



**Leitrim**  
**Heritage Plan**  
**2020 - 2025**

Cover image: Farnaught Lime Kiln



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Manorhamilton Castle

# Foreward

**Cllr. Enda McGloin.**

*Cathaoirleach, Leitrim County Council*

As Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council I am delighted to introduce the second County Heritage Plan for Leitrim. The plan reflects the ongoing commitment of Leitrim County Council to protecting and promoting the heritage of the County. The unique built, natural and cultural heritage of the County is key to Leitrim's identity. Our new heritage plan aims to connect all Leitrim residents and communities with their shared heritage and to work together to conserve and celebrate our heritage, for the benefit of both present and future generations. This ambitious plan seeks to strengthen existing partnerships and to forge new ones for the benefit of both Leitrim's heritage and the people of our County.

The importance of heritage in the County is demonstrated by the many active heritage groups and community organisations who work tirelessly to protect and celebrate the heritage of their local areas and who have contributed to the development of this plan. This plan sets the scene to engage further with communities and organizations and recognises the important role of heritage in the economic, social and cultural development of the county. Active participation in the implementation of this plan is now sought from community, government, professional bodies, non-governmental organisations, businesses, the farming sector and interested individuals and will be vital to the success of the plan.

The support of the Heritage Council has been instrumental in preparing this Heritage Plan and on behalf of Leitrim County Council, I would like to thank them for their ongoing commitment and support. I welcome the opportunity for Leitrim County Council to work in partnership with other stakeholders on this new Plan and look forward to the realisation of its vision over the coming years.







**Lar Power,**

*Chief Executive Leitrim County Council*

I am pleased to join with the Cathaoirleach of Leitrim County Council in welcoming the new Leitrim Heritage Plan 2020-2025. County Leitrim has exceptionally rich and diverse heritage and it is this heritage that makes our county so special and unique. Heritage is a key component of quality of life in our towns, villages and rural communities. It is what makes Leitrim a great place to live, what attracts tourists to our County and part of what attracts businesses here.

This Heritage Plan is the result of a participative consultation process, stretching over a full year. Public participation in the plan-making process was essential to ensure that the new Heritage Plan reflects and responds to public concerns and aspirations, as well as complying with national and regional heritage strategies and guidelines. I wish to express my appreciation to all who took part in these consultations.

This plan aims to develop heritage projects that will provide opportunity for communities to come together and work to promote their localities. These initiatives strengthen our communities, contribute to our sense of place and put heritage at the heart of our communities.

I wish to congratulate all who have been involved with the development of the Leitrim Heritage Plan, particularly the Elected Members of Leitrim County Council and the many organisations and individuals, locally, regionally and nationally, who contributed to the consultation process and took time from their busy schedules to do so. The commitment of all the member organisations of the Leitrim Heritage Forum, and the continued involvement of the Heritage Council in supporting and developing the Leitrim Heritage Plan must be especially acknowledged. I look forward to working with all of these groups in the implementation of this plan over the next six years.









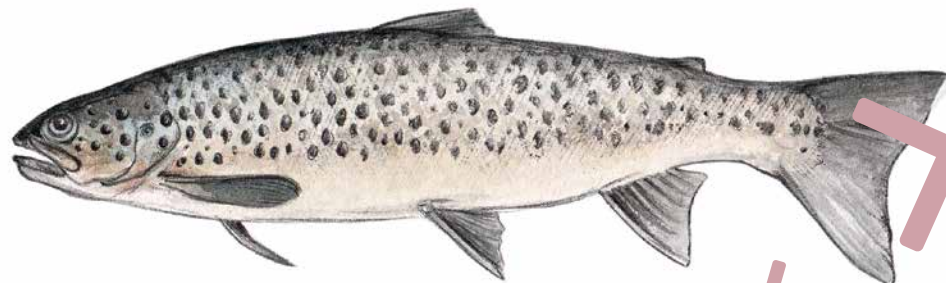
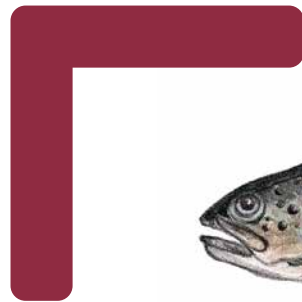
***Cllr Seán McDermott,***  
*Chairman Leitrim Heritage Forum*

It is an honor for me, as Chairman of the Leitrim Heritage Forum to present the second Leitrim Heritage Plan. The Leitrim Heritage Forum is a partnership between Leitrim County Council and heritage stakeholders who work throughout the County to address heritage priorities, promote best practice and meet local heritage needs. The Forum recognizes the significant contribution that heritage makes not only to the socio-economic development of the County but also to quality of life and instilling a sense of place.

