

County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025

A Partnership Plan prepared by the Kildare Heritage Forum



May 2019

Version 1.0



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1. Introduction

The National Heritage Plan, published in 2002, recognises the communal nature of heritage and the responsibility shared by all in its protection. This plan states that “protection of our heritage must begin at the local level, enabling everybody to become actively involved in preserving and enhancing that which belongs to us“. A key action of the National Heritage Plan is provision for heritage at the local level through the preparation and adoption of County Heritage Plans. This is the second Heritage Plan for County Kildare, covering the period 2019-2025.

The aim of the County Kildare Heritage Plan is:

“To recognise by all, the value and opportunity of Kildare’s unique heritage resource and to manage, conserve and protect it, in partnership for present and future generations”.

The County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025 presents an opportunity to build on, and consolidate, the progress and achievements made through the implementation of the first County Heritage Plan. Appendix IV outlines some of the achievements of the previous Heritage Plan.

This new plan commits to continuing to work with the community and various stakeholders to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of Kildare’s natural and cultural heritage assets. It represents a strategic approach to the management of heritage in Kildare. It is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and needs at a county level and to address them locally, within a regional and national framework underpinned by both national and local heritage policy.

The Heritage Plan was prepared by the County Kildare Heritage Forum, a partnership committee, set up by Kildare County Council, in consultation with the local community and local, regional and national organisations, with an interest in and remit for the heritage of County Kildare and was facilitated by the Council’s Heritage Officer. County Kildare Heritage Forum is comprised of elected representatives, council officials, and representatives from state agencies, local development, community groups and farming, education and business sectors and local heritage groups.

In the preparation of this Heritage Plan, the Forum is guided by the Heritage Act (1995), which includes as heritage monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland

waterways. Additionally, the Kildare Heritage Plan makes provision for other aspects of cultural heritage such as history, genealogy, traditional skills, place names and folklore.

2. Policy Context

2.1 National and Regional Policy

The following are strategic policy documents which have influenced the preparation of the Heritage Plan.

Project Ireland 2040- National Planning Framework (NPF): The NPF is a high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the country to the year 2040.

It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities, and to protect and enhance the environment. Within the NPF, Enhanced Amenities and Heritage has been identified as a National Strategic Outcome and which has been identified as a Strategic Investment Priority.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) - East and Midlands: A RSES is a strategic plan which identifies regional assets, opportunities and pressures and provides appropriate policy responses in the form of Regional Policy Objectives (RPO). A number of RPOs in the draft RSES address built, natural and heritage issues.

The National Heritage Plan: The preparation of a local heritage plan and establishment of a local heritage forum became part of Government policy in the National Heritage Plan (NHP) of 2002. The Heritage Council subsequently published guidelines on the preparation of Local Heritage Plans in 2003. The Kildare Heritage Plan has been produced in accordance with those guidelines.

Heritage Ireland 2030: The Department of Culture, Heritage and Local Government announced a period of public consultation on the new national Heritage Plan- *Heritage Ireland 2030* in November 2018. *Heritage Ireland 2030* will establish a framework for the understanding and enjoyment of heritage for the next decade under three themes – “National Leadership and Heritage”, “Heritage Partnerships” and “Communities and Heritage”. A series of draft objectives under each theme are detailed in the *Heritage Ireland 2030* consultation document. At the time of writing the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched a public consultation process on Heritage Ireland 2030.

Culture 2025 & Creative Ireland: *Culture 2025 - Éire Ildánach A Framework Policy to 2025* was published by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in 2016. The aim of this policy is to put culture at the heart of our lives and develop a more collaborative approach across all sectors. This policy is underpinned by a commitment to increase resources for arts and heritage and to improve funding structures for investment in national and local services. Priorities include the updating of the National Heritage Plan and the identification of priority actions in the heritage area. The Culture 2025 policy is supported by the implementation vehicle, *Creative Ireland Programme/ Clár Éire Ildánach 2017-2022*, which commits to an increased investment in arts and heritage, the promotion of collaboration and the production of a Culture and Creativity Plan by the Culture Team in each local authority. The County Kildare Culture and Creativity Plan seeks to facilitate greater community engagement in heritage, culture and creativity and the development of multidisciplinary artistic and cultural collaborations.

National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) 2017-2021: The Plan captures the objectives, targets and actions for biodiversity that will be undertaken by a wide range of government, civil society and the private sector to achieve Ireland's 'Vision for Biodiversity', and follows on from the work of the first and second National Biodiversity Action Plans. The NBAP provides a framework to track and assess progress towards Ireland's Vision for Biodiversity over a six-year timeframe.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020: The production of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2015 is a new approach to address the decline in pollinator species and protect pollinator services on the island of Ireland. The Plan is a cross-agency and cross-departmental strategy setting out steps to reverse pollinator losses and help restore populations to healthy levels over a five year period. The associated sectoral guidelines produced through the Pollinator Plan provide a valuable resource to promote collaboration in Kildare and assist the implementation of related actions in the Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025.

Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht sectoral plans for Climate Change

Adaptation: The Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht are preparing Climate Change sectoral plans for climate change adaptation for Built & Archaeological Heritage and Biodiversity. These plans will contain climate change adaptation actions, for the benefit of heritage, to be implemented by local authorities and general public.

Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020: In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While none of the 17 SDGs refer to culture or heritage specifically, a number of goals and targets contain explicit references to culture and heritage. SDG 11 explicitly refers to the cities, in particular to the need to make cities and human settlements “inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, through “inclusive and sustainable urbanization, planning and management” (Target 11.3) and more “efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage” (Target 11.4). such as SDG 11 which refers to making Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It is explicitly mentioned only once in the goal 11, that is referred to the cities, in particular to the need of making cities and human settlements “inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, through “inclusive and sustainable urbanization, planning and management” (SDG Target 11.4)

Targets and measures for the protection of ecosystems, landscapes and cultural heritage have been set by the SDGs such as SDG Target 11.4 is an overarching objective for heritage:

“Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage”.

The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Waters and Communities: The establishment of Local Authority Waters and Communities Offices (LAWCO) in 2016 is a new approach to public participation in the management of our natural waters and delivery of the Water Framework Directive. It recognises the value of local partnerships in the management of local rivers, lakes or coastal waters and offers advice on technical issues and funding opportunities for community projects. There is great potential for such projects to enhance the water quality, habitat value and recreational use of Kildare’s water bodies and this has been identified as an action of the Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025.

The National Peatland Strategy 2015-2025: This strategy, prepared in consultation with the Peatlands Council and with relevant Government Departments, agencies and semi-State companies was published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in 2015. The strategy arose from the need to take a broad strategic approach to the future management of Ireland’s peatlands. This aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.

2.2 Local Policy

County Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2018:

The first ever County Kildare Heritage Plan covering the period 2005-2010, was extended until 2018 to allow for the implementation of key actions. This Plan, along with the establishment of the County Kildare Heritage Forum allowed for a new approach to heritage management and consultation in the county. This Plan sets out a strategy for the protection and promotion of heritage in the county and identifies actions to meet the four main objectives of the Plan. The objectives were:

- collection and dissemination of heritage information,
- raising awareness,
- promotion of best practice and
- informing policy

Seventy two of the eight five (85%) actions of the plan have been fully completed or incorporated into on-going annual activities. As noted above some of the key achievements of the Kildare Heritage Plan are set out in Appendix IV.

This Draft Heritage Plan for County Kildare sets out to build upon the achievements of the previous Plan and identifies priorities for heritage in County Kildare over the next 6 years, taking account of changes at local, national and international levels since the publication of previous plans.

County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014

The Biodiversity Action Plan for Kildare sets out a number of actions under four key objectives. The development and implementation of the Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan reflects the importance of this aspect of our heritage in Kildare. The Heritage Plan is committed to supporting the implementation of actions in the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014 and any subsequent review and update of the County Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan.

It should be noted that the Heritage Plan promotes a fully integrated approach to heritage which encompasses built and natural heritage equally and this is reflected in the Plan actions which complement the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023

The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) sets out the statutory framework for land use planning and sustainable development in County Kildare. The Heritage Plan sits within the

policy framework of the CDP and aims to support and strengthen the role of the CDP and other land use plans by providing baseline information to inform policy for the protection, conservation, management and promotion of heritage.

Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021

The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a six-year plan prepared by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in conjunction with Kildare County Council. It contains objectives and actions to promote and support economic development, and local and community development of County Kildare. The LECP will form the strategic framework for all publicly funded local, economic and community development programmes. Heritage makes a significant contribution to quality of life, well-being and plays a role in strengthening of communities and contributes to the socio-economic development of County Kildare.

Draft Kildare County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2019

The Kildare County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

It is tasked with mainstreaming climate change adaptation over time into all functions, operations and services of the local authority. It seeks to inform or 'climate proof' existing plans and policies produced and implemented by the local authority. This ensures a considered, consistent and coherent approach, to allow us to face head-on the challenges of a changing climate and to build resilience within the local authority organisation itself as well as across all communities.

As the level of government closest to local communities and enterprise and as first responders in many emergencies, Kildare County Council are uniquely placed to effect real positive change with respect to delivery of the national transition objective to a low carbon and a climate resilience future.

The local authority adaptation strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to:

- ensure a proper comprehension of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change
- bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner
- ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of the local authority

This adaptation strategy serves Kildare County Council in its two capacities namely:

- As an organisation or entity with an obligation towards customer service, a focus on effectiveness in business, improving efficiencies and maintaining staff welfare
- In the delivery of services and functions across the administrative and geographical area of County Kildare

In accordance with the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 the adaptation strategy is required to be adopted by members of Kildare County Council before the 30th September 2019. The strategy is currently being developed and undergoing assessment through the Strategic Environmental Assessment statutory process. There will be opportunities for engagement with stakeholders and public consultation from May 2019. Contained within this strategy are a number of actions which seek to address the impact of climate change on built and natural heritage.

3. Guiding principles

Certain principles underpin the Heritage Plan and will be borne in mind at all stages of implementation. The County Heritage Forum is guided by core values which underpin all activities of Kildare County Council as set out in the Kildare County Council Corporate Plan 2015-2019, namely:

- local democracy;
- customer service;
- sustainability;
- social inclusion;
- community development;
- efficiency and accountability.

The County Kildare Heritage Forum is committed to an *integrated heritage approach* (built and natural) when implementing actions within the Heritage Plan. This will ensure that the benefits for heritage are maximised from actions undertaken and that there is no net damage to Kildare's heritage resource. For example, actions with a strong archaeological focus will also be required to consider any potential benefits to or impacts on biodiversity or other heritage elements and vice versa.

