

Kildare Meath Community Forum – EirGrid upgrade

Minutes of Meeting – 15th of November @7pm

Meeting started at 7.04. Bobby welcomed everyone. Apologies were given and record of attendance was noted.

In attendance

John Kennedy (Clane Community Council), **Philip McCormack** (Batterstown Village Enhancement Association), **Damien O Reilly** (Meath County Council), **Una Phillips** (Maynooth Community Council), **Allan Shine** (Kildare Chamber of Commerce), **Tracey O Dwyer** (Kildare County Council), **Aidan Farrell** (Twomilehouse Community Centre), **Aidan Farrelly** (Kildare County Council), **Karen Mahon** (An Taisce, Meath),

Apologies

Rose Donovan (Straffan Community Association), **Anne Cowley** (Twomilehouse say No Action Group), **Fionnuala Corcoran** (Kilcock Tidy Towns)

Also in attendance – Bobby McCormack (Independent Chair from Development Perspectives), **Jamie Moore** (EirGrid), **Ailbhe Farrell** (EirGrid)

The meeting commenced at 7.03pm

Welcome and updates

Allan S was welcomed by Bobby and was given 1 min to present himself. John L has stepped down from the forum as the proposed routes do not have any impact on the community he represents. Grainne D (EirGrid) is now on Maternity leave. Bobby asked that the best wishes of the forum are conveyed to Grainne. Bobby will liaise with Jamie and Ailbhe regarding EirGrid support and involvement in the work of the forum.

Jamie M and Ailbhe F were asked to say a few words to introduce themselves.

Minutes of the last meeting were perused.

The mins of the last meeting (11th of October) were proposed by Phillip McC and seconded by John K. Bobby drew attention to the matter that arose at the last meeting – (11th of October) regarding the need for someone to 2nd the mins of the latter half of the meeting. Aidan F seconded the mins from the 30th of August.

Aidan F drew attention to the date of the last meeting (11th of October as opposed to the date that was agreed on the 30th of Aug - 12th of Oct). Bobby explained about the clash of dates.

No other matters arose from the mins.

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

Public Engagement Update – This began at 7.23 and was presented by Jamie M. The slides will be sent on to the forum during the week of the 22nd of November. After the presentation, questions from Tracey O D / Karen M / Aidan F / Phillip McC / Aidan Farrell / John K / Una P were received

Two action points emerged.

1.The need to have a technical input at the next Community Forum meeting. This was especially in relation to the proposed works at sub stations and 2. To discuss further the balance of interests in using Agriculture lands / Roads.

Jamie outlined that the Consultation Report will be available in Late Jan – Late Feb and that this will be made available to the Forum before it goes live.

Freedom of Information Update

Jamie talked about the emerging role of Community Forums in EirGrid and how good governance and transparency were important considerations. Jamie outlined how personal information would be protected and how FOI requests would be dealt with.

Questions were welcomed. Karen M raised a question regarding the process of becoming a member and what weight would be apportioned to this publicly.

Jamie outlined how the forums role is to build relationships and to generally advise EirGrid but that this process is in parallel to all other Public engagement processes.

Recap on action points

Aidan F suggested that Bobby / Jamie reach out to Rose in relation to the FOI question and response. Bobby/Jamie felt that this was a good idea and agreed to do so during the week of the 22nd of November. Jamie will ask a member of the EirGrid technical team to be present at the next Community Forum meeting.

Bobby to share a doodle regarding the date and time of the next meeting.

Date and Time of next meeting

It was agreed that a few dates from mid to late January be perused via a doodle poll and that the content of the meeting would focus on the technical input and the question regarding the use of land for routing (Agricultural land or/and Roads). The next meeting will be the 6th Community Forum meeting.

AOB

There were no other points for AOB. Bobby thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting was concluded at 8.31pm