

Kildare Meath Community Forum – EirGrid upgrade

Minutes of Meeting – 30th of August @7pm

Meeting started at 7.04. Bobby welcomed everyone and highlighted the role of the guests for the evening. Apologies were given and record of attendance was noted.

In attendance

Anne Cowley (Two Mile House says No Action Group), **Tracey O Dwyer** (Kildare County Council), **Una Phillips** (Maynooth Community Council), **Aidan Farrelly** (Kildare County Council), **Rose Donovan** (Straffan Community Association), **John Kennedy** (Clane Community Council)

Apologies

Karen Mahon (An Taisce Meath), **Michael Gunn** (Longwood Anglers), **Richard Morris** (Blackhall Gaels GAA), **John Lawler** (Caragh Tidy Towns / Caragh CDA), **Aidan Farrell** (Two-mile house Community Centre CLG), **Philip McCormack** (Batterstown Village Enhancement Association)

Also in attendance – Bobby McCormack (Independent Chair from Development Perspectives)

Graham Parker (EirGrid), **Yvonne Coghlan** (EirGrid), **Grainne Duffy** (EirGrid)

Agenda – the agenda was presented and agreed upon and Bobby noted that community forum members can contribute to agenda or suggest items for discussion.

Introductions

Tracey O Dwyer introduced herself to the forum and was welcomed.

The EirGrid team (Graham P, Yvonne C and Grainne D) gave a brief intro and were welcomed.

Minutes of the last meeting were perused.

Anne C asked if the amendment had been made to the previous minutes, which was outlined in a mail to Bobby. Bobby stated that he did change the minutes as per the suggested amendment.

No other matters arose.

Aidan F proposed the mins and Anne C seconded.

EirGrid Presentation

Graham P and Grainne D presented as per the slides (Link available in mail).

Bobby thanked the EirGrid team for the presentation.

Community Forum deliberation.

Una P asked if questions could be raised before the breakout rooms were instigated. Bobby put this to the group and it was decided to stick to the format previously agreed upon at the last forum meeting. The EirGrid team were moved to a breakout room and 15 mins of harvesting questions from the group took place. Aidan F gathered the questions from the group and put them to the EirGrid team in clusters of 2/3 questions at a time.

Dialogue with the Community Forum – Q and A

This began at 8.15pm. The first set of questions concerned the M4, the Maynooth Eastern Relief Rd and the number of metres of construction expected per day. Graham P talked about the drilling approach that would be utilised, which would involve going under the M4, the fact that the timing of the new Rd may not be compatible with the construction timetable associated with the grid upgrade and that approx. 50 metres per day was the aim/goal of the construction team.

The 2nd cluster of questions focused on the need to be more specific on the map, public amenities and Dunnstown. Grainne D responded to the query relating to the detail of the map, outlining that far more detailed maps are available online but that the paper version couldn't provide the detail requested. Graham P outlined that ideally amenities won't be impacted or if they are, it will be minimal. Lastly, the details or routing relating to Dunnstown were provided (R448).

The next step of questions concerned the resurfacing of roads, information provided in Press Releases and brochures and the Maynooth to Kilcock Rd.

Aidan F outlined the reason why resurfacing the full Rd rather than 2.5 metres may be necessary. Graham P understood the point and said that if and when required the full Rd would be re surfaced to Council standards but that this had to be talked about further internally and with other stakeholders.

Grainne D outlined that it was the express wish of the forum as recorded in the previous mins to leave out member's names and their orgs from explicit mention. Grainne D and Graham P recognized and acknowledged that the Maynooth – Kilcock Rd is busy and asked that these points be made and reflected by CF members in the public consultation. Bobby reminded members that there was a G Drive doc where they could do this if they wished. Rose D remarked that she had responded previously in relation to Straffan so wasn't making the points in relation to Maynooth.

The timetable of Maynooth University was discussed in relation to exams and term time.

Anne C raised a question about the need for the power capacity involved and where it would originate. Yvonne C addressed this through explaining where power was generated and how it was moved using the analogy of a mesh/grid. Yvonne C talked about the need for a more resilient system.

Aidan F outlined that he would like to see the EirGrid bus on location at weekends etc. during the public consultation and offered to volunteer his time to join the EirGrid team.

Una P asked about the need for full road closures. Graham P responded that there was a recognition there would be a need for some closures at various times in some places.

Rose D asked about the mins of the CF meetings in relation to FOI requests. This query was in relation to names and orgs. Graham P accepted that individual names would be redacted but both Bobby and Grainne D outlined that his query would be run past the EirGrid team.

Recap on action points

Bobby asked if CF participants were OK with being included in CC rather than BCC in order to facilitate more efficient group listings. The group agreed with no objections made. Rose D suggested that when listing CF members, respective orgs are listed alongside the names. The group accepted that this was a good idea. Bobby agreed to action this from now on.

Date and Time of next meeting

Oct the 12th at 7pm was discussed as an option. Aidan F revealed that this would result in a specific song needed to be sung.

AOB

There were no other points for AOB. Bobby thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting was concluded at 8.53pm