



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Town & Village Renewal Scheme Streetscape Enhancement Measure

Streetscapes & Shopfronts Initiative

Town and Village Renewal Scheme



Guidance for Premises Owners

On Submitting an Expression of Interest to the Scheme

August 2021

Introduction

“Our Rural Future” is the Government’s five year strategy to revitalise rural Ireland and includes a commitment to upgrade and enhance shopfronts and street facades in our rural towns and villages. €220,000 is being made available to Co. Monaghan premises owners to upgrade the appearance of the front of their properties in the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross and Ballybay. Eligible activities include painting (including murals), signage replacement, shopfront improvement, lighting, and canopies.

The scheme is being managed through Monaghan County Council, who will design the scheme for each town based on the expressions of interest received from premises owners.

Focus of Measure

The focus of this measure is to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades of defined areas within selected rural town/village centres.

How the Scheme Will Operate

The scheme will work as follows:

1. A public call will be made inviting premises owners interested in having a property included in the scheme to submit an expression of interest to the Council.
2. The Council will review the submissions received and group them into schemes
3. These will then be submitted to the Department for approval
4. Once the premises owner receives confirmation of grant approval, they must complete their work as specified on the Letter of Offer, and submit proof of expenditure (including match funding), **before end October 2021**
5. The Council will reimburse you retrospectively, on evidence that the work has been completed and invoices have been paid. You will therefore need to keep all receipts.

Eligible Towns/Villages

Monaghan County Council has selected the following towns to be the focus of the scheme on this occasion:

- Monaghan town
- Carrickmacross
- Ballybay

Who Can Apply?

- The premises owner. Proof of title will be asked for at Letter of Offer stage if your property is accepted onto the Scheme
- Occupiers of the premises may also make a submission with the written agreement of the owner
- Groups such as Tidy Towns, Chambers of Commerce where they are proposing to carry out works on properties either with the permission of the owner, or where ownership of the property cannot be established and the current condition of the property is having a negative visual impact on the surrounding area.

Eligible Premises

Commercial, residential or unoccupied buildings in town centre locations are eligible for consideration for inclusion in the Scheme.

Eligible Works

Eligible works under the Streetscape Enhancement Measure include the following:

- painting of building/shopfront in carefully selected colours which will complement the host building and streetscape
- upgrade/restoration of traditional shopfront facades
- murals (to be agreed in advance with Local Authority)
- green enhancement of entrances/terraces with planting
- decluttering and repair of shopfronts. (Decluttering can include such works as removing unnecessary signs, flagpoles, wiring)
- careful illumination and lighting of architectural features of buildings.
- canopies/awnings complementary to the materials of the shopfront and building (including street furniture)
- replacement of signage with traditional wooden fascia with wooden/hand painted lettering
- contemporary design Improvements to shopfront window displays and staging

Grant Amount

The following maximum amounts will apply to these eligible categories of works:

| | |
|---|--------|
| WORKS | |
| Green enhancement of entrances/ terraces with planting | €500 |
| Painting of building/shopfront in carefully selected colours which will complement the host building and streetscape. Mural (agreed in advance with Local Authority) | €1,500 |
| Decluttering and repair of shopfronts. (Decluttering can include such works as removing unnecessary signs, flagpoles, wiring etc.) | €2,000 |
| Careful illumination and lighting of architectural features of buildings. | €4,000 |
| Improvements to shopfront window displays and staging. | |
| Replacement of signage with traditional wooden fascia with wooden/hand painted lettering OR contemporary design | |
| Canopies/Awnings complementary to the materials of the shopfront and building (including street furniture). | |
| Replacement of existing shopfront with traditional painted wooden shopfront OR contemporary design | |
| Maximum per building | €8,000 |

Grant Rate

The following grant rate will apply:

- 70% for Individual premises – matched* funding 30%
- 80% for Joint applications (groups of 3 or more adjacent premises) – matched funding 20%
- 100% for projects involving paint only - Where painting is undertaken by direct labour by applicant

(* matched funding means the money that the premises owner must provide to match the grant on offer)

How to Make an Expression of Interest

Expressions of interest can be made to Monaghan County Council via an online expression of interest form which is available on the Council's website, www.monaghan.ie

You will need the following in order to complete your submission:

- The EIRCODE of your premises
- A photo of the premises which includes the façade/ area where you propose to carry out works
- A drawing/ artist's sketch or similar of what you have in mind, if relevant
- Quotations for the proposed works

- Proof of planning/ exemption from planning, where applicable
- Your contact details. Please supply an email address and a mobile phone number
- If you are applying on behalf of a number of people, you'll need their contact details also

Quotations

You will be asked to submit an estimate for the cost of the work you wish to do. This must be backed up with quotations for each element of your proposal.

The following procurement rules apply:

- Where you are engaging a Contractor:
 - 2 quotations for works under €5,000
 - 3 quotations for works over €5,000
- Where you are purchasing materials:
 - You must keep at least ONE quotation on file

Planning Permission

Due to the short time frame of this Scheme, we will only be able to consider works which either already have planning approval or which do not require planning permission on this occasion.

Alterations to the exterior of your premises may require planning permission. If in doubt as to whether the work you propose is exempt from planning, it is possible to book a consultation with a Planner in the Council. You will need to give them full details of what you have in mind, so have photos, drawings etc to hand.

Other Requirements

You will be asked to take 'before' and 'after' photographs of your premises to highlight the difference the funding has made to the streetscape.

Non-Compliance with the conditions as outlined or non-compliance with any additional stipulations laid out in your Letter of Offer may result in the requirement to refund part or all of the grant aid awarded.

Notes

Where the Council receives more expressions of interest than there is funding available to support, we reserve the right to compile a list of reserve projects, in case further funding become should available.

Monaghan County Council is particularly interested in hearing from premises owners who may have buildings with a heritage value, and buildings which have been highlighted in Tidy Towns reports as detracting from the streetscape.

Promoters may find it helpful to refer to the National Tidy Towns Adjudicator's Report for their town, which often identifies specific issues along streets and suggests solutions.

Reports can be found at www.tidytowns.ie/reports

Queries

If you have any questions about the Streetscape Enhancement Measure, or would like to discuss your specific circumstances before making a submission, contact the Community Department in Monaghan County Council on communitygrants@monaghancoco.ie or 047 30500.

As the Team is working remotely due to the Covid pandemic, the preferred method of communication is by email, as the above email address reaches every member of our team simultaneously and therefore is the more reliable way of reaching us at the moment. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Applicants are encouraged to liaise with their Municipal District Co-ordinator prior to finalising their submission:

Ballybay/Clones Municipal District Office – 047 51018

Carrickmacross/Castleblayney Municipal District Office – 042 9661236

Monaghan Municipal District Office – 047 73777



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