

**Review of the  
Co. Kildare Heritage Plan  
(2005-2010)**

**for**

**Kildare County Council**

***(Draft for circulation to Forum members)***

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**Kathy Walsh  
KW Research and Associates Ltd**

# **Executive Summary**

## **I. Introduction**

### **Background**

The first County Kildare Heritage Plan (2005-2009) was adopted in 2004 by Kildare County Council. It was subsequently extended to 2010-11. The aim of the Plan was to 'identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County'. The Plan has been implemented by Kildare Heritage Forum supported by the Kildare Heritage Officer. The Kildare Heritage Forum which involves representatives from: local government, state agencies, educational organisations, social partners, local history/heritage groups, community and voluntary sector and staff working in heritage related areas within Kildare County Council was specifically established to support and oversee the implementation of the Plan. Funding for the Plan has primarily been provided by an annual allocation from the Heritage Council and Kildare County Council. Additional project funding was also provided by Heritage Forum members for projects related to their areas of work.

### **Review aims and objectives**

As the current Heritage Plan nears completion a decision was made to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the current Kildare County Heritage Plan and its implementation
- Inform the preparation of the next Heritage Plan
- Identify areas for further development.

The review was commissioned by Kildare County Council on behalf of the Forum and conducted by independent evaluation consultants KW Research & Associates Ltd,

### **Review Methodology**

The review was conducted using an expanded version of the standard evaluation methodology developed by the Heritage Council and involved a documentary review of the current plan, various meetings and discussions with the Kildare Heritage Officer, a workshop with Kildare Heritage Forum members as well as interviews with a cross section of Heritage Forum members.

## **II. Findings**

The findings arising from the review were grouped under a number of headings including: plan preparation and content, the extent and nature of plan implementation, plan management and monitoring as well as the identification of the key outputs, outcomes and learning arising from the plan. Key finding arising from this process are as follows:

### **Plan preparation and content**

Three phases were identified in the plan preparation process, a pre plan preparation "buy in" phase, an actual plan preparation phase as well as a final presentation and adoption phase. The pre plan 'buy in' phase took about nine months and was identified as particularly important in getting endorsement for the proposed process within Kildare County Council in particular. Work on the formal content of the plan began in September 2003 with the first meeting of the Kildare Heritage Forum and agreement to establish three thematic working groups: It took about 6-7

months in total. The working groups which involved members of the Forum and others meet regularly as part of the process of action identification. The Forum made the final decision on the aims, objectives and actions to be included in the plan. . The final phase of the plan preparation process involved a series of presentations of the draft plan to a variety of audiences, together with a further period of public consultation. The plan was amended to reflect the input of the various audiences and was ultimately formally adopted by the Council in July 2004.

The plan that was ultimately approved was structured around 4 core objectives with a range of thematic actions included under each objective. 85 actions were included under the four objectives. The objectives were not prioritised but the majority (67%) of the actions were included under the collection and awareness raising objectives respectively. A number of 'proposed partners' are identified for each action but it is not clear to what extent the organisations and groups identified bought into the implementation process.

### **The extent and nature of plan implementation**

The table below provides an overview of the extent of implementation of the Plan.

<b>An overview of the extent of implementation of the Kildare Heritage Plan (2005-2010)</b>				
<i>Heritage Plan Actions</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Not Implemented</i>
Objective 1: To Facilitate the Collection and Dissemination of Heritage Information	28	9	14	5
Objective 2: To Raise Public Awareness, Understanding and Appreciation of County Kildare's Heritage	29	7	20	2
Objective 3: To Promote Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management	16	5	7	4
Objective 4: To Inform policy and provide advice to Kildare local authorities	12	4	6	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>25 (29%)</b>	<b>47 (56%)</b>	<b>13 (15%)</b>

The 25 actions that were completed in full, generally related to the compilation of surveys, inventories and studies many of which were undertaken as specific projects by outside consultants, managed on a day to day basis by the Heritage Officer on behalf of the Forum. The majority (47) of the actions were found to be either ongoing in nature or to have been progressed to greater or lesser degrees. In many cases these actions were described in the plan in quite general and non specific ways, which together with the absence of action level indicators and targets made it hard to determine the extent to which the action had been achieved. It was also the case that the plan implementation could have been strengthened by the grouping of action together under one larger umbrella action. The ongoing actions also include a lot of actions that involve promotion, networking and awareness raising, which without specific targets could absorb a lot of time and effort without much tangible outputs, raising questions about the need for a more strategic focus on a smaller number of key areas of work. There were also a lot of ongoing actions in relation to dissemination with much of this work scheduled to be undertaken in 2011. 13 actions in the Heritage Action plan were not implemented for a variety of reasons, in some cases the actions were too broad (i.e. not specific enough to be actionable) in other cases

resources were not available to progress the action, in many of these cases the actions continue to need to be progressed.

### **Plan management and monitoring**

Responsibility for the day to day management and monitoring of the Plan was found to rest with the Heritage Officer, who reported to the Heritage Forum who meet on average 3-4 times a year. Responsibility for the implementation of individual actions rests with a variety of organisations and bodies (many of whom are represented on the Heritage Forum). There has also been a decline in the size of the Forum with a number of resignations and retirements and there is clearly scope for re-invigorating the membership and role of the Forum in the context of a development, implementation and monitoring of a new Heritage Plan. Heritage Forum members consulted as part of the review generally regarded their role on the Forum as advisory. Interestingly many of them identified the re-introduction of the working group structure as a vehicle through which they believed they could make a more structured contribution in Kildare. The absence of indicators and targets was found to make monitoring the Heritage Plan difficult and there is clearly a need for the introduction of more structured monitoring of actions and events, using agreed templates, in that way data can be captured in a more concise way.

### **Key outputs, outcomes and learning from the plan**

The absence of indicators and targets in the 2005-2009 Heritage Plan exacerbated the difficulties caused by the absence of a baseline of heritage and heritage activities in the county in terms of getting a concise overview of the outputs and outcomes arising from plan implementation. The summary of the tangible outputs and outcomes arising from the implementation of the Plan was compiled through consultations undertaken as part of the review process. The review found that a impressive number of tangible outputs and outcomes had been generated, including the preparation of inventories, studies, surveys and habitat mapping work, the collection and lodging of additional materials with and by the Local Studies section of the Library Service as well as the provision of information events, exhibitions, training opportunities and support for individuals and organisations involved in heritage related activities.

Less tangible but no less important outcomes found to have arisen from the implementation of the Heritage Plan included the fact that having a dedicated county level plan had placed a value and raised the profile and levels of awareness of heritage specifically within Kildare County Council and more generally across the county. The plan was also found to have been the first time the unique natural, cultural and built heritage of Kildare had been examined, connected together and valued as a whole. It was also the case that while the Heritage Plan was funded in large part by the Heritage Council and Kildare County Council, it is unlikely that funding of this kind would have been made available without a Heritage Plan. The Plan has in addition facilitated the establishment of new and enhanced working relationships between Forum members from different backgrounds and interests and between local heritage groups and local authority staff and elected members alike. The Heritage Plan was also found to have initiated the development of a number of innovative joint projects while the Plan in association of the work of the Heritage Officer were also found to have contributed to the enhanced embedding of heritage concerns and issues in key local authority plans, policies and strategies including the County Kildare County Development Plans 2005-2011 and 2011-2017. Among the other key strengths of the Plan

included its role in challenging the view of County Kildare as bland and nondescript and starting the process of tapping into the potential of the wider community to support and engage in heritage related activities and facilitating the organisation of annual programmes of heritage related events. Weaknesses of the plan (identified primarily by the Forum members) included a lack of understanding of what it is that constitutes heritage, the fact that 85 actions was a lot to progress, a lack of connection between the Plan and the Forum and the relevant Strategic Policy Committees, an over association of the Plan with Heritage Officer and a need to re-invigorate plan and the Forum, both have been place for more than five years and a certain level of fatigue would appear to have crept in.

### **III. Conclusions and Recommendations**

The review has found that the Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2010 is an accessible and very professionally produced document. The overall aim and objectives of the plan were clear. The implementation and development of the plan has been a positive experience from a range of perspectives, generating a number of welcome and useful outputs and outcomes

**Recommendation 1.** A new Kildare Heritage Plan should be prepared for the period 2012-2015 (to fit in with the timing of the development of the 2018 County Kildare Development Plan). The aim of the new Plan must be 'to support the identification and conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County'. The Plan should have a new look and feel in order to generate a new energy and avoid in any way being seen as a continuation of the old plan.

**Recommendation 2.** A clear methodology and accompanying timeframe needs to be agreed for the preparation of the 2012-2015 Heritage Plan.

**Recommendation 3.** The process of preparation the new plan must continue to be inclusive and involve targeted and strategic consultations with the key stakeholders including: Forum Members, key local authority and other agency staff, community and voluntary organisations involved/interested in heritage related activities. Particular care must be taken in the current economic climate to ensure that consultations undertaken as part of the plan preparation process do not generate a wish list of projects. This will require some work to be done in advance of the consultations to identify the key strategic heritage priorities for the county for the period 2012-2015.

**Recommendation 4.** The new plan needs to prioritise actions in relation to informing and influencing policy and providing advice as well as raising awareness of heritage.

**Recommendation 5.** Some actions in the current Plan should be considered for inclusion in the new Plan, where they are considered relevant and they are seen as a priority by the Heritage Forum when drafting the new plan.

**Recommendation 6.** The new Plan needs to include actions that relate to facilitating the Forum and its various working groups

**Recommendation 7.** The new Plan 2012-2015 should have a tighter focus on a more limited number of actions. The ideal would be 4 objectives with 3-4 core strategic areas of work that would have a strong influencing effect (designed to achieve key heritage objectives under the various different heritage themes) identified in some depth under each objective. Sub-actions could be identified under each strategic area of work.

**Recommendation 8.** There is a need to include a balance of local and national actions. There is scope for example for the new Plan to link with and support the implementation of key national policy objectives. For example local and county level voluntary species and habitat monitoring/recording initiatives could be linked to meeting the requirements<sup>1</sup> of Article 17 reporting section of the Habitats Directive. There may also be scope for the development of inter-county or indeed regional actions (given that many heritage features straddle administrative.

**Recommendation 9.** The concept of 'proposed partners' needs to be strengthened in the context of the new Plan with the identification and inclusion of 'agreed partners' in the new Plan. While this will undoubtedly require more work to be done as part of the preparation of the plan to get project partners to agree to be involved, it will also ensure that responsibility for the implementation of actions is shared across a wider variety of organisations and groups.

**Recommendation 10.** Membership of the Heritage Forum needs to be reviewed and key gaps in membership addressed. Organisations identified as part of the review that should be targeted to nominate a senior level representative to join the Forum included: Fáilte Ireland, County Kildare LEADER Partnership, and Teagasc. The Forum would also benefit from the involvement of a planner, archaeologist and senior management representative (e.g. a Director of Service or similar) from Kildare County Council as well as more representation from the environmental sector. Elected member involvement in the Forum was seen as critical with the consideration to the introduction of a revolving membership for elected members so that more members get a chance to get involved over their electoral term.

**Recommendation 11.** Linkages between the Forum and key local authority structures (including the relevant Strategic Policy Committees) need to be strengthened in the context of the development of the new plan in order to ensure heritage becomes more central to the work of the local authority.

---

<sup>1</sup> Dr Deirdre Lynn (National Parks and Wildlife Service National Office (01 8883280) can provide detailed suggestions.

- Recommendation 12.** The Working Group structures should be revised in the context of the preparation of the new plan
- Recommendation 13.** The working group structures could also be considered as the key vehicles to progress the implementation of the Heritage Plan with the Forum taking on a more oversight and monitoring role. Working groups could be established in relation to three core areas: Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, Built Heritage and Archaeology and Community and Cultural Heritage.
- Recommendation 14.** Under each objective each core strategic area of work should have a small number of key indicators<sup>2</sup> that reflect and feed into the objective level indicators. Each core area of work should have a named individual who will act as a Monitor who is responsible for reporting on the indicators (See Appendix 5 for details of sample indicators that could be used in the context of the new Plan).
- Recommendation 15.** The Heritage Officer should be responsible for the collection of the Monitors data and collation into reports for the Working Groups and the Forum.
- Recommendation 16.** There is a need to introduce a more structured system for the monitoring and evaluation of actions and events, (undertaken/funded under the Heritage Plan) using agreed templates, in that way data can be captured in a more concise way.

---

<sup>2</sup> The indicators should include a mixture of output and outcome orientated indicators. Output indicators are indicators that measure the immediate consequence of a particular action (e.g. the number of groups who attend a heritage event), while outcome indicators measure the medium to longer term consequence of a particular action (e.g.: the % of groups who go on to make changes positive to heritage in their work practices as a result of having attended the particular event)

# **Table of Contents**

## **Executive Summary**

### **1 Introduction 2**

1.1 Plan background and context

1.2 Review aim and objectives

1.3 Review methodology

### **2 Findings 5**

2.1 Preparation

2.2 Content

2.3 Implementation

2.4 Management and monitoring

2.5 Outputs and outcomes

2.6 Learning from the plan

### **3 Conclusions and Recommendations 27**

3.1 Overall conclusions

3.2 Preparation and content recommendations

3.3 Plan implementation recommendations

3.4 Management and monitoring recommendations

### **Appendices 31**

Appendix 1 Membership of the Kildare Heritage Forum

Appendix 2 Consultations Undertaken

Appendix 3 Review of the Extent and Nature of Plan Implementation

Appendix 4 Kildare Heritage Forum Meetings (2003-2011)

Appendix 5 Sample Indicators



# Introduction

This report is broken into three sections. The introductory section contains details of the background and context to the development of Heritage Plans and the Kildare Heritage Plan and heritage structures in particular. It also contains details of the objectives of the review and the methodologies used to undertake the review. The second section provides details of the preparation, content as well as the extent and nature of plan implementation. This section also details the key findings in relation to the management and monitoring, outputs and outcomes as well as the overall learning. The final section details the key conclusions and recommendations arising from the review.

## 1.1. Background and Context to Local Heritage Plans and Structures

### 1.1.1 *Defining Heritage*

The Heritage Act, 1995, defined heritage for the first time as including the following elements: - monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks.

