

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting: Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

Date: 10th December 2024

Venue: Online

Participating:

Irish Rural Link – James Claffey, Brendan Mulry

EirGrid - Michelle Walsh

SECAD - Elaine Barrett

East Cork Community Representatives - Robert Barry Knockraha Area Community Association, Marguerite Cremin Knockraha Environmental Group, Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan Cobh MDC, Michael de Buitelir Cork County PPN, Cllr. AnneMarie Ahern East Cork MDC, Brian Thomas O'Reilly Carrigtwohill Community Council, Fred Whelan Curtin (& Chip!) Imogeela Community Sports Hall, Ann O'Neill, Killeagh Inch Community Council, Ivor Knowles Ballintotis Area Community Council

Apologies: Gráinne Furey, Youghal Blue and Green Community Network

Minutes Compiled by Irish Rural Link

Item	Description
1.	Introduction and Agenda
	James Claffey (Chairperson) opened the meeting, facilitated participant introductions, and introduced the agenda.
2.	Minutes of last Forum Meeting - March 5th 2024
	The Minutes of the last forum meeting were agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Anne Marie Aherne and seconded by Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan.

3.	Update on Celtic Interconnector Project Progress - (Presentation Attached)
	<p>Michelle Walsh (EirGrid) provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Project. Key messages included:</p> <p>12 Months of Construction celebrated in October. A number of Keys milestones have been met with more to come.</p> <p>Cable Works Trenching and Ducting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trenching and ducting of HVAC cable route – Knockraha to Ballyadam: Completed. • Trenching and ducting of HVDC cable route – Ballyadam to Youghal - Completed Sections: Ballyadam to N25, N25 Phase 1 & off-road sections. • Trenching and ducting of HVDC cable route – Currently working on Ballyadam to Youghal - Active Sections: N25 Phase 2 (Castlemartyr to Killeagh), Front Strand Road, Youghal. <p>Currently works underway on the approach road to Claycastle Beach from Summerfield Cross. Managed in two phases using a Stop/Go System and working at night for a short period of time next week to ensure road remains open and accessible to traffic for the majority of time works are underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstatement works continuing on all roads that have been impacted – particularly local roads. <p>Cable Works – Cable Pulling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cable pulling HVAC completed. (Ballyadam to Knockraha) • Cable pulling HVDC (Ballyadam to Youghal) commencing early Q2 2025 – generally working eastwards from Youghal to Ballyadam • Jointing of cables once pulled to continue in sequence in jointing bays located along the cable route <p>Gogganstown Substation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil works ongoing – completion in early Q2 2025. <p>Marine Surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed for 2024 <p>Ballyadam Converter Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steelworks & Wall Cladding to Converter Building ongoing • Roof & Wall Cladding to Control Building ongoing

- Foundations & plinths to Transformer / AC Yard / Cooler Area ongoing and nearing completion

Christmas Shutdown

20 December 2024 to 02 January 2025 to include Traffic Management on the current N25 Phase 2 from Castlemartry to Killeagh being removed for the Christmas Period. Details to be also posted online.

Claycastle Works

- EirGrid will be undertaking works on the Celtic Interconnector Landfall site at Claycastle beach in the Carparking area.
- Bulk of works programme is planned to be conducted over winter period to minimise impact on amenity.
- Access to beach, Boardwalk and carpark will be maintained throughout the works – Work to be carried out within clearly defined compounds.
- Works planned to be conducted in 5 distinct phases starting in December 2024 and completing in June 2025 (weather dependent).

Phase 1: Support Area December 2024 - April 2025 – Site Compound established within the Carparking area.

Phase 2: Storage Area January 2025 – December 2026 – Also set out and boarded in the Carparking area.

Phase 3: Beach works December 2024 - April 2025 – Once the Compounds and Site Work areas are established and the project is ready, the beach works will commence ideally in December. This involves the establishment of a works corridor area (Cofferdam) leading from the carparking area down to the High Water Mark. This will allow for Trenching and ducting to be installed and cables pulled through in a manner similar to installation on the roads.

Phase 4: Offshore Works April 2025 – June 2025 (Weather Dependant)

Phase 5: Car Park Works April 2025

Establishment of Transition Joint Bay where Marine Cable is connected to Land Cable and the areas restored to its original status. Within a short period time it won't be obvious that any works have been carried out at the beach area.

(Site images are available online)

