

Meeting: Laois Kilkenny Community Forum

Date: 9th November 2021

Venue: Online Zoom

Participants:

Irish Rural Link- James Claffey

EirGrid-Avril Wilson and Stephen Dunne

M.CO- Coleen Savage and Marion Weymes

Laois Kilkenny Community Representatives- Lawrence Vesey, Juanita Dunphy, Michael McEvoy, Paschal McEvoy, Pat Farrell, Thomasina Connell and Deirdre McMahon

Meeting chaired by Irish Rural Link and draft minutes compiled by: Irish Rural Link

Item	Description	
1.	Introduction James Claffey (Chairperson) opened the meeting and introduced the agenda. The forum members were invited to introduce themselves. Apologies Tomas Healy	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Paschal McEvoy and seconded Deirdre McMahon	
3.	Project Update from EirGrid and ESB Stephen Dunne from EirGrid provided a project update and invited questions from members.	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	What does security of supply mean?	Security of supply is the different feeds on the network. For example, there is two high voltage connections into Kilkenny. This project creates an additional high voltage connection into Kilkenny, providing an extra layer of security.
4.	Presentation on the Draft Community Benefit Fund Scoping Report M.CO Colleen Savage from M.CO presented an updated draft scoping study and the fund application process. M.CO welcome any comments the forum on the report and application process. Community Groups were encouraged to start the application process as early as possible. An information for the wider group will be held to explain the fund application and how to apply.	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	What groups in Spink were contacted about the scoping study? Was the development association contacted?	M.CO stated they sent emails to the local school, GAA club and Comhaltas groups and received surveys from group members. M.CO will conduct an interview with the Spink Development Association before the scoping study is finalised.

	Will the open information evening for people be online or in person?	Given the current covid guidelines the open evening will take place online. M.CO hope to hold clinics in January to assist groups with their proposals.
	How long will the application be open for? Has the Christmas period been taken into account?	The application will be open for 8 weeks. M.CO and EirGrid will discuss extending the application process to accommodate the Christmas period.
	Next Steps	
	M.CO will conduct an interview with the Spink Development Association to capture any final comments on the Scoping Study. The final draft of the scoping study will be circulated via email for agreement by forum members. The next community forum meeting will take place in quarter 1 2022.	