I wish to pay tribute to the commitment of the Leitrim Heritage Forum in supporting and developing this plan and to thank the Cultural, Natural and Built Heritage Focus Groups who have also assisted in bring this plan

to fruition. I wish to thank Leitrim County Council for their guidance and assistance and to acknowledge the ongoing support of the Heritage Council through their role in implementing the Heritage Officer Programme. Partnership working will be key to the success of this Heritage Plan and the realization of its actions will be overseen by the Heritage Forum, with the support of Leitrim County Council and the Heritage Council.

I look forward to the delivery of this plan and to my continued involvement with the Heritage Forum over the coming years.





Seán MacDiamada Statue, Kiltyclogher



## Aim of the Heritage Plan

*To connect all Leitrim residents with their shared heritage and to work together to conserve and celebrate Leitrim's unique heritage, for the benefit of both present and future generations.*



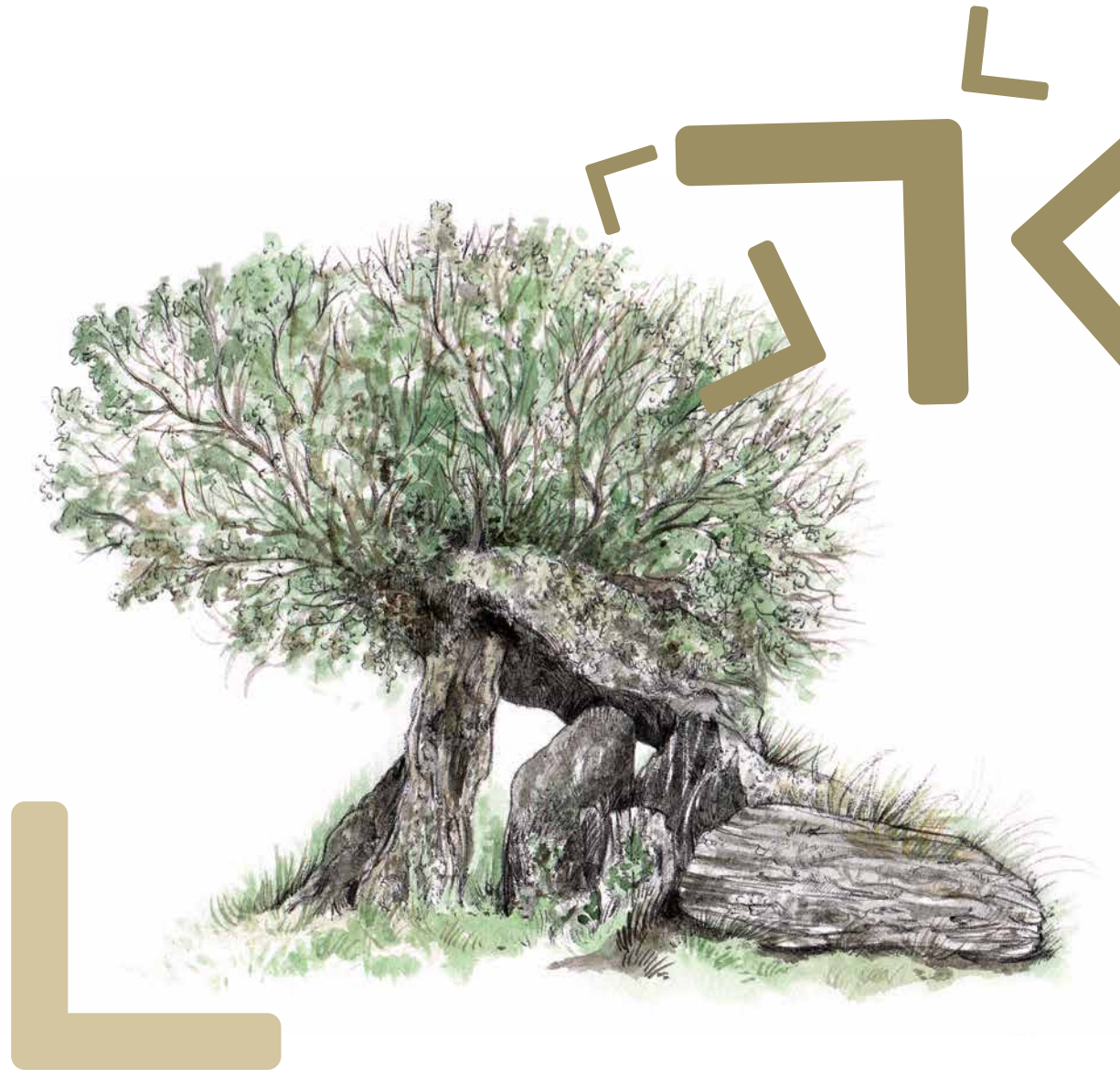


# Leitrim's Heritage

Leitrim is a special place. It is the most rural county in Ireland and retains many features of its rural agricultural landscape. If you journey down our country roads you will be captivated by the profusion of birdsong and stunning scenery that surrounds you. If you stop in our villages and towns you will be struck, not only by the vernacular character of our buildings, but by the warm and friendly people you encounter, who have an immense pride in their heritage and who have retained many cultural traditions which are thriving throughout the County.

The geology and topography of Leitrim varies significantly, from the table-like mountains and glacial glens in the northern half of the county to the undulating drumlin landscape in the southern lowlands. This varied topography and the extensive river systems and loughs across the county have resulted in a mosaic of natural and man-made habitats and have influenced where people have chosen to settle and where our rich and well preserved archaeological heritage can now be found. It is within this natural and built landscape that our rural communities have fostered a rich cultural heritage, ranging from the distinctive style of Leitrim's traditional music to the local folklore passed down through the generations.

