

## DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting:** Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Venue:** Online

**Participating:**

**Irish Rural Link** – James Claffey, Brendan Mulry

**EirGrid** - Michelle Walsh, Avril Wilson

**SEAI** – Sean Sweeney

**Newtown Court Sustainable Energy Community** - Oliver Deacy

**East Cork Community Representatives -**

Fred Whelan Curtin Imogeela Community Sports Hall, Evelyn Forde Carrigtwohill Community Council, Cllr. Anthony Barry Cobh MD, Cllr Anne Marie Ahern East Cork MD, Ivor Knowles Ballintotis Area Community Council, Finbarr Clohessy Youghal Fishermen, Jim Barry Carrigtwohill & District Historical Society

**Apologies –**

Catherine Douglas – Churchtown North Residents Committee,

**Minutes Compiled by** Irish Rural Link

Item	Description
1.	<b>Introduction and Agenda</b>
	James Claffey (Chairperson) opened the formal meeting and introduced the agenda.
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Forum Meeting</b>
	Minutes of the last meeting (December 9 <sup>th</sup> ) were proposed by Cllr. Anthony Barry and seconded by Cllr. Anne Marie Ahern. No issues arose.

3.	<b>Update on Celtic Interconnector Project Progress - (Presentation Attached)</b>	
	<p>Michelle Walsh (EirGrid) provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Project. Key messages included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Joint Bays on N25 and Traffic Management system removed.</li> <li>• HVDC jointing continuing on local roads.</li> <li>• Programme of permanent road reinstatement is underway by Cork County Council appointed sub-committee.</li> <li>• Onshore Cable Works due to complete mid-year 2026.</li> <li>• At Ballyadam Converter Station, commissioning of building services and systems is ongoing.</li> <li>• Cable laying and burial campaigns at sea will recommence – 26<sup>th</sup> March. 85km laid from Claycastle outwards – 24km of which has been buried.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Answers/Response</b>
	Concern that people are ignoring the lights at Carrigane as the works there are dragging on and there is a lot of frustration.	This feedback will be taken back to EirGrid subcontractors.
	Will the Cable Laying work impact on the strand at Claycastle?	Disruption will be minimal. Ducting and junction box at Claycastle were installed last summer. The next stage is to pull and join the cables. This process will take approximately four weeks.
4.	<b>Presentation by SEAI on Sustainable Energy Communities Programme</b>	
	Sean Sweeney (SEAI Mentor for Limerick and Cork) presented on the Sustainable Energy Community Scheme administered by SEAI. (Presentation Slideshow attached) Questions and Comments considered after delivery of both this and the following presentation (5.) below.	
5.	<b>Presentation by Newtown Court Sustainable Energy Community</b>	
	Oliver Deasy presented on the Newtown Court Sustainable Energy Community Solar Project. (Presentation Slideshow attached)	
	<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Answers/Response</b>
	The savings amassed in the solar scheme are hugely impressive especially in the current climate.	
	SEAI- The work done by Oliver and Newtown Ct. SEC is very complex and may appear daunting. The group is very fortunate to have Oliver involved. The SEC network and the SEAI does however have the supports available to	There is scope to get involved in small projects on the journey to an Energy Master Plan. A Newcourt Community Garden has now been established. Small projects do lead to bigger

	play a similar role in other projects that are keen to replicate the project.	<p>projects. The Energy Master Plan does not have to be the defining purpose of an SEC.</p> <p>Not all communities replicating this scheme imported Solar Panels directly but instead tendered for this work which did add to the costs.</p>
	IRL Staff member located outside of Cork City has arranged to lease small plots of land for horticulture use. Information to be forwarded to forum members.	
	Does SEAI provide grants for Water Refill Stations?	County Councils support these initiatives under Community Climate Action funding etc. This ambition can be included part of Energy Master Plans. Cork City Council supported this initiative for Newtown Ct. Community Garden.
6.	<b>Dates for Next Meeting</b>	
	16 <sup>th</sup> June is the date of the next meeting which will be held online.	
7.	<b>Close of Meeting</b>	
	James Claffey (Chairperson) closed the meeting and thanked members for their ongoing work on the forum.	