

Meeting: Laois Kilkenny Community Forum

Date: Tuesday 29th June 2021

Venue: Online Zoom

Participating:

Irish Rural Link

EirGrid

M.CO

Laois Kilkenny Community Representatives

Apologies: Tomas Healy (St Patrick GAA Club) and Councillor Fitzpatrick

Compiled by: Irish Rural Link

Copies to: Participants and Published on

Item	Description	
1.	<p>Introduction from Irish Rural Link (IRL) and M.CO</p> <p>A recording is available (link) of the 1st part of the meeting which comprised of IRL taking the participants through a presentation setting out the proposed convention of the Laois Kilkenny Community Forum and M.CO outlining their current scoping study and the community fund.</p> <p>Following the presentation: local representations and attendees expressed their thanks and appreciation to IRL and M.CO for their presentations. They stated they look forward to engaging with both organisations.</p>	
	Questions	Response
2.	<p>The cost of electricity has risen significantly in recent times. Will projects such as this help to keep cost down?</p>	<p>Seamus stated that IRL is campaigning for supports to help communities change from non-sustainable forms of energy and fuel poverty.</p>
3.	<p>Will there be a person on the ground to assist with the community fund?</p>	<p>When it is safe to do so, M.CO will have people on the ground and will meet with community leaders in person. For now, M.CO will continue communicating by phone and email.</p> <p>M.CO will make contact with the groups on the call.</p>
4.	<p>A question was raised about the 3km boundary for the community fund.</p>	<p>M.CO stated they are currently conducting the scoping document and this boundary might be changed depending on the results. Communities can make a case to be included within the community fund boundary.</p>
5.	<p>Can a number of groups apply for funding together?</p>	<p>Yes, a number of groups can apply for funding together.</p>

6.	Attendees were reminded to please submit nominations by 14th July. Nomination can be submitted through the following link https://consult.eirgrid.ie/content/laois-kilkenny-community-forum-nomination-form	
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