

**COUNTY MONAGHAN HERITAGE FORUM MEETING**

**Canal Stores, Clones**

**21st March, 2019**

**Present:** George Knight (Chairperson), Cllr Pat Treanor, Larry McDermott, Mary Kerley, Cllr Seamus Coyle, Marianne McEneaney, Shirley Clerkin (Heritage Officer), Sandra McQuaid (Assistant Staff Officer),

**Apologies:** Michaela Kirrane, Gretta McCarron, Liam Bradley, Paul Flynn

1. **Minutes & matters arising January 2019**

Agenda and minutes were proposed by Cllr Larry McDermott and seconded by Mary Kerley.

1. **Matters arising from the minutes**

Cllr Seamus Coyle asked for a brief explanation regarding the rejection of the €140,000 awarded last year from the Heritage Council for Castleblayney Market House.

Shirley explained that the Historic Towns Initiative application to the Heritage Council was awarded €140,000 for Castleblayney Market House. Several weeks later the funding was rejected by Monaghan County Council

Pat Treanor explained that when he went to investigate this, he was told that match funding was unavailable for the scheme, so the council decided to refuse the funding.

The Council had no option but to erect but to erect cement bollards as a matter of public safety recently as The Market House has fallen into such bad disrepair. The statue of Big Tom was covered to avoid any damage to it.

The meeting decided to invite the MD Co-ordinator to the next meeting to report to the forum on the Market House.

1. **All Ireland Pollinator Plan**

Shirley Clerkin gave a detailed presentation to the members about the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. The discussion afterwards focussed about effective ways for the forum to implement the plan in their own areas. Signage was agreed to be an effective way to inform the public that Monaghan County Council supports the Pollinator Plan. The Plan will be presented by the Heritage Office to the SPC meeting next Thursday and then to be put forward for adoption at the next County Council meeting.

1. **Heritage Ireland 2030 – Submissions & Consultations**

Sandra McQuaid circulated copies of the Heritage Forum submission that the Heritage Officer wrote following the discussion that took place at the last forum meeting.

The submissions date has been extended by the department. The Heritage Officer encouraged the members to make their own personal submission to Heritage Ireland 2030

Public meetings were organised by the Heritage Office to facilitate engagement with HI2030.

The Heritage Officer is also writing a submission from Monaghan County Council.

Meetings will take place with internal staff in Monaghan County Council with an interest in the plan e.g. tourism, planning, arts office, libraries & Museum.

1. **Monaghan Heritage at the Heart podcast**

Noel Murphy was commissioned by the Heritage Office to produce a series of radio programmes relating to five Monaghan Heritage sites late last year. These are available online as Heritage podcasts on the Monaghan County Council website.

The five sites are Tin Church at Laragh, Sliabh Beagh, Donagh Old Graveyard, Mullyash Cairn & the Black Pigs Dyke. The background music was composed by Michael Gallen.

The inspiration for the podcasts was the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

Forum members suggested for any possible further series as follows:

Carrickmacross Workhouse, Ardragh Church, Kilrooskey Lake Cluster, Magheross Church.

1. **Heritage Plan Funding from Heritage Council 2019**

Funding from Heritage Council is still inadequate and low. There has been repeated requests from the Heritage Officers to increase this amount. Currently the grant for Monaghan County Council is €23,000 for 2019:

€13,000 Black Pigs Dyke

€10,000 Public Awareness

1. **Biodiversity Week 2019**

A programme of events has been organised by The Heritage Office for Biodiversity Week 2019. Events are:

* Bee Monitoring Workshops for schools delivered by Kieran Flood, Irish Wildlife Trust
* Bat Walk & Talk at Rossmore, Tina Aughey from Bat Conservation Ireland,
* A Wildlife walk led by the Botanical recorder for County Monaghan, Alexis Fitzgerald
* Butterfly Workshop hosted by Tomas Murray from National Biodiversity Data Centre

1. **Blacks Pigs Dyke Siobhan McDonald exhibition May 2019**

This exhibition will be in the Market House from May. The members will receive an invitation to the official opening. It is part of the Creative Ireland initiative funding for Monaghan County Council and inspired by the research undertaken since 1982 and more recently through the heritage office projects on the Black Pigs Dyke. Siobhan McDonald originally from Monaghan is an internationally acclaimed artist.

1. **A.O.B**

Marianne McEneaney circulated information relating to a Rural Towns Initiative Grant. There is €300,000 Leader funding available for community groups.

1. **Date for Next Meeting** It was decided to hold the next meeting in Castleblayney, at 10.30am on Thursday 20th June, 2019

**Actions:**

Heritage Office to invite Castleblayney MD Co-ordinator to the meeting to give the members an update of the Castleblayney Market House.

Invitations to be sent to members for the Black Pigs Dyke Exhibition Opening in June 2019