### 1.1.2 *The evolution and development of local Heritage Plans and structures*

The development of local level Heritage Plans had their origins in the 2002 National Heritage Plan. The aim of this Plan was to 'ensure the protection of our heritage and to promote its enjoyment by all'. One of the key actions identified in the National Heritage Plan was the preparation of local/county Heritage Plans which outline strategies for promoting and protecting local and regional heritage. These local plans include consideration of the National Heritage Plan, the City/County Development Plan and other relevant local and national policies and legislation. Funding is provided by the Heritage Council for the implementation of a certain number of actions included in the local plans on an annual basis.

### 1.1.3 *Local Heritage Fora*

In order to place heritage at the heart of public life the National Plan directed that local heritage fora (bringing together local elected representatives, local development and state agencies, social partners, the community and voluntary sector, as well as education interests and heritage organisations) be set up through the local authorities. These local heritage fora are non-statutory advisory groups established to advise, develop and implement local Heritage Plans.

### 1.1.4 *Heritage Officers*

The National Plan also recognised and sought to expand the role of local authorities in protecting heritage through the planning system, with the appointment of local authority Heritage Officers in partnership with the Heritage Council.

The primary functions of the Heritage Officers were identified as the promotion and conservation of heritage at local level (including influencing and advising on the policies and activities of local authorities who are themselves one of the primary influences on heritage at a local level) and to assist in the preparation of local Heritage Plans and to work closely with the

local Heritage Forum to assist and facilitate the Forum in the implementation of the local Heritage Plan. The Heritage Officers began to be employed on a pilot basis in local authorities in 1999 with technical and financial support from the Heritage Council. The Heritage Officer Programme was later expanded supported by Government policy through the National Heritage Plan and the National Biodiversity Plan. The role of Heritage Officers has in some local authorities while it has been supplemented by Biodiversity Officers, Conservation Officers and Archaeologists is strategically driven by the local Heritage Plan and, where applicable, the local Biodiversity Plans.

It is interesting to note that the Heritage Council on their website<sup>3</sup> have identified the fact that that while 50-60% of the Heritage Officer's time can be allocated to the delivery of the Heritage Plan, increasingly significant amounts of time are being spent by Heritage Officers assisting and advising the local authority on the heritage implications of current and future policies and work programmes including County Development Plans, Local Area Plans, as well as assisting with devising other land use policies, i.e. wind farm policy, village design statements, landscape character assessments. The Council has also identified that data collection (e.g., collecting existing datasets, commissioning new survey work, etc) is a significant and increasingly important area of work for Heritage Officers with EU Directives requiring baseline heritage data for a variety of purposes.

## **1.2. Background and Context to the Kildare Heritage Plan and Heritage Structures**

### *1.2.1 The appointment of the County Kildare Heritage Officer*

The Kildare Heritage Officer was appointed in November 2002 based in the Planning Directorate. She reports to a Senior Executive Planner within the Forward Planning Unit with five key areas of work:

- Development and implementation of the County Kildare Heritage
- Providing advice to Kildare local authorities on all aspects of heritage
- Providing advice to community groups and individuals on all aspects of heritage
- Proposing policy related to heritage
- Gathering of data relating to heritage

The Kildare Heritage Officer clearly holds a number of briefs some of which while, outside the scope of this review, have the potential to influence the progress of the plan in terms of providing a supportive policy framework and indeed in terms of absorbing the Heritage Officers time.

### *1.2.2 The establishment of the Kildare Heritage Forum*

The Kildare Heritage Forum was initially established in September 2003 to assist with and to inform the preparation of the Kildare Heritage Plan. (See Appendix 1 for membership details) Its role later evolved to include advice, oversight and implementation of the Plan. The Forum involves representatives from: local government, state agencies, educational organisations, social partners, local history/heritage groups, community and voluntary sector and staff working in heritage related areas within Kildare County Council.

---

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/county\\_heritage\\_services/](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/county_heritage_services/)

### *1.2.3 The Kildare Heritage Plan*

The first County Kildare Heritage Plan (2005-2009) was adopted in 2004 by Kildare County Council for a period of five years.

The aim of the Plan is to 'identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County'. The Plan was subsequently extended to 2010-11. The Plan has been implemented by Kildare Heritage Forum supported by the Kildare Heritage Officer. Preparations for the development of the new plan (2011-2015) will commence in autumn 2011. The Heritage Forum was to have evaluated the implementation of the Plan in year three but this did not happen.

### *1.2.4 Funding for the Kildare Heritage Plan*

The implementation of the Heritage Plan is principally funded by the Heritage Council through an annual allocation and Kildare County Council. Kildare County Council allocates an annual budget towards the costs of the Heritage Officer work programme (which includes Kildare Heritage Plan projects). Kildare Heritage Plan projects are also funded by other Kildare County Council departments such as Community and Enterprise, Environment and the Library Service. Additional project funding is also secured from Heritage Forum members for projects related to their areas of work ie Kildare Leader Partnership (formerly KELT), the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, Geological Services of Ireland and Kildare Education Centre.

## **1.3. The aims and objectives of the Kildare Heritage Plan Review**

As the current Heritage Plan nears completion Kildare County Council want to:

- a) Assess the effectiveness<sup>4</sup> of the current Kildare County Heritage Plan and its implementation, specifically in relation to:
  - The preparation and content of the Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2009
  - Performance (effectiveness) of the Heritage Plan
  - Implementation and management of the Plan
- b) Inform the preparation of the next Heritage Plan and identify areas for further development.

## **1.3 The Review Methodology**

The Review was conducted using an expanded version of the standard evaluation methodology developed by the Heritage Council. A number of different techniques were used to undertake the review, including:

- A documentary review of current Plan,
- Various meetings and discussions with the Kildare Heritage Officer,
- An all day workshop with Heritage Forum members
- Interviews with a cross section of Heritage Forum members

See Appendix 2 for a summary of the consultations undertaken.

---

<sup>4</sup> Effectiveness according to the Heritage Council Step By Step Evaluation Guide includes consideration of results, impacts, appropriateness and suitability of management and delivery mechanisms and the needs that were intended to be satisfied.

## 2. The Findings

### 2.1 Plan Preparation

The plan preparation process can be broken into three phases: phase 1 'the buy in', phase 2 'the preparation of the actual plan' and phase 3 'presentation and adoption. See Table 2.1 for a summary of the activities undertaken under these three phases.

**Table 2.1 Activities involved in the preparation of the Kildare Heritage Plan.**

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Description of Activity</i>
Buy In	pre Nov 2002	Work by the Heritage Council and Kildare County Council personnel that led to the appointment of the first Kildare Heritage Officer
	Feb -March 2003	The Heritage Plan process was presented to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kildare County Council Management Team,</li> <li>- Community and Voluntary Forum</li> <li>- Kildare County Council Local Urban &amp; Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)</li> <li>- Kildare History and Family Research Centre Annual Seminar.</li> <li>- Corporate Policy Group.</li> </ul>
	April 2003	Kildare County Council Local Urban and Rural Development SPC endorsed the Heritage Plan process.
	May 2003	A Heritage Seminar held in the Heritage Centre Kilcullen. The Heritage Plan process was presented to Kildare County Council. Agreement was secured from Kildare County Council to establish the County Kildare Heritage Forum. Suggestions were made as to Forum composition and Plan content
	June-Sept 2003	Individuals, organisations, Government Department and agencies were invited to make nominations for membership of County Kildare Heritage Forum and submissions for the preparation of the plan. A total of 57 submissions were received.
Plan Preparation	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 2003	The inaugural County Kildare Heritage Forum Meeting held where it was agreed to hold public consultation meetings and to establish three (Natural, Built and Archaeological/ Cultural Heritage ) working groups
	October 2003	9 public meeting were held (in Allenwood, Nurney, Kildare, Newbridge, Naas, Ballitore, Athy, Maynooth and Celbridge respectively). A total of 92 individuals attended these consultations.
	19 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2003	The first meetings of Natural, Built and Cultural/Archaeological working groups were held. The relevant working group documents were presented to each member of the various Working groups. The issues raised at the heritage seminar workshops, public consultations, and submissions were collated.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2003	The second meetings of the Working Groups were held. Further discussion of issues and identifying actions occurred. This led to the development of thematic position paper identifying actions for inclusion in the plan
	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2003	The second County Kildare Heritage Forum Meeting was held. Chairperson was elected. The aim of the Heritage Plan was discussed. Position papers from three working groups were presented.
	7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2004	The third meetings of the working groups took place. Project partners were identified.
	13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2004	The third County Kildare Heritage Forum meeting was held. The Heritage Officer made presentations on topics to appear in the

		Plan. The Forum agreed the aim and objectives and to proceed to the first draft
	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2004	The fourth County Kildare Heritage Forum Meeting was held. The first draft of the Kildare Heritage Plan was presented and agreed.
Presentation, Consultation and Adoption	27 <sup>th</sup> April 2004	The draft Heritage Plan presented to the Council Management Team.
	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2004	The draft Heritage Plan adopted by Kildare County Council.
	1 <sup>st</sup> June -25 <sup>th</sup> June	The Heritage Plan was on public display Four public consultation meetings were held throughout the County (in Newbridge, Naas, Athy, Maynooth respectively). A total of 92 individuals attended these four consultations.
	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2004	The fifth County Kildare Heritage Forum meeting was held. 59 public submissions were received and incorporated into the final plan. The final plan was agreed and adopted by the County Kildare Heritage Forum
	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2004	The Heritage Plan adopted by Kildare County Council.

### *2.1.1 Pre Plan preparation ("buy in" phase)*

In the initial stages of the plan preparation it was necessary to get endorsement for the concept of a Heritage Plan for County Kildare and for the proposed process. This required the Heritage Officer spending time meeting with Council Officials, Elected Members and others outside the Council to raise awareness of heritage in general and the role of the Heritage Officer and the concept of a Heritage Plan in particular.

After this very initial phase of awareness raising, the Heritage Officer focused on the development of a methodology for the development of the plan that would satisfy national guidance and allow for local requirements to be addressed. Once this methodology (which included at its cornerstone the establishment of the Kildare Heritage Forum and various working groups) was in draft form the Heritage Officer presented it at a variety of fora including the Kildare County Council Management Team, Kildare County Council Corporate Policy Group, the Kildare Local, Urban and Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee of Kildare County Council and ultimately the full County Council. The purpose of these presentations was to get feedback, buy in and ultimately approval from Kildare County Council for the process to proceed. This process took time as it had to be sequenced and fit into meeting schedules.

In the meantime, the Heritage Officer organised a county wide Heritage Seminar to raise awareness of the proposed process among the wider general public. A total of 114 people attended the seminar which involved presentations on aspects of Kildare Heritage together with facilitated workshops. Each workshop focused on an aspect of the counties heritage (i.e. built, natural and archaeological heritage) and explored the current situation, gaps in knowledge, and priority areas for action. The outcomes of these discussions formed the basis for the later initial discussions of the various working groups during the actual plan preparation stage.

### *2.1.2. Actual Plan Preparation.*

Formal work on the content of the plan began in September 2003 with the first meeting of the Kildare Heritage Forum where it was agreed to hold public consultations and to establish three thematic working groups:

- the Natural Heritage Working Group
- the Built Heritage Working Group
- the Cultural/Archaeological heritage Working Group

These groups involved members of the Forum and others with a particular interest or expertise in the themes. The meetings of these groups were well attended and generally very well regarded, considered to be useful by those who participated in them. Several Forum members with specialist skills were of the opinion that these structures because of their more thematic focus enabled them to make a more meaningful contribution to the Kildare Plan than they believed they would otherwise have been able to do in the context of the more broadly focused Heritage Forum.

The Working Groups met on three occasions to identify and develop the thematic actions to be included in the Plan. They were supported in their role by the Heritage Officer who prepared briefing documents for each working group which included information on the relevant legislation, policy as well as local issues and concerns identified during the May 2003 Heritage Seminar. The role of the working groups was to evaluate submissions, to draft actions and identify potential project partners. Once the plan was adopted the working groups no longer met. The Heritage Forum made the final decision on the aims and objectives of the plan and on the final list of topics and actions to be included in the plan. The Heritage Officer was responsible for the drafting of the document that was ultimately agreed by the Heritage Forum and forwarded for approval in March 2004. Forum members identified this as *'an educational and an inclusive process'* that they were generally proud of.

### *2.1.3. Presentation, Consultation and Final Adoption Phase*

The draft Heritage Plan was presented to Kildare County Council Management Team in April and adopted by the Council in May 2004. It went on public display in June with public consultations held in four locations (Newbridge, Naas, Athy, and Celbridge respectively) attended by a total of 92 individuals. A total of 59 submissions were received. These were reviewed and incorporated by the Forum into the final version of the Plan, which was ultimately formally adopted by the County Council in July 2004. Once completed 1000 copies of the Plan were circulated to public libraries, schools, state agencies and to members of the public who has made submissions. Copies of the Plan were also made available at all Council Offices.

### *2.1.4 The Effectiveness of the Preparation Process*

The initial buy in phase took about 9 months. This is not surprising given that the concepts of Heritage Officers and county based Heritage Plans were new and that a lot of work needed to be done at a number of levels to raise awareness of their role and potential value within the county. This process of building relationships, raising awareness and getting endorsement of the concept and process both within the Council and at a wider county level (among state agencies, NGO's, the wider public, etc ) was critical to getting agreement for the plan to go ahead and getting the Forum and the various working groups established. The preparation of the actual plan took about 6-7 months with a lot of the detailed work undertaken by the thematic working groups, while the

final presentation, consultation and adoption phase took about four months. Most Forum members consulted who had been involved in the plan development process believed that while it had taken more time than they had originally anticipated to develop the plan (the first of its kind in the county) this was probably inevitable given all the various structures involved and the need to fit in with Council meeting schedules. It is the case that the development of the new Plan for the period 2012-2015 should take significantly less time given that the necessary structures (while they may need to be revised) are in place and there is a better understanding of the role and purpose of a county based Heritage Plan.

## **2.2 Plan Content**

### *2.2.1 Plan Aim and Objectives*

The aim of the Plan is to 'identify, preserve and conserve the built, natural and cultural heritage of the County'. This is a very noble aspiration but is unlikely that any Plan would be able to do this. What the plan can and has done is 'to support the identification, preservation and conservation of the built, natural and cultural heritage'. It includes a good mix of actions in relation to the various different heritage strands.

The 2005-2010 Plan is structured around 4 core objectives as follows:

- 1 Collection,
- 2 Awareness raising,
- 3 Promotion of best practice
- 4 Informing policy

The four core objectives are overarching and comprehensive in nature with a range of thematic actions included under each objective. The objectives are not prioritised but the bulk of the actions (67%) were included under the collection and awareness raising objectives respectively.

