Community Report

Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm

Co. Cork

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1 INTRODUCTION

The proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm (Gortyrahilly Wind Farm) is a co-development between FuturEnergy Ireland and SSE Renewables. FuturEnergy Ireland *(previously Coillte Renewable Energy)* is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB.

The co-development between FuturEnergy Ireland and SSE Renewables is seeking planning permission from An Bord Pleanála to construct and operate a commercially viable wind farm project on lands located within an agricultural and forested landscape between Coolea, Reananerree, Ballyvourney and Ballingeary in Co. Cork. The total land parcel extends to approximately 667 hectares, of which a significant area is commercial forest owned by Coillte. The remaining land is third-party property in Co. Cork.

From the project outset, the project team consulted with the local community and commenced this engagement prior to the start of the project design and environmental assessment with the objective being to ensure that the views and concerns of all members of the local community were considered as part of the project design and the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

In relation to national guidance on community engagement and consultation for wind energy developments, the *Wind Energy Development Guidelines* (Department of Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, 2006) state that:

"While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application."

This was further addressed in the *Preferred Draft Approach to Wind Energy Development in Ireland* (June 2017), which stated the following with respect to planning applications for wind farms:

"Planning applications must contain a Community Report prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned."

The *Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines* (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) has retained this position, stating the following:

"In order to promote the observance of best practice, planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application and a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report."

2 BACKGROUND

This Community Report outlines engagement and liaison with the community local to the Gort Uí Rathaile area and the proposed wind farm.

FuturEnergy Ireland has a long history of working with communities and our experience around the country has generated an inherent understanding of the communities in which we operate. We aspire to work **with** the communities surrounding our energy sites and wish to build projects that are good for us as a commercial company, good for our neighbours, and that contribute to the fulfilment of national and global climate change objectives.

FuturEnergy Ireland has developed four wind farms in Ireland over the past decade and has learnt many valuable lessons in relation to working with local communities and the importance of including local people in decisions that affect them. In 2017, the Renewable Energy Team undertook a review of our Community Engagement process and embarked on the design of a radically enhanced approach with the support of AstonEco Management.

The key elements of this approach, referred to as our 'Fair Play" model is:

- Detailed and systematic engagement with all close neighbours to the project (within 2 km) from a very early stage of project design.
- Open, transparent dialogue and communications.
- Creating opportunities for open, two-way dialogue on key issues.
- Involvement of the local community at all stages of the project design process.
- Empowering local communities to be part of project discussions that affect them.
- Ensuring that the local community have access to all relevant information as soon as it is available, in an understandable format.

The approach emphasises a focus on the residents of dwellings within 2 km of the initial 15 turbine layout as these people will be closest to the development and will therefore be most sensitive to any potential effects caused by the development. In the past, engagement has commenced when the project is almost fully designed and being prepared for planning submission. In our 'Fair Play' approach we start engagement as soon as a site has been identified as suitable for detailed environmental studies within the FuturEnergy Ireland internal screening process. The approach also recognises the need to keep people who live further away from the development informed about the project as details become more defined.

In order to build better projects, we recognise the imperative of enabling meaningful engagement between the project team and the local residents. This engagement has to pass beyond just information provision, and through open, transparent dialogue and the involvement of people in decisions that affect them, move towards a more collaborative approach to infrastructure design that has a national interest but a local impact.

What are our external drivers for Stakeholder Engagement?

- Actively engaging in the conversation helps raise awareness and provides insight that can ensure successful project outcomes for everyone.
- Active and open dialogue with our community stakeholders is essential for the success of our projects. It is through two-way dialogue that FuturEnergy Ireland can responsibly partner with local communities.
- FuturEnergy Ireland is committed to strengthening partnerships with local communities.
- Public support is achieved by actively working with communities towards mutually desirable goals. Meaningful communication with stakeholders creates trust and mutual respect, as well as a shared understanding and vision of what a successful project can look like.
- Timely, proactive, open, and honest communication is a cornerstone of our Engagement Charter. This approach helps to minimise possible adverse impacts on our neighbours and instead helps to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes.
- In line with national policy, FuturEnergy Ireland are committed to meaningful consultation, which brings about constructive local dialogue, as well as mutual trust and understanding.

3 FUTURENERGY IRELAND RESOURCES

In order to implement this 'Fair Play' approach FuturEnergy Ireland has resourced this project with a number of dedicated staff from the outset. The following key personnel have been involved in Community Engagement on the Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm from within FuturEnergy Ireland and SSE Renewables:

Emmet Mc Laughlin of FuturEnergy Ireland is the lead project manager for the proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm development. Emmet has worked in the renewables and land surveying sector for over 10 years. He has consented and constructed several renewable energy projects including onshore wind farms, hydroelectric schemes and solar farms throughout Ireland and the UK.

Andrew McCreddin of SSE Renewables is the assistant project manager for the proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm development. Andrew has extensive experience in the energy industry and renewables having worked across both the Irish wholesale energy market and wind development

Brendan Twomey is our Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm development. Brendan enjoys working with people and brings many years of experience across different business sectors. Brendan is your local contact for the proposed project at Gort Uí Rathaile.

Shane Lowry of FuturEnergy Ireland is the stakeholder manager for the proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm development. As a former Community Liaison Officer on other company projects, Shane works closely with local CLOs to optimise communication and engagement.

Janine Thomas of FuturEnergy Ireland is our communications and media manager for the proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm development. Janine worked as a journalist for various national newspapers for over 15 years before joining the team. She brings her extensive media and communications experience to this project.

Sean Molloy is a Senior Associate and Senior Project Manager in the Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Renewable Energy Department with over 14-years' experience. He is a Chartered Engineer with an Honours Master's Degree in Environmental Systems from Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and an Honours Degree in Civil & Transportation Engineering from Edinburgh Napier University. He has also received a Certified Project Management Diploma from the Institute of Project Management Ireland. Sean's professional experience includes managing Environmental Impact Assessments, Civil and Environmental Design, preparation of Planning Documentation and Technical Reports and Stakeholder Consultation.

4 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CARRIED OUT

In July 2020 the project appointed Brendan Twomey as the Community Liaison Officer (CLO). The project Community Liaison Officer's initial engagement commenced in August 2020 when he began calling to designated houses within the community to arrange agreement for and the placing of noise monitoring units around these dwellings that bordered the project perimeter.

As outlined above, FuturEnergy Ireland emphasises a focus on the residents of dwellings within 2km of the site as these people will be closest to the development and will be most sensitive to any potential effects caused by the proposed development.

Before commencing the engagement, we needed to identify the 2km zone. This was achieved by taking the initial turbine layout and applying a 2km buffer. Within this area all dwellings — lived in, vacant and with the potential to be occupied —were mapped. As the design progressed, we established a "buildable" or more accurate developable area. We then applied a 2km buffer and engaged with the residents within this area.