It is all of these things and countless others that make Leitrim's heritage unique and which contributes so strongly to the identity of both people and place. However, not everything can be labeled heritage. Heritage consists of aspects of the past that we value in the present and that we choose to pass on to future generations. During this time of changing technologies, this Heritage Plan aims to conserve and promote our natural, cultural and built heritage as a finite resource which contributes significantly to the maintenance of a healthy environment, sustainable farming, well-being, creativity and the creation of cultural and tourism jobs.





Name: Cryan's Teach Ceoil  
Address: Bridge Street, Carrigrohane

Type of Business: Pub & Restaurant  
Museum: Yes (1880's)

Owner: In Business

... in 1880. At the time there was a small  
just a fraction of its current size. The Cryan  
pubs (five of whom were born in the house)  
... the first person to represent Ireland in

... and it was Liam's father, Bill, who created the  
1920's. When the grocery shop was open it sold all  
... only got small, with goods going into "the back"  
... Bill. Francis Cryan went to run a restaurant  
... bought the adjoining "fish" shop and

... Days, were always the shop  
... is popular music venue and  
... "Frogman."



## Introduction

This is the second Heritage Plan for County Leitrim, covering the period 2020-2025. This plan has been prepared by Leitrim County Council with assistance from the Leitrim Heritage Forum and in consultation with members of the public and local, regional and national stakeholders with an interest in the heritage of our County. It sets out the priorities for Heritage in Leitrim over the next 6 years and is a commitment by Leitrim County Council to promote and protect Leitrim's heritage. This plan is not an exhaustive list of everything that needs to be done for heritage in the county but a strategic plan to frame the actions of the next 6 years.

## Heritage Forum

The Heritage Forum is a non-statutory advisory group established by Leitrim County Council to provide advice on the preparation and implementation of the Heritage Plan and is facilitated by the Heritage Officer. Membership of the Heritage Forum is drawn from elected representatives, representatives of communities and organisations with an interest in, or responsibility for, the care and protection of heritage in Leitrim. The first meeting of the newly established County Leitrim Heritage Forum was held in February 2019. A list of Forum Members can be seen in Appendix 1.