This is not surprising given that it is the first plan of its kind and a lot of work needs to be done in relation to the collection of information and awareness raising. It is interesting that on closer examination the differences between Objective 1 and Objective 2 are not always clear. What is clear is that all of these objectives remain relevant in the context of the new plan, while the prioritisation of the objectives and the balance of actions across the different objectives may change. A possible prioritisation of the objectives for the new plan was identified by Forum members at their Feb 2011 meeting. (That prioritisation was as follows: 1. Objective 4, 2. Objective 2, 3. Objective 3 and 4. Objective 1).

### 2.2.2 Plan Actions

The plan includes 85 actions under the four objectives. In retrospect this was an optimistic number of actions, but not surprising given that it was the first county Heritage Plan and that the different stakeholders involved in its development were keen that it should be seen as an inclusive and open plan. It was also the case that Forum members were very enthusiastic and wanted to get everything listed in terms of preserving, protecting, maintaining and future proofing. (The difficulty with having included so many actions is that many of them generated other additional actions.) A number of 'proposed partners' are identified for each action. These 'potential partners' were largely identified by the Working Groups (see Section 2.1.2 for details) and it is not clear to what extent the organisations and groups identified bought into the implementation process.

## 2.3 Plan Implementation

### 2.3.1 The Extent of Implementation

Table 2 provides an overview of the extent of implementation of the 2005-2010 Kildare Plan. See Appendix 3 for a detailed analysis. The majority of the actions progressed were co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer.

<b>Table 2 An overview of the extent of implementation of the Kildare Heritage Plan</b>				
<i>Heritage Plan Actions</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Not Implemented</i>
Objective 1: To Facilitate the Collection and Dissemination of Heritage Information	28	9	14	5
Objective 2: To Raise Public Awareness, Understanding and Appreciation of County Kildare's Heritage	29	7	20	2
Objective 3: To Promote Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management	16	5	7	4
Objective 4: To Inform policy and provide advice to Kildare local authorities	12	4	6	2
<b>Totals</b>	85	25 (29%)	47 (56%)	13 (15%)

### 2.3.2 Completed Actions

A total of 25 actions included have been completed in full. These actions generally relate to the compilation of surveys, inventories and studies. See Table 3 for a summary of the completed actions.

<b>Table 3 A summary of completed Kildare Heritage Plan actions and outcomes</b>	
<i>Action Number and Description</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
1.1 Prepare a Heritage Directory for County Kildare	Archaeological sources & natural heritage inventories prepared



1.2 Encourage cataloguing of museums/heritage centres collections in the County.	12 people trained
1.3 Prepare an inventory of heritage and archaeological objects relating to County Kildare which are currently lodged in the National Museum of Ireland.	Inventory of objects in national collections prepared
1.11 Collate archaeological excavation reports and EIA for Co. Kildare, ensure that copies of all such reports are lodged with the county Library and make available to the public, Encourage archaeological completing and individual archaeologists to lodge reports in County Library.	All archaeological reports are made available on Excavations.ie
1.5 Prepare an inventory of vernacular architecture	Inventory of Thatched Cottages in the County completed in 2005
1.17 Collate existing datasets on natural heritage of national importance in County Kildare. Make information available. Identify information gaps.	An inventory of natural heritage in the county prepared
1.19 Conduct a survey of hedgerows in the County to include extent, composition, condition, management and historical aspects.	Hedgerow Survey in place since 2006
1.22 Produce an inventory of County Kildare's Industrial Heritage and examine possible future uses.	Desk inventory of Industrial Heritage prepared
1.23 Identify sites of geology and geomorphology in the County. Compile an inventory of scientific papers relating to geology and geomorphology in the County.	Inventory of scientific papers relating to geology and geomorphology in the County prepared.
2.12 Inform general public, particularly estate agents, auctioneers, farmers and public bodies of protected sites (NHA, SAC, SPA), Protected Structures (RPS) and monuments and archaeological sites (Record of Monuments and Places) and make them aware of the level of protection these sites and structures have under national and international legislation.	Heritage Officer responds to queries. The Record of Protected Structures h is accessible to the public through the Planning Section of the Council website. Details of Record of Protected Structures and designated natural heritage sites included in the Development Plan.
2.15 Establish a list of owners of Protected Structures	List of owners compiled
2.20 Prepare an inventory of Heritage gardens, parks and demesnes in Kildare.	Desk inventory of gardens, parks & demesnes in County completed by the NIAH <sup>5</sup>
2.21 Promote the Birdwatch Ireland Countryside Bird Survey.	Biodiversity talks 2007. Biodiversity Workshops in 2008. Discovering Kildare's Wildlife
2.22 Develop a "birds in the School yard project" to be piloted in a school in each Electoral division	Birds Project operating across the county. It is now run by Kildare Education Centre
2.25 Raise awareness of the importance of water quality for nature conservation.	River Basin Management Plans have been prepared for the Kildare river catchments that address the issues of protection of water dependant species, ecology of rivers and water quality.
2.26 Produce an information sheet on the importance of maintaining existing waste treatment systems.	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produced a guidance document on

<sup>5</sup> National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). is a section within the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government whose work involves identifying and recording the architectural heritage of Ireland, from 1700 to the present day

	'Wastewater treatment and disposal systems serving single houses' in 2009.
3.4 Devise a mechanism for the public to request that the Local Authority include structures on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS).	The Form has been developed, it is waiting final sign off
3.7 Provide advice and training for local authority staff, local communities and management committees on the best practice for the management of graveyards. This training will include consideration of natural & built heritage.	47 people trained in graveyard management Conservation plans prepared for 3 graveyards Conservation Plan prepared for Kildare Cathedral
3.10 Produce policy papers and "best practice guidelines" on the following topics: - -The siting and landscaping of new developments - Biodiversity and road design -Biodiversity considerations in site development & site management.	Guidelines on location and landscaping of new developments included in the Development Plan Biodiversity and road design guidelines produced by the NRA <sup>6</sup> Two publications produced by Kildare County Council on site development
3.11 Produce guidelines for incorporation of biodiversity considerations into local authority activities.	Series of 14 advice notes produced in 2005 for local authority staff
3.15 Promote hedgerows and roadside management and provide training	Guide to the Hedgerows of County Kildare produced in 2009 Biodiversity Training provided for local authority staff.
4.2 Establish County forum to investigate the issues of access and insurance.	Comhairle na Tuaithe (est. 2004) produced the National Countryside Recreational Strategy and Access Parameters and Countryside Code
4.6 Conduct a study on the appropriate re-use of protected structures. Encourage continued use and appropriate reuse of vacant protected structures.	Study on the re-use of farm buildings for accommodation purposes in place
4.8 Prepare an inventory of graveyards in Kildare,	Inventory of graveyards in Kildare completed in 2009
4.10 Prepare a bio-diversity plan for the County (in accordance with National Plan).	Biodiversity plan in place

The majority of the completed actions are specific and discrete. Many of the inventories and surveys were indeed undertaken as specific projects by outside consultants, managed on a day to day basis by the Heritage Officer on behalf of the Forum. In some cases the actions were addressed on a national basis (5 actions (1.11, 2.2 2.26, 3.10, 4.2) (e.g. Action 4.2 through the establishment of the Comhairle na Tuaithe) or indeed regional basis (e.g 2.25). A small number of the actions involved locally based groups (including the Education Centre (2.22) and local graveyard committees, the remainder were undertaken by either the Heritage Officer or by other Kildare County Council staff.

### 2.3.3 Ongoing Actions

The majority (47) of the actions included in the plan are either ongoing in nature or have been progressed in some way. See Table 4 for a summary of the actions where work is ongoing.

<sup>6</sup> National Roads Authority (NRA)

**Table 4 A summary of ongoing Kildare Heritage Plan actions and outcomes (to date)**

<i>Action Number and Description</i>	<i>Outcomes</i>
1.5 Develop a methodology for the recording of oral histories in County Kildare. Collect archive and promote existing oral histories. Revisit 1938 Folklore study	Twenty histories commissioned and recorded by the Libraries Service in 2010 Methodologies in place
1.6 Establish an inventory of features, objectives and artefacts worthy of preservation and recording through the County. Encourage local communities, heritage groups, history groups & schools to become involved on a project basis.	<p>Surveys &amp; inventories conducted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Various graveyard surveys, inventories &amp; conservation plans</li> <li>- A survey on thatched cottages</li> <li>- Survey on industrial heritage</li> <li>- Habitat mapping</li> <li>- Update Record of Protected Structures,</li> <li>- Village design statements,</li> <li>- Surveys conducted by the Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government e.g. Historic gardens and demesne landscapes survey, etc.</li> <li>- Local surveys conducted by local Tidy Towns groups</li> <li>- Kildare Cathedral Conservation Plan</li> <li>- Holy wells projects</li> <li>- The habitat mapping, work of the Environmental Awareness Officer as part of the Green Schools biodiversity initiative-</li> <li>- Mapping of the Floral Protection Order Species with the National Parks and Wildlife Service</li> <li>- Development of a Community Heritage Grant scheme in 2010 to support local community initiatives which benefit heritage.</li> <li>- Kildare Town Historic Landscape Assessment</li> </ul>
1.7 Support the recording of graveyard inscriptions; provide a guide to best practice and encourage gathered material to be lodged with the County Library.	<p>45 people attended the training in 2007</p> <p>Worked with 5 local groups across the county and 10 interested individuals to support them record their local graveyards over 22 local graveyards have now been recorded The Local studies library hold records of these recordings.</p>
1.8 Seek the expansion of the County Archive	Materials collected lodged in county archive
1.9 Encourage local businesses, local authorities and local schools to lodge archival material with county archive. Explore the establishment of a media archive	Archival material lodged with county archive
1.10 Explore access to church records	Work ongoing by the Local Studies section

	of Kildare Library Service
1.13 Prepare & maintain Record of Protected Structures.	Record of Protected Structures prepared and adopted in 2011.
1.18 Commence a habitat survey of the County, identifying locally important sites. Include information generated by local surveys and inventories in town and local plans.	11 habitat surveys completed Two habitat surveys undertaken with the support of KELT Floral Protection order species are being mapped (with the National Parks and Wildlife Service)
1.20 Identify existing Tree Preservation Orders in the County. Identify and designate trees or groups of trees suitable for preservation.	Existing Tree Preservation orders identified, 5 tree surveys completed.
1.21 Conduct a waterways Corridor Study for Kildare Canals.	The Barrow Corridor Study carried out Inland Waterways Ireland with Carlow, Kildare, Wexford Kilkenny and Laois County Councils.
1.24 Prepare an inventory of flood plains, naturally occurring springs and fords in the county	Work done by Kildare County Council NUI Maynooth on Thermal Springs
1.25 Survey and record all bridges in the county	Some work done through industrial heritage survey. The Roads Department of Kildare Co Cop has carried survey work on historical bridges.
1.26 Conduct waterways corridor studies for rivers in the county.	The Liffey Valley strategy was undertaken by the OPW included the Liffey valley in Kildare. The Barrow Corridor Study was carried out Inland Waterways Ireland with Carlow, Kildare, Wexford Kilkenny and Laois County Councils.
1.28 Conduct a survey on the suitable/reuse/regeneration of cutover and cutaway bogs. Develop a pilot area to demonstrate results in the county	Ongoing work done on this area by Bord na Móna, while the IPCC have done some work on the regeneration of the pilot areas)
2.1 Promote the County Kildare Heritage Plan and its implementation by an annual seminar, progress reports and media coverage.	110 people attended the 2008 annual seminar. 5000 copies of the Kildare heritage Week brochure circulated annually 2009 series of radio adverts to raise awareness of Kildare biodiversity Seminars held on specific topics Local media coverage for all events Various inputs to local authority annual reports, annual report to the Heritage Council, regular reports to the Heritage Forum. Two bi-annual review meetings with the County Manager
2.2 Develop and maintain a dedicated heritage website for the County to be part of Kildare County Council's website. This web site will be linked to other relevant websites.	Website in place
2.3 Publicise inventories and surveys conducted as part of the plan, lodge in the County Library and make available to the public.	All inventories, surveys and project reports are lodged with the local studies section of the County Library and where suitable are

	uploaded to the Heritage pages of the Kildare county Council web site.
2.4 Produce a series of heritage publications to promote all aspects of Kildare's heritage, built, natural and cultural. Target of two publications per year	<p>6 publications produced,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thatched Cottages of Kildare</li> <li>○ Reusing farm buildings</li> <li>○ Kildare National Heritage</li> <li>○ Kildare Hedgerows</li> <li>○ Inventory of archaeology sources</li> <li>○ Biodiversity Guidance for developers (Part 1 large scale development, part 2 small scale development)</li> </ul> <p>3 heritage calendars produced (Kildare Built Heritage 2006, Kildare Natural Heritage 2007 &amp; Kildare Natural Heritage Photography 2008)</p>
2.5 Conduct talks and exhibitions on various heritage aspects throughout the County	<p>6 exhibitions held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity Photography</li> <li>- Kildare Heritage Plan</li> <li>- Ardreigh Archaeological Finds</li> <li>- Wild Bog</li> <li>- Architecture of Kildare</li> <li>- Field Monuments</li> </ul> <p>13 talks held</p> <p>Thatched Cottage seminar (100 participants)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two Biodiversity workshops (2007 &amp; 2008 50 participants annually)</li> <li>- Eight bat walk and talk each year (one annually since 2004 35 participants annually)</li> <li>- Graveyard recording talk (45 participants)</li> <li>- Heritage of the Curragh (125 participants)</li> <li>- Offaly and Kildare Waterways-Canal Education Project with Waterways Ireland, Offaly County Council and Kildare County Council</li> <li>- Presentation on Kildare's Natural Heritage at Irish Peatlands Conservation Centre in Lullymore</li> </ul>
2.6 Explore the establishment of a County Museum and County Museum Service. Develop links with and support existing Museums in the County. Museums and Heritage centres are promoted on the Heritage pages on KCC website.	<p>Worked with the County Kildare Museums Committee to develop a feasibility study brief for the Museum. Developed links with stakeholders in the county i.e. Horse Racing Ireland, the Turf club, Curragh race course and the Defence Forces.</p> <p>Informal and ongoing links established, training provided</p>
2.7 Promote access for all to museums/heritage centres in the County including the military museum.	(linked to 2.6)