The following principles were referred to throughout the process of preparing the Heritage Plan:

Community- Through the implementation of the Heritage Plan, the Kildare Heritage Forum will endeavour to build the capacity of communities to engage and participate in heritage initiatives across the county.

Inter-generational Approach: The Heritage Forum will develop an intergenerational approach when delivering the projects and initiatives and seek to pass on to future generations the unique heritage knowledge and traditions of the county.

Working in Partnership - The Heritage Forum believes in the partnership model of working with the public/statutory, voluntary and private sectors.

Heritage as a Resource- In this plan heritage is seen as an intrinsic valuable resource in its own right. The Heritage Forum also considers that Kildare's heritage resource has a strategic economic potential that could be exploited with careful consideration of sustainable balanced development.

Irish and other Languages - The Heritage Forum will endeavour to promote the Irish language as part of our unique Irish heritage and culture in the delivery of the plan. Promotional written and electronic heritage material will also be produced in a range of other languages to facilitate tourists/non-Irish nationals that visit or live in County Kildare.

The principles of *sustainable development, proper planning and best practice* will be applied to all actions undertaken by the Heritage Forum. Actions undertaken will be compliant with all relevant planning and heritage legislation. The Heritage Forum is committed to carrying out a heritage appraisal/heritage risk assessment for each action undertaken in implementing the Plan.

The principles of *social inclusion* will be applied at all times in the delivery of the Heritage Plan. In particular, every effort will be made to ensure that all events undertaken as part of the delivery of this plan reflect the interests of the socially and culturally diverse community of the county, and are accessible to people of all abilities.

The UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, usually known as the Aarhus Convention, entered into force in 2001 and was ratified by Ireland in 2012. The Aarhus Convention lays down a set of basic rules to promote public involvement in environmental matters. The Convention has 3 pillars: access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision making and access to justice in

environmental matters. It lays down a set of basic rules to promote the involvement of citizens in environmental matters and improve enforcement of environmental law. The principles of the Aarhus Convention will be applied in all actions undertaken by the Heritage Forum.

4. Preparing the Heritage Plan 2019-2025

This Heritage Plan was prepared in accordance with the Heritage Council's *Guidelines for the Preparation of City/County Heritage Plan*, 2003 by the County Kildare Heritage Forum. The previous Heritage Plan was reviewed in 2012 and recommendations were made which were incorporated into the development of this new Heritage Plan. The membership of the Heritage Forum was renewed, with new organisations invited to attend and new members coming on board from the various nominating groups. (See Appendix I for Heritage Forum members). The Forum established three working groups namely Built and Archaeological Working Group, Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Working Group and Community and Cultural Working Group. The membership of the working groups comprises members of the Forum and additional relevant people with appropriate knowledge and expertise.

The Heritage Forum met and the plan preparation process was agreed. A briefing document and questionnaire, prepared by the Forum, was circulated along with a public invitation to make submissions to the pre-draft plan. A workshop was conducted for heritage professional in the county.

Submissions from the public and professional workshop were collated into a submission report. A total of forty six submissions were received in total (Appendix III). A number of broad themes and issues were identified. The Heritage Forum has had regard to the issues highlighted in these submissions and has used these as a basis of discussions which has resulted in the formulation of 4 strategic objectives and actions in this draft County Kildare Heritage Plan (2019-2025). The main steps undertaken in the process of preparing the plan are summarised in Appendix II.

The Heritage Forum acknowledges the work of many organisations, individuals and agencies already taking place within the county. The Heritage Plan seeks to expand on this work by concentrating on local heritage issue and seeks to further involve local communities in caring for their local heritage.

5. Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) as transposed into Irish law by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 requires that all plans and projects must be screened for potential significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Screening aims to establish whether a full Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Directive is required.

Screening of the draft Heritage Plan 2019-2025 was undertaken and the findings have informed this Draft Plan. Overall it was concluded that the plan would have no significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and that no further assessment was necessary. Kildare Heritage Forum is committed to the implementation of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and an Appropriate Assessment Screening of the final draft of the Kildare Heritage Plan will be undertaken prior to its consideration and adoption by Kildare County Council. The screening of individual projects for appropriate assessment will also be undertaken where appropriate during the implementation of the Plan.

6. Implementation of the Plan

The Heritage Plan is a strategic six-year work plan which will be implemented through the Heritage Office's annual work programme, overseen by the Heritage Forum and co-ordinated on a day to day basis by the Heritage Officer of Kildare County Council. While the Heritage Forum, Kildare County Council and the Heritage Council are key partners in the delivery and funding of the Plan, successful implementation of the Heritage Plan is dependent on the continued active engagement, support and participation of the wider community in Kildare including heritage groups, agencies, third level institutions and individuals. Opportunities to work in cooperation with partners within and outside the county for the delivery of the Plan will be availed of wherever possible. An annual work programme will be drafted based on the contents of the plan and current heritage priorities at local and national level. This will then be used to apply for funding to the Heritage Council and other sources. A report on the Heritage Plan Actions undertaken and the progress made will be submitted to the members of Kildare County Council and published on the council's website at the end of each year.

