

Meeting: Laois Kilkenny Community Forum

Date: 9th June 2022

Venue: Ballyraggett Community Centre

Participants:

Irish Rural Link- James Claffey, Brendan Mulry

EirGrid- Avril Wilson, Stephen Dunne Owen Zamibogley Gustavo Mendez

M.CO- Coleen Savage

Laois Leader Partnership Co. Jennifer Collier

Kilkenny Leader Partnership Company – Bernie Thorpe

SEAI – Laois & Offaly Community Mentor – Laurence O’Reilly

Laois Kilkenny Community Forum Representatives- Juanita Dunphy, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr, Thomasina Connell , Cllr Paschal McEvoy, Pat Farrell, Deirdre McMahon,

Wider Attendees - Catherine Kelly, Michael McEvoy, Rosie Palmer, John Scully, Fr. Eamonn O’Gorma, Noel Cummins, Frank Brennan

Apologies – Grainne Kennedy 3cea

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.	
2.	Overview of the Eirgrid Community Forum process, Community Fund and introduction of presenters. - Avril Wilson	
3.	The forum members were invited to introduce themselves by James Claffey.	
4.	Minutes of previous meeting The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick and seconded by Deirdre McMahan.	
5.	Project Update from EirGrid Stephen Dunne from EirGrid provided a project update and invited questions from members.	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	No Questions arose	
6.	Presentation on the EIRGRID Community Fund Next Steps and Administration Details. Colleen Savage from M-CO presented on the administration requirements of the fund. It was clarified that groups can be funded more than once and there are two further rounds of funding planned. Advice on putting together an application was provided. Examples from the Clashavoon Dunmanway fund were highlighted. Advice to build in Sustainability was stressed.	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	When is the Second round of funding?	At the earliest late 2023 scheduled with local line development

7.	Presentation on Kilkenny Leader Partnership Co. - Bernie Thorpe	
	Overview of KLP inclusive of Rural Development and Leader Programmes.	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	<p>Comment - The Leader Funding application process is very laborious. Paperwork burden appears to be the same for all projects big and small.</p> <p>Comment – Development Officers assistance is very beneficial through the application process and can become a proposal champion</p>	
8.	Presentation on Laois Leader Partnership Co. - Jenny Collier	
	Overview of Laois Partnership Company and supports available including an overview of the EU Recovery Instrument Funding (EURI)	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	Is the Smart Village Programme Nationwide?	Smart villages will be a key component on the next LEADER programme and is being rolled out in particular areas at the moment
9.	Presentation on SEAI funding opportunities – Laurence O’Reilly	
	Overview of SEAI inclusive of Sustainable Energy Communities, Energy Master Plans, The Warmer Home Scheme and ‘One Stop Shop’ Programme	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	<p>Comment – As a community group strapped for cash, the SEAI grant is too cumbersome, and the BEC grant of 50% is insufficient.</p> <p>Comment – The Warmer Home Scheme has a backlog of 2 years.</p>	
	How many solar panels for electricity generation on a home are required?	7-9 panels at a cost of €7000 to €10,000
	Does it matter how old a house is for retrofit?	Historic buildings are problematic, solar installation is easier to achieve than insulation
	Is a housing estate eligible to apply for the planned Green Energy scheme?	Yes, a housing estate will be eligible
	How long does an EMP take to compile?	It depends on the community capacity but upwards of eight months is a guide. The average cost of an EMP is €25000.
10.	James Claffey and Avril Wilson closed the meeting with thanks to the local community organisers for their efforts with gratitude for the welcome refreshments.	
11.	Next Steps	
	The next community forum meeting will take place in September – Date TBD IRL to distribute a doodle poll to forum members to choose the format of next meeting, physical/ remotely	