Thompsons Garage, Manorhamilton



# What's Your Leitrim Heritage? Public Consultation

In conjunction with the Heritage Forum, the Heritage Plan was informed by an extensive public consultation process. A public consultation entitled 'What's Your Leitrim Heritage?' was held over a six week period and included an on-line survey, information sessions and a radio campaign. A total of 124 submissions were received from members of the public and these submissions have informed this plan. Over 70% of respondents identified "Identity" as the single most important value of heritage to them. The importance of the economic and tourism benefits of heritage was also highlighted. The consultation identified the protection of both the natural and built heritage, including archaeology, as significant heritage priorities which the Heritage Plan should focus on. Aspects of cultural heritage identified as heritage priorities included the Irish language, traditional music and oral traditions. A lack of funding and a general lack of awareness were identified as the greatest challenge facing Leitrim's heritage. The public consultation showed a desire to engage communities and individuals with their heritage, with a strong preference for engaging with school aged children and facilitating inter-generational projects.

All stages of the Heritage Plan development are outlined in Appendix 3.





Fenagh Beg Portal Tomb

# National Context for this Heritage Plan

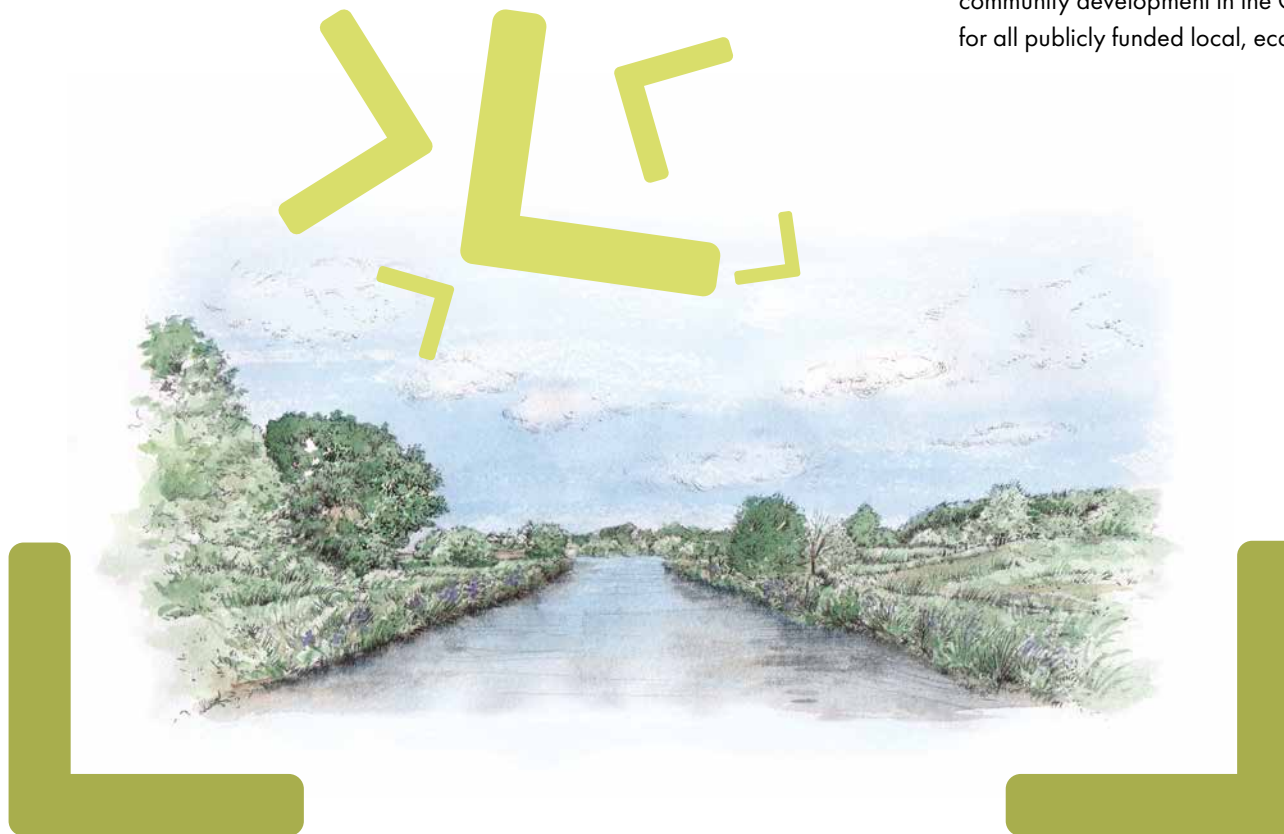
The value of heritage is increasingly recognized at national level as a vital economic driver, a focal point for tourism and a catalyst for both rural and urban development. The acknowledgement of its value has led to heritage being placed at the heart of government initiatives such as Heritage Ireland 2030, the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Creative Ireland, Culture 2025 and the National Landscape Strategy. All of these initiatives highlight heritage as an integral part of our landscape, as a means of supporting social cohesion and as a tool for realizing economic potential. This national policy directly impacts heritage in Leitrim and also filters down to policy at the County level through the Leitrim County Development Plan and the Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan.