7. Role of the County Kildare Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum is a non-statutory advisory group, made up of representatives from bodies and groups involved in heritage matters in the county, including local government, development

organisations, state agencies, landowners, heritage organisations and community and voluntary sectors. The Forum is central to the Heritage Plan process in terms of the development and delivery of the Plan. The Forum meetings provide a valuable opportunity for members to discuss issues, share knowledge, information and resources and build working relationships. The Heritage Forum has had a significant role in coordinating and overseeing actions of the previous Plan. The Forum is co-ordinated by the County Kildare Heritage Officer and meets quarterly. The Forum reports to the Councils Strategic Policy Committee for Community and Culture and the Strategic Policy Committee for Planning and Economic Development.

8. Funding

Kildare County Council is committed to delivering the Heritage Plan, in partnership with others over the next six years, as resources permit. The Council will consider funding allocation for the delivery of the Plan in accordance with the annual budget. The Council will also support the delivery of the Plan through the work of its Heritage Officer and other professional staff. Each year a detailed work programme is drawn up from the actions in this Plan, which will be submitted to the Heritage Council and other funding bodies as appropriate. The Heritage Council has agreed, in principle, to consider the Plan as a six-year strategic funding application. The Heritage Council will consider funding actions in the Plan, consistent with normal funding criteria, which are compatible with its objectives. Delivery of the Heritage Plan is facilitated by an annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council and co-funded by Kildare County Council. The commitment of other key partners to funding actions in the Plan will largely be dependent on their funding allocations and remits.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Heritage Plan sets out a series of actions to be achieved over a six-year period. The annual work programme will detail the projects to be undertaken, and the partners responsible for their delivery. The Forum will monitor the annual work programme and will meet a minimum of four times annually to review and evaluate progress. In this regard, the Heritage Forum will report to Kildare County Council's Strategic Policy Committee for Community and Economic Development and the Strategic Policy Committee for Planning. Working groups will be convened as needed for the purposes of achieving specific actions in the work programme. Heritage conferences and presentations will be organised on an ongoing basis to evaluate progress on the Heritage Plan 2019-2025.

10. Availability of resources and expertise

Specialist professional expertise will be sought where required and as resources permit, to implement the actions of the Heritage Plan. However, in order for the principles of heritage conservation to be fully integrated into the day to day operation of Kildare County Council, the appointment of full-time, suitably qualified staff in the areas of community archaeology, archives and biodiversity would be desirable. The Forum recognises, however, that the provision of such staff is an operational matter for Kildare County Council and is dependent on available resources.

11. The Plan: Strategic Objectives & Actions

The aim of the Heritage Plan is *“to recognise, the value and opportunity of Kildare’s unique heritage resource and to manage, conserve and protect it, in partnership for present and future generations”*.

The working groups formulated actions to address the various issues raised in the consultation process. These actions can be grouped under four Strategic objectives and a number of long-term objectives. The long-term objectives are outside the scope of the Heritage Plan.

11.1 Strategic objectives

- **Strategic Objective 1:** Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training and to foster and the stewardship of and involvement in heritage
- **Strategic Objective 2:** Promote best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource
- **Strategic Objective 3:** Disseminate heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys/research and to inform and develop heritage policy which promotes heritage
- **Strategic Objective 4:** Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life, cultural and economic development in County Kildare
- **Long-term objectives**
These are objectives that are beyond the scope of this Heritage Plan.

11.2 Actions

Strategic Objective 1:

- **Increase understanding of Kildare’s heritage through awareness, education and training and to foster and the stewardship of and involvement in heritage**

1	Support community groups, Tidy Towns Network and NGOs in the development of community-led heritage projects which meet the objectives of the Heritage Plan and seek to promote best practice in relation to research, promotion and conservation of Kildare’s heritage. Develop pilot community projects which would be best practice conservation models using conservation professionals in multi-disciplinary teams.
2	Support local heritage initiatives through the Community Heritage Grant Scheme
3	Develop a Heritage Award Scheme to recognise communities and individuals who have demonstrated best practice regarding heritage management, conservation and research.
4	Develop links with the business sector in Kildare which seek to promote heritage.
5	Develop a network of heritage groups and NGOs in the county through the Public Participation Network (PPN).
6	Promote best practice in the management, conservation, and recording of historic graveyards and develop a conservation programme for historic graveyards in co-operation with the County Kildare Historic monuments Advisory Committee and graveyard maintenance groups across the county
7	Support the involvement of Kildare Towns in the Walled Town Network or Historic Towns Network
8	Support national initiatives such as the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Biodiversity Plan
9	Support the process of nomination to world heritage status for Dun Áilinne, Kilcullen, as part of the serial nomination "Royal Sites of Ireland ". Currently on Ireland's UNESCO World Heritage Tentative list.
10	Conduct a pilot Lidar survey of the Curragh’s archaeological and military heritage.
11	Map and promote the geological heritage of County Kildare.
12	Work in partnership with the relevant agencies/organisations, local voluntary groups and the public to protect and promote an understanding of the heritage of waterways in Kildare
13	Establish links with the owners of historic houses and promote those open to the public as part of Heritage Week

