

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2023



Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Autumn/Winter Newsletter 2023

As we approach the end of 2023, it's timely to look back on a year filled with both excitement and challenge.

The earlier part of the year saw a flurry of activity for our third public consultation during which our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 team engaged with a broad range of local stakeholders in March and April. The purpose of this consultation phase was to share up to date project information with the public and to gather feedback to inform our offshore Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This report will form part of our planning application to An Bord Pleanála next year.

In May, we participated in the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS). Whilst we did not secure a state-subsidised contract, we are working to secure an alternative route to market to deliver the 800MW project at no cost to the taxpayer and are fully committed to the delivery of the project.

Consultation on the EIAR Scoping Report took place in July and August. The report provided stakeholders with information on the proposed offshore development and invited engagement on the key topics to be addressed in the EIAR e.g., baseline data sources and assessment methodologies.

In August, we ran successful online stakeholder workshops in conjunction with consultants, Anatec. The purpose of the workshops was to discuss, and seek feedback in relation to potential hazards/safety issues and suitable mitigations, during construction and operations phases at Arklow South Dock, where our Operations and Maintenance Facility will be based. Neighbours to the site which are also engaged in marine based activities joined us for the workshops.

A key milestone in offshore wind farm development is to secure access to the national grid for the renewable energy generated. In September, the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Ireland's independent energy and water regulator, consulted on a proposed pathway to grid for Phase 1 projects such as Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 which will deliver without State subsidy ie: ORESS. We await the CRU's decision.

In early September, we were pleased to announce the successful completion, ahead of schedule, of two offshore survey campaigns for the project. The information collected as part of these surveys enhances the project's understanding of seabed conditions. Onshore site investigation works also continued during the summer months. Both are important steps in the development of the project, informing project refinement and progression.

On a wider company level, September also saw the publication of the SSE Renewables annual community investment report for 2022/23, which details voluntary donations of over €1.1 million to over 400 community groups across the country, that neighbour our onshore wind farms. SSE is an industry leader in community investment, and to date, has invested over €11 million across rural Ireland through our community investment funds. We expect that a multi-million Euro Community Benefit Fund will be attached to Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 during its operational lifetime.

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund continues to support a wide variety of activities and we are proud to be associated with key events in local calendars such as Wicklow Regatta Festival, Arklow and Wicklow Town and District Chamber awards' events and sustainability awareness initiatives including: the Arklow Sustainable Energy Awareness Day; Arklow Community Excellence Sustainable Fashion event and for a second year, our schools' competition to design a Christmas decoration from recycled materials. Members of our Arklow project team committed to a third year of the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme with our partner school Glenart College. Mentoring sessions are well underway with our team's volunteer mentors and a number of sixth year students in Glenart College.

A month-long public consultation ran from 1 November by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in relation to a project foreshore licence application. The licence is required to facilitate site surveys including: hydrographical and geophysical, geotechnical, metocean, environmental, and corrosion surveys. Data captured through such surveys is required to enhance our team's understanding of conditions on the site and to support design refinements.

The latter part of this year saw a long-awaited commercial fisheries pontoon delivered in Arklow Harbour to support the local fishing industry. Following a series of engagements with the fishing industry members to ascertain how we could support this key stakeholder group, SSE Renewables invested €120,000 through the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Fisheries Fund into the pontoon project. The wider project was delivered in collaboration with Wicklow County Council which secured funding under the Brexit Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) Scheme 2022/2023. This new infrastructure, which increases capacity from circa 10 to 16 vessels, moves from the existing parallel berthing arrangement to a Mediterranean style mooring, with vessels perpendicular to the quay wall and in doing so, significantly improves capacity, accessibility, safety and working conditions. We extend our appreciation to Wicklow County Council for their support in advancing the pontoon project and for their future management of the facility, which we hope will support the fisheries sector locally.