Initial Engagement

The role of a Community Liaison Officer is to introduce and communicate key project information, timelines, updates, activities, benefits and proposals through direct and indirect community engagement, meetings, and events with the projects near neighbours and the wider community throughout the project lifecycle.

Initially, the Community Liaison Officer's direct engagement was focused on calling to all the houses within 2km of the study area. At FuturEnergy Ireland, we believe that it is important to give out accurate, up-to-date information in print to each household in a timely manner, within about three days, ensuring all local households receive this at the same time. The Community Liaison Officer was on hand to discuss any queries, comments or concerns that residents may have had regarding the project and to take back queries and concerns to the project managers. These initial conversations and questions highlighted items that helped to inform the second newsletter.

The project Community Liaison Officer's work also included Saturdays and some evenings in an effort to meet residents unavailable during weekdays in an effort to reach out to all.

Early in the engagement process, the Community Liaison Officer contacted local interest groups from the wider community and local elected representatives and then kept them up to date and informed. This commitment continued throughout the whole engagement process and will continue into the future.

At all stages of the project's engagement cycle from 2020 to 2022, all our communications material included our contact number, project email and postal address. After the distribution and communication of updates in Newsletter 2 in March 2021, the dedicated project website address was also included. From this time onward, all project updates and newsletters were continuously uploaded to the project website.

To acknowledge the region's Gaeltacht culture and heritage, the majority of our communications were provided in both Irish and English.

The project team replied to queries and questions that arose during the engagement lifecycle. Some requests for information were logged so that when the information became available it would be provided.

Next Phase engagement

In June/July 2021, Newsletter 3 communicated a series of further project updates. In November 2021 an introductory letter to FuturEnergy Ireland from our CEO was distributed to the nearest neighbours, and in the same month a meeting was held between the project's lead project manager, Community Liaison Officer, local TDs, and local councillors, during which there was a presentation followed by an open Q & A session.

In March 2022 the Community Liaison Officer delivered a project update letter to keep the projects near neighbours, interest groups and elected representatives updated on progress and next steps.

In June 2022 a media release was distributed to local and regional journalists to mark the launch of Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm's detailed 36-page project brochure and Virtual Tour.

In tandem, the brochures and an invite letter to the Virtual Tour were distributed to near neighbours and the wider community out to 5km, special interest groups and local elected representatives.

The Virtual Tour is accessible to all via the project's dedicated website www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie. It provides a project overview, timeframes, site maps, details of the team, archaeology and cultural heritage, ecology, noise, landscape and visuals, a full set of photomontages, Community Benefit Fund, and an online copy of the 36-page project brochure.

In July 2022, advertisements were placed in local newspapers with an invitation to attend a webinar on Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm on July 21 and to come to the on-site community engagement clinic on July 26/27.

In July a letter of invitation the webinar and on-site community engagement clinic was distributed to the projects near neighbours, interest groups and local elected representatives. Posters were placed in local shops and details were sent to the local e-newsletter for distribution within the local community.

Queries and questions arose at both the webinar and the engagement clinic, and the project team responded to these. Some requests for information were logged so that when the information became available it would be provided.

Our intention during September 2022 is to distribute a "Notice to submit into planning" letter to the project's nearest neighbours to keep them informed. In tandem, advertisements giving notice of the planning submission will be placed in local, regional, and national newspapers. Site notices in Irish and English will also be erected around the proposed project.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in protective restrictions of varying levels to reduce the spread and impact of the virus, from strict lockdowns through the gradual easing of restrictions to free movement and social interactions again. Our interaction has adhered to Covid-19 guidelines at all stages of the engagement programme.

At varying stages of our engagement programme, Covid-19 restrictions impacted our face-to-face engagement to differing degrees. However,

we remained committed to keeping our neighbours informed

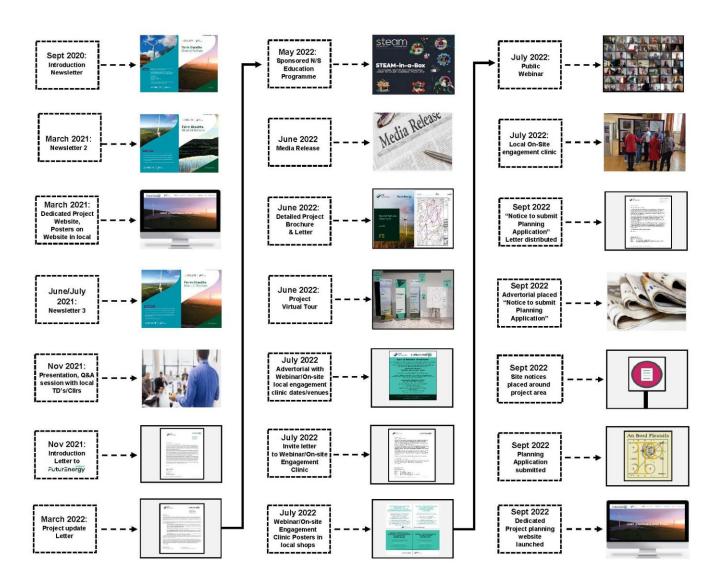
about the progress of the project during these times through the use of mail drops/posting of newsletters, individual phone calls, emails, texts and letters to keep them updated.

At all stages of the engagement cycle, our communications material included our contact number, project email and postal address. After the distribution and communication of updates in Newsletter 2 in March 2021, our dedicated project website address was also included. From this time onward, all project updates and newsletters were continuously uploaded to the dedicated project website. In our communications we always included an invitation to make contact with any queries and questions

As restrictions started lifting, where requested further liaison/communication was carried out individually or in small groups outdoors in line with the applicable public health policy in place at the time. This allowed the project team to engage directly with residents and address their concerns or queries regarding the project design, which was beneficial to all parties.

When restrictions lifted, we commenced face-to-face engagement culminating in our two-day onsite community engagement clinic, which was very well attended. Multiple hand sanitisers were made available at the entrance and at other locations. Signs encouraging social distancing and hand sanitising were on display around the room. Access to fire doors was left unobstructed and freely accessible. Windows were open to encourage ventilation. If someone came in wearing a mask we asked at the entrance if they would like us to wear one; this question was only necessary to ask once, and the stakeholder said it was unnecessary.

