

Kildare Meath Community Forum – EirGrid upgrade

Minutes of Meeting – 11th of August @7pm

Meeting started at 7.05. Bobby welcomed everyone especially new members. Apologies were given and record of attendance was noted.

In attendance

Anne Cowley, Phillip McCormack, Una Phillips, John Lawler, Aidan Farrelly, Pat Lynch, Rose Donovan

Apologies

Michael Gunn, Liam Dolan, Tracey O Dwyer

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

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

Introductions –

Anne Cowley and Aidan Farrelly introduced themselves to the forum and were welcomed.

Technical issues

Bobby noted that some members seemed to be having difficulties with G Drive links so will ensure to send on mail attachments as well as G Drive links in advance of the next meeting.

Bobby thanked Richard M, Philip McC and Rose D for their contributions to the “questions for consideration” doc. Bobby encouraged the other members to complete the same document after consultation with members of their orgs / communities.

Minutes of the last meeting were perused.

Pat L asked if Bobby had received his mail to Grainne about the White Paper. Bobby did receive the mail and although the White Paper is relevant, it is dated. Pat L outlined the significance of public participation in consultation and decision making.

Bobby addressed the query made by Rose D at the last meeting regarding social media and read out the response from EirGrid. Rose was satisfied with the response.

The minutes were agreed after one amendment was made (Aidan Farrell didn't attend the last meeting). Rose D proposed the mins and Philip McC seconded.

Draft Group Agreement

The group agreement was reintroduced and discussed especially to allow Anne and Aidan to peruse the document and add to it if necessary. Bobby outlined that this was a live doc and would be altered as the forum developed and revisited if need be. Forum members were reminded that they could suggest further items if necessary.

Anne C suggested that the purpose of the forum is added to the agreement and Aidan F suggested that respect was added to the group agreement. Changes were agreed and added to the docs.

Routing Principles

Two small groups were formed and started at 19.35. The focus of the discussion was to add to or elaborate on the routing principles. Both groups gave verbal feedback and the changes were made to the routing principles document, which will be shared with the EirGrid team.

The group asked that EirGrid explain at the meeting on the 30th about the differentiation between ESB and EirGrid. Bobby indicated that this question would be included in the agenda for the presentation on the 30th.

Rose D left the call for another meeting.

Question for consultation

This part of the agenda was discussed as one group.

Aidan F asked for more time to be given to this task. Bobby agreed and would recirculate the link after the meeting to allow further time for public consultation.

Discussion veered towards the meeting on the 30th. Bobby believed that EirGrid would outline a proposed route (This was a mistake by Bobby as EirGrid will announce a period of 12 weeks' public consultation on 4 routes before the proposed routing is announced). The group felt that the questions would become much more relevant when the proposed routing was announced.

Anne C raised the forthcoming PPN meeting regarding the grid upgrade. Potential conflict of focus in terms of focus was discussed and Bobby agreed to clarify this with the EirGrid team on the 13/8 and get back to the forum members.

Una P asked about other people attending the meeting on the 30th but Bobby outlined that this meeting was for forum members and EirGrid team only. There would be further opps for public engagement. Bobby made clear that the Community Forum ran in parallel to other modes of public engagement and consultation

Listing members in EirGrid Update

Bobby outlined the request from the EirGrid team to list the member orgs in the latest grid update. John L suggested and the forum members agreed that the context and precise language would be shared by the Eirgrid team in advance via mail before permission was given. Una P later returned to this point and concerns were raised regarding the risk associated with the perception that the Community Forum members played a part in the proposed routing. So it was agreed that the preference of the Kildare Meath Community Forum was for the following to be included in the update instead – "X number of orgs are members of the community forum and have attended three meetings (14th of July, 11th of Aug and 30th of Aug) to discuss the Kildare Meath Grid upgrade....." . Bobby agreed to relay this information to the EirGrid team on the 13/8. EirGrid would then be requested to mail the forum members directly with said text.

Recap on action points

- Bobby to circulate minutes of the meeting along with links to the updated docs.
- Bobby to talk to the EirGrid team on the 13/8 regarding the listing of the orgs in the grid update.
- Community Forum members to contact Bobby before the 26th of August with any suggestions for the agenda on the 30th.

- Bobby to circulate the Zoom link to the forum members on the 27th of August for the meeting on the 30th of Aug.

Date and Time of next meeting

30th of August at 7pm via Zoom

AOB

No AOB

Bobby shared Grainne Ds contact details on screen in case anyone wanted to follow up directly.

Bobby thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting was concluded at 8.35pm