In November, our Project Director, James O'Hara, spoke on the national and regional benefits that our project is expected to bring, at a panel discussion conducted as part of the third Enterprise Ireland Offshore Wind Forum held in Croke Park, Dublin. In a new report which will form part of our offshore project planning submission, it is outlined that the project is expected to generate €773 million Gross Value Added (GVA) across Ireland and of that, €484 million will be local to counties Wicklow and Wexford. Longer term benefits will be enjoyed locally throughout the 35-year operational phase of the project during which up to 130 jobs, direct and induced, could be supported, and €19 million GVA generated annually.

We were delighted to bring some festive cheer to the community in Arklow with the switch on of the Christmas Festival tree lights in St Mary's Park, Arklow on November 25th.

Looking forward, 2024 promises to be a busy year with our offshore planning submission and other community and stakeholder outreach activities including advancing preparations with our partner Wicklow Sailing Club for the Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024 scheduled for June. Further details of our project's progress and other information can be found on our website srenewables.com/arklowbankphase2 or by simply scanning the QR code below.

As a final word, we wish to extend our thanks to you, our valued stakeholders and communities for your support over the past year and wish you a happy and peaceful festive season.

Kind regards

Deirdre Keogh
Community Engagement Manager





Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 could boost Irish economy by €800m and support 2,300 jobs

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project Director James O'Hara, speaking on a panel at the Enterprise Ireland Offshore Forum, Croke Park, Dublin, on the socio-economic benefits the project can bring nationally and regionally.

During the expected 35 years of operation, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 could create 130 direct and induced full time jobs and deliver up to €19 million GVA annually.

New socio-economic research on the potential benefits of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 estimates an economic benefit to the Irish economy of up to €800m during the project's lifetime, of which over half a billion euro could directly benefit counties Wicklow and Wexford.

The preliminary data is contained in an independent report commissioned by SSE Renewables, which is due to be published in the new year. The report, compiled by BiGGAR Economics to support the project's ongoing development ahead of submission to An Bord Pleanála, details the national and regional benefits that the proposed 800MW offshore wind project 800MWQ offshore wind project would create. The final report will be published in the coming months to coincide with the submission by SSE Renewables of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the project's associated offshore infrastructure.

The research has found that approximately 2,300 direct and induced jobs would be created throughout the project's lifetime, from development and construction through to operations and decommissioning.

Upon commencement of commercial operations, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 would create around 130 jobs, direct and induced, over its expected 35-year operational lifetime. Additionally, the wind farm would generate an economic contribution to the Irish economy of up to €19m annually, up to €13m of which would benefit the Wicklow and Wexford economies.

Overall, it is estimated Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 could generate a total lifetime spend across national and international markets in excess of €4.8 billion, from early-stage development and construction through to 35 years of expected operations, and eventual decommissioning.

Speaking at the Enterprise Ireland Offshore Forum at Croke Park, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project Director James O'Hara said: 'The benefits that large scale offshore wind projects can bring to local and regional economies are well documented, but it is invaluable to have current data on the potential economic value of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project to the regional economy.'

The renewables industry already plays an important role in supporting rural and regional economies around the country, but as we look towards the development of the offshore wind industry in Ireland, the possible economic benefits could be transformative. The data on the Arklow project demonstrates that offshore wind infrastructure can play an important role in supporting job creation and delivering more balanced regional development. The data is particularly heartening, especially in light of global macro-economic challenges for the industry.

This report will form part of our upcoming offshore infrastructure planning application to An Bord Pleanála and details the potential benefits to the regional and national economy in terms of job creation and GVA, as well as to the supply chain.'



Commercial Fisheries Pontoon installed at Arklow Harbour

Collaboration between Wicklow County Council and SSE Renewables has delivered a long awaited €400,000 commercial fisheries pontoon along the South Quay within Arklow Harbour's South Dock.

