

A photograph of four offshore wind turbines in the Arklow Bank Wind Park. The turbines are silhouetted against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. The sea is dark blue with some whitecaps. The turbines are arranged in a line, receding into the distance from the foreground to the background.

Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 **Newsletter**

Summer 2022

WELCOME TO THE ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The first half of the year has flown by and I am delighted to inform you that there has been substantive progress made on the project with a number of key project milestones achieved in recent months in relation to consenting and survey works.

A highlight of the year so far was the SSE Renewables Round Ireland 2022 international sailing event which was delivered in partnership with Wicklow Sailing Club. We have also been pleased again to support a number of exciting and worthy local community projects in the first half of this year through the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Sponsorship Fund.

At a national level, as progress continues to be made across the wider industry, SSE Renewables has called for increased national ambition in relation to Ireland's climate action targets and to ramp up the rapid deployment of offshore wind at scale.

There have also been some changes to our own team and as I move to a Public Affairs role across our Irish portfolio, we welcome newly appointed Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh who will lead on local engagement for the project going forward.

We hope you find these updates useful and as ever, our Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) Brendan Dillon and Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh would be delighted to hear from you with any suggestions for future newsletters or queries you may have in relation to the project. You can reach our team via the contact information within this newsletter.

Kind regards,

Deborah Coleman
External Affairs Manager



PROJECT MILESTONES

Three significant milestones were achieved in relation to Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 in recent months.

The first of these was announced in May as An Bord Pleanála granted planning permission for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure (OGI). The OGI comprises all of the onshore infrastructure required for the project and enables the offshore windfarm to connect into the local transmission system at the Avoca River Park.

The granting of this planning permission was a historic first for the Irish offshore wind industry as it marks the first time a developer has secured planning permission to develop onshore transmission grid infrastructure for an Irish offshore wind farm.

June saw the submission of our Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. This consent is sought to secure seabed exclusivity and we expect a decision in the coming months.

Thirdly, we achieved planning permission from Wicklow County Council in relation to our proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility at South Dock in Arklow Harbour. Once operational, this facility with integrated Sustainable Education Centre will support 80 local jobs for the lifetime of the wind farm.

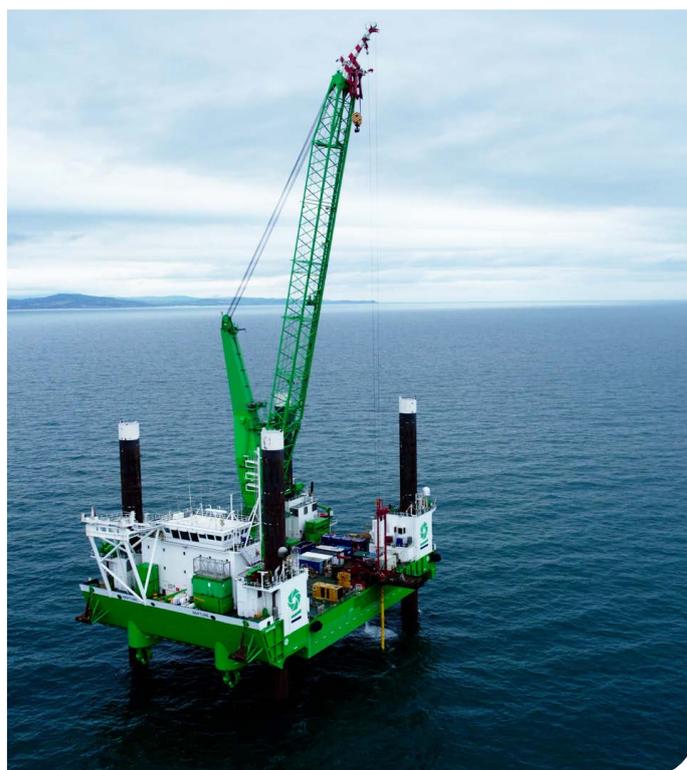


OFFSHORE SURVEY WORKS

We also concluded a successful ground investigation campaign on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 site earlier this month. The survey works were conducted at various locations across the site to enable us to gain a clearer understanding of the seabed conditions to support the ongoing engineering design.