14	Support the promotion of and involvement in Citizen Science which encourages the recording of wildlife and biodiversity for submission to the National Biodiversity Centre.
15	Support the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans
16	Support the development of biodiversity gardens in schools.
17	Support, in co-operation with Bord na Mona and other relevant stakeholders, the re-instatement/regeneration of cut-over bogs for the purpose of biodiversity restoration, carbon storage and flood alleviation.
18	Explore the designation of significant trees or groups of trees suitable for preservation orders.
19	Support the designation of Kildare proposed Natural Heritage Areas and the Geological Sites of Importance in the county.
20	Support the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment and Historic Landscape Characterisation and its integration into county/local area plans.
21	Develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy for integration into the next County Development Plan.
22	Develop partnerships between the Council and local communities and interest groups to initiate local area tree planting programmes under the NeighbourWood Scheme in co-operation with Kildare Parks Department. .
23	Develop a heritage assets register to ensure that heritage sites in Council ownership are appropriately managed and accessible.
24	Establish a fund for the maintenance and care of heritage assets in Council ownership.
25	Carry out the heritage related actions in the adopted Kildare County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy, 2019

Strategic Objective 2:

- **Promote best practice in the conservation and management of County Kildare’s heritage resource**

26	Assist community groups and owners/managers of heritage sites to avail of funding for the conservation, management and promotion of heritage sites.
27	Create a <i>Buildings at Risk Register</i> for the historic buildings.
28	Promote best practice in the management, conservation, and recording of historic graveyards.

29	Ensure that structures of significant historic, architectural, cultural, scientific and technical interest in the county are included on the Record of Protected Structures.
30	Establish in-house advisory service to provide guidance on the care and maintenance of the local authority historic assets.
31	Identify Architectural Conservation Areas in the county and develop and promote Architectural Conservation Statements for such areas.
32	Update the Curragh Task Force report and with the support of Department of Defence prepare a conservation, management and interpretation plan for the Curragh, which seeks to promote archaeological, cultural, natural and built heritage of this significant heritage resource.
33	Organise traditional skills-building workshops.
34	Provide guidance for the owners of heritage sites on the correct management and conservation of the sites.
35	Develop links with other Heritage Officers on joint/regional heritage initiatives through Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) including EU funding opportunities and archaeological landscapes.
36	Implement the current County Kildare Biodiversity Plan and draft the new Biodiversity Plan
37	Support communities in the collection of oral histories.
38	Support and promote the work of the County Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee.
39	Kildare County Council to become a partner with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan by signing the Framework for Councils/Local Authorities
40	In conjunction with Teagasc, Tidy Towns groups and the Hedge laying Association of Ireland develop a hedge management course.
41	Prepare a survey of railway Structures along the former Tullow railway line and explore the feasibility of developing the former Tullow railway line as a long distance walking route through Kildare to promote the counties railway heritage.
42	Support the establishment of the Liffey Advisory Committee to explore possibility of developing a Liffey Valley Walk.

43	Support and assist in the development of 'Shackelton Museum' in Athy, County Kildare'.
44	Establish a Kildare Heritage Network to facilitate networking and co-operation on projects (both local and Countywide) to the benefit of the County's Built & Natural Heritage and support the implementation of the Heritage Plan

Strategic Objective 3:

- **Disseminate heritage data and information to a wide audience, undertake surveys/research and to inform and develop heritage policy which promotes heritage**

45	Create a central information point for heritage information in Kildare i.e. Kildare Heritage Website which will facilitate public collaboration in the uploading of heritage data and links to national data sets.
46	Develop a dissemination policy for heritage information in Kildare.
47	Disseminate information on Kildare's heritage through the use of new technology/media such as apps, audio guides, YouTube clips and social networking sites.
48	Publish the surveys/reports/publications/inventories/audits and outcomes of this and previous Heritage Plans.
49	Audit existing surveys of Kildare's heritage and conduct surveys of unrecorded Kildare Heritage e.g. bridges, field monuments, mass rocks, mass paths, holy wells and walls, water pumps, piers, post boxes, monuments, historic plaques etc.
50	Carry out an audit of all protected structures, recorded monuments and designated natural heritage sites in the care or ownership/ guardianship of Kildare County Council. Carry out condition surveys and develop conservation/management strategies for these structures.
51	Commission a study of vernacular architecture in County Kildare to record and describe form, materials and setting.
52	Promote the importance of place names and field names in County Kildare.
53	Develop strategic links with third level institutions to encourage research and mapping of Kildare's Heritage.
54	Establish and maintain an archive of reports on archaeological structures and Protected Structures in Kildare.

55	Assess the current level of access to National Monuments and publicly owned archaeological monuments in the county and, where possible, encourage partnerships to provide appropriately managed access to, research and develop promotional material in relation to these sites.
56	Carry out an audit of directional signage to key heritage sites of archaeological, geological and natural heritage significance, in the county and seek to improve the provision of directional signage. Explore the “standardisation of design” for heritage signage in the county.
57	Liaise with the Tourism Officer and other relevant partners to promote the development and dissemination of promotional material for publicly accessible sites in the county
58	Develop and provide, in consultation with state agencies, training courses for local authority staff and elected representatives on aspects of the management of Kildare's Heritage.
59	Develop a heritage education strategy for all aspects of heritage for community and business groups.
60	In consultation with the Kildare Education Centre carry out an audit of current heritage education programmes available at primary and post-primary level, to identify gaps and opportunities for an enhanced heritage education programme in the county.
61	Organise an annual/biennial seminar to provide an update on the implementation of the Heritage Plan
62	Develop communication and promotional strategy for Kildare's heritage which maximises the existing structures in the county such as local media, community and business networks.
63	Review the policy on the naming of new estates in Kildare to accurately reflect the cultural heritage of the county.
64	Develop novel ways to promote and interpret Kildare's heritage, through more active and interactive experiences events and workshops, to encourage new audiences to engage with heritage matters.
65	Carry out habitat mapping to assist in the identification of Local Biodiversity Important Sites and integrate findings into the County Development Plan and local area plans.
66	Support the sustainable development of greenways and blueways which seek to support the protection of natural heritage in design. Support the development of heritage theme trails in the county e.g. geology, natural heritage, ecclesiastical, pilgrims saints and scholars, ancient trade routes, canal trails, great houses and gardens, equine heritage,

