

Community newsletter

Welcome to the second issue of Gas Networks Ireland's newsletter for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER) project.

Delivering the SGER is critical to strengthening Ireland's energy security, and we remain committed to keeping the local community informed as this project moves forwards. In February, we held two community events at Kildysart Community Centre to continue gathering your feedback. We have also recruited a dedicated Community Liaison Officer who will be a key point of contact for the community throughout this project.

In this newsletter, you will find an update on our recent activity, including the front-end engineering design (FEED) contract, site investigations and surveys.



Community information events

We hosted a series of public information events on 25 and 26 February at Kildysart Community Centre. These sessions enabled residents to meet the project team, view the proposed site layout, learn more about ongoing site investigations and ask questions about the next steps for the SGER.

The events and meetings with the Kildysart Community Engagement Forum have provided us with a valuable opportunity to gather local insights and feedback, which is already contributing to project development.

We appreciate the interest shown by the community and thank everyone who joined us and continues to contribute to the project.



Introducing John Ginnane, your Community Liaison Officer

John will be the main point of contact for the local community. He will regularly be out in the area meeting local groups and people, attending meetings and events, and gathering feedback and sharing information about the SGER. If you have a query, or would like to speak to John, please contact him:
johnginnane@gasnetworks.ie



Latest updates

Front-end engineering design (FEED) contract

Gas Networks Ireland has appointed Murphy Group as the FEED contractor for the SGER. This marks the start of detailed design work, which will provide the essential engineering, safety, environmental and planning reports required for a planning submission later this year.

Murphy Group brings extensive experience across utility, civil engineering and major infrastructure delivery. The design work will be carried out from offices in Ireland and the UK, supported by ongoing collaboration with Gas Networks Ireland and visits to the proposed site in Cahiracon, Co. Clare.



Learn more about the appointment here: www.gasnetworks.ie/corporate/news/active-news-articles/sger-feed-contractor

Surveys and site investigations

As you may be aware, detailed site and surrounding area surveys are ongoing in Cahiracon. These surveys are essential to assess conditions and to help further inform the project's design.

Onshore site investigation work recommenced on 18 May and is now complete.

Marine surveys are ongoing – you will notice a jack-up barge in the estuary from early June and the work will take a few weeks to complete.

Over the summer, a combination of transect surveys, shoreline counts and vantage point observations will begin to assess breeding bird activity.

Road and traffic surveys have been conducted, and the survey reports are being prepared. We will continue to provide updates and report results as the project develops.



Next steps

We are progressing with a series of key project development activities. These steps are designed to ensure the project is delivered safely, efficiently and in line with environmental and planning requirements.

Here is an overview of some of our immediate next steps in 2026.



Site investigations

Detailed studies of the land and surrounding area to understand ground conditions and inform design

Planning application

Preparation and submission of a formal application to the relevant planning authorities, supported by findings from the investigations and assessments



Marine surveys

Offshore assessments to examine seabed conditions, water depth and environmental factors relevant to the FSRU and jetty



Community engagement

We want to ensure the local community is kept informed and has opportunities to engage at every stage

Community benefit fund

We plan to include a community benefit fund as part of our project and are open to early conversations with the community to identify local priorities



Front-end engineering design (FEED)

Early-stage design work to define the technical scope, layout and operational requirements of the facility

Environmental assessment

Comprehensive evaluation of potential environmental impacts, including on biodiversity, water quality and emissions



Local news

Our Programme Director, Padraic O'Connell recently attended a Clare County Council Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee on 21 May to present on the project and answer questions. After the presentation, Padraic was interviewed by ClareFM on Morning Focus.



To listen back to the interview, please click [here](#).

How to keep in touch



Get in touch with our Community Liaison Officer, John Ginnane:
johnginnane@gasnetworks.ie



To unsubscribe from our mailing list, please email "UNSUB" to SGER@gasnetworks.ie

If you have any queries relating to the project,

✉ email SGER@gasnetworks.ie

☎ or call **1800 340 500**

📄 To learn more and stay up to date with the latest information, visit:
www.gasnetworks.ie

