

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting: Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

Date: 14^h July 2022

Venue: Online Zoom

Participating:

Irish Rural Link – Fintan McCabe, Brendan Mulry
EirGrid - Michelle Walsh, Jamie Moore, Des Cox
SECAD – Katie Kearns and Nuala O’Connell,

East Cork Community Representatives

Apologies: Cllr Alan O’Connor Cobh MDC, Cllr Anthony Barry Cobh MDC

Compiled by Irish Rural Link

Item	Description
1.	<p>Introduction and Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>Fintan McCabe opened the meeting, facilitated participant introductions and introduced the agenda.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the minutes of the previous meeting (March 8th) with those of this meeting for review and agreement at the next forum meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Presentation from EirGrid on current status of the project</p> <p>Des Cox from EirGrid provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Project. Key messages included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The fact that the project has received Strategic Infrastructure Development Consent from An Bord Pleanála for the onshore element of construction and is on track to appoint contractors in September.• Construction work is expected to commence in 2023.• There is a significant emphasis on environmental aspects in all aspects of project delivery with details to be agreed with Cork County Council and other stakeholders.• Please see presentation attached.
3	<p>Presentation from EirGrid on the Community Dimension of the Project</p> <p>Michelle Walsh from EirGrid provided an update on the Community Dimension of the project. The key Message is that SECAD has been appointed as Grant Administrator. Please see presentation attached.</p>
4	<p>Presentation from SECAD on the development of the Community Benefit Fund and Rollout</p>

	<p>Katie Kearns and Nuala O’Connell from SECAD provided an introduction to SECAD and the companies wider community development and fund management history. Community and stakeholder partnership is key to their approach to this work. A timeline of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund Strategy was provided.</p> <p>The next step is to develop the Community Benefit Strategy in partnership with EirGrid and the Celtic Interconnector Community Forum. Responsibility for development lies with all three stakeholders. The purpose of the community benefit strategy is to maximise the community benefit fund and distribute benefit in a planned, fair and sustainable way.</p> <p>The content of the Strategy will involve extensive local research. The forum will oversee development of the strategy and will be significantly relied upon as a source of local knowledge. SECAD will make contact with individual forum members over the coming weeks for initial consultation and an in person kick-off strategy workshop is planned for late September.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the final strategy will be delivered by the end of quarter one 2023.</p> <p>Prior to the September Workshop the forum is asked to consider fund distribution ideas under the three streams of Community, Sustainability and Biodiversity. Please see presentation attached.</p>	
	Questions/Queries	Responses
	How much notice will be provided for One-to-One Forum membership meetings?	This will be arranged via email to suit individual forum member availability.
	Is there a formal structure in place for initial Forum Member Consultation?	Between now and September there is no formal structure. A formalised structure will be agreed at the September Kick-off Meeting.
	What questions might likely be addressed in the strategy development.	The strategy will address factors such as grant size, fund distribution timing decisions, funding priorities and will work to identify gaps and address community needs identified. The mechanics of the fund will be the first factor to be established.
5.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be confirmed in consultation with the forum and will take place in the week commencing September 26th. Fintan McCabe closed the meeting and thanked members for attending.</p>	

