



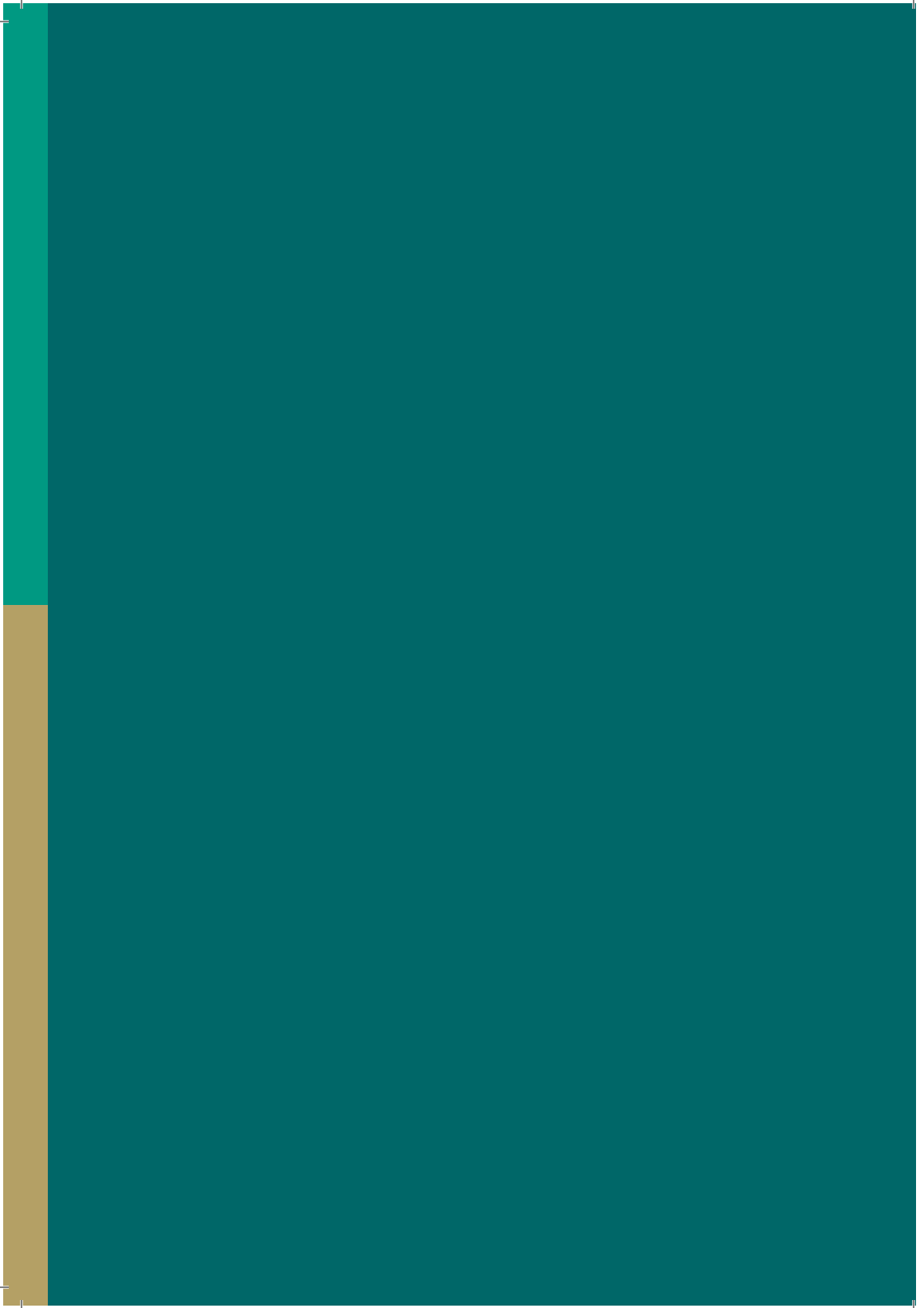
EirGrid.ie

The Celtic Interconnector

Community Benefit Fund



June 2025



Contents

Introduction	2
Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund	3
Projects funded in Phase 1	4
Conclusion	28

Introduction

Community Benefit Funds are integral to project development at EirGrid. Community Benefit funds recognise the importance of local communities who support this work. They also recognise the temporary disruption which may be caused during the construction phase of the project.

Our strategy for issuing all funding is designed in collaboration with and for the benefit of the local communities to address local needs.

