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## **APPENDIX 2-2**

***Community Engagement Report***

# **Taurbeg Extension of Operational Life**

## **Community Consultation Summary**

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In preparation for the public consultation, conducted by Statkraft Ireland, a Community Liaison Strategy (CLS) was developed by the Community Engagement Team. The CLS involved desk research on the local area including research on the 2022 Census figures and the County and Local Development Plans. This research was undertaken in order to gain an understanding of the local heritage, people and business environment. The CLS is based on the 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement' and the Aarhus Convention.

A Statkraft Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed for the project in August 2023 to act as the main point of contact to the local community. The appointment of a dedicated CLO was crucial to ensure effective communication and foster trust between Statkraft Ireland and the local residents.

Public consultation for the project comprised of two rounds of engagement where the CLO and a member of the Community Liaison Team called to households in the local area. The intention of the visits to households was for the CLO and the Community Liaison Team to introduce themselves and Statkraft Ireland to the individuals locally, to establish a line of dialogue with local residents, informing them of the acquisition of the existing wind farm by Statkraft Ireland and outlining the details of the Lifetime Extension (LTE) proposal.

The first round of engagement was conducted in June 2024 and comprised of door-to-door engagement with residents living around the 1km radius of the Taurbeg Wind Farm. A dedicated project booklet and an introductory booklet to Statkraft Ireland were provided to residents during this round of consultation. A project-specific website ([www.taurbegwindfarm.ie](http://www.taurbegwindfarm.ie)) was also established.

The second consultation round was conducted in May 2025 and consisted of further door-to-door engagement and a letter drop to residents living around the 1km radius of the Taurbeg Wind Farm. The intention of this round of consultation was to provide further details on the Proposed LTE and the extension of the LTE from 9 years to 10 years which was previously presented, informing residents of the upcoming planning application submission date, details on how to access the planning application documents online once submitted and to gain further feedback from the local community.

During the consultation with the local community contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries were distributed. A contact and feedback facility are also included on the project website.

The project website displays up to date information on the Proposed LTE. While the initial aim of the project website is to provide context for the project, develop a greater understanding on the need for renewable energy development, provide project information and advice on the consultation approach, the Project Website will evolve with the project to provide a source of updated information as the project progresses.

Feedback from the consultation rounds were passed on to the Project Team. Where areas of concern or interest were expressed, every effort was made to not only provide accurate information but also to guide the individuals concerned towards sources of accurate

information to assist them in the process of informing themselves. The main issues and queries that arose during the consultation with the local community included the LTE proposal and planning application, the Community Benefit Fund, the potential for noise impacts and battery storage (which does not form part of the proposal). Follow-up phone calls on topics were undertaken where required.

Over the course of engagement with the local community/individuals and community groups feedback was actively sought on the Community Benefit Fund. The Community Benefit Fund is currently €23,000 per year and will increase by 2% annually over the 10-year lifetime extension period which will amount to approximately €290,000. Community groups in the vicinity of the project were also contacted to inform them of the project acquisition by Statkraft Ireland, details of the LTE proposal and to make assurances that Community Benefit funding would be continued and increased where a grant of planning permission for the LTE is secured.

Rockchapel village contains a national school, community centre and GAA club – all of which have benefited from the Taurbeg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund over the last 20 years of operation. Over the 20-year period the fund has provided the following:

- Assisted in the creation of a creche/playground in Rockchapel village;
- Provided funding to the local GAA Club;
- Provided funding for maintenance and improvements to the Taur church;
- Assisted with renovation works at the old Glash school which became a community centre; and
- Provided funding for improvements to the Rockchapel National School and the Knocknaclarig National School.

The wind farm was also previously opened to a number of school groups from surrounding settlements and villages. This was part of commitments made in the original planning application for the wind farm.

Statkraft facilitated an initiative with Wind Energy Ireland on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, where students from Rockchapel National School visited Taurbeg and were given a tour of the wind farm. Following this, a representative from the Statkraft Operations Team also visited Rockchapel National School giving a presentation on wind energy and how it contributes to the local community. There was positive engagement from the school on both occasions. There was also very positive feedback from the class and teacher about the wind farms in the area, and how they contribute to local initiatives. The project will continue to be used to inform how best we can educate school children on the benefits of wind energy.