## County Leitrim Development Plan 2015-2021

The Leitrim County Development Plan 2015-2021 sets out the statutory framework for land-use planning and sustainable development in Leitrim and is currently being reviewed. The Heritage Plan does not repeat the policy commitments of the County Development Plan as it relates to the County's heritage resource, land-use planning and sustainable development. Instead, it aims to support and strengthen the County Development Plan and other plans by providing data and by proposing policy that establishes a clear policy direction and framework for heritage in Leitrim and its protection, conservation, management and promotion.

## Leitrim Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2021

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has prepared the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in conjunction with Leitrim County Council. The remit of the LCDC and LECP are the promotion of economic, local and community development in the County. The LECP will form the strategic framework for all publicly funded local, economic and community development programmes.





Loughaphonta, Manorhamilton

# Heritage Plan

## Implementation and Funding

This Heritage Plan is a 6 year plan with 33 actions and will form the basis of the work programme of the Heritage Office and the Heritage Forum. Each year a work programme will be drafted based on the actions of the plan. Delivery of County Heritage Plans will be facilitated in part by the Heritage Council Heritage Plan Fund and this Heritage Plan sets the framework for Leitrim County Council to apply to this fund. Annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council is co-funded by Leitrim County Council.

A number of other funding sources are also available for heritage led projects, such as the National Biodiversity Action Plan Grant, and will be utilized to carry out the actions in this Heritage Plan. The Heritage Officer will proactively seek to identify relevant sources of funding in this regard. The realization of actions specified in this plan will be dependent on the availability of the necessary financial resources. Furthermore, the realization of various actions may be led by Heritage Forum stakeholders and other relevant organisations.

### Heritage Plan Objectives

- ✓ Support the Conservation and Recording of Leitrim's Heritage
- ✓ Raise Awareness of Leitrim's Heritage
- ✓ Engage Communities with their Heritage
- ✓ Support Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Leitrim



**Objective:**  
**Support the  
Conservation and  
Recording of  
Leitrim's Heritage**



St Egidius Statue, Carrick on Shannon

## Objective:

### Support the Conservation and Recording of Leitrim's Heritage

A wide range of economic and social benefits and services result from the protection of our built heritage, environment and biodiversity. Biodiversity forms the basis of our landscapes, provides for food and clean water supplies, opportunities for waste disposal, nutrient recycling, flood storage and regulation, among many others. Built Heritage comprises all man-made structures which are considered to be of archaeological, architectural, historical, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest and make a valuable contribution to our landscapes, streetscapes, countryside and local economy.

Accurate information on the heritage assets in the County and financial support for their conservation is essential to underpin conservation.

