

Meeting: Laois Kilkenny Community Forum

Date: 18th July 2023

Venue: Online

Participants:

Irish Rural Link- James Claffey, Brendan Mulry,

EirGrid- Avril Wilson, Eoin Brockert

M.CO – Marian Weymes

Laois Kilkenny Community Forum Representatives - Michael McEvoy, Paschal McEvoy
Tomas Healy, Juanita Dunphy, Cllr Pat. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Thomasina Connell,

Apologies – Pat Farrell,

Meeting chaired by Irish Rural Link and draft minutes compiled by: Irish Rural Link

Item	Description	
1.	Introduction James Claffey (Chairperson) opened the meeting, facilitated introductions and introduced the agenda.	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes from the previous meeting (March 2nd, 2023) were proposed by Tomas Healy and seconded by Michael McEvoy.	
4.	Project Update from EirGrid Eoin Brockert from EirGrid provided a project update since the March meeting and preview of expected future 2023 activity. Main points outlined. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stations<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kilkenny – Civils and new busbar including supports installed, Cable Connections to OHL progressed. Commissioning commenced.- Ballyragget – Works progressing on Distribution Line, 110kv Station to be energised in Q3 2023.- Coolnabacky – Civil Contractor mobilisation expected in Q3 2023.• Overhead Line Progress<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ballyragget- Kilkenny 110kV line to be completed in Q3 2023.- ESB to commence construction of Ballyragget Coolnabacky 110kV line on the Kilkenny side in Q3 2023.- ESB is still working to agree the CEMP with Laois County Council for the Laois side of the line, to be agreed in Q3 2023.	
	Questions/Queries, Comments	Response
	Are there issues with the ESB progression on the CEMP?	The ESB met today with Laois Co. Council to progress the issue. Any amendments should be minor.

	Have the ESB reached agreement with the farmers/landowners on the line regarding construction?	Yes, there is a landowner package in place and this aspect is progressing well. with the Agricultural Liaison Officers.
5.	Update on the EirGrid Community Fund	
	Avril Wilson from EirGrid clarified that delays will unfortunately mean Phase Two of the fund will not open as anticipated in Autumn 2023. Once the project is mid-way through construction, phase 2 of the fund can be opened for applications. The Public Engagement team will continue to work closely with the project technical team and bring updates to the forum.	
6.	AOB	
	No items emerged for discussion	
7.	Next Steps	
	The next meeting will be held in Q4 (October) to parallel expected project progress Date and Venue tbd.	
	James Claffey (Chairperson) thanked all members for their attendance at the meeting.	