The jack up vessel 'Neptune' was on site for a number of weeks to provide marine operations support to the ground investigation Contractor, Fugro, to complete this work.

Further site investigation survey works will be ongoing across the site through August and September and a Notice to Mariners will be issued in advance. Our Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) Brendan Dillon will also be engaging directly with commercial fishery stakeholders.



STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAMME

Members of our team were delighted to participate in a successful mentoring programme with students at Glenart College, Arklow during the past academic year. This programme was delivered through Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) and saw a variety of topics covered at monthly virtual sessions, including CV preparation, goal setting and interview preparation. We wish the students the best of luck in their future endeavours.



NATIONAL OFFSHORE TARGETS INCREASE TO 7GW BY 2030

SSE Renewables welcomes the announcement by Government that the national offshore wind targets for 2030 have been increased from 5GW to 7GW. This is something that we have been vocal about for some time and was the key message that our Director of Development Maria Ryan shared at the recent Energy Ireland conference.

She also stressed the importance of setting interim targets between 2030 and 2050 and ensuring that clear pathways are created for delivery of emerging technologies such as green hydrogen.

Maria reminded delegates that offshore wind will play a key part in the solution to the environmental challenges we are currently facing and support in the delivery of

environmental sustainability, energy security and energy equity.

FISHERIES FUND

We are co-developing a commercial fisheries pontoon in Arklow's South Dock with Wicklow County Council which has now passed through the public consultation process with full approval expected over the coming months. This project will be delivered in partnership with the local authority and is part-funded under the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Fisheries Fund.

This initiative will increase the berthing capacity in this area of the dock, it will greatly enhance access and egress safety and also provide services such as electricity and water directly to the fishing vessels.

WICKLOW SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY

We were delighted to be invited to exhibit at the recent Wicklow Sustainable Energy Community masterplan launch event at Wicklow Pastoral Centre. The event was indicative of the local appetite for a more sustainable future for those living and working in Wicklow Town and environs.



ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 SPONSORSHIP FUND

Our project is proud to once again have supported a number of exciting local initiatives in recent months including:

- Arklow Sea Scouts new youth training vessel
- Avoca Sea Scouts- kayaks and safety equipment
- Arklow Rocks Féile teams
- Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club youth training programme
- Arklow Rugby Club Walk & Talk track
- Arklow Maritime Museum's premises expansion

For further information about the Sponsorship Fund or for an application form, contact Deirdre.keogh@sse.com