The approach to consultation with the community is to engage in an open, honest and transparent manner with the aim to not only provide clear and understandable information but also to gain feedback to understand the views of the local community.

Rockchapel Community Council CLG

C/O Breeda O'Callaghan

Milteen

Rockchapel,

Co.Cork

P51 NX54

26/08/2024

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Rockchapel Community Council CLG, I would like to register support for the planning application by Taurbeg Wind Farm Ltd. for the continued operation of the Taurbeg Wind Farm located in the townland of Taurbeg, Co. Cork.

The Community Benefit Fund has sponsored many projects for a variety of different organisations within Rockchapel Parish.

The following is the list Taurbeg community fund has sponsored to date:

Community Alert €5,200, Rockchapel GAA €24,878; Rockchapel National school €23,795;

Rockchapel preschool, €7,700; Rockchapel Defib Group €1,443.97;

Knocknaclairig National school €10,000; Rockchapel community centre 5,000;

Rockchapel website €200 to set up in 2015, the annual fee is paid from Taurbeg community fund.

1916 commemoration and celebration €1,670;

Taurbeg gave an extra €500 in 2016 which helped to pay for a hot meal for our senior citizen's party.

Our post office closed in 2018, €100 from community fund helped towards retirement party for post master and post mistress along with a donation from organisations within the parish.

Having a playground in Rockchapel was a life long dream for children in Rockchapel down through the years. That dream materialised in September 2019. €24,480 from Taurbeg Community fund and a 75% grant from IRD made this possible. We have a 35 year lease of ground from Cork County Council at an annual fee of €200 and a strip of ground was also leased from community centre for playground at an annual fee of €100 and both are paid from Taurbeg community fund each year. The official opening of the playground in September 2019 was a wonderful evening of celebrations for both young and the not so young of the parish and surrounding areas. We were delighted that Brian Moloney, Asset Manager of Taurbeg Windfarm and a number of technicians from Taurbeg windfarm took the time out of their busy schedule to celebrate with us. It also gave Brian an opportunity to meet representatives of other organisations and see 1<sup>st</sup> hand all the other projects that have been funded by Taurbeg community fund. The children queued at the ice cream van and really enjoyed freshly whipped cones. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> time an ice cream van came to Rockchapel so it was a real treat for all the children. Celebrations continued in the community centre where a number of volunteers served some light refreshments and goodie bags to all the children. €650 from Taurbeg community helped to cover the cost of this wonderful event. Photographers from the local papers were present, it was great to see all the happy faces and cover story in the Corkman at the weekend.



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Rockchapel is a very small village. Our only car park is our Church yard, apart from the small car park in front of the community centre at the west end of the village which is too far away from our local shop and preschool. The Church yard was in badly need of repair as it was a health and safety issue with holes all over it, water lodging in the wet weather and freezing over in the frost. Our preschool is in the Church yard as it was once a parochial house but has since been renovated to a preschool following HSE guidelines. The yard was drained, resurfaced and tarred at a cost of over €100,000. Taurbeg community fund contributed €20,000.

We are delighted to have a very active Biodiversity group in Rockchapel. They completed a water project on the river Feale in 2022. €800 from Taurbeg Community fund helped part fund this project. A loan of €3,000 was sanctioned for a Biodiversity project June 2022. As part of this project the children in both local schools and preschools were educated in a fun way on the importance of recycling and the role nature plays in our world. This loan was refunded in April 2023 when they received their grant from LAWPRO.

Every organisation in Rockchapel apply for grants for new projects. These grants are a great help but without Taurbeg community fund any of these projects would not be possible.

An interest free loan of €13,800 was given to the community centre committee in 2013 to upgrade toilets and include a wheelchair accessible toilet. This was paid back a few months later when we received grant from IRD.

An interest free loan was given to GAA in 2014 for a project in the training field. This was paid back 6 months later when they received Sports Capital Grant.

The most recent project is a set of jerseys for our very talented ladies under age team who have brought great glory to our Parish over last few years. The jerseys are costing €1,150 euro. They will have the Taurbeg name and logo on their jerseys.


I will conclude by wishing Taurbeg best of luck with their recent planning application. As you can see from our letter and attached letters from Rockchapel School, Rockchapel GAA and Rockchapel Defibrator Group, we are all extremely grateful for all the funding and have put it to great use.