5 INFOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GORT UÍ RATHAILE WIND FARM (2020 TO 2022)



5.1 Table 1 - Detailed summary of community engagement for the proposed Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm (2020 to 2022)

September 2020	An Irish and English version of an <u>Introductory Newsletter</u> was distributed to all houses within 2km of the project area by our Community Liaison Officer. This included door-to-door calls, and call- backs to houses where nobody was at home. If no one was at home the second time of calling, the CLO left a letter with an invitation to contact us. The newsletter showed a map of the proposed project area, site location, contact number, project email and postal address. It also provided the opportunity for the project's Community Liaison Officer to introduce himself and the project to the near neighbours. The Newsletter was either emailed/delivered/posted to interest groups and local elected representatives to keep them informed. The project team replied to queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community. The engagement included evening and weekend calls to premises where nobody was at home during the day, in an effort to reach out to all. *(please see appendix for a link)
March 2021	An Irish & English version of <u>Newsletter 2</u> was posted due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions to the near neighbours adjacent to the project. The newsletter contained project updates, charted progress and addressed some of the concerns raised when consulting with homeowners during the delivery of the Introductory Newsletter 1. The project contact number, email and postal address, along with contact details for the newly <u>launched, dedicated project website</u> , were included in this newsletter. From this time onward, all project updates and newsletters were uploaded to the dedicated project website. Newsletter 2 was either emailed/delivered/posted to interest groups and local elected representatives to keep them informed and up to date. Queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community were replied to by the project team. This included evening and weekend calls to premises where nobody was at home during the day, in an effort to reach out to all. *(please see appendix for a link)
April 2021	An Irish & English version of a poster advertising the lauch of the dedicated project website was distributed to local shops. *(please see appendix for a copy)
	Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, <u>Newsletter 3</u> was distributed through post-box drops. Meanwhile, consultations with near neighbours were restricted to outdoor one-to-one meetings with social distancing to

June/July 2021	keep everyone safe. The newsletter contained project updates, details of various surveys and studies being carried out on site on topics such as Hydrology & Geology, Ornithology, Biodiversity and Noise. It also included the project's direct contact number, email address, postal address and website details. Newsletter 3 was either emailed/delivered/posted to interest groups and local elected representatives to keep them informed and up to date. Queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and wider community were replied to by the project team. *(please see appendix for a link)
November 2021	An Irish & English <u>introductory letter to FuturEnergy Ireland</u> from our CEO was distributed to the near neighbours adjacent to the project. The letter was also uploaded to the project website. *(please see appendix for a link)
November 2021	The project manager and Community Liaison Officer held a meeting with local TDs and local councillors, during which they made a presentation followed by an open Q & A session.
March 2022	An Irish & English version of a <u>Project Update Letter</u> was distributed to the near neighbours adjacent to the project providing project updates, next steps, expected timelines, a contact number, project email, postal address, website details and an invitation to contact us. The letter was uploaded to the project website and either emailed/delivered/posted to interest groups and local elected representatives to keep them informed and up to date. The project team replied to queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community.
May 2022	*(please see appendix for a Link) FuturEnergy Ireland sponsored and arranged an <u>Educational Programme</u> about "Climate Change" for five local national schools around the project area, which was well received. The schools involved were Cúil Aodh, Baile Mhuirne, Beal Áthan Ghaorthaidg, Cill na Martra and Inchigeelagh. *(please see appendix for a copy)
Week 13 th June 2022	To keep the local and wider communities informed, a <u>media release</u> was sent to local and regional newspaper journalists, which provided information on the project and where interested parties could access all project information issued to date. This included the recently launched detailed project brochure and the Virtual Tour. <i>*(please see Table 3 - Media Report for details)</i>

Week 13th June 2022	<u>A detailed 36-page Project Brochure</u> and accompanying letter in Irish & English that invited the reader to the new Virtual Tour on the project website were distributed to more than 700 houses, out to 5km of the project area. This provided another opportunity to hold conversations and listen to feedback and answer questions that arose. The detailed Project Brochure was uploaded to the project website. It was also either emailed/delivered/posted to interest groups and local elected representatives to keep them informed and up to date. Queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and wider community were replied to by the project team. *(please see appendix for a link)
Note	*As part of our engagement commitment, included in the letter that accompanied the detailed project brochure, we asked anyone requiring any assistance navigating the Virtual Tour, to please contact us. For those who did not have internet access, we requested that they please get in touch, and we will provide answers to any questions, and hard copies of information that features on the Virtual Tour as required. Our contact details were included in all communications.
13th June 2022	The <u>Virtual Tour</u> , which is accessible via the project's dedicated website, was launched. It provides a project overview, timeframes, teambiographies, site maps, and details of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Ecology, Noise, and Landscape and Visuals, a full set of photomontages, Community Benefit Fund information and an e-copy of the 36- page detailed project brochure. <i>*(please see appendix for a link)</i>
Week 13 th June 2022 onwards	After the initial distribution of the above informatoin to the wider community, over the following weeks, the Community Liaison Officer called back to as many of the nearest neighbours as possible before the webinar and local on-site clinic, to make himself available to answer any questions that may have arisen. If there was no one home he left a letter with an invitation to call him back to arrange a suitable appointment time.
	This included evening and weekend calls to premises where nobody was at home during the day, in an effort to reach out to all.
	All our communications materials, which were distributed to the wider community during the week commencing 13 th June, included full contact details and a letter inviting interested parties to contact us with any queries or requests for information.
	Since the initial launch of the project in September 2020, we have been continuouslly logging feedback, concerns, requests for information and

Week 13 th June 2022 onwards	project updates, and replying to all queries as the information became available. Due to the detailed nature of the information provided in the project's last round of engagement, further valuable feedback was provided, concerns were acknowledged, and where we were able to provide immediate replies to questions, we did so. Some requests for information were logged so that when the information becomes available it will be provided. We invited and encouraged interested parties to contact us, or attend the upcoming project webinar and local communiity engagement clinic to meet the team and discuss any queries or questions that they may have had.
Week 11th July 2022	<u>The Community Liaison Officer delivered an invitation Letter</u> in Irish and English <u>to the webinar and on-site engagement Clinic</u> to near neighbours around the project area. The invitation was uploaded to the dedicated project website and either emailed/delivered/posted to interest groups and local elected representatives to keep them informed and up to date *(please see appendix for a copy)
Week 11 th July 2022	<u>Posters</u> in Irish and English were placed in local shops and post offices around Ballyvourney, Coolea, Reanaree and Ballinageary that provided dates, times and locations for the webinar and on-site community engagement clinic. The local e-newsletter was provided with the details so this information could be distributed within the local community. <i>*(please see appendix for a copy)</i>
Week 11 th July 2022	To keep the wider and local communities informed, <u>advertisements</u> were placed in local and regional newspapers providing dates, times, contact details and locations for the project webinar and on-ite engagement clinic. *(please see Table 3 - Media Report for details)
July 21st 2022	The Community <u>Webinar</u> took place on the July 21 at 7pm. It consisted of a presentation from the team followed by a Q&A session. There were 23 registered for the webinar.
July 26th,27th 2022	A <u>Local Engagement Clinic</u> was held in Ionad Áise, Renaniree, Macroom, Co Cork, P12F447, which is located within the local community adjacent to the proposed project area. 51 attendees over the two days met the project team and asked questions that were pertinent to them. Requests for further information were followed up and provided.