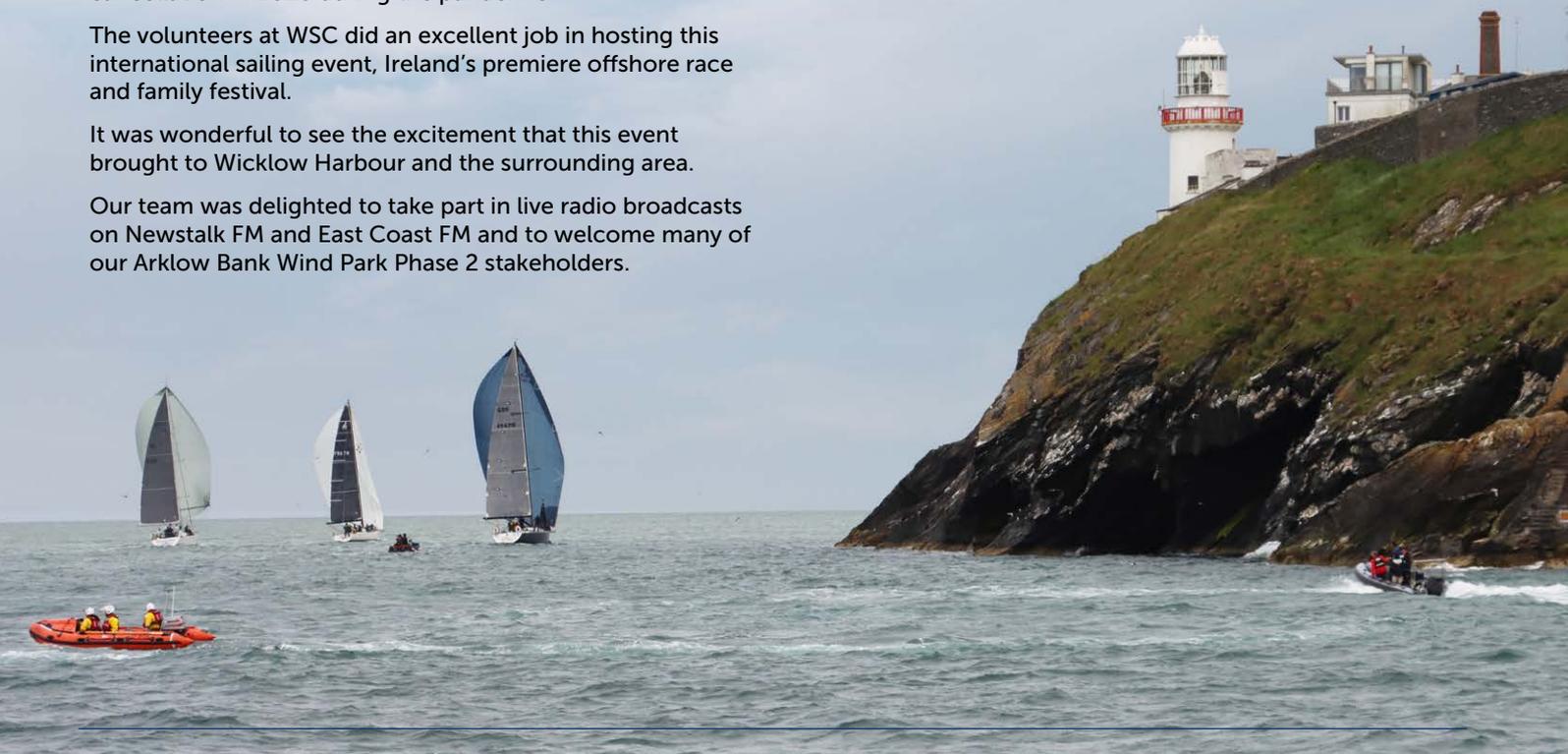


We are proud to report that our key sponsorship for this year – the SSE Renewables Round Ireland 2022 - was a roaring success. Delivered in partnership with Wicklow Sailing Club (WSC), the event made a welcome return following cancellation in 2020 during the pandemic.

The volunteers at WSC did an excellent job in hosting this international sailing event, Ireland's premiere offshore race and family festival.

It was wonderful to see the excitement that this event brought to Wicklow Harbour and the surrounding area.

Our team was delighted to take part in live radio broadcasts on Newstalk FM and East Coast FM and to welcome many of our Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 stakeholders.



WELCOMING DEIRDRE KEOGH

We extend a warm welcome to our newly appointed Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh.

Deirdre is from Arklow and lives locally. Most recently, Deirdre worked as a teacher in Glenart College, Arklow. Prior to this, she was employed as Assistant General Secretary with Education and Training Boards Ireland for 20 years. She has extensive experience in national negotiations, industrial relations and policy development. She is also a former non-executive Director of Respond Housing Association.

Deirdre takes over this role from Deborah Coleman who moves to the position External Affairs Manager on our Irish offshore wind portfolio.

Deirdre can be contacted by email on deirdre.keogh@sse.com



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

As we progress development of the project, we are keen to keep you updated and this newsletter is one of a number of ways through which we will endeavour to do this. We also welcome any feedback you may have on our Project.

Further information, and feedback forms, are available on our project website

www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

If you do not wish to receive further updates please contact Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh at the email address below.

OUR LIAISON TEAM



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