

# North Connacht Community Forum

## Minutes of Meeting 6 – Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of Jan @7pm online

### Present:

**Anne Kearney** (Bonnifinglas Graveyard Committee), **Neil Cruise** (Mayo County Council), **Patricia Cassidy** (Charlestown Swimming Pool),

**Also in attendance** – **Bobby McCormack** (Development Perspectives and Chairperson of the Forum / **Eoghan O Sullivan** (EirGrid), Avril Wilson (EirGrid)

**Apologies:** **Laura Dixon** (Mayo County Council), (Mary Robinson Centre), **Pat Towey and David O Gara** (Ballaghaderreen Mens Shed), **Joe Murphy** (Roscommon County Council),

Bobby kicked off the meeting at 7.05 and thanked people for coming.

Apologies were given and Bobby explained that given the numbers present that the meeting would be shortened.

### Minutes

The minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting could not be agreed as those present were not at meeting 5. This will be returned to during meeting 7.

### Matters arising

No matters arising

### Agenda

Bobby presented the agenda for the evening

### Project Update – Eoghan and Avril

Eoghan gave the following update. Since lodgement of the Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála in June 2022, EirGrid was requested to provide further information on the application based on submissions they received. A decision on the outcome is expected in the coming months. Site investigations continue at sub stations and off road. As EirGrid await the outcome the project team continue to work with ESBN on the scoping of the project.

Neil C asked posed connections and difficulties emerging for SECs in terms of grid capacity. Neil C talked about the local energy needs and wondered if a 220 cable was possible? Neil pointed out that there was a danger in losing motivation if SECs could not fulfil their potential. Eoghan agreed to come back to Neil in relation to these connected matters after discussing the technicalities with EirGrid project staff.

### Community Benefit Strategy – Avril

Avril pointed out that the strategy would only emerge once planning consent is provided but that capacity building for forum members is an important consideration in the interim. The role of a fund administrator was also discussed. The components and stages of a community benefit strategy was also discussed. Neil C asked about the scale of the fund and Avril outlined that it would be circa 1.53 million over 3 phases. The pillars of the fund were also discussed (Community / Sustainability / Bio

diversity). Patricia pointed out that the role of the forum was somewhat vague. Bobby will follow up on this point post meeting with NC forum members.

**Date and time of next meeting – Bobby**

It was agreed that the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NC community forum would be mid to late April in person and would focus on capacity building of the forum members. Anne mentioned the role of online meetings in the short term.

**AOB – None**

Bobby thanked everyone for their participation and involvement and closed the meeting at 8.05pm.