The aim of Community Benefit Funds is to increase public and environmental wellbeing in the community and to leave a positive legacy in the communities hosting EirGrid infrastructure.

Successful applicants for funding include sports clubs upgrading their facilities, community councils, walkways, arts initiatives, and schools.

Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund

We have set up the €2.4 million Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund to recognise how important the local communities are who support our work. This funding will be released in three phases across the project life cycle.

The fund addresses challenges across three funding streams:

- ✓ Community,
- ✓ Sustainability,
- ✓ Biodiversity.

Phase 1 of this fund opened in December 2023 and 29 projects were funded. These projects are now coming to fruition and the benefit is being felt on the ground.

Phase 2 of this fund opened in January 2025 and 53 projects were funded. Community Groups will begin drawing down on this funding in the coming months.

A selection of projects and communities to have benefitted from the first phase of funding as part of the Celtic Interconnector Benefit fund are featured on the following pages.



Celtic Interconnector: Projects funded in Phase 1

Lisgoold Leamlara Community Council **A new community amenity walkway** **€37,000 awarded**

"Lisgoold Leamlara Community Council would like to thank EirGrid for the funding through the Celtic Interconnector Community fund project to enable us, through our partnership with Coillte, to deliver the walking path through Leamlara Woods. The project has been an outstanding success. Recent feedback from some local wheelchair users have been very complimentary and we as a community are delighted to hear this."



Youghal Community Bus
Wheelchair accessible
adapted EV 6 seater bus
with wheelchair space
€70,000 awarded

"This is the first EV Community Bus in Ireland thanks to EirGrid's support"



Greywood Arts CLG
Building youth arts
education
€54,104 awarded

"This project would not have been possible without EirGrid funding. It has enabled Greywood Arts to reach hundreds of young people through our arts education programming, benefiting their wellbeing and nurturing the creative potential of the next generation. Greywood Arts is dedicated to making connections between people and this place. The Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund has truly helped us achieve this goal. SECAD's support in navigating the fund has been invaluable."



Knockraha Area Community Association CLG Knockraha Community Amenity Park **€125,000 awarded**

"Our community is incredibly grateful for the support provided by SECAD and EirGrid, which has enabled us to purchase a community amenity field—a space that will serve as a vital resource for generations to come. This funding has transformed our vision into reality, providing a place where people of all ages will be able to come together, connect with nature, and participate in recreational activities. The acquisition of this field represents more than just securing land; it is an investment in the well-being and future of our

community. With this space, we now have the opportunity to take the first steps in developing the recreational amenity of the field by developing walking trails, a sensory garden, and a native tree planting initiative, all of which will enhance biodiversity and promote outdoor engagement. Thank you for believing in our vision and for making such a positive impact on our community."



East Cork Abilities Special Olympics Sports Club

The purchase of a floorball area and goals

€5,300 awarded

"East Cork Abilities Special Olympics Sports Club are delighted and extremely appreciative to have received The Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund to purchase our first ever floorball rink and goals for the floorball club. We are so thankful for this fund, which has made our dreams a reality and set the stage for a bright and promising future for our floorball club. Thank you SECAD and EirGrid for making this possible for us"



Killeagh Community Centre

To upgrade the interior and exterior lights and manual heating system in the community centre

€4,428 awarded

"The funding has helped us in having a more efficient hall available for the use of the community, and at the same time has allowed us to save energy, which is of benefit to the environment"





Claycastle Pitch and Putt Club

Development of facilities- new fairway/green

€10,000 awarded

"The completion of this project would not have been possible without the generous financial contributions of EirGrid, through the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, for which we are very grateful.

We are also appreciative of the assistance provided by SECAD, who helped to make the application process as seamless and as user friendly as possible".



Castlemartyr Parents Association Playground Development **€12,000 awarded**

"We are deeply grateful to EirGrid and SECAD for investing in our children's future and helping us bring this wonderful addition to our school. Thank you for helping us make such a lasting difference!"



Barnardos Youghal Family Resource Initiative Peeps parent and child learning together programme **€1,184 awarded**

"Youghal Family Resource Initiative/ Barnardos would like to thank EirGrid Community Fund for funding received as it enabled us to support parents from the Youghal community in their early parenting journey"



Clonpriest National School Development of a school sensory garden **€5,000 awarded**

"The project has provided an invaluable area to our school. The children can engage in a variety of sensory activities in a safe and engaging space"



Castlemartyr Camogie Club

Winter Training For All Girls In Our Camogie Club From U6 To Adults

€3,000 awarded

"As a result of this project, we have better equipment for training. The highlight of our project was receiving the equipment and being able to improve the lives of the younger generation."