2.8 Establish a Network of Heritage Groups/individuals in the County. The Heritage Officer maintains a database of individuals interested in Heritage in the county from attendances at heritage events.	Maintain the Forum and the website
2.9 Improve access to archival material for research purposes.	Archivist done some work on this area. Access has improved with the microfilming of records, poor law union, burial records, etc.
2.10 Identify and promote walking routes and "Greenways" within the County, including villages and towns. Identify and promote ancient roadways within the County	Audit of walking routes completed in 2007. Work done on local heritage trails with local groups in Naas and Newbridge Support for publication on Slí Dale route
2.11 Establish links between Third Level Institutions (especially NUI Maynooth), local authorities and local communities, which will benefit local heritage (ideally using post graduate students).	Joint work done with NUI Maynooth on Thermal Springs
2.13 Hold talks and workshops for owners of protected structures, which will address the issues of conservation, maintenance, funding and planning.	Weekend of seminars and exhibitions (on maintenance of protected structures) in June 2010 with the Irish Georgian Society at Castletown (approx 2000 attendees)
2.14 Promote access to protected structures by developing a "doors open" day for owners of Protected Structures receiving tax relief under Section 482 of the Taxes Consolidated Act, 1997.	Information made available on the website
2.17 Support the publication of Kildare's Archaeological Inventory.	Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government collecting this information, there are resource issues
2.18 Raise the profile of the work of the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee. Seek to increase funding made available to this committee.	Ongoing
2.23 Promote awareness of importance of wildlife on intact bogs and cutaway bogs.	Promoted as part of ongoing work including Biodiversity Walks and Talks in 2008 and 2009
2.24 Encourage communities adjacent to cutaway and cutover bogs to develop amenities in conjunction with Bord na Móna.	Ongoing
2.27 Promote the "Heritage in Schools" Programme. Seek to promote awareness of built heritage in schools	Ongoing promotion of the Heritage in Schools" Programme on the website.
2.28 Promote awareness and conservation of Heritage on farms.	Various publications promote this: - Kildare's hedgerow publication.) - Reusing farmhouse publication - Kildare's Natural Heritage
2.29 Develop a list of local heritage projects that would benefit Heritage in the county and which could be carried out by local groups.	Supports (including funding) provided on an ongoing basis. Projects are generally led by local groups
3.1 Develop an education programme for local authority staff and Councillors on all aspects of Kildare's Built, Natural and Archaeological Heritage.	135 local authority officials and elected members trained including training for 60 local authority staff on diversity 40 local authority staff on invasive species

	20 planners and local representatives on architectural conservation areas 15 planners on built heritage conservation training
3.2 Establish a place names committee in the County, which will re-examine a policy on the naming of new developments and new roads. Produce a policy paper.	Place names paper produced and adopted by the Council 2010.
3.5 Circulate literature on conservation of Protected Structures to libraries.	Materials circulated through the website and public counter and public events, libraries
3.6 Provide a training course on conservation techniques and traditional building	Farm house book addressed some of these issues. The Traditional skills workshops held in 2010 with the Irish Georgian Society
3.9 Encourage the planting of native trees in suitable locations through the Native Woodland Scheme and Neighbourhood Schemes.	Information on schemes circulated to local groups (no uptake of schemes as yet)
3.14 Provide training, advice and best practice guidelines for Tidy Towns Associations and community groups in relation to wildlife and built heritage.	1 formal seminar per year from 2006-2009 (approx 35 participants annually) 15 site visits a year 25 informal one to one contacts Three smaller workshops Environmental Awareness Officer provides support for Tidy Towns on planting of native species, etc
3.16 Promote the geology and geomorphology of the County.	Survey on geology and geomorphology of the County in place since 2005, accessible on line
4.3 Establish Architectural Conservation Areas throughout the County	Two Architectural Conservation Areas in place (Athy and Naas) through the planning dept 2010 Kildare Historic Landscape Characterisation (lead to the establishment of the Kildare ACA) 2011 Kildare Architectural Area Inventory and Guidance notes to be produced
4.4 Prepare two Village Design Statements for the County as a pilot project.	Six Village Design Statements completed (Brannockstown, Calverstown, Staplestown, Robertstown, Nurney, Ard Clough) in 2009, yet to be adopted
4.5 Seek adequate Grants for the Conservation of Protected Structures through the DOEHLG grant Scheme.	Conservation Officer seeks additional funding each year under this scheme
4.7 Conduct Heritage Appraisals of all County, Town and Local Area Plans to ensure that all aspects of heritage, as defined by the Heritage Act 1995, are considered.	Three heritage appraisals conducted subsequently incorporated as part of the SEA
4.9 Carry out an audit of sites and structures of natural, archaeological, architectural, or historic merit which are owned by County Kildare Local Authorities (including graveyards) and set up an in-house advisory group to explore issues of management and maintenance. Establish an inventory of Local Authority owned works of art	Inventory of Kildare County Council owned sites in place. Various other surveys have been carried out with the support of KELT. Inventory of KCC owned art in place The Historic Monuments and Advisory Committee addresses some elements of this



	action, operating as they do as an advisory group for historic monuments, in the Council care A graveyard survey was carried out in 2006
4.11 Review current consultation process between County Kildare Local Authorities and statutory bodies in relation to all aspects of heritage	Heritage officer liaises with Dept Environment Heritage and Local Government regarding referrals

In many cases the actions are described in quite general and non specific ways, which together with the absence of action level indicators and targets makes it hard to determine whether the action has been achieved, given that exactly what was to be achieved was not clear. It is also the case that often a number of actions have been included in relation to a particular theme (e.g. archives/library services (5) and waterways (3). Both of these issues could be addressed in the new plan through the development of clear indicators and targets for action areas and through the use of larger umbrella actions.

The ongoing actions also include a lot of actions that involve promotion, networking and awareness raising, all key elements of the work of the Kildare Heritage Officer. The Heritage Officer could indeed in theory spend all her time undertaking this type of work raising key questions about the nature and balance of actions to be included in the new plan and the need for a more strategic focus on a smaller number of key areas of work.

There are a lot of ongoing actions in relation to dissemination and what is clear is that some additional and ongoing work needs to be done to ensure that the reports and documentation produced are made accessible (available on-line). A lot of this work is scheduled to be undertaken in 2011. Dissemination clearly needs to be included as a core area of significant work in the new plan.

#### 2.3.4 *Actions that were not implemented*

13 actions in the Heritage Action plan were not implemented. These actions were not implemented for a variety of reasons, in some cases the actions were too broad (i.e. not specific enough to be actionable) in other cases resources were not available to progress the action, in many of these cases the actions continue to need to be progressed See Table 5 for details.

<b>Table 5 An Analysis for the Actions not progressed in the Kildare Heritage Plan</b>	
<i>Action Description</i>	<i>Reason for lack of implementation</i>
1.4 Prepare an inventory of heritage objects relating to Kildare in private collections	This action was not progressed because of issues of security and privacy
1.12 Prepare an inventory of established public right of ways in the County.	There were issues related to an agreed definition of a Right of Way but since the recent Planning and Development Act 2010 each Local Authority is now required to list public Right of Way in the County Development Plan. This action is now an objective of the new County Development Plan (2011-2017) and will be progressed
1.14 Prepare an inventory of building materials indigenous to Kildare	To be progressed in the context of the new Plan



1.16 Collate and make available information on monuments which are assessable to the public in the county	To be progressed in the context of the new Plan
1.27 Conduct an audit of heritage education in the County	To be progressed in the context of the new Plan
2.16 Review and revive County Kildare Monument Watch Scheme.	Resource constraints meant that this action was not progressed
2.19 Display excavation artefacts through the Library and Arts Service and the proposed Museum Service.	This was not possible given the conservation constraints associated with dealing with artefacts
3.3 Review the policy on signage within the County i.e. town names, rivers, etc.	This is the responsibility of Kildare County Council Roads Dept
3.8 Establish a "Golden Mile" project in the County.	To be progressed
3.12 Examine the feasibility of "landscape bond	To be progressed
3.13 Initiate a conservation and management strategy for the Curragh.	The Curragh is the responsibility of the Dept of Defence and this type of Strategy would have to be initiated by them
4.1 Seek the appointment of staff, resources permitting, within Kildare Local Authorities to ensure adequate expertise is available to facilitate the conservation of the County's Heritage.	Not actionable in the current climate
4.12 Prepare an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County.	A different approach has been adopted by the Forest Service and this action was no longer relevant and therefore remained uncompleted.

## 2.4 The Effectiveness of Management and Monitoring

### 2.4.1 *The Role of the Forum*

Responsibility for the day to day management and monitoring of the Plan rests with the Heritage Officer, who in turn reports to the Heritage Forum, while responsibility for the implementation of individual actions rests with a variety of organisations and bodies (many of whom are represented on the Heritage Forum). The Kildare Heritage Forum which has a clear terms of reference had 27 representatives when it was established from across range of sectors, it currently has 20 members. The fall off in membership can be attributed to a number of recent retirements and the decision to hold off on appointing replacements until the commencement of the development of the new Plan. It is also the case that a number of the current Forum Members are involved in the Boards and Committees of organisations currently not represented on the Forum, thus ensuring there is still a connection with these groups.

The Forum met on average 3-4 times a year (more frequently as the plan was developed). Since 2009 the Forum has met less frequently as the Heritage Officer (who is responsible for the organisation and facilitation of the meetings) became increasingly involved in planning related work and specifically in the development of the new County Development Plan and had less time available to organise and facilitate these meetings (See Appendix 4 for details of Forum

Meetings (2004-2011). There is clearly scope for re-invigorating the membership and role of the Forum in the context of a development, implementation and monitoring of a new Heritage Plan.

Heritage Forum members consulted as part of the review generally regarded their role in Kildare as advisory. This was in sharp contrast to some of their experiences of heritage forum in other locations, where they had a more active role in relation to particular areas of work. Interestingly many of them identified the re-introduction of the working group structure as a vehicle through which they believed they could make a more structured contribution in Kildare. Some Forum members with wider regional and national remits also believed it would be easier to justify their attendance at the thematic working group meetings, where they can contribute their particular skills than it would be their attendance at the wider focused Forum meetings.

#### *2.4.2 Monitoring*

Responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Heritage Plan has rested with the Heritage Officer. The absence of indicators and targets makes this a more difficult task. There is also clearly a need for the introduction of more structured monitoring of actions and events, using agreed templates, in that way data can be captured in a more concise way.

#### *2.4.3 Enhancing the Role of the Forum*

Forum members consulted as part of the review had a number of specific suggestions in relation to enhancing and strengthening the role of the Forum in the context of the development of a new Heritage Plan as follows:

- The reinvigoration of the Working Group structure (which was in place during the preparation phase of the current plan). The working groups could identify, develop and oversee implementation of the key priorities actions for their areas and report on progress to the Forum. This in turn would reduce the number of Forum meetings required annually.
- The introduction of a revolving membership for elected members so that more members get a chance to get involved over their electoral term. (Four elected representatives in adequate for the purposes of the Forum).
- Forum members also identified a number of gaps in the membership of the Forum. Organisations that should be targeted to nominate a senior level representative to join the Forum were identified as follows:
  - Fáilte Ireland<sup>7</sup>
  - County Kildare LEADER Partnership
  - Teagasc
- Forum members also believed that the Forum would benefit from the involvement of Kildare County Council planner, archaeologist and senior management representative (e.g. a Director of Service or similar).
- The needs was also identified to re-invigorate the social partnership membership and to more representation from the environmental sector.

---

<sup>7</sup> Cultural Tourism is a one of the few key growth areas in the current economic environment.

The Forum linkages between the relevant local authority Strategic Policy Committees would appear to have become more tenuous than they were in the past and there is clearly a need to strengthen these linkages or linkages with a relevant Strategic Policy Committee in the context of the development of the new plan.

## 2.5 Key Outputs and Outcomes

This section details some of the key outputs and outcomes arising from the implementation of the Kildare Plan.

### 2.5.1 Key Outputs

The absence of a baseline of heritage and heritage activities in the county makes tracking progress difficult. The absence of indicators and targets in the 2005-2009 Heritage Plan exacerbates this difficulty in terms of getting a concise overview of the various outputs and outcomes arising from the implementation of the plan. In the absence of these indicators Table 6 provides a summary of the tangible outputs and outcomes arising from the implementation of the Plan.

