

East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade

Community Forum

7pm, 13th February 2023, by Zoom

Attending (members):	Brendan McNamee (St. Peter's GAA Club, Dunboyne), Helena Merriman (St. Margaret's Parish Hall Committee), Walter Moran (Dunboyne AFC), Sheelagh Morris (St Margarets Action Committee), Denis O'Leary (Kilbride Tidy Towns), Cllr Damien O'Reilly (Meath Co. Co), Pat Smith (Co. Meath Chamber), Pearse Sutton (St. Margaret's The Ward), Rob Webb (Tyrrelstown Residents Community Council)
Apologies:	Philip McCormack (Batterstown Village Enhancement Assoc.) – unable to access meeting
Attending (EirGrid):	Eoghan O'Sullivan (Community Liaison Officer)
Facilitation:	Harriet Emerson

Welcome & Agenda

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for giving up their time to attend. It was agreed to proceed with the draft agenda as pre-circulated.

Minutes of Meeting 21st November 2022

The draft minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 21st November 2022, had been circulated. It was generally agreed that these were an accurate record of discussions and they were adopted.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters were identified as arising that were not already on the agenda. It was noted that care is needed to allow for the ongoing confusion over different naming of roads which was explored in communications with EirGrid following the last meeting, particularly in relation to Kilreesk Lane.

Update on main themes emerging in the public consultation

Eoghan reminded everyone that the project is presently at Step 4 in EirGrid's 6 Step Grid Development Process and presented a summary of the main themes emerging from the public consultation and engagement held about the project before Christmas. These include issues around

- Congestion and disruption
- Design
- Environment
- Utilities
- Health

as well as some general feedback and public appreciation of the need for the grid upgrade.

Further details can be seen in the slides shown at the meeting (attached).

Eoghan then explained that the intention is to announce the Emerging Best Performing Route Option (EBPRO) on the 30th or 31st of March 2023. EirGrid is proposing that project staff meet with the Community Forum just before the announcement to present the details of the identified route.

EirGrid intends to carry out further public engagement about this route and suggests that a meeting with the Forum would also be helpful during that period. The Community Forum can choose to meet whenever it considers is appropriate throughout the year but EirGrid would hope to be able to provide a general update in the autumn, possibly during October, and would like to suggest a meeting to close out the Community Forum's work towards the end of the year.

Eoghan also informed the Forum that there will be an Energy Citizens Roadshow taking place on Wednesday 1st March, 2023, at the Ardboyne Hotel in Navan between 6.30pm and 8.30pm, and undertook to send on further details about this once they are available.

In response to questions, Eoghan was able to confirm that there is a systematic analysis of all aspects of the sections of all the different proposed route options and this is how the optimum is identified and other sections ruled out. This process is ongoing and it is not possible to give details at this point. Agricultural Liaison Officers are very busy meeting with landowners who may be involved as the proposed route may cross their land or to facilitate passing places during road works along the proposed route, etc. It is hoped that the detailed project proposal will be ready to submit for planning permission in the first quarter of 2024.

Discussions with both Keelings and Dublin Airport have also taken place, as with other significant stakeholders. There was interest to know whether the proposals for road developments to the west of the airport in the Fingal Development Plan would be proceeding, and similarly the proposed developments and operational changes at the airport. Decisions on these are expected very close to the announcement of the Emerging Best Performing Route Option and it is not known whether and how these might influence the choice of route by EirGrid and the work involved in the grid upgrade. This question will be referred to the Project Team.

Any other business

No additional items of business were identified for discussion.

Next meeting

It was agreed that the Forum will meet, via Zoom, just ahead of the announcement of the Emerging Best Performing Route Option at the end of March. As soon as a definite date is known this will be communicated to all Forum members, and they can decide at that meeting when they wish to meet again.

As there was no further business, everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting ended at 7.45pm.