	military heritage, vernacular architecture, flora and fauna, graveyards, bogs and ancient roadways.
67	Carry out an audit of natural heritage sites in the ownership of Kildare County Council and develop conservation/management strategies for these sites.
68	Explore the possibility of a Liffey Valley Walk in the county, to promote and support the sustainable development of new walking, cycling and biodiversity routes along the River Liffey
69	Support existing natural education programmes such as An Taisce Green Schools Programme and Heritage in the Schools Programme.
70	Support awareness of Kildare military heritage.
71	Develop a Heritage GIS Database by gathering and displaying audits on heritage in the county in conjunction with Kildare County Council GIS team.
72	Develop an annual heritage awareness programme to include seminars, walks, exhibitions and workshops and increase the participation in annual cultural events such as Biodiversity Week, Heritage Week and Culture Night.
73	Develop a photographic archive in conjunction with Kildare Library Service and develop a publicity campaign to collect on loan old photographs, and other heritage information from individuals around the county.
74	Assess the level of awareness of heritage in the county.
75	Seek to ensure that the objectives of the Heritage Plan are incorporated into statutory plans.

Strategic Objective 4:

- **Promote heritage as a resource that contributes to quality of life, cultural and economic development in County Kildare**

76	Develop a Kildare Heritage brand in conjunction with County Kildare Fáilte.
77	Assess the economic value of heritage to the county (economic, educational, environmental, cultural, quality of life and contribution to sense of place). Use the findings to advocate greater support for investment in and support for heritage.

Long-term objectives:

- **These are objectives that are beyond the scope of this Heritage Plan.**

78	Explore the feasibility of a County Museum including the possibility of a virtual (online) museum.
79	Explore the possibility of creating a repository for Kildare artefacts e.g. minute books, documents, records, photographs etc and develop a collection policy for the archive.
80	Seek the publication of the County Kildare Archaeological Inventory.
81	Review the staffing resources of the Heritage Section in the context of the county Heritage Plan, the requirements of Government, the Heritage Council and the role of heritage in the Council's policies and programmes with a view to augmenting these resources to facilitate the delivery of the objectives of the Heritage Plan and national and regional initiatives.

Appendix I Membership of County Kildare Heritage Forum

Listed here under are the organisations currently represented on County Kildare Heritage Forum, along with the individual representatives in 2013. While the organisations in the Forum have remained relatively unchanged, the individual representatives have occasionally changed. The members of the current Forum would like to acknowledge the input of all previous members of Kildare Heritage Forum's into the Heritage Plan process.

Representatives in 2013

Brian Beckett	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Edward Loughlin	Teagasc
Dr Mark McCorry	Bord na Móna
Bill Murren	Forest Service
Deirdre Moran	Kildare Bird Watch Ireland Branch
Tadhg O'Corcora	IPCC
Billy Padden	Planner KCC
Dr John Sweeney	ICARUS (Director)
Roy Thompson	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Simon Wallace	Senior Exec. Parks Superintendent, KCC
Mary Watters	IFA
Tara Ryan	Coillte
Clr Micheál Nolan	Elected representative, KCC
Peter Black	Conservation Officer, Kildare County Council
Noel Dunne	NRA Archaeologist, NRDO
Carol Smyth	Planner KCC
Hugh Crawford	County Kildare Archaeological Society
Letitia Hanratty	Architect, KCC
Marc Ritchie	Architectural Heritage Advisor, Dept of Arts Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Clr Seamie Moore	Elected representative, KCC
Clr Francis Browne	Elected representative, KCC
Dr Terence Dooley	Kildare Fáilte
Mario Corrigan	Library Service
Dolores Hamill	Kildare Education Centre
John Hayes	Castletown House
Brian McCabe	Kildare Federation of Local History Groups
Tony McEvoy	Community and Voluntary Forum
Lucina Russell	Arts Officer, KCC
Ger Smith	County Kildare Leader Partnership
Bridget Loughlin	Heritage Officer, KCC

Membership of the Natural Heritage Working Group - in 2013

Brian Beckett	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Edward Loughlin	Teagasc
Dr Mark McCorry	Bord na Móna
Bill Murren	Forest Service
Deirdre Moran	Kildare Bird Watch Ireland Branch
Tadhg O'Corcora	IPCC
Billy Padden	Planner, KCC
Dr John Sweeney	ICARUS (Director)
Roy Thompson	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Simon Wallace	Senior Exec. Parks Superintendent, KCC
Mary Watters	IFA
Tara Ryan	Coillte
Cllr Micheál Nolan	Elected representative, KCC
Bridget Loughlin	Heritage Officer, KCC