The pontoon, which consists of approximately 90 linear meters by 2 meters wide of heavy-duty pontoon running parallel to the existing quay wall, with heavy-duty finger pontoons extending perpendicular from the main pontoon which will significantly improve, capacity, accessibility, safety and working conditions for users.

This new infrastructure was funded by the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine under the Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) Scheme 2022-2023, with support from SSE Renewables who provided significant partnership funding of €120,000 through the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Fisheries Fund.

Welcoming the new infrastructure, Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council, said 'Wicklow County Council is committed to the development of the facilities in Arklow Harbour as it is a valuable community resource. I wish to acknowledge the funding received from the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine through the BALAMI Scheme 2022-

2023 as well as the support and financial contribution from SSE Renewables to this project.'

Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy said: 'The pontoon is a welcome addition to Arklow Harbour, contributing to the local economy and providing facilities both for Fishers and other marine based businesses. It will also significantly improve safety and working conditions for local users.'

Kaj Christiansen, Development Manager, SSE Renewables, commented, 'We are delighted to have been able to support this valuable piece of infrastructure for Arklow Harbour through our annual Fisheries Fund. The commercial fisheries community is an important stakeholder group, and we hope to continue to support locally based operators throughout the project's lifecycle building on our model of co-existence and co-operation. We are committed to our investment into Arklow Harbour from where we will operate the wind farm from a state-of-the-art operations and maintenance facility. It is a pleasure to already be supporting our future neighbours and contributing to enhanced harbour safety and productivity. I'd like to express our appreciation to Wicklow County Council for their management of the project.'

Survey completions mark another successful milestone in delivery of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2



In early September, we were pleased to announce the successful completion of two offshore survey campaigns for the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project. The surveys took place over an eight-week period in July and August. Irish contractor 'Ground Investigation Ireland' undertook a nearshore borehole campaign and Danish contractor 'Geo' carried out cone penetration and vibrocore testing.

The surveys were completed on schedule, despite somewhat unsettled weather conditions experienced over the summer months.

The information collected as part of these surveys enhances the project's understanding of seabed conditions and will support ongoing design refinement and project development work.

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager, SSE Renewables said: 'The successful completion of these survey campaigns represents another important milestone in the delivery of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project and equips our team with the most up to date information as we move through the detailed design process. We acknowledge and appreciate the meaningful engagement that has been ongoing with key local stakeholders throughout the process.'

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

Economic Benefit

If the full impact is considered, including the induced impacts (i.e., impacts from staff spending across the wider economy), over the lifetime of the project, ABWP2 will generate:

€484 million GVA* across Wicklow and Wexford
€773 million GVA* in Ireland



Operations Phase benefits (approx 35 years)

In an average year, the operational expenditure on ABWP2 is expected to support:

80 jobs** and €13 million GVA* across Wicklow and Wexford per annum
130 jobs** and €19m GVA* per annum in Ireland



Job creation

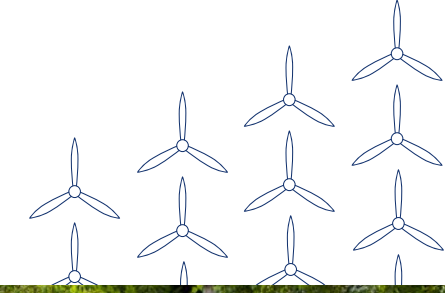
Throughout the lifetime of ABWP2, the offshore wind farm project will support 2,300*** direct and indirect jobs, from development and construction through to operations and decommissioning.

2,110 Development & Construction
130 Operations
60 Decommissioning



*Gross Value Added **Total, including induced *** Throughout project lifetime

Continuing our commitment to communities through our Sponsorship Fund



Reflecting over the year, SSE Renewables is delighted to have supported a wide range of projects under our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund. Being present and part of the communities in our development site areas means that we can form valuable links, build our network and give something back to the communities that we value. Our Sponsorship Fund will continue through the development stage of our project.