Table 6. Key Outputs and Outcomes arising from the implementation of the Heritage Plan 2005-2010	
Area of Work	Outputs/Outcomes
Collection and Dissemination of Heritage Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inventory of Archaeological sources in the county prepared</li> <li>- Inventory of scientific papers relating to geology/geomorphology in the County prepared.</li> <li>- Inventory of objects relating to Kildare in national collections prepared</li> <li>- Inventory (desk) of County Kildare's Industrial Heritage prepared in 2007 Kildare County Council Roads Department has also carried out some survey work on historical bridges</li> <li>- Inventory of natural heritage in the county prepared</li> <li>- Survey conducted 2005 with Geological Services Ireland of the Geological Heritage Sites of importance. These were included in Kildare Development Plan</li> <li>- Graveyard surveys, inventories and conservation plans (including Baconstown Graveyard Recording Project (15 graveyards)) Over 25 local graveyards have now been recorded and copies of these recordings are now held by the Local studies library. As part of this 45 people attended training on the recording of graveyard in addition to the two training workshop days organised in 2007 with County Kildare Archaeological Society on recording graveyard inscriptions. The Heritage Officer worked with 5 local groups across the county and 10 interested individuals to support them record their local graveyards</li> <li>- A survey on thatched cottages (This survey made recommendations for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures)</li> <li>- Surveys conducted by the Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government e.g. Historic gardens and demesne landscapes survey, etc.</li> <li>- Preparation and updating of the Record of Protected Structures which was adopted in 2011.</li> <li>- Tidy Towns Action Plans developed (funded by KELT)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kildare Cathedral Conservation Plan</li> <li>- Holy wells projects</li> <li>- Local surveys conducted by Tidy towns groups/actions by tidy towns groups in identifying heritage items to protect/preserve including habitat mapping</li> <li>- Habitat mapping undertaken (14 habitat surveys completed (Kildare, Kilcullen, Newbridge, Ballymore, Kilmead, Moone, Timolin, Crookestown, Milltown, Ballitore, Killeel, and Leixlip) with 3 additional habitat surveys undertaken with the support of KELT</li> <li>- Hedgerow Survey completed in 2006</li> <li>- Existing Tree Preservation orders identified, 5 tree surveys completed in Athy, Newbridge, Kildare, Naas &amp; Maynooth respectively.</li> <li>- The work of the Environmental Awareness Officer on the Green Schools biodiversity initiative- habitat mapping,</li> <li>- Mapping of the Floral Protection Order Species with the National Parks and Wildlife Service</li> <li>- Twenty histories commissioned and recorded by the Libraries Service in 2010.</li> <li>- Development of a Community Heritage Grant scheme in 2010 to support local community initiatives which benefit heritage.</li> <li>- Kildare Town Historic Landscape Assessment</li> </ul>
		Methodologies for the recording of oral histories in County Kildare in place.
		12 people participated in cataloguing training course
Raise Public Awareness, Understanding and Appreciation of County Kildare's Heritage		A variety of additional materials have been collected and lodged by the Local Studies section of the Library Service and others in the county archive, including church records
		All archaeological excavation reports are made available on Excavations.ie
		The Barrow Corridor Study was carried out Inland Waterways Ireland with Carlow, Kildare, Wexford Kilkenny and Laois County Councils. The Liffey Valley strategy was undertaken by the OPW included the Liffey valley in Kildare.
		Work has been done by Kildare County Council and NUI Maynooth on Thermal Springs
		110 people attended the 2008 Heritage Seminar.
Promote Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management		Inputs to local authority annual reports, annual report to the Heritage Council, regular reports to the Heritage Forum. Two bi-annual review meetings with the County Manager Website in place
		Local media coverage for all events
		2009 series of radio adverts to raise awareness of County Kildare's biodiversity
		5000 copies of the Kildare Heritage Week brochure circulated annually
		6 publications produced, heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Thatched Cottages of Kildare</li> <li>o Reusing farm buildings</li> <li>o Kildare National Heritage</li> <li>o Kildare Hedgerows</li> <li>o Inventory of Kildare archaeology sources</li> <li>o Biodiversity Guidance for developers (Part 1 large scale development, part 2 small scale development)</li> </ul>
		3 heritage calendars produced (Kildare Built Heritage 2006, Kildare Natural Heritage 2007 & Kildare Natural Heritage Photography 2008)
		6 exhibitions held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity Photography</li> <li>- Kildare Heritage Plan</li> <li>- Ardreigh Archaeological Finds</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wild Bog</li> <li>- Architecture of Kildare</li> </ul> <p>Field Monuments</p> <p>13 talks held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thatched Cottage seminar (100 participants)</li> <li>- Two Biodiversity workshops (2007 &amp; 2008 50 participants annually)</li> <li>- Annual bat walk and talk (8 held since 2004 approx 35 participants annually)</li> <li>- Graveyard recording talk (45 participants)</li> <li>- Heritage of the Curragh (125 participants)</li> <li>- Offaly and Kildare Waterways- Canal Education Project with Waterways Ireland, Offaly County Council and Kildare County Council</li> <li>- Presentation on Kildare's Natural Heritage at Irish Peatlands Conservation Centre in Lullymore</li> </ul> <p>Worked with the County Kildare Museums Committee to develop a feasibility study brief for a County Museum.</p> <p>Developed links with key stakeholders involved in the Curragh (including Horse Racing Ireland, the Turf Club, the Curragh race course and the Defence Forces)</p> <p>Informal and ongoing links established with existing Museums and, training provided for volunteers and staff</p> <p>Audit of walking routes completed in 2007 Work done on local heritage trails with local groups in Naas and Newbridge. Support for publication on Slí Dale route</p> <p>Weekend held with the Irish Georgian Society on maintenance of protected structures (approx 2000 attendees)</p> <p>Information on 'Doors Open' day made available on the website</p> <p>List of owners of Protected Structures compiled</p> <p>Birds Project operating across the county currently run by the Education Centre</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produced a guidance document on 'Wastewater treatment and disposal systems serving single houses' in 2009.</p> <p>There is ongoing promotion of the Heritage in Schools" Programme on the website.</p> <p>Supports (including funding) provided on an ongoing basis to local heritage projects</p> <p>Series of 14 advice notes produced in 2005 for local authority staff</p> <p>135 local authority officials and elected members trained as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 60 local authority staff on diversity</li> <li>- 40 local authority staff on invasive species</li> <li>- 20 planners and local representatives on architectural conservation areas</li> </ul> <p>15 planners on built heritage conservation training</p> <p>Place names paper produced and adopted by the Council 2010.</p> <p>Form to request that the Local Authority include structures on the Record of Protected Structures developed,</p> <p>Materials on conservation of Protected Structures circulated through the website and public counter and public events, libraries</p> <p>47 people training in graveyard management</p> <p>Conservation plans prepared for various graveyards</p> <p>Information on schemes to support the planting of native trees circulated</p> <p>Guidelines on location and landscaping of new developments included in the County Development Plan</p>
Inform policy and provide advice to Kildare local authorities	<p>Active engagement by the Heritage Officer with a number of local tidy towns groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 formal seminar per year from 2006-2009 (approx 35 participants annually)</li> <li>- 15 site visits a year</li> <li>- 25 informal one to one contacts</li> </ul>

	- 3 Smaller workshops
	Environmental Awareness Officer provides support for Tidy Towns on planting of native species, etc
	Two Architectural Conservation Areas established (Athy and Naas) through the planning dept, remainder to be undertaken as part of the planning process
	6 Village Design Statements in place (Brannockstown, Calverstown, Staplestown, Robertstown, Nurney and Ard Clough)
	3 heritage Appraisals conducted subsequently incorporated as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment
	Biodiversity plan in place
	Biodiversity advice notes prepared
	Walks, talks and seminars see above

It is interesting but perhaps (given the inclusion of so broadly frames actions and the absence of clear action level indicators and targets) not surprising to note that some outputs contribute to more than one action and in many cases more than one objective.

### 2.5.2 Key Outcomes

The outcomes arising from the Kildare Heritage Plan are less easily quantified but no less important than the outputs. These outcomes have been identified by the Heritage Forum and by individuals members of the Forum interviewed as part of the review. Among the key outcomes identified by the Forum members arising from the development and subsequent implementation of the Heritage Plan are:

#### *A valuing and raising the profile of heritage generally*

Having a dedicated county level Kildare Heritage Plan has according to all of the Forum members involved in the review raised the profile and levels of awareness of heritage generally. It is the first time the unique natural, cultural and built heritage of Kildare has been examined, connected together and valued as a whole. The process of developing the Plan was also the first occasion that Kildare residents were asked for their views on what aspects of heritage they valued. The Plan has also enhanced a number of ongoing initiatives like the annual heritage week (additional activities supported by the plan included the preparation of a Kildare Heritage Week Leaflet, enhanced promotion of Kildare events and increased number of local events), and initiated a number of new initiatives including the preparation of a series of publications (based on inventories and audits conducted), the initiation of the birds in the school yard programme, as well as talks and events that support ongoing awareness raising and celebration of the heritage of the county.

#### *Funding for heritage work*

Implementation of the Heritage Plan has been facilitated by the provision of funding from the Heritage Council and Kildare County Council. It is most unlikely that funding of this kind would have been made available without a Heritage Plan. It is also the case that the funding provided by the Heritage Council and Kildare County Council has been used to lever other funding (e.g. Kildare LEADER Partnership, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, and

the Geological Survey of Ireland). A separate study would need to be undertaken to assess the exact extent and nature of the leverage achieved under the 2005-2010 Heritage Plan.

#### *Relationship building among Forum Members*

Participation in the Forum and in the various working groups has facilitated the establishment of new working relationships between Forum members with different backgrounds and interests (e.g. Kildare County Council and other state agencies). Forum members believe that these enhanced relationships between individuals, groups and organisations involved in, or with the ability to support a variety of heritage related activities at local and indeed regional and national level has been a key outcome from the Kildare Heritage Plan.

#### *Relationship building between the local authority and local groups*

Local heritage groups and local authority staff and elected members alike are clear that the preparation and implementation of the Kildare Heritage Plan has facilitated the development of new and enhanced relationships and linkages between them.

#### *The development of joint/shared approaches/projects*

The Heritage Plan has facilitated the development of a number of joint projects, including the organisation by Kildare County Council and the Irish Georgian Society of a well attended weekend on conservation of protected structures, the provision of training for a variety of local groups, as well as a county wide graveyard recording initiative.

#### *Specific outcomes for Kildare County Council*

The Plan (and the presence of a dedicated Heritage Officer based in the local authority) can be seen to have begun the process of embedding heritage conservation, protection and promotion as a core objective of Kildare County Council. Geddes & Newman (2002)<sup>8</sup> in their work on how local authorities can make a difference (in relation to the promotion of social inclusion) identified a three stage process for change within local authorities that could be adopted and applied to heritage.

- Stage 1: Generating a commitment (to heritage) across the local authority
- Stage 2: Broadening and embedding the commitment (to heritage) across the authority through the development of a clear strategic approach to heritage, backed up by monitoring and performance management systems and through a range of initiatives
- Stage 3: Embedding heritage concerns in local authority policies and strategies so that local authority actions promote heritage and generate positive heritage outcomes.

The plan can specifically be seen to be contributing to the generation a commitment and awareness of heritage across Kildare County Council (elected members and staff alike) and to the

---

<sup>8</sup> Geddes, M & Newman, I (2002) How local authorities can make a difference: Benchmarking best practice. Local Authorities and Social Exclusion Network. Report 10, Local Government Information Unit, London.

development of a strategic approach to heritage while the work of the Heritage Officer is clearly contributing to the embedding of heritage concerns and issues in key policies and strategies. It is almost certainly the case that the Heritage Officer is undertaking more policy related work and advice provision than was ever envisaged in the original drafting of the Heritage Plan. This is particularly the case given that the Kildare Heritage Officer (unlike many other Heritage Officers) is located in the Kildare County Council Planning Section and is therefore well placed to contribute to practical planning and policy related issues. Key areas where the Heritage Officer has been able to directly feed heritage considerations into include:

- The County Kildare County Development Plans 2005-2011 and 2011-2017
- Various Town and Local Area Plans
- Individual planning applications
- The general activities of Kildare County Council staff

## 2.6 Key Learning from the Plan

The key achievements, strengths and weaknesses of the Plan were identified primarily by the Forum at their February 2011 meeting. The issues identified by the Forum were supplemented by subsequent individual consultations with forum members. See Table 6 for a summary of the issues identified.

Table 6. An Overview of the Key Achievements/Strengths of the Plan	
<p>Having a Heritage Plan has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlighted the richness of Kildare's heritage.</li> <li>• Given a profile to unique aspects of Kildare's heritage landscape.</li> <li>• Raised awareness of heritage generally.</li> <li>• Provided a mechanism to secure regular funding for heritage issues in the county and has prompted further action by/with community groups and heritage groups.</li> <li>• Raised the profile and promoted the work of the Heritage Officer</li> <li>• Enhanced and begun the process of quantification of the cultural identity of Co. Kildare</li> <li>• Challenged the view of County Kildare as bland and nondescript</li> <li>• Started the process of tapping into the potential of the wider community to support and engage in heritage related activities.</li> <li>• Opening new communication channels with community groups involved in heritage related activities.</li> <li>• Generated a lot of baseline information (studies, surveys, reports and inventories) of different elements of heritage within the county.</li> <li>• Facilitated the organisation of a programme of heritage related events (talks, walks, exhibitions, etc).</li> <li>• Supported the coming together and of various national, regional and local organisation and groups.</li> </ul>	

See Table 7 for details of the key weaknesses and challenges and learning for the new plan

Table 7. An Overview of Plan Weaknesses and Challenges and Learning for the new Plan	
<i>Weaknesses and Challenges</i>	<i>Learning for the new plan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People still don't always understand what heritage is</li> <li>- Awareness raising work takes a lot of time and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Awareness raising work needs to be identified as an ongoing need and activity. This work needs to challenge the traditional view of what 'heritage is'</li> </ul>



resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to find innovative ways to keep people informed and involved in actions in their local area- that will ensure heritage is considered on an ongoing basis</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further work is needed to raise the profile of the plan achievements and outputs</li> <li>- More of the information produced as part of the Plan needs to be made accessible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dissemination and communication needs to be key elements of the new plan</li> <li>- The Heritage Plan website must be a key dissemination tool and be updated regularly</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The plan while comprehensive was complex. 85 actions was a lot to progress with overlap between some actions.</li> <li>- Many of the actions themselves generated unanticipated additional actions</li> <li>- The absence of clear indicative objective and action level output/outcome indicators, targets and timelines meant that it has been difficult to track and monitor progress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to focus on a more limited number of core strategic areas of work within the county</li> <li>- Need to include consideration of the follow on work generated by actions</li> <li>- The new plan needs to clearly identify the expected outputs and outcomes and include clear indicators, targets and timelines</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need for more integration between the plan and the legislative processes of the County Council (including the County Development Plan).</li> <li>- The links between the Forum and the Local Urban and Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee have been tenuous and need to be reinvigorated.</li> <li>- The Plan has been in place for more than five years and with the Forum meeting less regularly over the last number of years it has become less visible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new Plan will need to be a three- year plan (2012-2015) to be able to feed directly the next County Development Plan (2016-2020).</li> <li>- Clear links need to be re-established with the Local Urban and Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee</li> <li>- Work needs to continue of raising awareness of heritage related issues among Kildare County Council (elected members and staff</li> <li>- The new plan needs a new look and it needs to be launched as a new document (not a continuation of the current document)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The plan is regarded by some as the work programme of the Heritage Officer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new plan need to be conceived and developed as a strategic direction for all organisations involved in heritage work in the county.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a need for heritage forum members to take more responsibility for the development, implementation and monitoring of individual actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Forum members should where possible be involved in the implementation of a least one action.</li> <li>- There is scope to re-establish the working groups to oversee and progress particular areas of work. If the working group structures were re-established the Forum's role could be revised to focus more on monitoring and reviewing progress</li> <li>- There is scope for more interagency approaches to the implementation of actions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is need for more engagement with and by the new urban commuter communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The new plan needs to include a particular focus on these communities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More use needs to be made of the knowledge and skills Heritage Forum members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Re-introduction and use of working group structures would ensure better use is made of the skills of Heritage Forum members</li> <li>- Working Groups needs to be sustained and facilitated throughout the lifetime of the Heritage Plan.</li> </ul>



## 3 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 3.1 Overall Conclusions

The Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2010 is an accessible and very professionally produced document containing over 85 actions. The origins of the preparation of the plan can be traced back to the work done by the Heritage Council and a number of key Kildare County Council staff that led to the appointment of the first Kildare Heritage Officer in late 2002. The Heritage Officer once appointed began to raise awareness and seek buy in for the development of a Kildare Heritage Plan. Work on the formal preparation of the plan ultimately began in Sept 2003 with the first meeting of the newly established and convened meeting of the Kildare Heritage Forum. The Forum went on to establish a number of working groups who ultimately following a process of public consultation went onto identify the thematic actions to be included in the plan. A first draft of the Heritage Plan was in place for April 2004. The actual preparation of the plan took about 9 months but was predicated on the buy in work done in advance of that. The development of the new Plan (2012-2015) should take significantly less time given that there is a better understanding of the role and purpose of a county based Heritage Plan, the necessary structures (while they may need to be revised) are in place and that the learning generated from the first plan can be used to shape the second plan.

