

## 196 projects awarded funding under Heritage Council Grants Scheme

18 May 2017

The Heritage Council and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys have today announced funding for 196 heritage projects across Ireland under its 2017 Community Heritage Grants Scheme.

Funding of €800,000 has been provided to the Heritage Council by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and 429 projects across the country applied for funding. A diverse range of projects are being supported, for example, providing community groups with skills required to protect and increase their town's Swift population through informative talks, survey training and nest box projects to conservation and access to The Augustinian Friary at the Medieval Complex at Clonmines, Co.Wexford.

Michael Parsons, Heritage Council Acting Chair, commented, "the Community Grants Scheme continues to be a hugely popular initiative, and while we weren't able to support all of the projects which applied, I am very pleased that so many projects across the country will benefit from support. These projects contribute to local economies, improve our tourism product and give people the opportunity to contribute to their local community. In addition they help keep important parts of our Heritage alive."

Minister Humphreys said, "I am delighted that my Department is in a position to support these very worthwhile schemes which provide a boost to heritage groups and projects around the country. This round of funding focuses on community projects and events that make it easy for members of the public to learn about our heritage during National Heritage Week, as well as a diverse number of cultural projects, and ongoing support for our vernacular thatched buildings.

"I am a great believer in the importance of supporting local heritage projects, which play such an important role in community life in every county nationwide. I would like to commend the communities which have been successful in securing funding; it's a competitive process and being selected is a clear reflection of a top quality project. Through the Action Plan for Rural Development, I will be prioritising increased funding for heritage projects which have such a positive and tangible impact on our rural towns and villages."

The Community Heritage Grant Scheme supports projects that promote an appreciation and enjoyment of heritage and make a lasting difference to heritage, people and communities.

Full list at

[http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/heritage\\_council\\_community\\_grants\\_2017.pdf](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/heritage_council_community_grants_2017.pdf)