

Meeting held with ESB over power outages

A meeting took place last Thursday 10th October regarding recurring power outages across Wicklow which are causing regular problems for residents including those reliant on electricity for health reasons, students doing online exams and those working remotely.

West Wicklow has been particularly affected with frequent outages in the Grange Con, Donard and Stratford areas. ESB said that this will be addressed.

Speaking from Dublin the meeting, Councillor Edward Timmins, Fine Gael General Election candidate, commented: "I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet ESB Networks today. The topic for discussion was the high level outages this year in Grangecon, Stratford and Donard. They gave a presentation on why the issues arose. I asked for detailed explanations on why it happened, and what is being done to prevent future outages. I also asked that all areas of County Wicklow be monitored more closely."

Regarding the local impact of the outages,

Councillor Timmins pointed out: "I explained that the worst thing was the unplanned and random outages and how this has a serious effect on everybody, but particularly students doing online exams and people who rely on electricity for health reasons".

On the response from the ESB, Councillor Timmins remarked: "ESB staff informed us that the main reason for the outages was trees. They have taken preventive measures to stop this happening in the future and said they will increase automation in these lines which means faults will be fixed more quickly and will impact fewer customers."

Sinn Féin TD John Brady also attended the meeting and welcomed a series of commitments secured from ESB

Networks. The commitments include the introduction of a Loop Automation Scheme process that would locate faults, a full visual inspection of the line throughout the impacted area, and the continuation of a timber cutting programme that would clear the line of tree obstructions which were responsible for a number of instances of outages.

Deputy Brady said: "There are roughly 1,500 people in the Grange Con, Donard and Stratford areas of West Wicklow who were affected by the unplanned outages which occurred with worrying regularity over the summer, peaking in July, but which have been ongoing for the last two and a half to three years."

"This unacceptable level of unplanned out-

ages had a significant detrimental impact on families in the area. Modern society needs and demands a reliable energy supply. We witnessed students who had online exams interrupted, online workers left without any internet connection, and older people and those with illnesses were left undermined by the outages.

"I have been in regular contact with ESB Networks, and I want to thank Sean Murphy and his team for facilitating the meeting today, where I was able to express the urgency needed in addressing the outstanding issues impacting on power supply in West Wicklow.

"I welcome the commitments from ESB Networks to introduce a programme of works for the West Wicklow area which will address the source of the unplanned outages. These include a comprehensive programme of cutting back trees that were hitting against power lines and tripping out power, full and regular visual inspections of the power circuits in the area. The ESB has also committed to the introduction of a full Loop Automation Scheme, which will allow the ESB to locate and act on faults on the line in the impacted area. There are also plans to introduce increased capacity for

users in the area. With plans for 38Kv station upgrade at Baltinglass.

"These are significant developments, which I will be monitoring closely, while remaining in regular contact with ESB Networks to ensure that the work that has been committed to is progressing as planned."



Cllr Timmins pictured (L-R) with Louise Kelly (Area Manager) and Siobhan Wynne (Regional Manager), ESB Networks.



Deputy Brady with representatives from ESB.



Sarann and Caoimhe Philomena Dowling-Connolly at the Wicklow Library Afternoon Tea & Coffee event in aid of Wicklow Hospice.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL MHANTÁIN
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENTS ACTS 2000 (AS AMENDED) & PLANNING & DEVELOPMENTS REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WICKLOW PORT ACCESS ROAD LINK

In accordance with the provisions of PART XI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), Wicklow County Council hereby gives notice that it intends to construct the Wicklow Port Access Road Link scheme in the townlands of Bollarney North, Co. Wicklow.

The Wicklow Port Access Road Link scheme involves the development of a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the Dublin to Rosslare Line, including access lifts and stairs to the station, and the provision of a new carpark and set-down area to the north of the station, alongside all associated landscaping and site works. The aim of the scheme is to provide a high-quality pedestrian and cycle link between the Wicklow Port Access Road (PAR), Wicklow Train Station and Station Road.

In accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC) and Article 250(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the development has been the subject of an Appropriate Assessment Screening. The Screening determined that an Appropriate Assessment was not required as the Proposed Development would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

In accordance with article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), Wicklow County Council has concluded from a preliminary examination pursuant to the provisions of Article 120(1)(b)(i) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

Where any person considers that the proposed development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, he or she may, at any time before the expiration of 4 weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice, apply in accordance with the provisions of article 120 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have such effects.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, during office hours Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays, at the following locations, **between 15th October 2024 and 11th November 2024:**

1. The Offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegate, Station Road, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow, A67 FW96.
2. Wicklow Municipal District, The Town Hall, Market Square, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 YO18.

Plans and particulars are also available to view on www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub and <https://www.eplanning.ie/WicklowCC/searchtypes>.

Submissions or observations with respect to the Proposed Development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made in writing to **Carol Murphy, T/Administrative Officer for WCC's Active Travel Team, at The Offices of Arklow Municipal District, Castle Park, Arklow, Y14 FX63, Co. Wicklow.** Submissions may also be made by email via the following address: activetravel@wicklowcoco.ie or at the online website: www.wicklow.ie/Living/ConsultationHub.

All submissions must be made on or before **25th November 2024**. Submissions and observations should be clearly marked "**Wicklow Port Access Road Link Part 8**".

Further information generally is available from Active Travel Office, Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services Directorate, Wicklow County Council, directly on 0404 20120.

Carol Murphy, T/Administrative Officer for WCC's Active Travel Team, at The Offices of Arklow Municipal District, Castle Park, Arklow, Y14 FX63, Co. Wicklow.

Dated: 15th October 2024.