The overall aim and objectives of the plan were clear. The plan includes 85 actions under the four objectives. 72 of the 85 actions have been implemented (25 in full and 47 in part or are ongoing in nature). There was no prioritisation of the actions, nor was there any attempt to make a distinction between one-off or ongoing actions. Of the 13 actions that were not implemented some were not progressed because of resource or other (security or conservation, etc) issues, while others were simply too large or too aspirational to be implemented. A small number of actions were also found to be either the responsibility of other organisations or issues that need to be progressed at national level by organisations like the Heritage Council. It is also the case that a number of actions that are partially implemented or where implementation is ongoing contained many parts not all of which were implemented.

The Plan has generated some very tangible outputs particularly in relation to the development of excellent baseline of heritage and heritage related activities in the County. The Plan has also generated some very clear outcome and learning not least of which was to raise the profile and awareness levels of heritage generally and within the County Council (staff and elected members) in particular. The Plan has also had an important role in securing regular funding for heritage issues in the county and in highlighting and embedding good practices and policies that support heritage conservation and management in the various local and county levels plans (The findings and recommendations arising from the Thatched Cottage Survey resulted in a number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures, while the findings arising from the Geological Survey of Co Kildare led to the inclusion of the Geological Sites of Local Importance in the 2011-2017 County Kildare Development Plan.

The advent, development and implementation of the County Kildare Heritage Plan has been a positive development from a number of perspectives. It has profiled and raised awareness of the unique aspects of Kildare's heritage, it has provided a mechanism to secure regular funding for heritage issues in the county, it has established a baseline of heritage and heritage activities in the county and it has provided skills training and promoted the adoption of good practices. At a less tangible but no less important level it has promoted the development of enhanced relationships between forum members and generated a specific commitment and a strategic approach to heritage for Kildare County Council.

**Recommendation 1.** A new Kildare Heritage Plan should be prepared for the period 2012-2015 (This timing is designed to fit in with the timing of the development of the County Kildare Development Plan 2017-2023, preparations for which will begin in 2015). The Plan should have a new look and feel in order to generate a new energy and avoid in any way being seen as a continuation of the old plan.

### *3.1.1 Preparation and content*

The preparation of the actual content of the 2005-2010 Kildare Heritage Plan took about seven months for the development of the first draft of the plan. A lot of work had to be done in advance of the actual preparation of the plan to explain the purpose of the plan and to get buy from the elected members and senior management. Some work will need to be done in advance of the preparation of the new plan to re-invigorate the membership of the Forum and to establish the necessary working groups.

**Recommendation 2.** A clear methodology and accompanying timeframe needs to be agreed for the preparation of the new Heritage Plan.

**Recommendation 3.** The process of preparation the new plan must continue to be inclusive and involve targeted and strategic consultations with the key stakeholders including: Forum Members, key local authority and other agency staff, community and voluntary organisations involved/interested in heritage related activities. Particular care must be taken in the current economic climate to ensure that consultations undertaken as part of the plan preparation process do not generate a wish list of projects. This will require some work to be done in advance of the consultations to identify the key strategic heritage priorities for the county for the period 2012-2015.

The 2005-2010 Heritage Plan not surprisingly as the first plan of its kind, had a particular focus on the compilation, collection and documentation of heritage related information. While undoubtedly further work will need to be done on the collection of baseline information the focus of the new plan needs to be broader.

**Recommendation 4.** The new plan needs to prioritise actions in relation to informing and influencing policy and providing advice as well as raising awareness of heritage.

**Recommendation 5.** Some actions in the current Plan should be considered for inclusion in the new Plan, where they are considered relevant and they are seen as a priority by the Heritage Forum when drafting the new plan.

**Recommendation 6.** The new Plan needs to include actions that relate to facilitating the Forum and its various working groups

### *3.1.2 Plan implementation*

The 2005-2010 Plan while comprehensive was complex. 85 actions was clearly a large amount of actions to progress, with overlap between actions and no consideration given to the fact that some actions were ongoing, while others while they may have been time bound generated additional unanticipated actions. The new plan would clearly benefit from an enhanced focus on outcomes which in turn will require a focus on a more limited number of core strategic areas of work within the county, with clear outputs and outcomes targets and timeframes identified for these areas of work<sup>9</sup>.

**Recommendation 7.** The new Plan 2012-2015 should have a tighter focus on a more limited number of actions. The ideal would be 4 objectives with 3-4 core strategic areas of work that would have a strong influencing effect (designed to achieve key heritage objectives under the various different heritage themes) identified in some depth under each objective. Sub-actions could be indentified under each strategic area of work.

**Recommendation 8.** There is a need to include a balance of local and national actions. There is scope for example for the new Plan to link with and support the implementation of key national policy objectives. For example local and county level voluntary species and habitat monitoring/recording initiatives could be linked to meeting the requirements<sup>10</sup> of Article 17 reporting section of the Habitats Directive. There may also be scope for the development of inter-county or indeed regional actions (given that many heritage features straddle administrative.

**Recommendation 9.** The concept of 'proposed partners' needs to be strengthened in the context of the new Plan with the identification and inclusion of 'agreed partners' in the new Plan. While this will undoubtedly require more work to be done as part of the preparation of the plan to get project partners to agree to be involved, it will also ensure that responsibility for the implementation of actions is shared across a wider variety of organisations and groups.

### *3.1.3 Plan Management and monitoring*

The 2005-2010 Plan has benefited from the involvement of a core group of skilled individuals. The Kildare Heritage Forum is the key structure responsible for the overall management and implementation of the Plan but there has been a fall off in meetings and attendance levels over the last number of years.

---

<sup>9</sup> The adoption of this more strategic approach is being considered in other counties (e.g. Meath County Council) and is the approach adopted by many County Development Boards as they review their 10year strategies and develop their three year action plans.

<sup>10</sup> Dr Deirdre Lynn (National Parks and Wildlife Service National Office (01 8883280) can provide detailed suggestions.

**Recommendation 10.** Membership of the Heritage Forum needs to be reviewed and key gaps in membership addressed. Organisations identified as part of the review that should be targeted to nominate a senior level representative to join the Forum included: Fáilte Ireland, County Kildare LEADER Partnership, and Teagasc. The Forum would also benefit from the involvement of a planner, archaeologist and senior management representative (e.g. a Director of Service or similar) from Kildare County Council as well as more representation from the environmental sector. Elected member involvement in the Forum was seen as critical with the consideration to the introduction of a revolving membership for elected members so that more members get a chance to get involved over their electoral term.

**Recommendation 11.** Linkages between the Forum and key local authority structures (including the relevant Strategic Policy Committees) need to be strengthened in the context of the development of the new plan in order to ensure heritage becomes more central to the work of the local authority.

The Working group structures provide a useful mechanism for accessing the skills and specialist knowledge of Forum members and others.

**Recommendation 12.** The Working Group structures should be revised in the context of the preparation of the new plan

**Recommendation 13.** The working group structures could also be considered as the key vehicles to progress the implementation of the Heritage Plan with the Forum taking on a more oversight and monitoring role. Working groups could be established in relation to three core areas: Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, Built Heritage and Archaeology and Community and Cultural Heritage. This would require a revision of the current terms of reference of both the Forum and the Working Groups.

#### *3.1.4 Plan Monitoring*

There is a need for more structured monitoring of the Plan in general and of specific activities undertaken as part of the implementation of the new Plan with a small number of core objective level outcome orientated indicators and targets should be identified and included in the new Plan.

**Recommendation 14.** Under each objective, each core strategic area of work should have a small number of key indicators<sup>11</sup> that feed into the overall objective level indicators. Each core area of work should have a named individual who will act as a Monitor who is responsible for reporting on the indicators (See Appendix 5 for details of sample indicators that could be used in the context of the new Plan).

---

<sup>11</sup> The indicators should include a mixture of output and outcome orientated indicators. Output indicators are indicators that measure the immediate consequence of a particular action (e.g. the number of groups who attend a heritage event), while outcome indicators measure the medium to longer term consequence of a particular action (e.g.: the % of groups who go on to make changes positive to heritage in their work practices as a result of having attended the particular event)

- Recommendation 15.** The Heritage Officer should be responsible for the collection of the Monitors data and collation into reports for the Working Groups and the Forum.
- Recommendation 16.** There is a need to introduce a more structured system for the monitoring and evaluation of actions and events, (undertaken/funded under the Heritage Plan) using agreed templates, in that way data can be captured in a more concise way.

## Appendix 1 Membership of the Kildare Heritage Forum

Appendix 1 Membership of the Kildare Heritage Forum			
<i>Sector</i>	<i>Agency/Body</i>	<i>Representative in 2003</i>	<i>Representative in 2011</i>
Local Government (7)	Kildare County Council	Cllr PJ Sheridan	Cllr Michael Nolan
	Kildare County Council	Cllr Fionnuala Dukes	Cllr Francis Browne
	Kildare County Council	Cllr Tony McEvoy	Cllr Seamus Moore (also represents Naas Town Council)
	Naas Town Council	Cllr Seamus Moore	
	Newbridge Town Council	Cllr Pat Black	<b>Vacant</b>
	Leixlip Town Council	Cllr Breege Lynch	Cllr Shane Fitzgerald
	Athy Town Council	Cllr Noel Scully	<b>Vacant</b>
Kildare County Council	Environmental Awareness Officer	Mr Dara Wyer,	Mr Dara Wyer,
	Conservation Officer	Mr Peter Black	Mr Peter Black
	Kildare Library Services	Mr Mario Corrigan	Mr Mario Corrigan
	Kildare Heritage Officer	Ms Bridget Loughlin	Ms Bridget Loughlin
Local Development (1)	KELT	Mr Liam Hartford6	<b>Vacant</b> Mr Liam Hartford (resigned 2011)
State Agencies (5)	Teagasc	Mr Hugh McCreevy	<b>Vacant</b> Ms Marie Hill (resigned 2009)
	Forest Service	Mr Bill Murren	Mr Bill Murren
	Waterways Ireland	Mr Dominic Molony	Mervyn Hamilton
	Bórd na Móna	Mr Tom Egan	Dr Catherine Farrell
	Midlands and Eastern Regional Tourism Authority	Mr Michael Brady	When Mr Brady was not able to attend meetings the Forum agreed not to seek another nomination and to replace the position with an IPCC representative
Government Departments (2)	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of the National Monuments & Historic Properties	Mr Marc Richie	Mr Marc Richie
	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Dr Linda Patton	Ms Ciara Flynn
Educational (2)	NUI Maynooth	Dr John Sweeney	Dr John Sweeney
	Kildare Education Centre	Ms Ann Kelleher	Ms Dolores Hamill
Social Partners (6)	Irish Farmers Association	Mr Ger Smith	Mr Ger Smith County Kildare Leader Partnership Board Member
	Community & Voluntary Forum	Mr Sean Cleary	Mr Joe Sargent
	Community & Voluntary Forum	Mr Paul Croghan	<b>Vacant</b> Mr Sean Flannery (resigned 2011)
	Heritage Groups/Committees Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC)	Mr Niall Meagher	<b>Vacant</b> Mr Niall Meagher (resigned 2009)
	Heritage Groups/Committees County Kildare Archaeological Society	Mr Eamon Kane	Mr Eamon Kane
	Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC)	Co-opted on to the Forum in 2006	Mr Tadhg Ó Corcoran
	Federation of Local History Groups	Mr Ger McCarthy	Mr Liam Kenny (Member of the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee)
Total No of Current Members		27	20



## Appendix 2. Consultations Undertaken

Consultations Undertaken as part of the Kildare Heritage Plan Review		
<i>Dates 2011</i>	<i>Type of Consultations</i>	<i>Details of Consultees</i>
Various	Various meetings with the Heritage Officer	Kildare Heritage Officer
9 <sup>th</sup> February 10.30-4pm	All day Workshop with Forum Members	Forum Members
31 March	Forum Member Interview (face to face)	Liam Kenny Community Rep; Local History Group
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Forum Member Interviews (face to face)	Cllr Seamus Moore Gerald Smith (Chairperson and IFA Representative)
Various	Forum Members Interviews (telephone)	Marc Richie - Dept of Environment, Heritage and Local Government  Dr. Catherine Farrell - Bord na Móna Ciara Flynn - National Parks and Wildlife Service)  Dr John Sweeney - NUI Maynooth  Mario Corrigan - Local Studies Department, County Kildare Library and Arts Service
29 <sup>th</sup> March	All day discussion on review of actions and development of indicators	Kildare Heritage Officer
May	Meeting with Heritage Forum	

### Appendix 3 Review of the Extent and Nature of Implementation of the Kildare Heritage Plan 2005-2010.

Objective 1: To Facilitate the Collection and Dissemination of Heritage Information (28 Actions)						
Heritage Plan Actions		Completed	Ongoing	Not Done	Outputs/ Outcomes	For next plan
1.1	Prepare a Heritage Directory for County Kildare This action was too general and was changed to the preparation of an Inventory of Archaeological Sources in the county (a similar inventory is proposed for architecture (An inventory of natural heritage has also been prepared)	1			Inventory of Archaeological sources in the County prepared	Architecture inventory to be developed
1.2	Encourage cataloguing of museums/heritage centres collections in the County. 2006 cataloguing course provided as part of training for operators of museums and heritage centres. Training provided by conservators in the business. 12 participants.	1			12 people were trained	Identify museums /heritage centres needs
1.3	Prepare an inventory of heritage and archaeological objects relating to County Kildare which are currently lodged in the National Museum of Ireland. Inventory completed 2005/2006. Uploading of database to web 2011.	1			Inventory of objects relating to Kildare in national collections prepared	
1.4	Prepare an inventory of heritage objects relating to Kildare in private collections This action will not be progressed because of issues of security and privacy			1		No
1.5	Develop a methodology for the recording of oral histories in County Kildare. Methodologies in place. A Training Course on Recording Oral Histories will be organised in 2011.		1		Twenty histories commissioned and recorded by the Libraries	Provision of further training Develop a