Our intention during September 2022	The Community Liaison Officer will distribute an Irish and English version of a <u>letter</u> to the project's nearest neighbours informing them of a <u>Notice</u> <u>to Submit</u> the project into planning. *(please see appendix for a copy)
Our intention during September 2022	<u>Advertorials</u> are placed in local and national newspapers, (<i>The Corkman, The Irish Examiner</i>) with a notice to submit the project into planning. *(please see Table 3 - Media Report for details)
Our intention during September 2022	Site Notices in Irish and English are placed around the proposed project site. *(please see appendix for a copy)
Our intention during September 2022	The planning application is submitted to ABP and subsequently validated. The project's planning application will be uploaded to the dedicated planning website at www.gortyrahillyplanning.ie for the public to review.

5.2 Table 2 - Statistics for Website visits, Virtual Tour visits, Webinar registrations, On-Site Clinic attendance:

Summary of	Numbers
Virtual Tour Hits:	152
(During the period from June 9 to July 21)	
Webinar attendance:	23 registered
On-Site clinic attendance:	51

5.3 Table 3 - Media Report:

Date	Paper/On- line/Radio		Headline + Link
11 th Oct 2020	Print Media and online	The Independent	SSE and Coillte explore new €80m wind farm <u>Link</u>
11 th April 2021	Print Media and On-line	Irish Examiner	Wind farm planned for Cork Gaeltacht to have more turbines added <u>Link</u>
3 RD July 2021	Print Media and On-line	Irish Examiner	New Gaeltacht windfarm turbines taller than previously rejected scheme Link
Week 13th June 2022	Print Media	 FEI media release sent to reporters in <u>Regional papers:</u> Irish Examiner. The Corkman. Southern Star. Radio Na Gaeltachta, 96FM 	To inform the local and wider community of the newly launched detailed project brochure, the Virtual Tour, how and where to access information and to give our contact details.
June 2022	Print Media	The Corkman, reported on	Wind turbines planned for Gort Uí Rthaille even higher than Gougane in Cork Gaeltacht <u>Link</u>
June 2022	Print Media	Irish Examiner reported on	Public consultation on windfarm in final stages <u>Link</u>
Week 11 th July 2022	Print Media	 FEI Media Advertorial placed in the The Corkman, Southern Star Lee Valley Outlook 	Invitation to attend project webinar and, the following week, a 2 day on-site open day clinic. *(see appendix below for copy)

Week 11 th July 2022	Posters in local shops	Community Liaison Officer arranged for posters to be displayed.	Posters were placed in local shops and post office that provided dates, times and locations for the webinar and local engagement clinic. Dinneen's Shop Ballingeary, Renaniree Post office, O Luasa Shop /Postoffice, Ballymakeera,Centra Supermarket Ballymakeera,Dairygold CoOp
			Ballymakeera. Posted to Concubharour O Liathain to place in the Community Hall in Coolea.
Week 11 th July 2022	Local e- newsletter	Community Liaison Officer arranged.	The local e-newsletter was provided with the dates, times and locations for the webinar and on-site engagement clinic so it could be distributed within the local community.
Week 18 th July 2022	Print Media	FEI Media Advertorial placedThe Corkman	Invite to attend a 2 day on-site open day clinic *(see appendix below for copy)
5 th Aug 2022	Radio media	Red FM reported	Planning application to An Bord Pleanála expected for new windfarm near baile mhúirne. Link
5 th Aug 2022	Print Media	Irish Examiner reported	Planning application to be lodged soon for 14-turbine windfarm in Múscraí Gaeltacht <u>Link</u>
9 th Aug 2022	Print Media	Evening Echo reported	Ant-iarratas feirmghaoithe is déanaí i Múscraí le dul díreach chuig An Bord Pleanála sna seachtainí le teacht <u>Link</u>
Our intention during September 2022	Print Media	Advertorials will be placed in The Corkman newspaper and the Irish Examiner newspaper.	Notice to submit planning

5.4 Table 4 – Occupied dwellings within 2km of initial proposed 15 turbines layout.

Distance from Turbines	No of Dwellings
750m – 1Km	21
1 – 2Km	72
Total	93

5.5 Table 5 – Occupied dwellings within 2km of final proposed 14 turbines layout.

Distance from Turbines	No of Dwellings
750m – 1Km	14
1 – 2Km	70
Total	85

5.6 Table 6 - A summary of the key issues raised during the course of engagement.

Topics	Issues raised
TV signal disruption.	How will the Developers ensure that the project won't impact
	on signals(Wi-Fi and TV) and how will this be rectified if any
	disruption occurs?
Traffic/Transport/Construction	Potential effects arising from use of local roads during
Management	construction - large trucks on narrow roads, how will this be
	managed and who is liable for any potential road damage?
	Will there be a liaison officer or individual point of contact
	during the construction phase?
Property devaluation	Potential effects of the project on property values in the area.
	Potential effects on ability to obtain planning permission for
	dwelling in the future.
	Will I be compensated for a loss of value to my property as a
	result of the construction/ operation of the wind farm?
Potential noise of turbines.	Potential effects on residential amenity.

	Potential effects on health associated with wind farm noise/
	low frequency noise/ infrasound.
	How will the Developers ensure that the wind farm will not
	breach noise limits/ impact upon residential amenity?
	breach noise innits/ impact upon residential amenity?
	How will the project be cumulatively assessed in terms of
	noise?
Visual impact	Negative impact on residential amenity - direct views from
	residents' homes (windows) to turbines.
	Scale of the turbines is very large.
	Why is the area being considered in the first place?
	Why is offshore/ tidal not being used instead?
	Will I be able to see what the proposed wind farm will look like
	from my property in advance of planning being submitted?
	Enough WFs in the locality already.
	Concerns over visual impact of red aviation lights at night.
Shadow flicker	How can the Developers ensure that shadow flicker won't occur
	from the project?
Water disruption	We have wells in the area, could the construction disrupt the
	water quality and supply from the sources?
	What happens if there is contimination or disruption to the
	what happens in there is continunation of disruption to the water supply?
	mater suppry:

As outlined in Table6 above, the engagement process undertaken on the proposed project has given the project team a detailed appreciation of the issues and concerns of the near neighbours.

This close working relationship has facilitated the evolution of the project design to understand and alleviate the concerns expressed as far as possible.