#### Actions

- > Review and update Register of Protected Structures.
- > Survey of vernacular built heritage in the County.
- > Develop a Leitrim Biodiversity Action Plan and support its implementation.
- > Undertake a wetland survey for the County.
- > Undertake a review of the Leitrim Landscape Character Assessment.
- > Undertake a Geological Heritage Audit of the County and explore UNESCO Global Geopark designation.
- > Support the preparation of Conservation Management Plans for heritage resources in the County.
- > Promote biodiversity in the wider countryside among both rural communities and the farming community.
- > Promote heritage funding opportunities and facilitate community groups and owners/managers of heritage sites to avail of funding for the conservation, management and promotion of heritage sites and projects.



**Objective:**  
**Raise Awareness of  
Leitrim's Heritage**



Parke's Castle



## Objective:

### Raise Awareness of Leitrim's Heritage

Many people have strong links with their locality and sense of place. Providing information, raising awareness and promoting a common understanding of local heritage is valuable in conserving and enhancing this heritage and it can act as a stimulus for a wider appreciation and protection of heritage resources.

#### Actions

- > Develop an online resource for heritage in the County.
- > Develop themed literature resources on the heritage of the County.
- > Work with local media to positively reinforce the importance of heritage.
- > Develop and promote heritage events and initiatives to coincide with National and International heritage initiatives.
- > Raise awareness of built and natural heritage assets among landowners and promote best practice.
- > Raise awareness of Leitrim's cultural heritage as a living, evolving tradition.
- > Raise awareness of heritage best practice and heritage projects being carried out in the County at an annual heritage seminar.
- > Document traditional Shopfronts in the County and raise awareness of their contribution to our historic towns.
- > Promote the Irish language in the County and seek the appointment of an Ofigeach Gaeilge.



Objective:  
Engage Communities  
with their Heritage



## Objective:

### Engage Communities with their Heritage

The best people to conserve and protect our heritage are local communities. Heritage is recognised as a major contributor to social cohesion and engagement, as a way of bringing communities together and stimulating young people to engage with their environment. This plan aims to facilitate and enable communities to engage with the tangible and intangible heritage of their place and provide opportunities to engage and support school children and local communities that would like to develop heritage projects which are educational and conservation orientated.

#### Actions

- > Support community groups in the development of heritage projects which meet the objectives of the Heritage Plan and seek to promote best practice in relation to research, promotion and conservation of Leitrim's heritage.
- > Develop training initiatives in built & natural heritage conservation for individuals, community groups and property owners.
- > Facilitate intergenerational heritage projects, such as a schools oral history project.
- > Promote schools participation in heritage awareness raising programmes.
- > Provide biodiversity training for relevant stakeholders.
- > Provide built heritage conservation training.
- > Engage local communities in cultural heritage traditions.
- > Create a Heritage Awards Scheme to promote and highlight heritage excellence and best practice.
- > Support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- > Facilitate community Heritage Week events in the County.



**Objective:**  
**Support Sustainable  
Heritage Tourism in  
Leitrim**



## Objective:

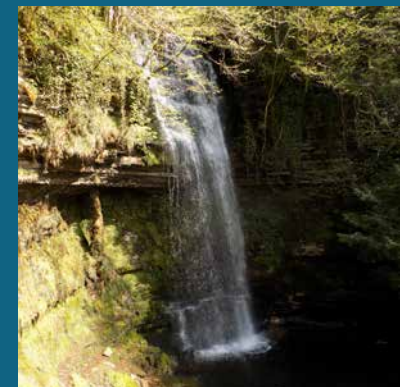
### Support Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Leitrim

Tourism is a key economic driver for the County, attracting significant visitor numbers. Our natural, built and cultural heritage forms the basis of tourism in Leitrim and plays a vital role in tourism and job creation across the County. Integrating heritage into tourism initiatives and interpretation can bring a new dimension to tourism projects and present an opportunity to view and present our unique landscape.