	<p>Collect archive and promote existing oral histories. Revisit 1938 Folklore study</p> <p>A training course on recording oral histories for interested individuals to be provided on a pilot basis in 2011</p>				Service in 2010.	thematic approach to recording (e.g. race horse industry)
1.6	<p>Establish an inventory of features, objectives and artefacts worthy of preservation and recording through the County. Encourage local communities, heritage groups, history groups &amp; schools to become involved on a project basis.</p> <p>Surveys and inventories conducted as part of the implementation of the Heritage Plan have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Various graveyard surveys, inventories and conservation plans (including Baconstown Graveyard Recording Project (15 graveyards))</li> <li>- A survey on thatched cottages</li> <li>- Surveys on industrial heritage</li> <li>- Habitat mapping</li> <li>- Updating of the Record of Protected Structures,</li> <li>- Village design statements,</li> <li>- Surveys conducted by the Dept of Environment , heritage and Local Government e.g. Historic gardens and demesne landscapes survey, etc.</li> <li>- Local surveys conducted by Tidy towns groups/actions by tidy towns groups in identifying heritage items to protect/preserve including habitat mapping</li> <li>- Tidy Towns Action Plans funded with KELT</li> <li>- Kildare Cathedral Conservation Plan</li> <li>- Holy wells projects</li> <li>- The work of the Environmental awareness officer on the Green Schools biodiversity initiative- habitat mapping,</li> <li>- Mapping of the Floral Protection Order Species with the National Parks and Wildlife Service</li> <li>- Development of a Community Heritage Grant scheme in 2010 to</li> </ul>		1			Not in this format

	support local community initiatives which benefit heritage. – Kildare Town Historic Landscape Assessment					
1.7	Support the recording of graveyard inscriptions; provide a guide to best practice and encourage gathered material to be lodged with the County Library. Run an introductory one day training course for community groups interested in recording in 2007 (approx 45 participants) Worked with 5 local groups across the county and 10 interested individuals to support them record their local graveyards. Local studies library hold records of recordings lodged with them. Two training workshop days were organised with County Kildare Archaeological Society on graveyard recording		1		45 people attended the training in 2007  Over 22 local graveyards have been recorded	To be continued
1.8	Seek the expansion of the County Archive		1		Materials collected lodged in county archive	No- not in current financial climate
1.9	Encourage local businesses, local authorities and local schools to lodge archival material with county archive. (ongoing) Explore the establishment of a media archive Leixlip Library has developed Platform4 which may provide a venue for the storing of a media archive.		1		Archival material lodged with county archive	Ongoing archive work to continue
1.10	Explore access to church records This work is being carried out on an ongoing basis by the Local Studies section of Kildare Library Service		1			To be continued
1.11	Collate archaeological excavation reports and EIA for Co. Kildare, ensure that copies of all such reports are lodged with the county Library and make available to the public, Encourage archaeological completing and individual archaeologists to lodge reports in County Library. All archaeological reports are made available on Excavations.ie	1				To be continued with reports to be lodged with County Library in next plan
1.12	Prepare an inventory of established public right of ways in the County.			1		To be included (in County Development Plan

						2011-2017)
1.13	Prepare & maintain Record of Protected Structures. Completed and adopted in 2011 as part of County Development Plan process. The thatched cottage survey made recommendations for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures Map of protected structures was completed as part of the County Development Plan preparation.		1		Record of Protected Structures prepared and adopted in 2011.	Maintain RPS and continue with mapping
1.14	Prepare an inventory of building materials indigenous to Kildare			1		To be included
1.15	Prepare an inventory of vernacular architecture Thatched cottages survey completed in 2005.	1			Inventory of Thatched Cottages in the County completed in 2005	Summary & publication to go online. Study of Tin Over Thatch to be undertaken
1.16	Collate and make available information on monuments which are assessable to the public in the county			1		To be continued with particular consideration to be given to monuments that accessible to all
1.17	Collate existing datasets on natural heritage of national importance in County Kildare. Make information available. Identify information gaps. Linked to 1.1. Database in place. National Biodiversity Centre taken responsibility for this work. A database of Natural Heritage datasets compiled in 2007 and data sent to Biodiversity Record Centre in Waterford.	1			An inventory of natural heritage in the county prepared	Make database accessible on line
1.18	Commence a habitat survey of the County, identifying locally important sites. Include information generated by local surveys and inventories in town and local plans. Commenced in 2007 11 habitat surveys of towns and villages completed		1		11 habitat surveys completed	Min of 6 to completed in the next plan, in conjunction with

	(Kildare, Kilcullen, Newbridge, Ballymore, Kilmead, Moone, Timolin, Crookestown, Milltown, Ballitore, Killeel, Leixlip. Habitat mapping as part of Tidy Towns in conjunction with KELT: Ballymore, Kilmead and part of Leixlip Habitat mapping as part of Tidy Towns in conjunction with KELT. 2011 Two Habitat surveys to be conducted in Kill & Rathangan. Floral Protection order species are being mapped (with the National Parks and Wildlife Service)				3 more habitat surveys undertaken with the support of KELT	local area plans
1.19	Conduct a survey of hedgerows in the County to include extent, composition, condition, management and historical aspects. Recommendations needs to be progressed	1			Hedgerow Survey in place since 2006	Recommendations of the survey to be progressed
1.20	Identify existing Tree Preservation Orders in the County. (4 in the county) Identify and designate trees or groups of trees suitable for preservation. (Tree surveys have commenced 2009. Surveys completed for Athy, Newbridge, Kildare, Naas & Maynooth)		1		Existing Tree Preservation orders identified, 5 tree surveys completed.	Select appropriate methodologies for tree protection and continue with survey (Six to be completed)
1.21	Conduct a waterways Corridor Study for Kildare Canals. The Heritage Council were leading on these types of projects, there are however currently resource issues. The Barrow Corridor Study was carried out Inland Waterways Ireland with Carlow, Kildare, Wexford Kilkenny and Laois County Councils.		1			Further work to be done on Kildare Waterways
1.22	Produce an inventory of County Kildare's Industrial Heritage and examine possible future uses. A desk inventory has been prepared 2007.	1			A desk inventory of County Kildare's Industrial Heritage prepared	Make inventory more available Progress report recommendations
1.23	Identify sites of geology and geomorphology in the County. Compile an inventory of scientific papers relating to geology and geomorphology in the County. Survey conducted 2005 with Geological Services Ireland. Geological	1			Inventory of scientific papers relating to geology and	Made inventory available on the web. Progress report

	Heritage sites of Importance included in Kildare County Development Plan				geomorphology in the County prepared.	recommendations
1.24	Prepare an inventory of flood plains, naturally occurring springs and fords in the county (This is the role of the OPW other work has been done by KCC and NUI Maynooth on Thermal Springs)		1			No Thermal springs work to be completed
1.25	Survey and record all bridges in the county Some work done through industrial heritage survey. The Roads Department of Kildare Co Cop has carried survey work on historical bridges		1			To be included in new plan
1.26	Conduct waterways corridor studies for rivers in the county. The Liffey Valley strategy was undertaken by the OPW included the Liffey valley in Kildare. The Barrow Corridor Study was carried out Inland Waterways Ireland with Carlow, Kildare, Wexford Kilkenny and Laois County Councils.		1			To be included in the new plan with the Barrow as the priority
1.27	Conduct an audit of heritage education in the County			1		To be included in new plan
1.28	Conduct a survey on the suitable/reuse/regeneration of cutover and cutaway bogs. Develop a pilot area to demonstrate results in the county (Ongoing work done on this area by Bord na Móna, while the IPCC have done some work on the regeneration of the pilot areas)		1			Role in supporting Bord na Móna in the implementation of its Biodiversity Plan
Totals		9	14	5		

Objective 2: To Raise Public Awareness, Understanding and Appreciation of County Kildare's Heritage (29 Actions)						
Heritage Plan Actions		Completed	Ongoing	Not Done	Outputs/ Outcomes	Next Plan
2.1	<p>Promote the County Kildare Heritage Plan and its implementation by an annual seminar, progress reports and media coverage.</p> <p>Annual 'general public' seminar held in 2008, (in association with thatched cottage publication launch)</p> <p>Annual County Kildare Heritage week brochure co-ordinated, prepared, circulated and promoted through local media.</p> <p>2009 series of radio adverts to raise awareness of County Kildare's biodiversity during the week of Biodiversity day.</p> <p>Seminars held on specific topics</p> <p>Local media coverage for all events</p> <p>Various inputs to local authority annual reports, annual report to the Heritage Council, regular reports to the Heritage Forum. Two bi-annual review meetings with the County Manager</p>		1		<p>110 people attended the 2008 annual seminar.</p> <p>5000 copies of the Kildare heritage Week brochure circulated annually</p>	<p>Continue with required reporting, Hold an annual general public event</p> <p>Enhance media coverage</p>
2.2	<p>Develop and maintain a dedicated heritage website for the County to be part of Kildare County Council's website. This web site will be linked to other relevant websites.</p> <p>Website in place<sup>12</sup></p>		1		Website in place	Website to be enhanced
2.3	<p>Publicise inventories and surveys conducted as part of the plan, lodge in the County Library and make available to the public.</p> <p>All inventories, surveys and project reports are lodged with the local studies section of the County Library and where suitable are uploaded to the Heritage pages of the Kildare county Council web site.</p>		1			Develop a dissemination strategy

<sup>12</sup> It is not yet possible to measure the number of hits on the website.



2.4	<p>Produce a series of heritage publications to promote all aspects of Kildare's heritage, built, natural and cultural. Target of two publications per year</p> <p>Publications produced include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thatched Cottages of Kildare</li> <li>○ Reusing farm buildings</li> <li>○ Kildare National Heritage</li> <li>○ Kildare Hedgerows</li> <li>○ Inventory of Kildare archaeology sources</li> <li>○ Biodiversity Guidance for developers (Part 1 large scale development, part 2 small scale development)</li> </ul> <p>Produced three Calendars (Kildare Built Heritage 2006, Kildare Natural Heritage 2007 &amp; Kildare Natural Heritage Photography 2008)</p>		1		<p>6 publications produced, heritage 3 heritage calendars produced</p>	<p>Produce accessible summaries of research (Linked to Dissemination Strategy)</p>
2.5	<p>Conduct talks and exhibitions on various heritage aspects throughout the County</p> <p>Exhibitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biodiversity Photography</li> <li>- Kildare Heritage Plan</li> <li>- Ardreigh Archaeological Finds</li> <li>- Wild Bog</li> <li>- Architecture of Kildare</li> <li>- Field Monuments</li> </ul> <p>Talks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thatched Cottage seminar (100 participants)</li> <li>- Two Biodiversity workshops (2007 &amp; 2008 50 participants annually)</li> <li>- Eight bat walk and talk each year (one annually since 2004 35 participants annually)</li> <li>- Graveyard recording talk (45 participants)</li> <li>- Heritage of the Curragh (125 participants)</li> <li>- Offaly and Kildare Waterways- Canal Education Project with</li> </ul>		1		<p>6 exhibitions held 13 talks held</p>	<p>Part of dissemination strategy</p>

	Waterways Ireland, Offaly County Council and Kildare County Council - Presentation on Kildare's Natural Heritage at Irish Peatlands Conservation Centre in Lullymore					
2.6	Explore the establishment of a County Museum and County Museum Service. Develop links with and support existing Museums in the County. Worked with the County Kildare Museums Committee to develop a feasibility study brief for the Museum. Developed links with stakeholders in the county i.e. Horse Racing Ireland, the Turf club, Curragh race course and the Defence Forces. Currently on hold Museums and Heritage centres are promoted on the Heritage pages on KCC website. Informal and ongoing links established, training provided		1			To be continued consider joint promotion work
2.7	Promote access for all to museums/heritage centres in the County including the military museum. (linked to 2.6)		1			
2.8	Establish a Network of Heritage Groups/individuals in the County. The Heritage Officer maintains a database of individuals interested in Heritage in the county from attendances at heritage events. Maintain the website		1			Yes maintain network
2.9	Improve access to archival material for research purposes. Archivist done some work on this area. Access has improved with the microfilming of records, poor law union. burial records, etc. Too general to be actionable		1			County Archivist not in post any longer. The Local Studies section of the library service controls access to the archive.
2.10	Identify and promote walking routes and "Greenways" within the County, including villages and towns.		1		Audit of walking routes completed	To be progressed

	<p>Audit of existing routes done in 2007</p> <p>Work done on local heritage trails with local groups in Naas and Newbridge</p> <p>Identify and promote ancient roadways within the County</p> <p>Support for publication on Slí Dale route</p>				in 2007	
2.11	<p>Establish links between Third Level Institutions (especially NUI Maynooth), local authorities and local communities, which will benefit local heritage (ideally using post graduate students).</p> <p>- Joint work done on Thermal Springs</p>		1		Joint work done with NUI Maynooth on Thermal Springs	Links to be enhanced
2.12	<p>Inform general public, particularly estate agents, auctioneers, farmers and public bodies of protected sites (NHA, SAC, SPA), Protected Structures (RPS) and monuments and archaeological sites (Record of Monuments and Places) and make them aware of the level of protection these sites and structures have under national and international legislation.</p> <p>The Heritage Officers responds to queries as they arise.</p> <p>Kildare County Council Planning department holds the Record of Protected Structures in the County. This is accessible to the public, through the Council website.</p> <p>Details of Record of Protected Structures and the designated natural heritage sites are included in the County Development Plan. The level of protection of all these sites is included in the CDP</p>	1				Now part of County Development Plan process
2.13	<p>Hold talks and workshops for owners of protected structures, which will address the issues of conservation, maintenance, funding and planning. Held a weekend in June 2010 of seminars and exhibitions (on maintenance of protected structures) with the Georgian Society at Castletown</p>		1		Weekend on maintenance of protected structures (approx 2000 attendees)	Continue on a thematic basis
2.14	<p>Promote access to protected structures by developing a "doors open" day for owners of Protected Structures receiving tax relief under Section 482 of the Taxes Consolidated Act, 1997.(information is on the website)</p>		1		Information made available on the website	To be progressed

