provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Project. Please see presentation attached.
	<b>Questions/Queries</b>
	<b>Response</b>
	Members were asked if it would be a good idea to hold information days in March in East Cork.
	The forum agreed it would be beneficial.
	During the information days, people might ask who is representing them on the community forum. Does any member have an issue with sharing that information?
	Forum members stated there is no issue with sharing that information.
	Is there any update on the timescale of the project/ is the project on schedule?
	Yes, the project is on schedule as planned. The estimated date for a decision on the SID onshore planning application as per the APB website is 18 <sup>th</sup> March. Should all consents be favourable and received as per the project schedule, the construction phase ought to begin on schedule at the end of 2022.
3.	<b>Presentation from Development Perspectives</b>

	<p>Bobby McCormack from Development Perspectives provided an overview of the Sustainable Development Goals. Bobby outlined how the SDGs are relevant to Ireland and the project area. Please see presentation.</p> <p>As part of an interactive discussion on the SDGs and their relevance to local issues; attendees were asked to set out local community concerns and issues and if they felt they could be related to the Sustainable Development Goals priorities.</p> <p>Different opinions were discussed with some opinions that SDGs aren't linked to Ireland or to the local community. Bobby explained the SDGs are targets that Ireland signed up to, demonstrated how work towards them is progressing in Ireland and proposed that goals can be linked to the community concerns raised earlier in the meeting.</p> <p>Opinion was also shared where the Celtic Interconnectors' physical location was a key community concern. These opinions were discussed amongst the group.</p> <p>Breakout rooms were set up and asked to discuss as to how communities could achieve the SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy.</p> <p>Some feedback from this was the role of tidal, wind and solar in future Irish scenarios.</p> <p>Other feedback was the prohibitive cost of domestic solar and Electric Vehicles and the need for policy change.</p>	
4.	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
	<b>Questions/Queries</b>	<b>Responses</b>
	Are the members comfortable in attending a physical meeting?	The forum members would prefer a blended approach with both physical and virtually meetings. The next meeting will take place in June or earlier if required.
	Seamus Boland closed the meeting and thanked members for attending.	