I think it's fair to say that Rockchapel cannot survive without this vital funding for our parish.

Yours sincerely,

  
Neily Curtin  
Chairman

  
Dan Joe Murphy  
Treasurer

  
Breeda O'Callaghan  
Secretary



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Rockchapel  
Co.Cork  
20/08/2024

To Whom it may concern

I am Writing to you on behalf of Rockchapel GAA club. The financial funding we have received from "Taurbeg community fund" has helped our club make much needed improvements to our grounds and has been a great help in keeping our grounds kept to such a high standard. This in turn helps us keep our club competing at high levels and improves community involvement from all in our locality.

It is no coincidence we have won county titles within our club both male and female within the last number of years. The financial contribution from Taurbeg community fund has helped us immensely in keeping our club at such a high level and has played a pivotal part in these success's coming to our village. We are extremely grateful to have this community fund available to us.

Below is the outline of funding we have received from Taurbeg community fund

2013 - €15,000 – New dugouts and astroturf at goal posts.

2021 - €7,430 – LED lighting for walking track and upgrade dressingroom lighting.

2023 - €2,448- Upgrade of water system for showers in dressingrooms which is more eco friendly

  
Tony Murphy  
Chairperson

  
Mary Collins  
Secretary

  
Noel O Callaghan  
Treasurer

# Rockchapel Defibrillator Group

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To Whom it may concern

Rockchapel Defibrillator group is a voluntary organisation that was set up for our parish in 2007. At the time, we went door to door within the parish to fundraise to buy one defibrillator and ended up raising enough money to buy two defibrillators. Since then, we have a 24/7 rotate going where someone is on call with the phone and defibrillator at all times for any cardiac callout.

Maintaining these defibrillators and keeping our volunteers up to date on training comes with a big expense. The group is extremely grateful to Taurbeg Community Fund for their help with this. To date, Taurbeg Community Fund has paid for:

- ✓ First Aid training for our whole community, which cost €850.
- ✓ Replacement of batteries and pads for our defibrillators at a cost of €595.
- ✓ Funding has also been sanctioned by Taurbeg to replace one of our defibrillators that needs to be updated.

Rockchapel Defibrillator Group are deeply indebted to Taurbeg Community Fund for the invaluable help they have given us whenever we have needed it.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Triona Carroll

Secretary of Rockchapel Defibrillator Group.



*Scoil Náisiúnta Séipeál na Carraige*  
*Séipeál na Carraige,*  
*Mala,*  
*Co. Chorcaí.*



*Rockchapel National School,*  
*Rockchapel,*  
*Mallow,*  
*Co. Cork.*

*Vimhir Rolla 17763A*

August 2024

A Chara,

It is with much appreciation that I wish to acknowledge the support our school has received from the Taurbeg Community Fund, operated on behalf of Taurbeg Wind Farm. Since its inception, this fund has provided the following funding to our school –

2013: €13,000.00 to replace all the flooring in the school

2017: €10,795.00 to purchase fifteen laptops and five ipads for use by the pupils in our school.

This investment (€23,795.00) in education in our community has enhanced the experiences of all pupils in our school. We very much appreciate this support.

At present we are fundraising to replace the external boundary wall at the school – (projected cost €60,000) and would hope that Taurbeg Community Fund might consider this project in the future.

We appreciate the investment in our community by Taurbeg Wind Farms and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

*Eileen Curtin*

Principal

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**Lisa-Anne Crookes** • 2nd  
Communications Manager  
4mo • 🌐

+ Follow

Wind energy education in action here with young students from Mallow in Co Cork on a [Statkraft](#) organised trip to their local wind farm. The visit and follow up visit in the classroom is part of a new [Wind Energy Ireland](#) / [WindEurope](#) project to get more children learning about wind energy at a young age.

Big thank you to [Joanne O'Connor](#) and [Deirdre Kingston](#) at [Statkraft](#) for making it happen. And to the students and teachers for their infectious enthusiasm.

Plenty of green careers for these and thousands of other Irish students to [www.workinwind.ie](http://www.workinwind.ie) if they want to 🌱 Be anything you want, but be part of the solution!

[Ekaterine Gogoberishvili](#) [Mariana Batista](#) [WindEurope](#)



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