Castlemartyr Community Alert

Fashion extravaganza event

€3,000 awarded

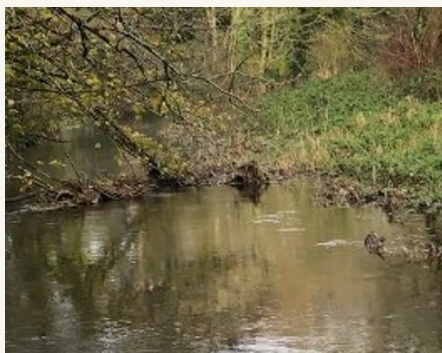
"While working together so much can be achieved. The highlight so far was the Fashion Extravaganza at Garryvoe Hotel. This was a spectacular and professional event which Castlemartyr and Mogeely are very proud of. This event exceeded all expectations, and we achieved all our objectives"

“Having footballs and jerseys
is essential”

“We exceeded expectations, and
the club now caters for adults also”

Castlemartyr Ladies Gaelic Football
Essential gear
€3,000 awarded





**Castlemartyr Tidy Towns
Support for the
eradication of invasive
species knotweed and
rejuvenation of riverbanks
€3,000 awarded**

"The project serves the entire community who traverse this route, young, old, not to mention the biodiversity aspect this project has. Visitors to our village /Castlemartyr Resort also use this connecting route. The project also benefits our schoolchildren who are taken on regular riverside nature studies and will witness biodiversity in action"



**Castlemartyr Youth Club
Special club outing
as a group to the Burren
outdoor education
centre in Clare
€3,000 awarded**

"The funding EirGrid gave us allowed us to bring the youth club members to experience the Burren, Clare and all its beauty. The difference it made is that if we didn't do this some of these kids would never get to see the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher as well as having a fun time with there friends in a safe supervised environment"



Carrigtwohill Community Council CLG

**Interior development expanding existing activity room
floorspace and creating two new upstairs meeting/
activity rooms**

€125,000 awarded

"This much needed redevelopment of our Community Hall has allowed us to welcome even more users to our facility. Already, this includes a new boxing club as an anchor tenant alongside our established sporting groups, and a regular CDYS Youth Café based in one of the newly created rooms. On behalf of everyone at the Community Council, I would like to thank EirGrid for their financial assistance under the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, as well as SECAD Partnership CLG for their invaluable support throughout the process."



Carrigtwohill Guides District

Carrigtwohill Girl Guides camping

€4,600 awarded

"With funding from EirGrid, we have been able to invest in camping equipment, which gives us the flexibility to bring larger groups of young adults and kids on camping trips. In July, we camped for three nights with 30 members, and everyone has great memories from the experience. It gives young girls great confidence to be away from home and its comforts, allowing them to enjoy and learn new skills at camp. Next year, we have multiple camping trips planned, and our members are looking forward to using the new tents and equipment from EirGrid"



Midleton GAA Club (One Club)

Walking trail at Midleton GAA

€40,000 awarded

The Midleton G.A.A. facility will enhance the GAA grounds as a community meeting space. It will serve as an upgrade to the sports facility and provide another exercise and recreational option for people using the grounds at Park South. This enhancement will improve the already great facilities available to residents of the greater Midleton area. It will promote accessibility and inclusion in the town, supporting community well-being.



Ballintotis Community Council

PV Solar and Batteries & Shed

€23,200 awarded

Solar energy systems can help to reduce the energy costs of community buildings. By generating their own electricity through solar panels and storing the excess, Ballintotis Community Council can offset a significant portion of their energy costs, allowing them to allocate funds towards other essential services and programs that the building may need or provide. The money saved via the solar panels will fund day trips for the over 65 club for 2025 and in years to come.



**Carrigtwohill & District
historical Society
Book detailing the history
of Carrigtwohill
€5,205 awarded**

"This has been done on a voluntary basis by members of the Society as well as interested members of the public who generously shared their wealth of knowledge, insights, texts and images with us. However, actually publishing a book would have been beyond our resources and would have remained an aspiration were it not for the substantial support provided by EirGrid through the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund. Ní neart go cur le chéile!"