## Actions

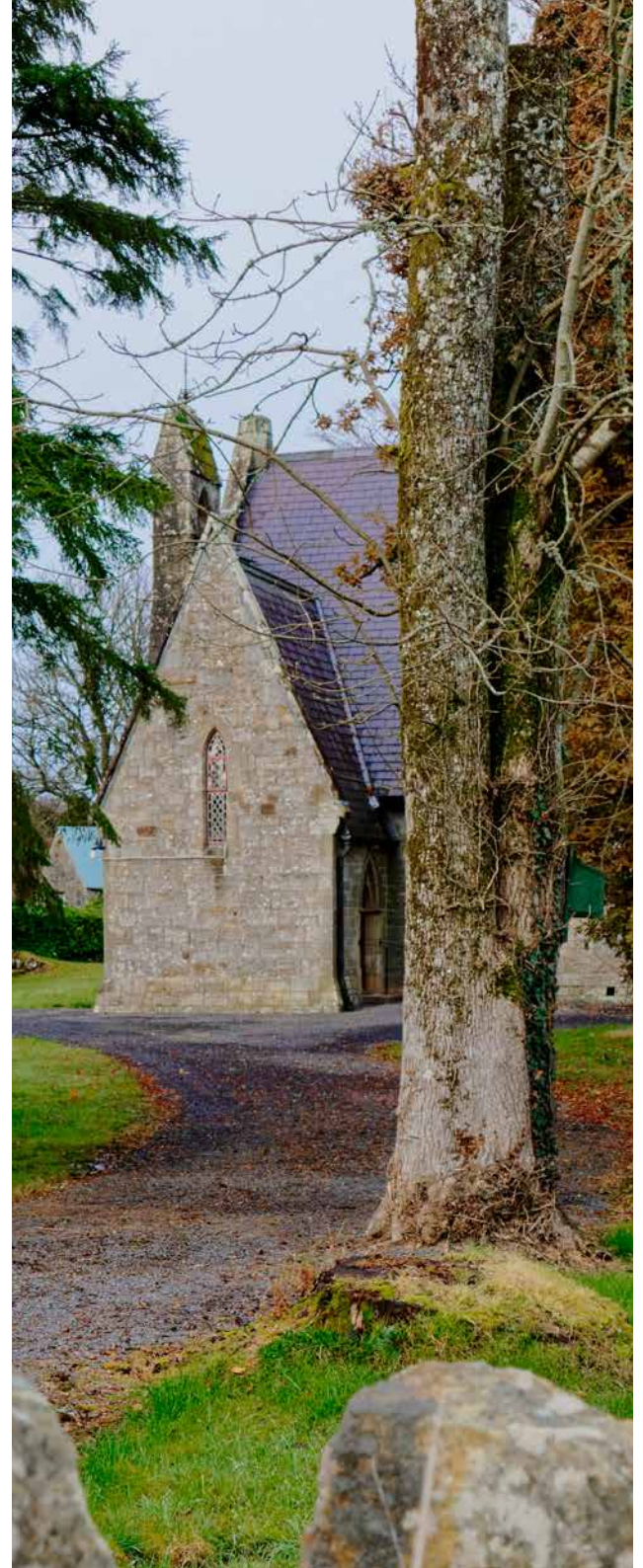
- > Identify key heritage sites in the County and develop site specific interpretation strategies.
- > Assess potential forestry sites to participate in the Neighbourwood Scheme.
- > Promote best practice for heritage interpretation panels in the County.
- > Produce a map of accessible heritage sites in the County.
- > Explore the development of a sweathouse heritage project.



# Appendix 1

## Members of the Leitrim Heritage Forum

<b>Cllr. Sean McDermott</b>	Elected member
<b>Cllr. Felim Gurn</b>	Elected member
<b>Cllr. Finola Armstrong-McGuire</b>	Elected member
<b>Cllr. Sean McGowan</b>	Elected member
<b>Cllr. Paddy O'Rourke</b>	Elected member
<b>Cllr. Ita Reynolds Flynn</b>	Elected member
<b>Joseph Gilhooly</b>	Director of Services, Leitrim County Council
<b>Bernard Greene</b>	Senior Planner, Leitrim County Council
<b>Sarah Malone</b>	Heritage Officer, Leitrim County Council
<b>John Bredin</b>	Carrick-on-Shannon and District Historical Society
<b>Patricia O'Loughlin</b>	Public Participation Network, Dromahair Heritage Group
<b>Seán O Súilleabháin</b>	Public Participation Network, Glór Bhéal an Átha Móir
<b>Seán Gill</b>	Public Participation Network, Carrick on Shannon Heritage Group
<b>John Matthews</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>Paddy O'Donovan</b>	National Monuments Service
<b>T J O'Meara</b>	Built Heritage Advisory Unit
<b>Ashling Cartwright</b>	Leitrim Development Company
<b>James Gallagher</b>	Irish Farmers Association
<b>Shane Kilrane</b>	Teagasc
<b>Nuala Reilly</b>	Waterways Ireland
<b>Karen Kennedy</b>	Local Authority Waters Programme