These themes were discussed throughout the engagement process and were answered in a transparent and open manner. Ultimately not all themes could be or were addressed to the satisfaction of all, but the project team remains open in trying to find fair and equitable solutions for all including sharing information sources at our disposal. All of the above themes are also addressed clearly in the EIAR.

It is to be noted that our Community Liaison Officer was treated with respect in the vast majority of cases. While some neighbouring households were not pleased with what they were hearing, we were thanked at times for bringing the information to them. The long timeframe for this engagement has allowed people to digest what they were hearing, consult, discuss among themselves, and reach out to the project team on any items that they felt needed further clarification.

6 INFLUENCE OF ENGAGEMENT ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE WIND FARM DESIGN

As outlined in Section 4 Table 4.7 above,

The main concerns of local residents included impacts relating to TV signal disruption, traffic management and disruption relating to construction, potential turbine noise, visual impacts, effect on water quality and interruption to supply, damage to roads after construction and not being properly reinstated and repaired to the correct standard.

The engagement process undertaken on the proposed project has given the project team a detailed appreciation of the issues and concerns of the near neighbours. This close working relationship has facilitated the evolution of the project design to understand and alleviate the concerns expressed as far as possible.

The mains concerns expressed together with their impact on the design evolution are set out below.

6.1 Impacts on local ecology and habitats in the site area

Concerns were raised about potential impacts on local ecology and habitats in the site area, both to the project's Community Liaison Officer and to the project team. Detailed site surveys and assessments were undertaken to consider potential impacts on all aspects of biodiversity including habitats, mammals, bats, birds, etc. The initial survey findings informed the design such that potentially sensitive areas were avoided in the initial layout. More detailed surveys were undertaken following from the preliminary infrastructure layout designs and some amendments were made to the layout to avoid sensitive areas. Based on these assessments, it is considered that there will not be significant impacts on biodiversity in general and no further changes to the layout are required.

Ecological enhancements will also be provided throughout the wind farm site as set out in the Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan.

Further details on this can be found in the Biodiversity Chapter of the EIAR.

6.2 Impacts associated with tv signal disruption.

Concerns were raised directly with the CLO about the potential impact on Wi-Fi / television signals at certain properties that have a line of sight to transmitter towers. These concerns have been informed by people's negative experiences with another wind farm development and their lack of service to address the issues raised.

The project is being designed with all existing radio, internet and television receptions in mind and all telecommunications providers were consulted on the proposed layout. All telecommunications links in the area were avoided by design.

After feedback and conversations with local stakeholders, the project team has agreed and committed to carrying out a detailed survey of the area pre-construction. The information and results will be available to all, and the project team will provide an open invitation to a workshop on the findings. The survey will indicate existing reception blackspots, existing areas with disrupted reception and areas with no disruption and areas of potential disruption. The survey will include a clear plan on how to report any disruptions and clearly demonstrate how any disrupted signals will be rectified. The Developer commits to rectifying any issues with signal reception at individual dwellings if the need arises. This is uncommon with the new digital transmission format, but the solutions are relatively simple and straightforward.

Further details on this can be found in the Telecommunication and Aviation Chapter of the EIAR.

6.3 Impacts associated with traffic/transport/construction management.

Concerns were raised directly with the Community Liaison Officer about the potential disruption of traffic and construction in the area and the potential of damaging existing roads and follow-up repairs not taking place. This was informed by negative experiences with another wind farm development.

Six months prior to the commencement of construction, we will initiate the set-up of a liaison group. The project will meet with this group monthly or as required to prepare for the construction phase and monitor activities during construction. This group will develop plans on communicating effectively with residents directly impacted by construction activities and deliveries, especially traffic planning to minimise disruption.

The noise assessment considered all construction-related noise associated with machinery and traffic and all site activities and found that the proposed layout complies with all relevant regulations.

Further details can be found in the noise and vibration and traffic and transport assessments in Chapters 12 and 16 of the EIAR respectively.

6.4 Impacts associated with property valuation

Concerns were raised about potential impacts on the value of property surrounding the site area, both to the project's Community Liaison Officer and the wider project team. There are a number of wide-ranging international studies that consider potential effects of wind farms on nearby property values. The findings from these studies vary but, in most cases, indicate a slight negative, variable or neutral effect. Based on our review of available papers, we have not identified any peer-reviewed evidence in Ireland that indicates wind farms have a significant impact on property value. In other parts of the world, the vast majority of studies indicate that there is no evidence to support the claim that a wind farm has a negative impact on local property prices. The significant community benefit fund and near neighbour scheme associated with the project have the potential to make the local area more attractive.

Impact on property values is discussed in further detail in the assessment of Population, Human Health and Material Assets Chapter of the EIAR.

6.5 Impacts associated with potential shadow flicker

Concerns were raised directly with the project's Community Liaison Officer from a number of households about the potential impact of shadow flicker from the turbines. Shadow flicker was considered as part of the environmental impact assessment process. The proposed layout can conform with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 of a maximum 30 minutes of shadow flicker per day or 30 hours per annum at any sensitive receptor through the management of the turbine operations during periods when there is a potential for shadow flicker.

Further to this, in accordance with emerging best practice and the draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, the project is committed to the elimination of shadow flicker through the daily management of turbine operations.

Further details on this can be found in the Shadow Flicker Chapter of the EIAR.

6.6 Impacts associated with noise and visual impact

Noise and visual impacts were addressed as part of the layout design process. A decision was made early in the design process to ensure that a minimum distance of 750m would be maintained between nearest dwellings and turbines. This is more than the current recommended setback of 500m as set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006. The setback of 750m also complies with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, which are not, as of the time of writing this report, official policy and may change in the final form. These draft guidelines recommend a minimum setback of 4 times the tip height of proposed turbines to protect residential amenity - this would equate to a minimum setback of 740m based on a proposed tip height of 185m.

Various configurations and layouts were considered as part of the initial design process based on a detailed visual impact assessment undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment.

Once a final design layout for the project was confirmed, a set of photomontages representing the final design layout was prepared and made available to the general public.

Firstly, a selection was available within the detailed 36-page project brochure that was distributed to homes out to and around 5km away from the proposed project area.

Secondly through the Virtual Tour, which is accessible via the project's dedicated website www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie, the public could access the interactive photomontage viewer, which presents 30 viewpoints around the project area so they could judge the visual impact of the project from these selected locations.

Link to photomontages:

https://tours.innovision.ie/v/Ap1P7IJoqXo

Thirdly a hard copy of the photomontages presenting the 30 viewpoints around the project area from the Virtual Tour were available for viewing at the on-site engagement clinic for attendees to view and discuss with the project team.

The photomontages are not intended to show the view from every dwelling but to be representative of local, regional and sensitive views in a wide area around the project.

