

Minutes from meeting 9 of the Kildare Meath Community Forum

5th October 2022 @ Kilcock GAA Club

Meeting started at 7.05. Bobby welcomed everyone to the first in person meeting and invited people to top up on tea and sandwiches. Bobby thanked Kilcock GAA for their hospitality.

Apologies were given and record of attendance was noted (Via a name register that was circulated). GD agreed to take notes / mins.

In attendance

Anne Cowley (Twomilehouse say No Action Group), **John Kennedy** (Clane Community Council), **Damien O Reilly** (Meath County Council) , **Fionnuala Corcoran** (Kilcock Tidy Towns), **Allan Shine** (Kildare Chamber of Commerce), **Patrick Lynch** (Red Road Residents Association), **Rose Donovan** (Straffan Community Association) **Aidan Farrelly** (Kildare County Council), **Naomi Scott Hayward** (North Kildare Eco Action Group)

Apologies:

Philip McCormack (Batterstown Village Enhancement Association), **Tracey O Dwyer** (Kildare County Council), **Karen Mahon** (An Taisce, Meath), **Richard Morris** (Blackhall Gaels GAA), **Niamh** (Meath Chambers), **Richard Muller** (Kilcock Tourism Group)

Also in attendance – Bobby McCormack (Independent Chair from Development Perspectives), **Avril Wilson** (EirGrid), **Grainne Duffy** (EirGrid), **Evan Boyle** (MaRei)

A round of Introductions was undertaken

Minutes of previous meeting was perused and minutes were proposed by Allan Shine (AS) and seconded by Cllr Damien O'Reilly (DoR)

GD and AW provided project and comm benefit update

- AS Question re Celtic Interconnector comm benefit fund update
- AW – currently at capacity building. Workshop took place last week Sept
- DOR queried if the actual cost of the cables has been established in order to determine comm forum fund and if fund is ltd to study area. GD to follow up on fund value. AW confirmed circa 2km parameters of a study area for the fund however this will be established when agreeing the CB strategy by forum/facilitator at future meetings.
- Anne Cowley (AC) what are the stipulations on what projects will fall within the remit of funding.
- Again reverted back to CB Strategy.
- Pat Lynch (PL) will books of historical importance fall within the funding parameters. Again EG referred to CB Strategy and forum input and fund guidelines will outline projects that are applicable
- AS referred to key work involved by the LCDC remit.
- BmC – highlighted to don't jump too far ahead to activities, that the 'why; has to be answered by the forum firstly.

- AC highlighted the importance of having such guidelines/strategy in place
- AW – Laois/Kilkenny fund guidelines can be sent to the forum as an example but highlighted that they were in relation to the old CB policy, not the newly established EG CB policy
- Fionnuala Corcoran (FC) queried if all 3 streams equal AW – yes

Evan Boyle MarEi - introduction and purpose of research was explained and outlined

- DOR questioned how can you measure sustainability benefits, EB – not within remit. BmC – CB Strategy must be aligned with sustainability goals.
- PL highlighted that sociology looks at interaction of groups for which will feed in MarEi research to form a framework.
- EB ask for all to fill in contact details for further contact.
- Query raised on what is EB's timeline, other outputs required and when was his finding expected.
- EB – end of project and beyond, expecting 1st paper within 4-5months.
- DoR complemented EG on hitting all engagement goals, our approach covers all angles traditional and new, no negativity on the ground, no more need to do any more research or different engagement approaches as EG are doing it all 'perfectly';.
- This was backed up by Cllr Farrelly – very little more to add in terms of covering all engagement angles.

BmC referred to EG Comm B Policy and for all to take a copy of the brochure available for review.

Agenda for next meeting will include further clarification of the documents.

- DoR said brochure covers all questions
- PL = sociological point of view not clear cut as EG projects. North of Batterstown, battery storage application, 80 acres, not engaging similarly. Mentioned ongoing Highcourt case and asked if GD was aware of same to which she said she was not aware of same. DoR intervened and provided an update on the ongoing court case and highlighted it has nothing to do with the KMGU project.
- Cllr Farrelly asked if engagement has been ongoing around Prosperous were off road sections were required. GD provided update and if any groups available to become part of the forum.
- This then led to discussion around comm forum representation
- Discussion included A3 mapping of comm forum locations. BmC confirmed difference between forum and a board. Inclusion, quality and diversity across the study area is key
- FC asked if there should be clearly defined responsibilities/roles in the forum.
- Naomi – new Irish community not represent currently
- BmC - defined time required to determine if any new groups to join.
- Cllr Farrelly asked that we all review ToR prior to next months meeting.
- General forum consensus was that most areas covered and that the members have been there from the start. May look at the area of Sallins/Naas. AS and Cllr F to advise GD over coming weeks.
- Discussion around next meeting. Proposed early-mid jan. proposal for capacity building meetings to be face to face.
- Project Updates may be given online/virtually in early December if Forum agree to same.
- Forum requests clarity on buffer zone to be confirmed and discussed

AOB – 2 x Biodiversity groups contacted and no answer.

Bobby thanked everyone for their participation and contributions. Meeting was concluded at 8.35pm