2.15	Establish a list of owners of Protected Structures.(invited owners to events)	1			List of owners compiled	No
2.16	Review and revive County Kildare Monument Watch Scheme.			1		Scheme to be reviewed
2.17	Support the publication of Kildare's Archaeological Inventory. Dept of Environment collecting this information, there are resource issues.		1			To be completed
2.18	Raise the profile of the work of the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee. Seek to increase funding made available to this committee.		1			Continued
2.19	Display excavation artefacts through the Library and Arts Service and the proposed Museum Service.			1		Not feasible
2.20	Prepare an inventory of Heritage gardens, parks and demesnes in Kildare.	1			Desk inventory of completed by the NIAH	Work to be progressed through field surveys
2.21	Promote the Birdwatch Ireland Countryside Bird Survey. Biodiversity talks 2007. Biodiversity Workshops in 2008. Discovering Kildare's Wildlife	1				Continue to support Kildare Birdwatch
2.22	Develop a "birds in the School yard project" to be piloted in a school in each Electoral division (Done in 2005 and continued since. Now run by Kildare Education Centre)	1			Birds Project operating across the county	Continue to support
2.23	Promote awareness of importance of wildlife on intact bogs and cutaway bogs. Promoted as part of ongoing work including Biodiversity Walks and Talks 2008, 2009		1			Continue
2.24	Encourage communities adjacent to cutaway and cutover bogs to develop amenities in conjunction with Bord na Móna.		1			No
2.25	Raise awareness of the importance of water quality for nature conservation. The River Basin Management Plans prepared for the river catchments in Kildare address the issues of protection of water dependant	1				No

	species, ecology of rivers and water quality.					
2.26	Produce an information sheet on the importance of maintaining existing waste treatment systems. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produced a guidance document on 'Wastewater treatment and disposal systems serving single houses' in 2009.	1				No
2.27	Promote the "Heritage in Schools" Programme. Seek to promote awareness of built heritage in schools There is ongoing promotion of the Heritage in Schools" Programme on the website. Work has yet to commence on built heritage.		1			To be continued
2.28	Promote awareness and conservation of Heritage on farms. Kildare's hedgerow publication. Reusing farmhouse publication (built heritage), Kildare's Natural Heritage (natural Heritage )		1		Reusing farmhouse and Kildare's Natural Heritage publications.	Continue (adopt a thematic focus)
2.29	Develop a list of local heritage projects that would benefit Heritage in the county and which could be carried out by local groups. Supports (including funding) provided on an ongoing basis by groups. Projects are generally led by local groups, list not useful in these circumstances		1			No
Totals		7	20	2		

Objective 3: To Promote Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management (16Actions)						
Heritage Plan Actions		Completed	Ongoing	Not Done	Outputs/ Outcomes	New Plan
3.1	Develop an education programme for local authority staff and Councillors on all aspects of Kildare's Built, Natural and Archaeological Heritage. Training for 60 local authority staff on diversity Training for 40 local authority staff on invasive species Training for 20 planners and local representatives on architectural conservation areas Training for 15 planners on built heritage conservation training 2011 Archaeological training to be provided for staff and Councillors		1		135 local authority officials and elected members trained	To be continued
3.2	Establish a place names committee in the County, which will re-examine a policy on the naming of new developments and new roads. Produce a policy paper.		1		Place names paper produced and adopted by the Council 2010.	Consider role of Committee. Produce guidance on naming for the general public
3.3	Review the policy on signage within the County i.e. town names, rivers, etc. This is the responsibility of Kildare County Council Roads Dept			1		Devise plan on heritage signage
3.4	Devise a mechanism for the public to request that the Local Authority include structures on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS). Form developed, to be signed off	1				Encourage use of form as part of ongoing work
3.5	Circulate literature on conservation of Protected Structures to libraries. Materials circulated through the Website and public counter and public events, libraries		1		Materials circulated	Links to website and dissemination strategy
3.6	Provide a training course on conservation techniques and traditional building Seminar held in Castletown (See Action 2.13)		1			To be included

	Farm house book addressed some of these issues. The Traditional skills workshops held in 2010 with the Irish Georgian Society					
3.7	Provide advice and training for local authority staff, local communities and management committees on the best practice for the management of graveyards. This training will include consideration of natural & built heritage. 2007 One day Training Course for Community Groups/FAS Supervisors, etc (47 participants). Conservation plans prepared for a number of graveyards Gaganstown, Donacompher, Passlands. Conservation Plan prepared for Kildare Cathedral	1			47 people training in graveyard management Conservation plans prepared for 3 graveyards	To be continued
3.8	Establish a "Golden Mile" project in the County.			1		To be considered. (Potential for linkage and development of healthy heritage Slí na Sláinte?)
3.9	Encourage the planting of native trees in suitable locations through the Native Woodland Scheme and Neighbourhood Schemes. Forward information on Schemes to local groups (no uptake of schemes locally)		1		Information circulated	To be continued
3.10	Produce policy papers and "best practice guidelines" on the following topics: - -The siting and landscaping of new developments (included as part of County Development Plan) - Biodiversity and road design (the NRA guidelines provide this). - Biodiversity considerations in site development & site management. Two publications produced detailed in 2.04	1			Guidelines on location and landscaping of new developments included in the County Development Plan	No
3.11	Produce guidelines for incorporation of biodiversity considerations	1			Series of 14	Dissemination of

	into local authority activities. A series of 14 advice notes produced in 2005 for local authority staff. Notes to be revised in 2011				advice notes produced in 2005 for local authority staff	Notes
3.12	Examine the feasibility of "landscape bond" (e.g. Wicklow Bond)			1		To be included discussed with Planning Section
3.13	Initiate a conservation and management strategy for the Curragh. Review 2007 Seminar on the Heritage of the Curragh (125 participants)			1	125 people attend seminar on the Curragh	Support initiatives in relation to the Curragh management
3.14	Provide training, advice and best practice guidelines for Tidy Towns Associations and community groups in relation to wildlife and built heritage. 1 formal seminar per year from 2006-2009 (approx 35 participants annually) 15 site visits a year 25 informal one to one contacts 3 Smaller workshops Environmental Awareness Officer provides support for Tidy Towns on planting of native species, etc		1		Active engagement and support for a number of local tidy towns groups	To be continued
3.15	Promote hedgerows and roadside management and provide training Guide to the Hedgerows of County Kildare produced in 2009 and distributed widely throughout the county (including Teagasc offices). Biodiversity Training provided for local authority staff.	1				To be included
3.16	Promote the geology and geomorphology of the County. Survey completed in 2005, accessible on line		1		County geology & geomorphology survey in place	Production of a non-technical summary document
		5	7	2		



Objective 4: To Inform policy and provide advice to Kildare local authorities (12 Actions)						
Heritage Plan Actions		Completed	Ongoing	Not Done	Outputs/ Outcomes	New Plan
4.1	Seek the appointment of staff, resources permitting, within Kildare Local Authorities to ensure adequate expertise is available to facilitate the conservation of the County's Heritage. <i>Not actionable in the current climate</i>			1		No
4.2	Establish County forum to investigate the issues of access and insurance. <i>The need for a County Forum was addressed through the establishment in 2004 of the Comhairle na Tuaithe<sup>13</sup> who went on to produce the National Countryside Recreational Strategy and Access Parameters and Countryside Code were produced.</i>	1				No
4.3	Establish Architectural Conservation Areas throughout the County <i>Two done (Athy and Naas) through the planning dept, remainder to be undertaken as part of the planning process 2010 Kildare Historic Landscape Characterisation (lead to the establishment of the Kildare ACA) 2011 Kildare Architectural Area Inventory and Guidance notes to be produced</i>		1		Three Architectural Conservation Areas in place	To be continued and expanded
4.4	Prepare two Village Design Statements for the County as a pilot project. <i>Six completed (Brannockstown, Calverstown, Staplestown, Robertstown, Nurney, Ard Clough) in 2009, yet to be adopted</i>		1		6 Village Design Statements in place	To be discussed with Planning Dept

<sup>13</sup> Comhairle na Tuaithe (comprises representatives of the farming organisations, recreational users of the countryside and state bodies with an interest in the countryside) was established to address: access to the countryside, the development of a countryside code and the development of a countryside recreation strategy.

4.5	Seek adequate Grants for the Conservation of Protected Structures through the DOEHLG grant Scheme. Conservation Officer seeks additional funding each year under this scheme		1			Scheme closed
4.6	Conduct a study on the appropriate re-use of protected structures. Encourage continued use and appropriate reuse of vacant protected structures.	1			Study on the re-use of farm buildings for accommodation purposes in place	Continue with a thematic focus
4.7	Conduct Heritage Appraisals of all County, Town and Local Area Plans to ensure that all aspects of heritage, as defined by the Heritage Act 1995, are considered. Heritage appraisals were conducted on the 2006 County Development Plan, and the Athy and the Naas Town Plans. Since 2004 Strategic Environmental Assessment incorporates heritage appraisal		1		3 heritage Appraisals conducted subsequently incorporated as part of the SEA	No
4.8	Prepare an inventory of graveyards in Kildare, Completed in 2009	1			Inventory of graveyards in Kildare in place	Part of dissemination strategy
4.9	Carry out an audit of sites and structures of natural, archaeological, architectural, or historic merit which are owned by County Kildare Local Authorities (including graveyards) and set up an in-house advisory group to explore issues of management and maintenance. Establish an inventory of Local Authority owned works of art <b>Natural Sites</b> There is one designated nature site in the county. The Ballynafagh Management Committee advises on the management of this site in the care of Kildare County Council. Various other surveys have been carried out with the support of KELT. <b>Historical Sites</b> A graveyard survey was carried out in 2006 The work of the Historic Monuments and Advisory Committee is		1		Inventory of Kildare County Council owned sites in place. Inventory of KCC owned art in place	Included as a number of smaller action in the next plan

	addressed some elements of this action, They operate as an advisory group for Historic Monuments, including graveyards, in the Council care, The Architects department with the Conservation officer advise on the care of Protects Structures in the Councils care					
4.10	Prepare a bio-diversity plan for the County (in accordance with National Plan).	1			Biodiversity plan in place	Implement as a subsection of Heritage Plan
4.11	Review current consultation process between County Kildare Local Authorities and statutory bodies in relation to all aspects of heritage Heritage Officer liaises with Dept Environment Heritage and Local Government regarding referrals		1			To be continued
4.12	Prepare an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County. No longer doing these strategies. They are the responsibility of the Forest Service. The Forest Service published the first National Indicative Forestry Statement in 2000.			1		No
Totals		4	6	2		

#### Appendix 4. Kildare Heritage Forum Meetings (2003-2011)

Appendix 4 An Analysis of Kildare Heritage Forum meetings			
<i>Year<sup>14</sup></i>	<i>Month</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>No of Members in Attendance</i>
2003 (2)	Sept	Inaugural Meeting	27
	Dec	Chair elected/Aim of strategy agreed	
2004 (5)	Feb	Detailed aims and objectives agreed	16
	March	First draft of the plan presented	7
	July	Submissions incorporated into the final plan	14
	Sept	Selection of projects for application to Heritage Council for funding	
	Dec	End of year meeting update on heritage Plan funding applications	16
2005 (3)	March	Work programme 2005, details of projects for which funding was secured. Formation of project based steering groups.	12
	June	Update on progress of projects	13
	Nov	Devise work programme. HC funding application for 2006 projects.	13
2006 (4)	Feb	Work programme 2005, details of projects for which funding was secured. Formation of project based steering groups.	17
	June	Update on progress of projects	9
	Sept	Update on project. Devise work programme. HC funding application for 2006 projects.	
	Dec	End of year meeting update on heritage Plan funding applications and completed projects	7
2007 (3)	March	Work programme 2005, details of projects for which funding was secured. Formation of project based steering groups.	11
	May	Update on progress of projects	15
	Sept	Update on project. Devise work programme. HC funding application for 2006 projects.	11
2008 (3)	March	Work programme 2005, details of projects for which funding was secured. Formation of project based steering groups.	12
	May	Update on progress of projects	
	Sept	Update on project. Devise work programme. HC funding application for 2006 projects.	11
2009	May	Update on progress of projects	11
2010	Sept	Evaluation of the County Kildare Heritage Plan 2004-2009. Drafting of the new County Kildare Heritage Plan. Update on projects. Devise work programme 2011. HC funding application for 2006 projects.	12
2011 (2)	Feb	Review of Strategy and Actions	
	May	Agree Strategy Review	

<sup>14</sup> After the Heritage Plan was adopted Forum agreed to meet up to 4 times per year.

## Appendix 5 Sample Indicators that could be applied and used in the 2011-2015 Kildare Heritage Plan.

Appendix 5 Sample Indicators for Kildare Heritage Plan 2011-2015	
Activity	Indicator
Information Generation	No of inventories/surveys prepared/updated
	% of inventories/surveys /heritage information used/referred to with the local statutory planning processes within the county.
	No of guidance/policy related documents produced.
Awareness Raising	% change in the number of website hits annually <sup>15</sup>
	% change in the number of people attending heritage events
	% change in the number of Heritage Week events held annually <sup>16</sup>
	% change in people attending Heritage Week events annually <sup>17</sup>
	% change in requests for support a) from established groups and b) from groups making contact for the first time
	A baseline analysis of awareness of heritage among County Council staff and elected members in 2011 and a follow up survey of change in awareness levels among staff and elected members in 2015
	% change in requests from Council staff and elected members <sup>18</sup> No of heritage articles/press releases issued by Heritage Office carried in local media.
Dissemination	No of Heritage Plan related documents/publications downloaded from the Kildare County Council website
	% change in the number of new Heritage Plan related documents available or accessible on/through the Kildare County Council website
	Number of copies of each publication disseminated
	Number of people attending dissemination related events
	Number of website updates (minimum 1 per month)
Capacity Building	Number of training focused seminars held for Kildare County Council a) staff & b) elected members
	Number of training focused seminars held for members of the public
	Number of people attending the a) Kildare County Council Training seminars and b) the General Training Seminars
	Number of a) groups, b) individuals actively seeking support in relation to heritage activities
Funded Projects	Number of heritage grants awarded by KCC
	% change in number of applications for heritage grants received
	Number of groups awarded funding for the first time

<sup>15</sup> A baseline year for Co. Kildare would need to be agreed (e.g. 2010) and changes measured in relation to that year

<sup>16</sup> A baseline year for Co. Kildare would need to be agreed (e.g. 2010) and changes measured in relation to that year

<sup>17</sup> A baseline year for Co. Kildare would need to be agreed (e.g. 2010) and changes measured in relation to that year

<sup>18</sup> A baseline year would need to be agreed (e.g. 2010) and changes measured in relation to that year