Membership of the Built Heritage Working Group- in 2013

Peter Black	Conservation Officer, Kildare County Council
Noel Dunne	NRA Archaeologist, NRDO
Carol Smyth	Planner, KCC
Hugh Crawford	County Kildare Archaeological Society
Letitia Hanratty	Architect, KCC
Marc Ritchie	Architectural Heritage Advisor, Dept of Arts Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Cllr Seamie Moore	Elected representative, KCC
Bridget Loughlin	Heritage Officer, KCC

Membership of the Community & Cultural Working Group- in 2013

Cllr Francis Browne	Elected representative, KCC
Dr Terence Dooley	Kildare Fáilte
Mario Corrigan	Library Service
Dolores Hamill	Kildare Education Centre
John Hayes	Castletown House
Brian McCabe	Kildare Federation of Local History Groups
Tony McEvoy	Community and Voluntary Forum
Lucina Russell	Arts Officer, KCC
Ger Smith	Kildare Leader Partnership
Bridget Loughlin	Heritage Officer, KCC

Representatives in 2019

The County Kildare Heritage Forum was re-formed in Jan 2019.

Name	Organisation
Cllr Carmel Kelly	Elected Representative Kildare County Council
Cllr Teresa Murray	Elected Representative Kildare County Council
Cllr Ivan Keatley	Elected Representative Kildare County Council
Nicola Matthews	Architectural Heritage Advisor, Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gealtacht
Chris Corlette	National Monuments Service, Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gealtacht
Eileen Canny	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gealtacht
Dr Mark McCorry	Bord na Mona
Dylan Mullhall	Coillte
Roisín O'Callaghan	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Fiona Doolan	Teagasc
Meave Howe	County Kildare Leader Partnership
Tom McCutcheon	County Kildare Fáilte
Neil Bourke	Kildare BirdWatch Ireland
TBC	IFA
Brian McCabe	Kildare Public Participation Network
Pat Byrne	Kildare Public Participation Network
Pat Pender	Kildare Public Participation Network
David Jordan	Planner Kildare County Council
Peter Black	Conservation Officer, Kildare County Council
Mario Corrigan	Library Service, Kildare County Council
Noel Dunne	NRA Archaeologist, National Roads design Office
Bridget Loughlin	Heritage Officer, Kildare County Council

Appendix II Heritage Plan Development Process

An Evaluation of the previous Heritage Plan 2005-2018	2012
Renewed County Kildare Heritage Forum	2012
Presentation to County Kildare Council and agree to commence the preparation of the Heritage Plan	Jan 2013
Establish working groups and Forum to begin Plan preparation	March 2013
Prepare briefing document and questionnaire inviting submissions	Jan to March 2013
Advertise the intention to prepare a County Heritage Plan and invite public submissions	March to April 2013
Submissions from the public and arising from a workshop with heritage professionals collated into a submissions report. The broad themes were identified. The working groups considered the submissions relevant to their area of work and actions were drafted to address the themes identified. All actions were then collated into the draft Heritage Plan 2019-2025.	April 2013 to 2018
County Kildare Heritage Forum was re-formed	Dec 2018-Jan 2019
Draft Heritage Plan 2019-2025 agreed by the Heritage Forum	14 th Feb 2019
Present Draft Heritage Plan 2019-2025 to Community, Cultural and Economic Development SPC and Planning and Strategic Development SPC	15th Feb 2019
Present Draft Heritage Plan 2019-2025 to Kildare County Council	21st Feb 2019
Public Consultation	25 th Feb to 3 rd April 2019
Present findings of public Consultation to Heritage Forum Draft report on recommended amendments from County Kildare Heritage Forum to Draft County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025.	23 rd April 2019
Present report on Recommended amendments from County Kildare Heritage Forum to Draft County Kildare Heritage Plan 2019-2025 to Kildare County Council.	13 th May 2019
Adopt recommendations and Final County Kildare Heritage Plan.	

Appendix III Submissions received on pre-draft Heritage Plan

A total of 46 submissions were received in total. A number of broad themes and issues were identified as listed below:

- Implement Heritage Plan
- Access to heritage
- Create interpretive /promotional material
- Lack of dissemination of heritage materials and reports
- Raise awareness of and promote all aspects of Heritage
- Research and develop heritage themed trails/ walking routes
- Promote the benefits, including economic, of Heritage
- The Need for heritage education and training
- Contribution heritage makes to tourism
- Improve heritage signage and signage at heritage sites
- Gather data/ carry out survey work
- Heritage and planning
- Organise more heritage seminars/ events/information days
- Promote best practice for heritage management
- Management, conservation and promotion of the Curragh
- Historic Monuments Advisory Committee
- Community Heritage projects
- Identify roles in heritage management
- Placenames
- Cinematic history of the county
- Buildings at Risk Register
- Archives
- Irish language
- Protection of Kildare landscape
- Eco symbol/label/quality symbol
- Kildare Local Environmental Action Forum
- Support for museums and heritage centres in the county.
- Thematic approach to oral recording