Since our last project newsletter, our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund has supported:

- **Wicklow Regatta Festival 2023 – ‘Splash Sunday’ community event**
- **Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club’s Youth Coaching Programme**
- **Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce through a strategic partnership 2023/24**
- **Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce - Chamber Gala and Awards welcome reception and Environment & Sustainability Award 2023**
- **Arklow Municipal District Christmas Festival Lighting.**

We have supported sustainability applications in the last financial quarter for initiatives involving:

- **Schools in the Arklow Municipal District through our sustainable ‘Design a Christmas decoration competition 2023’ run in collaboration with Arklow Municipal District and the Arklow Festival Committee**
- **St Michaels & Peters JNS, Arklow**
- **St Mary’s College, Arklow**
- **Wicklow County Library Service with sustainability resources hosted at Arklow and Wicklow Town Libraries**
- **Arklow Community Excellence (ACE) Sustainable Charity Fashion event and ‘Spirit of the Community’ recognition award 2023.**

In addition to several charitable donations made over past months, the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund has supported:

- **Golden Circle, Arklow, St Vincent De Paul through its fundraising charity golf classic and Arklow Community Action Resource Centre**
- **Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme 2023/24 with our partner school for the programme, Glenart College, Arklow.**



Commodore Seamus Cramer and members of Arklow Sailing Club pictured in front of the safety rib vessel part purchased with the support of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, July 2023.



Captain Niall Guilfoyle with Sean and Austin Darcy, Liam Canning and Turlough Bracken at the launch of Arklow Golf Club’s Open Week sponsored by SSE Renewables.



Volunteers and members of the 402 Art Collective ‘Heritage of Arklow’ pictured at the launch of the Abbey Lane Medieval Mural community event sponsored by SSE Renewables and Arklow Town Team, September 2023.



SSE Renewables supported Arklow Community Action Resource Centre with a donation to its food bank. Deirdre Keogh of SSE Renewables pictured with Owen Byrne, Des Cole, Noel Fallon, Sheila and PJ Busher of Arklow Community Action Resource Centre, August 2023.



Community Engagement Manager, Deirdre Keogh, pictured with Bernie Ivers and members of Avoca Tidy Towns & Community Courthouse group at the Community Garden, Avoca Village. Our sponsorship supported upgraded sustainable seating and additional planting at the garden.



Deirdre dons the Barndarrig GAA jersey to mark the successful completion of dug outs at the Club grounds supported by the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund.



SSE Renewables supported St Vincent De Paul, St Peter’s Conference, Arklow, with a donation to its charity fundraising golf classic in July.



Arklow Writers Room and Arklow RNLI members pictured at the launch in July of ‘Glimpses’, a poetry and prose publication supported by SSE Renewables in aid of Arklow RNLI.



SSE Renewables supported Golden Circle, Arklow, with a donation towards its October cultural outing for seniors in the community.

For further information about the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, contact Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, on **0871822587**, or by email at **deirdre.keogh@sse.com**

Supporting Local Chambers

Arklow & District Chamber Gala & Awards 2023



Members of the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project team at the Arklow & District Chamber Gala and Awards event, September 2023

Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce welcomed over 250 guests to the Annual Gala Ball and Business Awards 2023 which took place in the Arklow Bay Conference and Leisure Hotel in September. SSE Renewables was again delighted to lend its support by sponsoring the welcome reception and the prestigious Environment and Sustainability Award presented to worthy recipient ASL Safety & Training, Arklow. The annual event acknowledges the contribution, over a number of categories, of individuals and businesses that form the fabric of the local economy in Arklow and the surrounding area.

Paul Lynch, Chamber President, said: 'Our Annual Gala Ball and Business Awards evening 2023 was a great night which celebrated the many business successes we have seen in our area over the last 12 months. The support provided by SSE Renewables for the event was most appreciated and it was great to meet with members of the Arklow Project team. As a prospective major investor into Arklow, the benefits to the local economy have the potential to create much needed employment, economic growth and skills' development in our local area into the coming decades'.



Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce President Paul Lynch and Deirdre Keogh SSE Renewables presenting the 'SSE Renewables, Environment and Sustainability Award 2023' to Mark Corcoran and Carmel Lonergan, ASL Safety Training, at the Chamber Gala and Awards night, September 2023

Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce and SSE Renewables confirm Strategic Partnership for 2023/24 year



Stephen Delaney, President, Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce, joined at the Chamber offices in Wicklow Enterprise Park in September by John O'Sullivan and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, marking the launch of a strategic partnership for 2023/24

Stephen Delaney, President, Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce, joined at the Chamber offices in Wicklow Enterprise Park in September by John O'Sullivan and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, marking the launch of a strategic partnership agreement which will see SSE Renewables support Wicklow Chamber as overall sponsor for 12 months. The agreement will see SSE Renewables supporting the Chamber's communications activities including regular newsletters to the organisation's membership.

Stephen Delaney, President, Wicklow Town & District Chamber, said: 'SSE Renewables is actively working to progress the delivery of offshore renewable energy to help secure Ireland's energy future, reduce carbon emissions and create local jobs. Ireland is a nascent market for offshore wind with huge potential and critical infrastructure projects such as Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 will significantly contribute to the Irish Government's

target of achieving 5GW of offshore wind by 2030. Our Chamber welcomes the new jobs that will be created across the county and looks forward to a successful partnership over the coming year.'

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 said: 'Part of our vision for our Arklow Bank offshore wind project along the coast of South Wicklow and North Wexford is to be an integral part of local business communities. The coming year will be very significant for the project as we move to submit our offshore planning application. The opportunity to strategically partner with Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce augments our ongoing commitment to meaningful stakeholder engagement and, in the longer term, to adding economic value through local investment and employment opportunities as our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project develops.'

East Coast ORE Network: Members of our team were delighted to participate in the September session hosted by the East Coast ORE Network in County Buildings in Wicklow. We shared a project update and gave some insight into the predicted supply chain and skills needs as well as sharing some case studies from the UK market where SSE Renewables has supported significant supply chain growth. We would like to extend thanks to the network membership for their kind invitation and for the support expressed for our Arklow project.

All things Sustainable for the Festive Season

SSE Renewables sponsors Arklow Community Excellence first ever Sustainable Fashion Event and 'Spirit of the Community' recognition award

SSE Renewables partnered with Arklow Community Excellence (ACE) as title sponsor for its first ever sustainable fashion competition event and the 'Spirit of the Community Award' which took place on 18th November. The ACE awards recognise the sterling contribution of individuals and groups in the community and voluntary sector in the town.

The 'SSE Renewables Sustainable Fashion Show' event showcased couture from local charity outlets competing across a range of fashion categories including casual wear, bridal, 'glitz and glamour' and the novel upcycling charity couture category.

The apex award on the night, the 'Spirit of the Community Award', recognised the contribution of that special person who has gone above and beyond to support others within the community. This year's worthy recipient was Anita Nolan for her work with 'Little Warriors'.

The event was a resounding success, and our appreciation is extended to Cleo Russell and Tammy Byrne (ACE co-chairs), the models, charity outlets and adjudicators in the 'SSE Renewables Sustainable Fashion Show', and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the event a resounding success.



Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, (centre) pictured with Tammy Byrne and Cleo Russell, Joint Chairs of Arklow Community Excellence (ACE) marking the launch of the SSE Renewables Sustainable Fashion event and 'Spirit of the Community' recognition award, November 2023



Anita Nolan from 'Little Warriors' worthy recipient of the 'SSE Renewables Spirit of the Community Award' pictured with Cleo Russell, Tammy Byrne, co-chairpersons and organisers of the ACE awards' event, Master of Ceremonies Devin Reardon, and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables

Ace-ing Sustainable Fashion



SSE Renewables Design a Christmas Decoration Competition from Recycled Materials

Ahead of the Christmas festive season, SSE Renewables, in partnership with the Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District, launched its 'Design a Christmas Decoration Competition from Recycled Materials 2023' on 1st November.