The number of flashing red lights was highlighted as a concern. It was confirmed that the project must adhere to EASA (EU Aviation Safety Agency rules\Regulations) regarding lighting required along the perimeter of a wind farm project and spacing subject to a safety assessment. Ultimately the EASA is the governing body regarding this matter.

The layout was subject to a detailed noise impact assessment, and it was determined that the proposed layout would meet the noise requirements set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and relevant current guidance and best practice. The noise assessment also involved working with community members in order to compile the background noise levels where noise monitors were placed at local residences surrounding the project's Study Area.

A review of the literature relating to health effects associated with wind turbine noise finds no evidence of any significant health effects associated with low frequency noise or infrasound. There is no evidence to support increased likelihood of significant health issues associated with noise sensitive medical conditions. Amplitude modulation is a rare occurring event that is not possible to predict and can be managed through adjustment of turbine operations where it does occur.

Further details on this can be found in the Noise and Vibration Chapter, Population, Human Health, and Material Assets Chapter and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Chapter of the EIAR.

6.7 Impact on water supply and quality

Concerns were raised about the potential for impacts on the water table associated with drawdown of water from dewatering of site excavations and on pollution of the water supply from site activities. Many properties have local wells.

After feedback and conversations with local stakeholders, the project team has agreed and committed to appoint an independent hydrologist to the project, the CV of whom will be shared. The project hydrologist will be asked to take samples on or near the designated property adjacent to the project in consultation with stakeholders prior to construction to determine a baseline sample, during the construction period and up to 2 years of wind farm operations. Water samples will be sent to an independent lab. The lab name and location will be consulted upon and we are happy to share results.

Further details on this can be found in the hydrology and hydrogeology assessment in Chapter 9 of the EIAR.

7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE WIDER AREA

Between September 2020 and July 2022:

The introductory Newsletter, Newsletter 2, Newsletter 3, update letter and in June a 36-page project brochure, project summary leaflet, and invite to the Virtual Tour, and the invitation letter to the webinar and on-site engagement clinic were all emailed/delivered or posted to local elected representatives and interest groups to keep them up to date on the project throughout the engagement life cycle to date.

April 2021: Posters were placed in local shops advertising the project's dedicated project website.

In November 2021 the project manager and Community Liaison Officer attended a meeting with local TDs and local councillors, during which there was a presentation followed by an open Q & A session. There has been ongoing open communication between local elected representatives and the project's community liaison officer.

June 2022: A detailed 36-page Project Brochure and accompanying letter in Irish and English with an invitation to the Virtual Tour located on the project website was distributed to more than 700 houses to include nearest neighbours adjacent to the project and out to 5km of the project area. This provided an opportunity to hold conversations, listen to feedback and answer questions that arose.

July 2022: Posters were placed in local shops advertising the project's up and coming webinar and local engagement clinic.

- Dinneen's Shop Ballingeary
- Renaniree Post office.
- Luasa Shop /Postoffice, Ballymakeera,
- Centra Supermarket Ballymakeera,
- Dairygold CoOp Ballymakeera,
- Posted to Cochour O Liathan to place in the Community Hall in Coolea.

All our contact details are included in all communications. The dedicated website has all the project's previous communications uploaded and is continually being updated with information as it becomes available.

To keep the local and wider community informed, media releases and advertorials were placed in local, regional newspapers, local e-newsletters. The project has been reported on in the local media through 2020 to present-day 2022.

The Community Liaison Officer's work also included Saturdays and some evenings in an effort to meet residents unavailable during weekdays in an effort to reach out to all.

8 INFOGRAPHIC SUMMARY OF WIDER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED GORT UÍ RATHAILE WIND FARM (2020 TO 2022)

2020/2022 Nov 2021 June 2022	Meeting held with loca followed by an Q & A The 36-page Project Bi	sentatives and interest groups up to date. al TDs & ClIrs providing a project presentation session. rochure & letter, including an invite to the was distributed to the wider community.			
April 2021, Posters were p advertising the projects ded <u>Regional newspapers:</u> <i>Irish Examiner, The Corkma</i> <u>Radio:</u> <i>Radio Na Gaeltacht, 96FM</i> , To launch the Project Broch inform the wider community <u>Week 11th July 2022, Adve</u> <u>Regional papers:</u> <i>The Corkman, Southern Sta</i> With times/locations of the Engagement Clinic to inform Details sent to local e-news	licated project website. lia releases sent to an, Southern Star. 96FM hure and Virtual Tour and v. ertisements placed in ar, Lee Valley Outlook. Webinar and on-site n the wider community.	 Week 11th July 2022, Posters were placed locally in shops advertising the up-and-coming project Webinar and on-site local engagement clinic. Week 18th July 2022, Advertisements placed in <u>Regional paper</u>. <i>The Corkman</i> With times/locations of the on-site Engagement Clinic to inform the wider community. Details sent to local e-newsletter for distribution. September 2022, Advertisements are placed in <u>Regional and National newspapers</u>. The Corkman, The Irish Examiner. "Notice to Submit into planning" 			

Wider Community Engagement

Local Interest Groups contacted and kept up to date:

Colaiste Gobnaitan	Post primary School
Scoil Mhuire.	Post Primary School
Abán Naofa	Primary school
Scoil Naisiunta Cúil Aodh	Primary school
Scoil Naomh Fionnbarra	Primary school
Scoil Naisiunta Réidh na Ndoiri	Primary school
Scoil Lachtáin Naofa	Primary school
Comhaltas Cosanta Chúil Aodh	Development Commitee Coolea
Comharchumann Forbatha Mhuscraí	Muskery Development Regional Development
Coiste Forbartha.	Development Commitee Renaniree.
Coiste Forbartha.	Development commitee Ballingeary
Coiste Bailte Slachtmhara.	Tidy Towns Ballyvourney
Comhlacht Tithe Sóisealta & Forbait an tSúláin	Community Housing Ballyvourney / Coolea
Teo.	
An Súagán .	First Irish Collage Historic Project.
Coiste Tithíochta Uíbh Laoghaire Teo.	Community Housing Ballingeary / Inchigeelagh
Ionadh Áise	Community Centre
Gougane Barra	Gougane Barra Hotel
Leach Fhinín	Journalist
Milleens	Tidy Towns Coolea

Buíon Phíobairí	Pipe Band
Gougane Barra Angling Club	Gougane Barra Angling Club
Cork Limousine Club	Youth Branch Cattle Breeders
Taispeantas Baile Mhuirne / Cúil Aodha	Ballyvourney / Coolea Agricultural Show
Slí Gaeltachta Mhuscaraí	Beara Breifney Way trail
Beal Átha an Ghaorthaidh Gaa	Ballingeary Gaa Footbal club.
Naomh Abhan Gaa.	Ballyvourney/ Coole Gaa footbal club
Cill na Martra Gaa	Kilnamartyra Gaa Football Club
Naomh Fionbarra	Ballingeary Inchigeelagh Ladies Football club.

