



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Tipperary Town Pioneers Heritage-led Regeneration: County Town's Unique Heritage is celebrated in first-ever Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022. Tipperary Town HAP is also the first HAP for a Town in Ireland

6th August 2020 (embargoed until 3.30pm): The first-ever Heritage Action Plan for Tipperary Town, which sets out a clear path for heritage-led regeneration based on the county town's rich heritage assets which date back to the 13th century, has been launched today by the Heritage Council, Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force and Tipperary County Council.

Tipperary Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022 highlights the significant variety of built, cultural and natural heritage assets that exist within the historic town, along with the need for strategic investment to ensure the town's long-term sustainability and viability. Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan also stresses the need to reuse and repurpose landmark and traditional buildings in the town centre, as well as enhancing and celebrating the town's wider agricultural, military and commercial legacy. Tipperary Town HAP 2020-2022 aims to inform investment decisions for the future management and revitalisation of the historic core and rural hinterland. The timing of the community-led plan is particularly important, given the recent announcement of a July Stimulus Package by the government for the Heritage Sector in Ireland.

Speaking at the launch in Tipperary's Excel Centre, Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Mr. Malcolm Noonan T.D. outlined "*The Programme for Government and the recently announced July Stimulus Package are both strongly committed to regenerating rural towns like Tipperary Town - these special places have a wealth of built, cultural and natural heritage that create a unique sense of place and belonging, which people have explored and rediscovered during Covid-19....*

...As part of any recovery, it is important that our historic rural towns survive and thrive for the benefit of current and future generations in Tipperary Town and beyond”.

Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council emphasised that *“Ireland’s Towns are steeped in centuries of history and heritage. Tipperary Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022, which is part of the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme championed by the Heritage Council, enables us to collectively understand our unique historic environments so that we can plan effectively for their survival – this is vital for communities throughout Ireland – now more than ever...”*

Carmel Fox, Chair of Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force highlighted *“the Heritage Action Plan collaborative process is fundamentally about celebrating and enhancing how a town’s heritage informs our sense of identity, this is why the Heritage Council’s role is so pivotal to the overall work of the Tipperary Task Force. Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan reminds us of how important our historic town is, in who we are and what we share, historically and in the future”.*

Councillor Annemarie Ryan, member of the Tipperary Task Force and also a member of the CTCHC Heritage Group, (which is a Sub-Group of the Task Force), highlighted that *“The partnerships and networks that have been forged through the collaborative HAP process have been hugely rewarding, helping to generate a collective movement involving all the partners. In my role as Councillor, I can see true, long-lasting change that is possible for Tipperary Town with the Heritage Action Plan and the supporting CTCHC Programme from the Heritage Council”.*

Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022 focuses on the results of three heritage sector workshops organised by the Heritage Council and Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force and held in Tipperary Town in January, February and March 2020. The Heritage Action Plan highlights the need to:

- Enhance the Main Street in Tipperary Town and explore opportunities on how to utilise and reuse landmark historic buildings and structures in Tipperary Town;
- Celebrate and tell the story of the iconic song – ‘It’s a Long Way to Tipperary’ and develop and build an innovative military tourism product focusing on the various layers of military history e.g. medieval period to Ireland’s War of Independence;
- Undertake a Heritage Audit of the county town looking at all the built, cultural and natural heritage assets and map an agreed ‘time-depth’ for the historic town and environs;
- Identify the potential development and investment options for historic complexes such as the Court House, Bridewell Jail and attendant lands – link to other historic sites and create a range of historic attractions which build on Tipperary Town’s unique heritage; and
- Organise a social media campaign to raise awareness and to celebrate Tipperary Town’s unique heritage assets with locals, visitors and the Tipperary Town diaspora around the World.

In January 2020, the Heritage Council and Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force set up a regeneration project as part of the *Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme*, ably supported by Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Chamber and Tipperary Credit Union and other stakeholders. Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022 is a key part of a wider CTCHC project for Tipperary Town.

Ali Harvey, CTCHC Programme Co-ordinator with the Heritage Council highlighted “*Tipperary Town’s first-ever Heritage Action Plan demonstrates the importance of having a community-led heritage plan to inform decision-making and investment proposals for town renewal and revitalisation. This community-led plan is particularly important as it supports historic Towns that are facing an uncertain time during Covid-19.*”

The collaborative efforts of the Project Partners, along with the wonderful ideas produced by the CTCHC Heritage Group, have been very rewarding and the innovative partnerships created and nurtured through the preparation of the HAP bode well for the future of this wonderful historic, county town.”

Welcoming the *Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022*, Karl Cashen, Deputy Chief Executive, Tipperary County Council said the Heritage Action Plan was a positive and constructive basis on which Tipperary Town can be further enhanced and promoted.

“The community-led approach that underpins the Tipperary Town Heritage Action Plan 2020-2022 is very much welcomed by the local authority and we fully endorse the detailed action plan and all the projects that have been highlighted to assist in the regeneration of this historic county town. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners in the months ahead”, he said.

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