

24.04.2023 KMGU Forum meeting at Westgrove Hotel, Clane.

11th Meeting of the KM Community Forum

Meeting started 7.05pm with Bobby welcoming people.

In attendance:

John Kennedy (Clane Community Council), **Patrick Lynch** (Red Road Residents Association), **Philip McCormack** (Batterstown Village Enhancement Association),

Also in attendance – Bobby McCormack (Independent Chair from Development Perspectives), **Ailbhe Farrell** (EirGrid), **Grainne Duffy** (EirGrid), **Evan Boyle** (MaRei), **Willie Rattigan** (Kilcloon Community Centre)

Apologies:

Allan Shine (Kildare Chamber of Commerce), **Anne Cowley** (Twomilehouse say No Action Group), **Tracey O Dwyer** (Kildare County Council), **Karen Mahon** (An Taisce, Meath), **Richard Morris** (Blackhall Gaels GAA), **Richard Muller** (Kilcock Tourism Group), **Fionnuala Corcoran** (Kilcock Tidy Towns), **Rose Donovan** (Straffan Community Association), **Damien O Reilly** (Meath County Council), **Sharon Langan** (Naas Serpents basketball), **Naomi Scott Hayward** (North Kildare Eco Action Group),

Minutes of the Previous meeting

Minutes of last meeting on 24th Jan 2023 were shared for review. No queries arose. Minutes proposed by Philip and seconded by Pat.

The agenda was outlined for this meeting including a project update from Grainne, some capacity building around SGDs with Bobby and a section from MaREI delivered by Evan.

Project update:

Grainne outlined Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade planning application has now been submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and a period of statutory consultation will now take place. The process with ABP may take up to a year to be consented and finalised before any next steps can take place. The KMGU project page on the EirGrid website to be updated as of 27th April. All details also available on the ABP website for interested parties to review.

Grainne reiterated that the Energy Citizen Roadshow will take place Thursday 4th May at the Ardboyne Hotel in Navan and all are welcome to attend.

Grainne welcomed Willie Rattigan and outlined that his community group will be required to complete an expression of interest form as an immediate next step if he wished to become part of the forum going forward and based on his location he may also wish to express an interest in the East Meath-North Dublin forum.

Facilitator Update:

Bobby invited Willie to put in his expression of interest form, which Bobby will share with him, as all existing forum members were required to do, ensuring the EirGrid community forum process is followed and to confirm that his group is a member of the local PPN.

MaREI Update:

Evan gave an update of MaREI's role here at this KMGU forum.

An activity took place where each participant outlined 3 core goals of their community group being a part of this forum and to clarify what organisations were deemed key to achieving these goals.

Next steps are for Evan to share this activity with the wider group, so all members can participate, followed by a request from MaREI to engage with Evan for 1-2-1 interviews.

SDGs discussion

Bobby posed a question to the group to outline some of the key issues in each of the participants' communities:

John:

Capacity in local schools – too many houses and not enough infrastructure

SDG association = # Quality & Education and # Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Philip:

Speed of traffic through the village of Clane.

Tidy town applications – busy and hard to get help.

Water supply issue – left roadside in a poor condition.

Costs of running a GAA club, 2 pitches, 2 club houses – applied to green club initiative (transport, biodiversity, water, waste – hoe to make the club greener)

Willie:

Poor facilities for a meeting or an event.

Traffic issues – their locality being used as an M50 bypass / rat run.

Area being overpopulated – facilities needed for kids / babies.

Pat:

Social participation – nothing happens without people – locals have an active role to play here.

Built community – committee / project leaders / grants – leading to good things in the area like community centre. Knowhow to accessing funds / grants is key and is lacking in the community.

Physical and social infrastructure – There's a need to know what is available in these spaces, where and how. Need to get the state agencies to talk to the community directly as opposed to at a higher level.

Evan:

Education – lack of access for locals

Housing – lots of holiday homes / mostly people commuting to the larger towns and sense of community lost in the local areas as a result.

Bobby:

4.5 million people involved globally in 193 countries re 16 SDGs. SGD framework is a voluntary framework.

Policies in Ireland need to be aligned with the SDG policy and EirGrid CF policy is one such policy.

So we need to look to our own communities to make the SDGs relevant to our own specific areas / communities / localities.

Examples given of some goals not always seen as obviously applicable in an Irish context – e.g.:

SDG #2 Zero Hunger: 1 in 10 kids in Ireland don't have enough food to successfully operate each day.

SDG #3 good health and well-being: Poor air quality in Ireland.

SDG #7 Affordable and Clean energy: This is NB to EirGrid for all the obvious reasons – moving to more renewable sources.

SDG #15 Life on land – farms / forestry – how does this impact us in our own communities?

So the purpose of this capacity building is to:

- Raise awareness of how each community group / your proposals will speak to and connect to the SDGs, be aligned and show an understanding of the goals when it comes to applying for a tranche of the community benefit.
- Understand that more and more funding, SEAI for example, is going to be linked to the SDGs going forward.

Bobby shared some slides re “**Mis representation of Sustainable Development Theory**”

There are 3 tiers to SDGs – **BUT** they are not all equally represented, like a stool with 3 legs but all legs are not equal.

Opinions can be subjective around SDGs, for example 1 opinion could be that economically a rising tide raises all boats, as opposed to an alternate opinion that giving oxygen to all in the biosphere is more beneficial to all.

See graph in slide deck:

Functioning biosphere (broad base) = functioning Society (middle) = functioning Economy (narrow top of funnel).

Bobby presented “The 5 Ps”

Peace, Planet, Prosperity, People, Partnership

OR

Potential, Progress, Procrastination, Postponement, Possibilities.

One of the best examples of a positive way to encourage communities to align with the SDGs is EirGrid Community Forum Policy.

169 SDG targets are measured annually.

In Ireland, public awareness of the SDGs is amongst one of the lowest globally.

KMGU CF members are in a great position to impact that awareness of the SDGs in each of the communities that participants come from. More info available on Development Perspectives website.

Fingal PPN strategy 2018-2021 is a leading example presented (see slide): Ref Table 5: Linking the SDGs to our Actions. This is a good example of a proactive approach to the SDGs.

Relating specifically to this forum, in the building of the Community Benefit Strategy in the coming period, the members need to reflect on the SDGs and establish connections between them and each specific goal that the member groups have. Without these synergies and alignments, funds will not be granted.

Bobby also outlined the importance of looking at partnerships, and use the coming 12-18 months to explore the partnerships that are both between the Forum member groups and outside groups such as SEAI / Leader etc.

Next steps:

Notes from Evans workshop to be shared with the group and followed up directly by Evan with each member. 1-2-1 meetings with Evan to be arranged after that.

Bobby to propose next meeting dates in follow up email via doodle pole.

Next meeting to include SEAI and Leader capacity building session, along with core meeting/ agenda items as required.