

Kildare Meath Community Forum – EirGrid upgrade

Minutes of Meeting – 12th of Jan @7pm

Meeting started at 7.04. Bobby welcomed everyone. The forum did a quick round of names and Bobby welcomed Graham and Kevin from EirGrid

Apologies were given and record of attendance was noted.

In attendance

Rose Donovan (Straffan Community Association), **Anne Cowley** (Twomilehouse say No Action Group), **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), **Aidan Farrelly** (Kildare County Council), **Karen Mahon** (An Taisce, Meath),

Apologies

Tracey O Dwyer (Kildare County Council), **Aidan Farrell** (Twomilehouse Community Centre), **Avril Wilson** (EirGrid)

Also in attendance – Bobby McCormack (Independent Chair from Development Perspectives), **Jamie Moore** (EirGrid), **Kevin Dolan**(EirGrid), **Graham Parker** (EirGrid)

Minutes of the last meeting were perused.

The mins of the last meeting (15th of November) were proposed by Aidan F and seconded by Karen M. Bobby highlighted that a meeting was held at 6.30pm on the 12th of Jan with Rose D, Jamie M and Bobby McC to go through the FOI concerns that were raised previously. No other matters arose. Aidan F thanked Jamie M and Bobby McC for following up.

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.

Technical Input – Kevin D kicked off the input by explaining the work of sub stations and the need for upgrades/updates. The works at both sub stations was explored. Anne C, Phillip McC, John K asked questions relating to Lighting / Sound / System planning / timing / extent of the works. Bending in piping and ducting was also discussed and explained.

Graham P then explored the difference between using roads/agricultural land for routing. The different criteria used to decide on routes was also discussed. Photos were used to illustrate the difference. John K, Anne C, Karen M explored traffic issues / overhead – underground choices and the level of public consultation.

Bobby thanked Kevin D and Graham P for their openness and transparency.

Public Engagement Update – This began just after 8pm and was presented by Jamie M. The number of submissions was discussed as was the various filtering options that is available on the consultation portal. The independent consultation report was discussed and the timeline for the emerging best performing option was examined. This will be available in mid to late March and the forum will be engaged with before the information is made public. Landowner / Community engagement will happen between late March and mid May before a final route is announced in June. Aidan F

highlighted the importance of public engagement. Jamie M talked about the scale of the recent questionnaire drop as well as the technical solution, which will involve writing to all residents impacted by the proposed routing.

Bobby thanked Jamie M for the update.

Recap on action points

No specific action points were identified.

Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will be the **9th of March at 7pm** via Zoom. The next meeting will be the 7th Community Forum meeting.

AOB

Jamie M informed the forum that Grainne had a baby girl. The forum asked that their congratulations be relayed to Grainne and her family. Karen M asked if there was anything that the forum members could do in terms of reach. Bobby echoed this request and asked if the forum members could identify any org of particular interest, to send on their details and this would be brought to the attention of EirGrid.

Una P and John K thanked the EirGrid team for their inputs.

Bobby thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting was concluded at 8.40pm