# Appendix 2

## Heritage Focus Group Participants

### Built Heritage Focus Group:

<b>Paddy O'Donovan</b>	National Monuments Service
<b>T J O'Meara</b>	Built Heritage Advisory Unit
<b>Patricia O'Loughlin</b>	Public Participation Network, Dromahair Heritage Group
<b>Ashling Cartwright</b>	Leitrim Development Company
<b>Dr Kieran O'Connor</b>	National University of Ireland Galway
<b>Sam Moore</b>	Sligo Institute of Technology
<b>Michele O'Dea</b>	OPW - Senior Conservation Architect
<b>Rev. Ultan McGoohan</b>	Roman Catholic Church
<b>Jo Lewis</b>	The Green Door

### Cultural Heritage Focus Group

<b>Seán O Súilleabháin</b>	Public Participation Network, Glór Bhéal an Átha Móir
<b>Nuala Reilly</b>	Waterways Ireland
<b>Mary Conefrey</b>	Local Studies Librarian, Leitrim County Council
<b>Philip Delamere</b>	Arts Officer, Leitrim County Council
<b>Fionnuala Maxwell</b>	Traditional Irish Singing
<b>John McCartin</b>	Traditional Irish Music
<b>Edwina Guckian</b>	Traditional Irish Dance
<b>Ciarán Rock</b>	Kiltyclogher Heritage Centre
<b>Patricia McCartin</b>	Leitrim Genealogy Centre

### Natural Heritage Focus Group

<b>Karen Kennedy</b>	Local Authority Waters Programme
<b>Ashling Cartwright</b>	Leitrim Development Company
<b>Bernard Greene</b>	Senior Planner, Leitrim County Council
<b>Phyl Foley</b>	Tourism Office, Leitrim County Council
<b>Manus Tiernan</b>	Waterways Ireland
<b>John Matthews</b>	National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>Richard Jack</b>	Coillte
<b>Seppi Hona</b>	Forestry Service
<b>Rita McSweeney and Harriet Keaney</b>	Carrick-on-Shannon Tidy Towns



Quay, Carrick on Shannon

# Appendix 3

## Timeline for Leitrim Heritage Plan Review Process

- 6 February 2019** First meeting of the Heritage Forum which included workshop on Heritage Plan priorities. Nominated Chair (Cllr. Sean McDermott).
- 25 February 2019** Launch of 6 week pre-plan public consultation entitled 'What's Your Leitrim Heritage?'
- 23 April 2019** Report on public consultation presented to Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC).
- April 2019** Review and collation of Heritage Forum workshop results, SPC meeting discussions and public consultation results.
- 8 May 2019** Heritage Forum meeting to review priorities for Heritage Plan.
- 11 June 2019** Built Heritage Focus Group Meeting.
- 12 June 2019** Cultural Heritage Focus Group Meeting
- 13 June 2019** Natural Heritage Focus Group Meeting.
- 12 September 2019** Heritage Forum meeting to review Heritage Plan actions.
- 01 October 2019** Presentation of draft Heritage Plan to Senior Management Team.
- January 2020** Draft Heritage Plan 4 week public consultation.
- 6 January 2020** Presentation of draft Heritage Plan to Leitrim County Council.
- 15 January 2020** Launch of 4 week draft Heritage Plan public consultation.
- 26 February 2020** Draft Heritage Plan presented to Planning and Economic Development SPC.
- 27 February 2020** Heritage Forum meeting to review public consultation.
- 28 February 2020** Review and amend draft Heritage Plan following public consultation.
- 2 March 2020** Heritage Plan approved by Leitrim County Council









**For further information contact:**

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