**Midleton Hub CLG
Cost effective fit-out
€30,000 awarded**

"We are incredibly grateful for the support provided by SECAD and EirGrid, which has been instrumental in bringing our project to fruition. The funding has not only enabled us to realize our vision but has also enhanced our capacity to serve the community more effectively"



Youghal GAA One Club

Youghal GAA facilities development project

€30,000 awarded

"The LED lighting will hugely improve participation.

In the absence of funding from EirGrid, projects like this simply couldn't happen. It's great to see a corporate entity like EirGrid are prepared to roll up their sleeves and get involved in the local community and we are extremely grateful to EirGrid for their participation in this project."



Youghal Blue and Green Community Network Enhancement of Keane Park €33,819 awarded

"The Keane Park Pond Restoration Project, made possible by the EirGrid Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, represents a major step forward in both environmental stewardship and community engagement. This restoration will not only improve biodiversity but also offer a lasting legacy for the people of East Cork, benefiting residents, visitors, and future generations."



Youghal Rugby Football Club

Floodlight upgrade to led

€30,000 awarded

"The grant to upgrade to LED lighting on a rugby pitch offers significant benefits, including improved safety, cost savings, environmental sustainability, enhanced spectator experience, and increased attractiveness to new members and sponsors."



Castlemartyr GAA

Preliminary design and planning application
for a clubhouse

€5,000 awarded

“The funding by EirGrid allowed the club take this first important step to securing a new clubhouse for the benefit of our community for generations to come.”



Craobh Eochaille CCE
The Eircheoil Ceol fhoireann Dhuchais
(Folk Orchestra) project
€27,000 awarded

"Thanks to the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund the Brú na Sí proposal aims to enhance the musicianship skills of all participants in developing their own identity through cohesive means. Receiving this magnificent Award reflects Brú na Sí's commitment to providing the highest standards possible. We couldn't be prouder, and we are delighted to have earned this fantastic recognition."



Killeagh GAA
Upgrading existing sports facility
€30,000 awarded

"The Clubhouse is now safe in regards to fire and more secure. EirGrid has enabled Killeagh GAA become a safer environment for our club members and members of the community"





Carrigtwohill United

All weather playing surface and community walkway

€30,000 awarded

"Once fully completed, the project will accommodate the club's growing membership, offering a safe, floodlit walkway for the entire community to enjoy. Additionally, the all-weather pitch will ensure that play continues regardless of wet conditions."



Carrigtwohill GAA Club

Records room and solar panel installation

€27,500 awarded

"EirGrid"s generosity and SECAD"s knowledge and approachability made this project very manageable."



Conclusion

Successful applicants of Phase 2 of our Community Benefit Fund were announced in September 2025. These groups will now begin drawing down on funding and making their projects a reality.

If you have further questions on our Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund please visit <https://www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector> or contact:

Celtic Interconnector Community Liaison Officer

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Appendix

Groups funded in Phase 1

Lead Community Group / Organisation	Awarded amount
Lisgoold Leamlara Community Council	€37,000
East Cork Abilities Special Olympics Sports Club	€5,300
Killeagh Community Centre	€4,428
Carrigtwohill Flower and Garden Club	€1,800
Claycastle Pitch and Putt Club	€10,000
Youghal Lawn Tennis Club	€10,000
Castlemartyr Parents Association	€12,000
Mogeely FC Soccer Club	€4,347
Barnardo's Youghal Family Resource Initiative	€1,184
Clonpriest National School	€5,000
Imogeela Community Sports Hall CLG	€30,000
Knockraha Area Community Association CLG	€125,000
Castlemartyr Community Council	€15,000
Carrigtwohill Community Council CLG	€125,000
Killeagh GAA	€30,000
Carrigtwohill United	€30,000
Carrigtwohill guides district	€4,600
Midleton G.A.A. Club (One Club)	€40,000
Ballintotis community council	€23,200
Carrigtwohill & District Historical Society	€5,205
The Midleton Hub CLG	€30,000
Youghal Community Bus / The Youghal Community Transport Group	€70,000
Craobh Eochaille CCE	€27,000
Youghal GAA One Club	€30,000
Youghal Blue and Green Community Network Cumann Na Daoine	€33,819
Carrigtwohill GAA Club	€40,000
Youghal Rugby Football Club	€30,000
Greywood Arts CLG	€54,104
Castlemartyr GAA	€5,000
Phase 1 Total Monies Awarded	€838,987.00

