



MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting: Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

Date: Tuesday 22 June 2021

Venue: Online Zoom

Participating:

Irish Rural Link

EirGrid

East Cork Community Representatives

Compiled by: EirGrid

Copies to: Participants and Published on <https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector/community-forum/>

Inclusions:

- [Slide Deck](#)
- [Link to Recording](#)
- List of organisations who submitted EOIs – Please see slide deck.

Item	Descriptions	
1.	Introductions & Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction from Irish Rural Link (IRL) • A recording is available here of the 1st part of the meeting which comprised of IRL taking the participants through a presentation setting out the proposed convention of the Celtic Interconnector Community Forum. 	
	Questions	Responses
2.	A question was asked as to how many people on the call live within 10 meters of the proposed Celtic Interconnector Cable.	<p>A response in the chat function confirmed that some community representatives in the meeting do.</p> <p>Further response clarified that forums brought all stakeholders together to give space to their concerns and this would include those in very close proximity and those further away; all who were impacted in different ways.</p>
3.	An error in the dates for the PPN Celtic Interconnector Thematic Group meeting was highlighted and corrected.	Thursday July 7th should read Thursday 8th July
4.	It was asked where, for example, three groups who submitted EOIs from a community, how is it decided which group is to be chosen to sit on the forum?	<p>It was replied that the intention is for the groups to work together to select a representative on the forum.</p> <p>A reminder was made to the group that the PPN Thematic Group will provide an additional route for community Groups to contribute to the forum.</p>
5	A copy of the slides was requested.	Agreed
6.	A request was made for minutes to be kept of the meetings.	Agreed
7.	Clarification was sought on process; so for example a community has 3 interested groups, who will arrange to meet in coming weeks. The question was is it 1 person in total or 1 person per group to be put forward.	It was clarified that for this community it is one person in total.
8.	It was asked if it was possible to get a copy of the planning application when submitted	It was advised that the planning application would be available on a dedicated website and to view at Cork County Council and the An Bord Pleanála offices in Dublin as per the planning process.
9.	It was asked what community engagement was done at pre-planning stage regarding route selection?	It was advised that the pre – planning consultation had been carried out throughout

		<p>the East Cork region since 2017. That there were multiple activities carried out and repeated over the years. It was acknowledged by EirGrid that the Churchtown area on the proposed DC route did communicate concerns this year and that they advised that they had not been aware of the consultation. It was advised that this concern was treated with seriousness and a route review carried out in response. It was advised that a report regarding all consultation activities would be included in the planning application and that a record of activities is also available online.</p> <p>It was stated by a community representative that the consultation was not communicated effectively with stakeholders and stakeholders in the Churchtown area were not aware of the route proposal.</p>
10.	<p>It was stated by a community representative that while not opposing the project there is strong opposition to the route, and strong dissatisfaction regarding other aspects of the process to date. It was asked if the forum would cater for this viewpoint.</p>	<p>It was stated that the forum was concerned with project delivery and associated issues and not a forum for project opposition. The planning application status was confirmed with a target date for submission of 9 July 2021; which would result in a seven week statutory planning process commencing on the 19 July and running to the Monday 6th September 2021. It was stated that the planning process is the most appropriate space for communicating concerns; observations and submissions.</p>
11.	<p>A recap was offered by a community representative, stating that in their view the Forum is essentially a place where information on the project is communicated to communities and where communities can feed back issues and concerns for debate. As the project progresses and community funds become available it will also be a forum where how these funds are used and managed will be discussed.</p>	<p>It was confirmed that yes, the forum is an additional mechanism for communication between EirGrid and community stakeholders.</p> <p>It was reconfirmed that participation in the forum (or non-participation in the forum) does not give any group an advantage over another in terms of community benefit. The role of the forum in this regard is to ensure community benefit is maximised at a strategic level across the project area.</p>
12.	<p>Attendees were reminded to please submit nominations by 26th July.</p>	