9 POTENTIAL ENDURING BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT

Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm has the potential to bring significant positive benefit to the local community. The project will create sustainable local employment, it will contribute annual rates to the local authority, provide a local community benefit fund in line with the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme. A Community Benefit Fund will be put in place for the RESS period to provide direct funding to those areas surrounding the project.

9.1 Community Benefit Fund

There are two important government policy developments that will have a bearing on the establishment of future community benefit funds. The first is the Renewable Energy Support Scheme, and its terms and conditions which have been published by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The second is the updated Wind Energy Guidelines, which have yet to be released. Both sets of policies specify government requirements on future community benefit funds for renewable energy projects The project partners confirm that these important policies will be fully adopted and integrated in our design and establishment of the Gort Uí Rathaile Community Benefit Fund.

Based on RESS, for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the RESS period i.e., 15 years of operation. If this project is constructed as currently designed, we estimate that a total of approximately 7.5 million euro will be available in the local area for community funding over the RESS period of 15 years. The above figure is indicative only and will be dependent on the generation capacity of the wind farm which is influenced by a number of factors including:

- 1. Number of wind turbines.
- 2. Capacity and availability of energy production of those turbines.
- 3. Quantity of wind.

The Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm, if constructed as proposed, has the potential to produce more than 250,000 MWh of clean electricity a year. This means that the project could provide more than €500,000 per annum to the Community Benefit Fund, depending on the size of the permitted scheme and the wind resource which varies from year to year, for the first 15 years of its operational life.

RESS guidelines for the annual distribution of this fund are as follows:

- A minimum of €1,000 shall be paid to each household located within a distance of a 1 kilometre radius from the nearest turbine.
- A minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives.
- A maximum of 10% on administration.
- The balance of the funds shall be spent on initiatives successful in the annual application process, as proposed by clubs and societies and similar not-for profit entities, and in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 1 Projects, on "near neighbour payments" for households located outside a distance of a 1 kilometre, but within a distance of 2 kilometres from such RESS 1 Project.

How the fund works

The Government's 'Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit Funds' provides full details on how the fund is to be governed and requires local community participation in all decisions in regard to how the funding should be used. The fund is open to individuals, and not-for-profit groups such as community and voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and clubs and societies. High quality administration, local where possible, is also a key expectation. Further details can be found at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5f12f-community-projects-and-benefit-funds-ress/

It is envisaged that, should the project receive a positive planning outcome, the project team and the local community will work together to develop an appropriate local structure that would design the Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. This group will make decisions on funding allocations and, with the assistance of an administrator, manage the fund, ensuring transparency and good governance.

9.2 Community Investment Opportunity

What is meant by community investment?

The proposed Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) sets out that future renewable energy project proposals enable the possibility for local communities to invest in projects in a meaningful way as a means to directly gain from the financial dividends that a project can provide should it be consented, built and operated. In response to this, FuturEnergy Ireland has been working hard with external agencies to develop workable models of community investment. At the time of writing, the details of a Community Investment Scheme continue to be worked through by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. We look forward to its publication in due course and promoting this innovative offering to the community.

9.3 Employment Opportunities

It is estimated that the proposed project will create approximately 60 jobs during the construction phase and 6 jobs during the operational and maintenance phases of the proposed development. During construction, additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials to the development. In addition to this, there will also be income generated by local employment from the purchase of local services i.e., travel and lodgings.

9.4 Local County Council Rates

Annual rates paid to Cork County Council are in the range of €784,000 and €924,000 annually for the lifetime of the project, which is 35 years. An important future contributor to Cork County Council's exchequer funding. This could positively impact local infrastructure and amenities such as roads, public lighting, street cleaning, libraries, fire services and public amenities. on-site recreational amenities and employment.

9.5 Recreation

The developers are committed to working with and building relationships with the local community to further discuss a recreational offering if it is of interest to them. A variety of local organisations were contacted to get their feedback and interest in a recreational offering. If the project progresses to development, we are committed to re-engage to explore further interest and possibilities that would benefit all concerned.

From our initial contact with the local committee, we understand that the Slí Gaeltachta Mhuscrai trail, which is a section of the Beara Briffney Way, passes through the project site. We are committed to work in co-operation with the local committee to put in place timed and staged diversions, well in advance of any requirement, to minimise disruptions to the use of the Slí Gaeltachta Mhuscrai trail.

10 ONGOING LIAISON AND CONTACT

A number of phases have been detailed below with differing levels of engagement anticipated depending on the levels of project activity. Underpinning all of the engagement below will be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer for the project who is contactable by email and phone. These details will remain on the project website, which will be in place for the duration of the project. As the project progresses, regular updates will be posted to this website.

Post planning submission until 6 months pre-construction

During this period of approximately 24 – 36 months, if the proposed project receives a favourable planning decision and has progressed successfully through the next stages of project development, a number of key community-related activities will continue to be progressed. The first is a participatory design process for the Gort Uí Rathaile Community Benefit Fund (CBF) that will take place 6 – 8 months prior to any construction work starting.

The team will start a process of reaching out initially to residents within the 2km zone and then slightly further afield, in order to bring together a small group of people who are interested in working on the design and structure of a community-based entity that would ultimately run this Community Benefit Fund. This process will start with a scoping exercise followed by a series of facilitated workshops. It is hoped that representatives involved in existing local development initiatives will be stakeholders in this process and will therefore contribute to this strategy.

The second piece of work is to explore the potential for community investment in the project as outlined in the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). This will probably follow on from the CBF workstream and will look at the best ways to promote awareness about this opportunity in advance of it coming online.

Pre- Construction and Construction phase

Six months prior to the commencement of construction we will initiate the set-up of a liaison group. The project will meet with this group on a monthly basis to prepare for the construction phase and monitor activities during construction. This group will develop plans on communicating effectively with residents directly impacted by construction activities and deliveries, especially traffic planning to minimise disruption.

The project will also engage with local suppliers prior to the construction phase in order to outline the future needs and promote the use of local suppliers and service providers wherever possible. This may take the form of a "meet the buyer" event.

Operational Phase

The project will continue with a proposed annual meeting with the liaison group to update them on project performance and address any issues identified. The Community Liaison Officer will also be available throughout this period to directly address any issues raised by local residents. As stated above, the project website will also be maintained as a method of providing regular, up-to-date information. There will be regular updates on performance of the Community Benefit Fund and regular calls for proposals for funding.

Decommissioning Phase

A year prior to the commencement of decommissioning of the project, the project team will engage with the established liaison group as well as all residents within the 2km zone to outline the decommissioning plan and address any issues identified at that time.

