

MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting: Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

Date: 8th November 2021

Venue: Online Zoom

Participating:

Irish Rural Link

EirGrid

East Cork Community Representatives

SECAD – Nuala O’Connell

Compiled by: Irish Rural Link

Item	Description	
1.	<p>Introduction and Minutes of Previous Meeting Seamus Boland (Chairperson) opened the meeting and introduced the agenda.</p> <p>Matters Arising At the last meeting, the committee suggested a speaker from a community group who had received funding. Unfortunately, this is a relevantly new process, and there isn’t a suitable speaker at this time. A speaker will be identified for a meeting next year once the process is more developed.</p>	
2.	<p>Presentation from EirGrid Michelle Walsh from EirGrid provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Project. Please see presentation attached.</p>	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	Is the grant administrator’s fee taken from the community benefit fund or is it taken from a separate budget?	The grant administrator’s fee is taken from a separate budget.
	What is the role of the grant administrator?	The grant administrator will work with the community forum to structure the community fund and how it should be distributed. The administrator will manage the fund with activities such as designing the application process, complete a scoping report etc.
3	<p>Presentation from SECAD Nuala O’Connell from SECAD provided an overview of the LEADER programme including the themes and subthemes. Nuala also outlined the steps on how to apply for LEADER funding. Please see presentation.</p>	
	Questions/Queries	Responses
	Does SECAD see themselves as an activity participant in this process? Their support and	SECAD are happy to engage with the forum if there are any queries or assistance is required.

	previous experience with drawing down funding would be a crucial resource for the community.	
	Can EirGrid provide some timelines for the community fund?	The fund is linked to the project timelines, 40% is released on beginning of construction/breaking of ground, then 30% in the middle of construction and finally 30% at energization stage of the project. 2022 will be used to build the strategy and explore the best methods of maximizing the fund in the area.
4.	AOB and next meeting	
	Forum members are invited to send any suggested speakers or topics for discussion to James or Michelle.	
	Forum members indicated that Tuesdays seem to suit the majority and the committee should try to hold future meetings on that day. The 18 th and 25 th January are suggested as possible dates for the next meeting. IRL to confirm the date as soon as possible.	
	The meeting is closed.	