

# **Kildare Meath Community Forum – EirGrid upgrade**

## **Minutes of Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> of October @7pm**

Meeting started at 7.04. Bobby welcomed everyone. Apologies were given and record of attendance was noted.

### **In attendance**

**Rose Donovan** (Straffan Community Association), **John Kennedy** (Clane Community Council), **Richard Morris** (Blackhall Gaels GAA), **Patrick Lynch** (Red Road Residents Association), **Fionnuala Corcoran** (Kilcock Tidy Towns), **Philip McCormack** (Batterstown Village Enhancement Association), **Richard Muller** (Kilcock Tourism Group), **Damien O Reilly** (Meath County Council)

### **Apologies**

**Una Phillips** (Maynooth Community Council), **Allan Shine** (Kildare Chamber of Commerce), **Tracey O Dwyer** (Kildare County Council), **Aidan Farrell** (Twomilehouse Community Centre), **Aidan Farrelly** (Kildare County Council), **Karen Mahon** (An Taisce, Meath), **Anne Cowley** (Twomilehouse say No Action Group)

**Also in attendance – Bobby McCormack** (Independent Chair from Development Perspectives)

### **Welcome to New Members**

Cllr Damien O Reilly was welcomed by Bobby and was given 1 min to present himself.

### **Minutes of the last meeting were perused.**

The mins of the last meeting (30<sup>th</sup> of August) were proposed by Rose D and seconded by John K. It was noted that John K was not at the full meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Bobby said this would be mentioned in the mins and that those who were in attendance would be invited to view the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the mins during the next meeting.

The FOI response emanating from Rose D`s query was read out by Bobby.

***“If EirGrid were to receive an FOI request regarding documentation relating to the forum, such as the membership list, the names (and personal details) of the members would be redacted before release. The names of the organisations would not be redacted, and those would be in the public domain anyway”.***

Rose requested the text by mail. Rose D and Fionnuala C raised points of concern in relation to the response. Rose D didn't feel this was agreed in advance of signing up for the forum. Pat talked about collegiality and the need for consensus rather than individualized responses. Bobby commented on the FOI matter recommending that the more transparency the better and was in agreement with member orgs being listed and minutes being available. As an action point, it was agreed that Bobby would seek an EirGrid rep to speak to this point at the next Community Forum meeting.

**Agenda** – the agenda was presented and agreed upon and Bobby noted that community forum members can contribute to the agenda or suggest items for discussion.

### **Mobile Information Unit**

Bobby read out the list of places and dates and times of the MIU. A number of points emerged. Rose highlighted a poor awareness of the event in Straffan. Richard M asked about the success or otherwise of the event in Kilcock. Richard M stated that no mail was received from Bobby listing these dates. Fionnuala C talked about the need for further avenues to be used rather than FB. Offices or posters were suggested as was Community Info packs by Philip McC. Pat L talked about the reach of churches and felt there was a good turnout in Straffan as a result. In short, it was felt that public awareness of the Unit and its tour could be better. It was agreed that it wasn't the job of the forum to inform the public but that EirGrid needed to do this.

### **Feedback on Public Consultation**

Some of the above pertained to this point. Pat L talked about the importance of technical information becoming publicly available in order to inform the consultation process. He talked about the physical needs of the pipeline, the engineering aspects and the implementation phase. Damien O R mentioned the National broadband rollout and potential overlaps. Indicative times of Dec 2025 to Dec 2026 have been given to people so this could have significant overlap and minimize works.

Phillip Mc C talked about receiving a brochure with technical information.

Bobby mentioned that video links via mail were shared and were also available on the website. Bobby said he would point to these links in the next mail. He also mentioned that Project management was at the last meeting to answer technical questions and that a recent webinar was available for participation.

John K asked about the selection criteria that were going to be used to judge and evaluate the route options. An elaboration on the criteria was requested. Fionnuala C came to this point later in the meeting asking about the collection of data and evidence. Was this on all four routes or just on one option? The bio diversity/environmental aspect was of particular interest.

Pat L returned to the technical aspect of the potential route(s) and talked about principles of physics and thermodynamics.

Bobby highlighted the option of looking at the interactive map on the website as well as the option of submitting questions to the EirGrid team. John K said he would mail Bobby a query relating to Clane.

### **Potential Submission from the forum**

It was agreed that it wasn't good timing to proceed with a group submission at the moment. Pat L, Rose D and John K gave varying reasons why proceeding in the future when one route was known made more sense. Pat L talked about the need to highlight Insurance for all sub contractors to EirGrid. Phillip McC requested further info on the works required at the two sub stations before, during and after the construction phase.

Fionnuala C wanted to know the final date for public consultation – Bobby gave the date (22<sup>nd</sup> of Nov).

### **Recap on action points**

Bobby to ask EirGrid to provide a person to speak about FOI at the next meeting, to clarify the public engagement of the dates of the MIU and to comment on the success or otherwise of the efforts.

Bobby will wait to hear from forum members if a technical presence is required at the next meeting after sharing the links etc.

Bobby to share a doodle regarding the date and time of the next meeting.

**Date and Time of next meeting**

Bobby agreed to distribute a doodle in advance of the next meeting. Pat L felt it was important to have the meeting at least 10 days in advance of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November.

**AOB**

Pat L raised the need for the 3 Cllrs to be careful with information shared and debated in the forum. Bobby responded by saying that it was in keeping with the group agreement that all members of the forum do the same and that the assumption was that all members needed to respect the bona fides of all other members. Bobby reminded the group of the group agreement and its content.

There were no other points for AOB. Bobby thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting was concluded at 8.23pm