Appendix IV Selected achievements of the Heritage Plan 2005-2018

Objective 1: Collection and Dissemination of Heritage Information

- Inventory of objects relating to Kildare in national collections prepared (2006)
- Industrial Heritage Survey of County Kildare (2007)
- Inventory of natural heritage in the county prepared (2006)
- Audit of walking routes in Kildare (2005)
- Survey of the Geological Heritage of Kildare (2005)
- Inventory of scientific papers relating to geology/geomorphology in the county prepared (2005)
- Inscriptions in 25 local graveyards recorded
- Survey of thatched cottages (2005)
- Tidy Towns Action Plans developed
- Kildare Cathedral Walls Conservation Plan (2006)
- Habitat surveys and mapping undertaken in towns and villages in Kildare (2006-2018)
- Survey of Hedgerows in County Kildare (2006)
- County Kildare Historic Graveyard Database (2008)
- Oral recording training
- Kildare Town Historic Landscape Assessment (2010)
- Kildare Thermal Springs Audit (2009)
- County Kildare Wetland Survey (2012-2014)
- Audit of Memorials and Plaques (2016-2018)
- Invasive species surveys (2008, 2014)
- Audit of Liffey sites and stories (2016-2018)
- Survey of Wells in County Kildare (2008)

Objective 2: Raise Public Awareness, Understanding and Appreciation of Heritage

- Annual Heritage Week Programme
- Annual Biodiversity Week Programme
- Supported local community groups organise heritage week events
- Published Thatched Cottages of County Kildare (2007)
- Series of radio adverts- County Kildare's biodiversity (2009)
- Annual Heritage Calendar produced (2006-2008)
- Publications:
 - Kildare Natural Heritage (2007)

- Reusing Farm Buildings- a Kildare Perspective (2008)
- Published Inventory of Kildare Archaeology Sources (2007)
- Published Kildare Hedgerows (2009)
- Colour with Rua- children's heritage colouring book (2015)
- Biodiversity Guidance for Developers (2006)

- Compiled designed Kildare audio guides:
 - Kildare Town Kildare (2013)
 - Kildare Monastic trail (2014)
 - Celbridge Town (2014)
 - Kildare Monastic (2014)
 - The Story of the Curragh (2016)
 - Heritage of County Kildare Heritage Trail (2015)

- Exhibition of Kildare Thatched houses (2015)
- Biodiversity Workshops (2007 & 2008)
- Graveyard recording training and mapping for community groups
- Heritage of the Curragh Seminar (2008).
- Offaly and Kildare Waterways- Canal Education Project
- Information evening on the All Ireland Pollinator Plan (2017)
- Community Heritage Grant Scheme (2010-2018)
- Supported the *The River Liffey History and Heritage* (2018) by Christopher Moriarty
- Blooming Bees Animation of Pollinator Plan (2017)
- Arts and Heritage Seminar (2018)

Objective 3: Promote Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management

- Traditional Buildings Skills Weekend (2010)
- Birds in the School Yard Project. (2005-2011)
- Biodiversity Advice notes for local authority staff (2005)
- Conservation and Management and Interpretation Plans:
 - Castledermot Town Walls (2012)
 - Kildare Town Walls (2014)
 - Athy Town Walls (2016)
- Heritage and biodiversity training provided to local authority Staff
- Care and conservation of graveyard courses

- Bat survey training courses
- Advice note on Heritage in Planning Process (2014)
- On-going advice to community groups and the public
- 10 Graveyard Conservation Plans prepared
- Maynooth Biodiversity Action Plan (2016)
- Running a museum on a shoestring Seminar (2006)

Objective 4: Inform policy and provide advice to Kildare local authorities

- Three Architectural Conservation Areas established (2011, 2018) Kildare, Athy and Naas
- Prepared County Kildare Biodiversity Plan (2014)
- Kildare Town Architectural Conservation Area Statement of Significance (2011)
- A study of Kildare farmhouses (2006)

Appendix V Relevant Heritage Legislation

National and EU Legislation

Heritage and Planning

- Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018
- Heritage Acts 1995 and 2018
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directives (Council Directive 85/337/EEC) 1995 and (Council Directive 14/52EU) 2014
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (Council Directive 2001/42/EC)

Archaeological Heritage

- National Monuments Acts 1930-2004
- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997

Architectural Heritage

- Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018
- Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999

Landscapes

- Planning and Development Acts 2000-2018

Museums and Archives

- National Cultural Institutions Act 1997
- Local Government Act 2001
- National Archives Act 1988
- Freedom of Information Act 1997
- Employment Equality Act 1998
- E-Commerce Act 1999
- Health and Safety Act 1989
- ISO 15489 2001

Natural Heritage

- Wildlife Act 1976
- Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000

- Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959
- Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999
- Birds Directive (Council Directive 74/409/EEC) 1979
- Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) 1992
- Water Framework Directive (Council Directive 2000/60/EC) 2000
- Freshwater Fish Directive (Council Directive 78/659/EC) 1978

International Conventions and Agreements which Ireland has signed and ratified

- Archaeology
 - European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention) 1997
- Architecture
 - European Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) 1997
- Cultural and Natural Heritage
 - UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (ratified 1992)
- Natural Heritage
 - Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (ratified 1996)
 - European Landscape Convention 2000
 - Convention on the Conservation of the European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Berne Convention) 1979 (ratified 1982)
 - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) 1979 (ratified 1983)
 - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) 1971 (ratified 1984)
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) 1973
- Landscape
 - European Landscape Convention 2000 (ratified 2002)