Project Communications 2024

Working with contractors and internally in EirGrid to ensure people have been kept up to date and project communications alive and relevant for people. Methods include;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio adverts for road works • Friday free texts – text INTER to 50015 • Press releases on local media • Project website • Email updates • Letters to residents • Contractor Liaison Officer • EirGrid Liaison Officer • Newsletter • Radio updates on Community Radio Youghal. • Forum meetings • Signage Information at sponsored events • Information days <p>If there are any comments on Communications in relation to works carried out to date, or any gaps identified or suggestions for 2025 EirGrid very much welcome feedback.</p> <p>.</p>						
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	<p>stone be used to backfill the verges to create a passing bay for traffic. The substation road is surrounded by a lot of residences and utilised a lot. Concerns that subcontractors are not adhering to traffic regulations in place raised above were reiterated.</p>	Sincere a Apologies for the inconvenience and the continuation of issues locally.
	<p><u>Again, acknowledgement of good communication and engagement work done. Acknowledgement of difficulties faced with addressing the type of ongoing issues raised resulting from the necessary work.</u></p> <p>The Road surface in the eEast Cork area is also an issue. Not only the road surface that has been refilled by EirGrid, but when roads have been closed somewhere the machinery is on the other side of the road and parts of the road have been damaged by machinery along with large potholes. In current weather conditions with ice and rain potholes cannot be seen. Claims are going in to Cork Co. Council which has an exceptionally low road budget. It is unfair that this is impacting on Cork Co. Council when the issue is not being caused by Cork Co. Council.</p> <p>Loose Chippings are used on the resurfacing of the road but no sweeper is used. A nNon-sSlip tTarring is being used and there appears to be a lot of skids on the road given the surface that is currently there.</p> <p>Loose cChippings by Bends facing into the sun (near Carrigogna Bridge) is causing cars to skid.</p>	
4.	Project Timeline	
	<p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marine Survey - Continuation of Trenching and Duction Works for HVAC and HVDC Land Cables 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commencement of Installation and Jointing of HVAC and HVDC Land Cables <p>2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of Offshore Marine Cable Installation - Completion of Installation and Jointing of HVAC and HVDC Land Cables <p>2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of Offshore Marine Cable Installation - Submarine Cable Protection Campaigns - Commissioning Tests - Interconnector System Tests - Trial Operation Period Commences - 	
	Questions/Comments	Answers/Response
	No Questions or Comments Arose	
5.	Community Forum Representation	
	<p>James Claffey (IRL) provided an update on the Community Forum Representation - The forum has been working really well. Community Organisations have a representative who sits on the forum supported by an alternative that sits when the nominated person is unavailable to attend. As the independent facilitator, IRL will be contacting <u>every-all Forum member organisation</u>Forum Organisation early in the new year to <u>check they are happy</u>confirm their continued interest in participating in the forum and to <u>remain on the forum moving forward and that nominees are happy to continue in their role into the future</u>reconfirm the name(s) of forum representatives.</p> <p>Some individual members having served a number of years at this stage may feel the time is opportune to pass the role over to somebody else <u>in their group</u>.</p>	
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6.	Update on Community Benefit Fund	
	<p>Elaine Barrett (SECAD) provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund. Key messages included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 Update <p>29 Successful applicants. Some projects have been completed, fully claimed and paid out. Some projects are still due to come into claim. Reminders regarding the expiring date have been issued and. SECAD are there to help and support any groups where needs. Forum members are requested to pass this message along.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract expiry dates For groups to be eligible to apply to Phase 2, Phase 1 projects will need to have been fully completed and claimed for. • Phase 2 Phase 2 is expected to be opened by the end of January. The application process will remain open for approximately eight weeks. Phase 2 has a value of €720,000 to be divided between the three streams of the Fund, The Community Stream, The Sustainability Stream and the Biodiversity Stream. There has been an underspend for the Biodiversity Stream which will be noted in the Guidelines for Phase 2. • Notification to the Forum Members Forum members will be notified by email before 1pm the day the fund opens and are requested to forward on the email notification to community groups in their area. Groups on the SECAD database will be notified in the afternoon. There may however be new or emerging groups or groups who did not apply for phase 1 funding and widespread dissemination of the notification is requested. • Preparation for applicants It is never too early to begin preparations. This is particularly recommended for groups expecting to require three quotations or anticipating having to engage in the planning process or clarify exemptions. Ensuring the groups constitution is available or where applicable, Owner Permissions or Letters of Support, copy of Leases are gathered in good time is strongly recommended. • SECAD support and assistance Six One to One clinic supports will be arranged for the application period. Dates will be published in the notification email. Six days are also set aside for specific Biodiversity one to one clinics. Applicants that have a project in mind are encouraged to Contact SECAD for help and support. • SECAD contact number is 021 4613 432 or info@secad.ie 				
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		<p>The Underspend for Phase 1 Biodiversity stream is €120,000. Community Groups with Biodiversity projects in mind are encouraged to contact SECAD. If capacity building or assistance is needed please reach out to SECAD. It is advised that the Biodiversity officer in the Local Authority be also contacted as a useful resource to call upon.</p>
7.	Project Contact Details	
	<p>Sorensen Liaison Officer - Jean O'Donovan 086 032 6171 EirGrid Community Liaison Officer - Michelle Walsh 085 870 4999</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Subscribe to the FREE Text update service by texting INTER to 50015. • Register for email updates on the cable route works email celticinterconnector@sorensen.ie • Register to receive the Celtic Interconnector quarterly community newsletter by emailing celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com • Go to the 'What's Happening Now' page on the EirGrid Project Page https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector/whats-happening-now/ 	
8.	Any Other Business	
	<p>No issues arose. Members are free to contact Irish Rural Link with any issues they wish to put on the agenda.</p>	
9.	Next Steps	
	<p>The next Community Forum meeting is provisionally scheduled for Tuesday March 25th 2025. The Forum terms of Reference will be reviewed at this meeting. Please contact James Claffey or Brendan Mulry in Irish Rural Link in advance of this next meeting if there is anything that needs to be addressed.</p> <p>James Claffey (Chairperson) closed the meeting, thanked members for attending and their ongoing work on the forum and wished all members a very happy Christmas.</p>	