

Meeting: Laois Kilkenny Community Forum

Date: 17th October 2022

Venue: Online

Participants:

Irish Rural Link- Brendan Mulry, Paddy Malone

EirGrid- Avril Wilson, Stephen Dunne Owen Zamboglou

M.CO- Coleen Savage

MaRei Research Centre – Evan Boyle

Laois Kilkenny Community Forum Representatives - [Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McEvoy](#)

Apologies – Juanita Dunphy, ~~Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McEvoy~~

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

Item	Description	
1.	Introduction Brendan Mulry (Chairperson) opened the meeting, facilitated introductions and introduced the agenda.	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed at the next meeting.	
3.	Project Update from EirGrid Stephen Dunne and Owen Zamboglou from EirGrid provided a project update and invited questions from attendees. (Presentation attached and questions to be forwarded to Avril Wilson EirGrid.)	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	No Questions arose	
4.	Presentation on the EirGrid Community Fund Availability, priorities and next steps. Colleen Savage from M-CO provided an over of the EirGrid Community Fund A recap on the funding availability: Phase 1 €204, 600 (40%) has been released. Phase 2 €153,450 (30%) planned to be opened in September 2023 Phase 3 (€153,450 (30%) planned to be opened in 2025 Successfully funded projects in Phase one can reapply for funding available in Phase 2 & 3. The forum is strongly encouraged to share this information as widely as possible in in the community. The main communities falling within the funding area (and therefore prioritised for funding) on the Laois side include, Coolnabaeky, Timahoe, Ratheniska, Spink and Ballinakill. On the Kilkenny side, the main communities are Ballyragget, Ballyouskill and Tinnalinton. Community Needs already identified to date include; Community Infrastructure	

	<p>Sporting Facilities Heritage and Culture Older People Support Environment & Sustainability Young Person Support</p> <p>The Forum is asked to consider whether there are additional needs to be considered.</p> <p>The upper level of funding per project awarded will be consulted upon with the Forum.</p>	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	No Questions Arose	
5.	Any Other Business	
	<p>Avril Wilson (Eirgrid) outlined that in advance of the next meeting the Forum members will be consulted individually both in relation to the Terms of Reference for the Forum and their preference for the next meeting arrangements. This meeting will likely take place in the first or second week of December.</p> <p>Evan Boyle (MAREI Research Study) wishes to discuss project experience with individual projects and will if possible be in attendance at some future project meetings.</p>	
	Questions/Queries	Response
	What is the Timeframe for payment of the Grant?	Payment can be made immediately on receipt of invoice. Drawdown of funds can be made in stages but not before spent.
	Request from Colleen Savage (EirGrid) that where possible photos be taken of project progress and submitted when available.	It was confirmed by some individual groups represented in the forum that this was already being done.
6.	Next Steps	
	The next community forum meeting will take place in early December – Date TBD after consultation with individual forum members.	