

## DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

**Meeting:** Celtic Interconnector Community Forum

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**Venue:** Online

**Participating:**

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

**EirGrid** - Michelle Walsh, Avril Wilson

**East Cork Community Representatives** - Jim Barry Carrigwohill & District Historical Society, Robert Barry Knockraha Area Community Development, Anne O'Neill Killeagh Community Council, Marguerite Cremin Knockraha Environmental Group, Cllr. Anthony Barry Cobh MDC, Michael de Buitleur Cork County PPN, Cllr. AnneMarie Ahern East Cork MDC, Grainne Furey Youghal Blue & Green Community Network, Cllr. Alan O'Connor Cobh MDC

**Minutes Compiled by** Irish Rural Link

Item	Description
1.	<b>Introduction and Agenda</b> James Claffey (Chairperson) opened the meeting, facilitated participant introductions, and introduced the agenda.
2.	<b>Review of Forum Terms of Reference (presentation attached)</b>  James Claffey provided a review of the Forum Terms of Reference. Key Points include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The forum purpose is to ensure stakeholders and community views are understood and properly considered prior to and during the project.</li><li>• The Group will provide for dialogue between stakeholders with interests in the project.</li><li>• Dialogue is a two-way street and forum members have a key responsibility to feed information back to their group members they represent and vice versa.</li></ul> Key Stakeholders are brought together in the forum to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Represent views of their organisation or community in relation to the project and its proposals</li><li>• Consider the project and provide guidance on local needs and priorities</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist in enabling the timely resolution of project issues that may arise</li> <li>• Help the project to identify local sources of information and analysis, strategies and proposals which may impact on, or need to be considered during project delivery</li> <li>• Provide feedback at key stages of Project delivery</li> <li>• Facilitate a local voice and communicate information to the wider group of local and regional stakeholders</li> </ul>	
	<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Answers/Response</b>
	Forum members agreed the Terms of Reference with one amendment presenting (from point 3 below) to add the quorum of 50% requirement.	
3.	<b>Forum Meeting Quorum Requirements</b>	
	James Claffey (Chairperson) requested a decision be taken on the Forum Meeting Quorum requirement. It was agreed by online poll that the Quorum would be 50%.	
	<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Answers/Response</b>
	No Comments or questions arose.	
4.	<b>Update on Celtic Interconnector Project Progress - (Presentation Attached)</b>	
	Michelle Walsh (EirGrid) provided an update on the Celtic Interconnector Project. Key messages included:	
	<b>Cable Works</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground investigation works have commenced.</li> <li>• The cable route works will be completed in sections.</li> <li>• Stakeholder communication will precede works in each section.</li> <li>• Works to commence 1st November from Knockraha and will progress to Youghal.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Claycastle Landfall</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main works to commence in 2025.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Ballyadam Converter Station</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling works have commenced</li> </ul>	
	<b>Trenching and Ducting Works in Public Roads</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule of works by section provided (See presentation)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Project Newsletter</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter to be issued on a quarterly basis and forum members should have received their copy by email at the beginning of October.</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Timeline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Project timeline (See presentation) is being effectively adhered to.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Benefit Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The deadline for applications for the first phase of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund has now passed.</li> <li>• Applications are currently undergoing an evaluation process by an independent panel.</li> <li>• Announcement regarding projects successful in achieving funding is expected before Christmas 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cable Works Information Days</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 23<sup>rd</sup> 3pm-8pm Knockraha Community Hall</li> <li>• October 25<sup>th</sup> 1pm-7pm Carrigtwohill Community Centre</li> </ul> <p><b>Stakeholder Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cable works Subcontractor Liaison Officer Elaine Cronin can be contacted on 086 0326171.</li> <li>• EirGrid Community Liaison Officer Michelle Walsh can be contacted on 085 8704999</li> <li>• FREE Text update service can be subscribed to by texting INTER to 50015.</li> <li>• The Celtic Interconnector Community Newsletter can be registered to be received by emailing <a href="mailto:celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com">celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com</a></li> <li>• Important news and information can be found on the 'What's Happening Now' page on the EirGrid Project Page <a href="https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector/whats-happening-now/">https://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector/whats-happening-now/</a></li> </ul>								
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		more notice will be provided going forward
	Newsletters issued on a quarterly newsletter is not sufficient. Can more regular updates be provided?	The newsletter is a general publication covering a wide variety of project aspects. More regular updates are provided online at <a href="http://www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector">www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector</a> 'What's Happening Now' page, through the Text Update service and social media. This feedback will be taken on board to see where improvements can be made.
	Representing residents of Churchtown can documentation clarifying why N25 as part of the route was not chosen?	This will be addressed separately.
	It is likely that newsletters have been captured in recipients spam folders and this should be communicated to stakeholders.	
	Given previous negative experience on the Carrigane Road it is crucial that this construction operates without issue.	This point is noted and will communicated appropriately.
	Where will access to the convertor station site be located?	There are still outstanding issues to be resolved and when finalised, details will be communicated.
	Can contact numbers for Sorensen and EirGrid Liaison Officers be shared on social media?	Yes, this information can be shared.
	In relation to road closures at Knockraha, a Stop/Go system rather than road closures was previously suggested. At the last meeting it was communicated that a road closure notice for the road towards the substation in Knockraha was in place. Can this be commented on?	Road closure notices are in application for Health and Safety reasons. Local Access will be assured.
	Will there be passing bays and other road closures?	There will be some further road closures necessary. Passing bays will be used in second and third phases of construction (laying of cable & completion of junction boxes). For the most part road closures will be necessary in the first phase of construction (trenching and ducting). Suggestion to attend the cable information days for a full discussion regarding Knockraha road closures,

		diversion routes and any resulting issues was made to the Knockraha Community Representative who confirmed her intention to attend.
	Can road closures be communicated to forum members as well as mainstream media?	Information on Road closures will be communicated to forum members.
	Was an automated message from the free text subscription issued upon sign up?	A message should have been received upon registration
	There may be issues as a result of previous works on the Carigan Road.	
5.	<b>Other Project Updates – Michelle Walsh (EirGrid) (Presentation Attached)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work continues with the STEPS team as they complete an impartial analysis of EirGrid’s evolving public engagement processes using different methods. There will be future opportunities for FORUM members to participate in this project and involve their community.</li> <li>• Members of the projects’ engagement team met with French communities last week to discuss common themes for all Celtic Interconnector communities and explore possibilities for future inter community cooperation. Suggestions in this regard are very welcome.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Questions / Comments</b>	<b>Answer/Response</b>
	Any collaboration with the French communities will be welcomed.	
6	<b>Minutes of Previous Meetings</b> The minutes of the previous meeting (July 4th) were agreed, proposed by Cllr. Anthony Barry and seconded by Grainne Furey.	
7	<b>Next Steps</b> The next Community Forum meeting will be arranged for Spring 2024 but if issues arise in the meantime which require a Forum meeting it will be arranged. James Claffey (Chairperson) closed the meeting, thanked members for attending and their work on the forum to date.	