In line with the Government's Code of Practice 2016, the project will publish an annual report of all engagement activities on the project website.

11 CONCLUSION / COMMITMENT

As outlined throughout this Community Report, there has been very active engagement on the project throughout the planning design phase to date. Many of our neighbours are supportive of the project, while others wish that the project doesn't proceed. We have achieved much in terms of making the proposed project a better project for all through our engagement. We fully recognise, however, that development of a proposed wind farm is a long and complex process and that there is ample time to jointly develop our community offerings with our near neighbours and other stakeholders, and we will be progressing these throughout the planning adjudication and decision phases as well as in the preconstruction phase should the project receive planning consent.

12 PROJECT LITERATURE

12.1 NEWSLETTERS - LETTERS - BROCHURES - WEBINAR - OTHER INFORMATION

All Project newsletters, letters, brochures, webinar information, other information are accessible from the project website at: <u>www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie</u>

Date: September 2020 - Newsletter 1 (Project Introduction) in Irish and English Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2020/11/Gortyrahilly-A5-Leaflet English.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2020/11/Gortyrahilly-A5-Leaflet_Gaeilge.pdf Date: March 2021 - Newsletter 2 in Irish and English Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2021/03/Gortyrahilly-A5-Leaflet English March2021.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2021/03/Gortyrahilly-A5-Leaflet_Irish_March2021.pdf Date: April 2021 - Poster advertising the newly launched dedicated Project website was distributed to and displayed in local shops around the project area. (Copy located below) Date: June 2021 - Newsletter 3 in Irish and English Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2021/06/FINAL_Gortyrahilly-A5-Leaflet-3_English_June2021.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2021/06/FINAL_Gortyrahilly-A5-Leaflet-3 Irish June2021.pdf Date: June 2021 – RESS Community Benefit Fund information Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2021/06/RESS-Community-Benefit-Fund_Gortyrahilly-Wind-Farm_English.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2021/06/RESS-Community-Benefit-Fund_Gortyrahilly-Wind-Farm_Irish.pdf Date: November 2021 - Introduction Letter to FuturEnergy Ireland in Irish and English Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/03/FuturEnergy-Ireland-Introduction-letter-Nov-2021-English-version.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/03/Introduction-letter-to-FuturEnergy-Ireland-Irishversion.pdf Date: March 2022 - Project update Letter in Irish and English Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/03/Gortyrahilly-Project-update-letter-March-2022-English-version.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/03/Feirm-Ghaoithe-Ghort-U%C3%8D-Rathaileupdate-letter-Marta-2022-Irish-version.pdf Date: March 2022 - General Scoping Document Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/03/Gortyrahilly-General-Scoping-Document.pdf Date: May 2022 - FuturEnergy Ireland sponsored and arranged an Educational Program around "Climate Change" for 5 local National schools around the project area. (Image located below) Date: June 2022 - Detailed Project Brochure Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/06/Gort-Ui-Rathaile-Project-FA-for-web.pdf Date: June 2022 - Accompanying letter with detailed Project Brochure in Irish and English Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/06/Letter-with-Brochure-English-version-June-2022-1.pdf Link: https://www.gortyrahillywindfarm.ie/media/2022/06/Letter-with-Brochure-Irish-version-June-2022.pdf Date: June 2022 - Project Virtual Tour Link: https://www.innovision.ie/gortyrahilly Date: June 2022 - Copy of Invite letter in Irish and English to Webinar and On-site engagement clinic (Copy located below).

Date: June 2022 – Copy of Invite Letters to Webinar and On-site engagement clinic sent to local elected representatives (Copy located below).

Date: <u>July 2022- Copy of Posters</u> in Irish and English displayed in local community settings advertising Webinar and

on-site clinic (Copy located below).

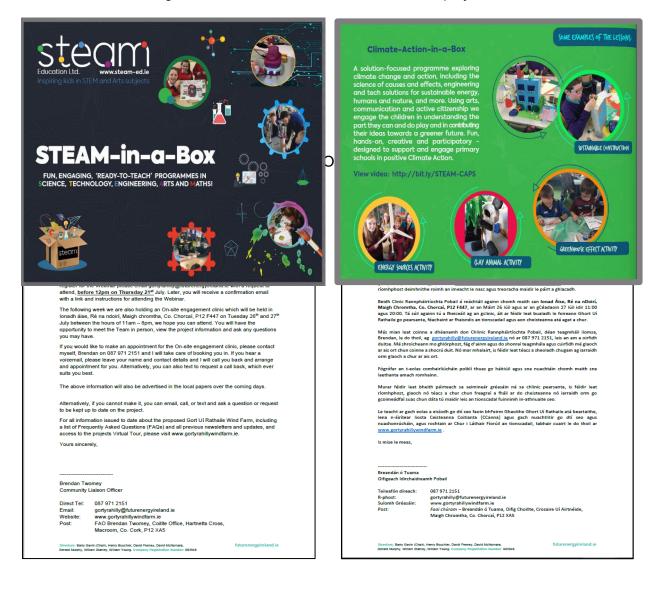
Date: <u>July 2022- Copy of Advertisements</u> placed in local newspapers for Webinar and on-site clinic (Copy located below).

Date: <u>September 2022 – Copy of a "Notice to Submit" Letter</u> in Irish and English distributed to the projects nearest neighbours informing them of the project being submitted into planning. (Copy located below).

Date: April 2021 - Copy of a poster advertising the newly launched dedicated project website was distributed and displayed in local shops around the project area.



Date: May 2022 - FuturEnergy Ireland sponsored and arranged an Educational Program around "Climate Change" for 5 local National schools around the project area.



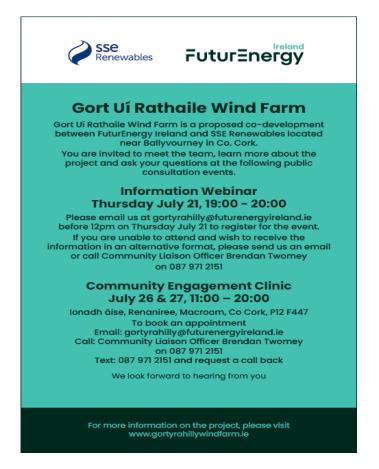
Date: June 2022 - Invite Letters to Webinar and On-site engagement clinic sent to local elected representatives.



Date: July 2022- Posters displayed in local community settings advertising Webinar and on-site clinic:



Date: July 2022- Advertisement 1 placed in local newspapers and on-site clinic:



Date: July 2022- Advertisement 2 placed in a local newspaper:



Date: <u>September 2022 – Copy of a "Notice to Submit" Letter</u> in Irish and English distributed to the projects nearest neighbours informing them of the project being submitted into planning.