School goes throughout Arklow Municipal District showed their commitment to an eco-friendlier festive season when they took part in the competition to design their very own Christmas decoration from recycled materials.

Now in its second year, the competition was divided into four age categories: 7 and under; 8-10; 11-12; and 13 years and over. This year's entries were exceptional in terms of creativity in repurposing materials to create imaginative, sustainable festive decorations.

'Mr Frost Tree the Snowman', created by Ella Mai Browne Mordaunt, St John's SNS Arklow, was selected as the overall competition winner and Santa's guest of honour to switch on the Christmas tree lights at the community event in St Mary's Park on Saturday, 25th November, marking the launch of the Arklow Christmas Festival 2023.

Allanah McDonald Browne, SS Michael and Peter

Junior School, Arklow, was the winner in the age 7 and under category for her 'Santa's Workshop' entry. Indie-Rose Dobson, St John's SNS Arklow, won the age 8-10 category for her festive arch decoration. Ethan Forde, Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir, Arklow, came out tops in the age 11-12 category for his Santa's sleigh entry. Finally, Niamh Farrell, Glenart College, Arklow, was the winner in the age 13 years and over category for her jolly snowmen in a bottle.

Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager commented: 'The response to this, our second year of the competition, surpassed our expectations. It was a mammoth task to review all the entries received and to select the category winners. This year's overall winning entry from Ella Mai was selected because of the outstanding creativity shown for their age category of 8 - 10 years. The entry stood out for the heart-warming feeling that made the competition adjudicators feel very cheerful and festive.

Those who won in their respective age categories showed imaginative flair in how they interpreted the competition to repurpose and upcycle materials to fashion outstanding festive decorative creations. All the competition entries reminded us about the importance of repurposing, upcycling, and recycling materials and how we can breathe life into many materials which otherwise would be discarded'.

Main image: Niamh Farrell, Indie-Rose Dobson, Allanah McDonald Browne, Ella Mai Browne Mordaunt and Ethan Forde, winners of the SSE Renewables Design a Christmas Decoration Competition 2023 pictured with Santa's helpers and Deirdre Keogh.

SSE Renewables supports Arklow Christmas Festival with The Big Switch-On of the Christmas Tree Lights



Ella Mai Browne Mordaunt, St John's SNS, Arklow, overall competition winner of the 'SSE Renewables Design a Christmas Decoration from Recycled Materials Competition 2023'; pictured with Santa and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, at the switch on of this year's Christmas tree lights in St Mary's Park, Saturday, 25th November, to mark the launch of the Arklow Christmas Festival 2023

SSE Renewables partnered with Arklow Municipal District for a second consecutive year to bring some festive cheer to the district over the Christmas season. The partnership included sponsorship towards low energy street lighting for this year's Arklow Christmas Festival and the 'SSE Renewables Design a Christmas Decoration from Recycled Materials 2023'.

SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project:

- Holds a Maritime Area Consent (awarded, December 2022) for the project site area.
- Is committed to securing an alternative Route to Market to ORESS, to deliver the project at no cost to the taxpayer.
- Is pressing ahead with submitting our offshore development planning application to An Bord Pleanála in the coming months.
- Anticipates (subject to the achievement of a Final Grid Connection agreement and planning consent for our offshore development), to move into construction in 2026/27 with full power generation in 2028/29.
- Remains committed to communities through local economic investment; job creation and a multi-million Euro community development fund over the operational lifetime of the project with potential to make lasting transformational change to local communities.

Contact Us



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Wishing you, your families and friends, a peaceful festive season and every success in 2024 from our Arklow project team