



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

National Monuments Service,  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,  
Custom House,  
Dublin 1

Circular NMS1/2020

To: Each Local Authority Chief Executive

7 September 2020

## Re. **NEW Community Monuments Fund 2020 - Call for Projects**

Dear Chief Executive,

I refer to the Government's July Jobs Stimulus Package under which additional capital funding is being provided for investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage.

Under the Jobs Stimulus Package a new Community Monuments Fund is being established through which €900,000 is available for expenditure and drawdown in 2020.

The **Community Monuments Fund** will invest essential capital in our valuable archaeological heritage and help the owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

The core aims of this new Fund are the **conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites**. It will:

- **enable** conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- **encourage** access to monuments and improve their presentation;
- **build resilience** in our monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change;

The **Community Monuments Fund** has 3 Streams:

1. **Stream 1** will offer grants **up to €100,000** for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments.

2. **Stream 2** will offer grants of up to **€30,000** for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports to identify measures for conservation of monuments and improved public access.
3. **Stream 3** will offer grants of up to **€30,000** for enhancement of access infrastructure (including COVID protection) and interpretation at archaeological monuments.

Full details of the Fund are set out in the attached Explanatory Memorandum *Community Monuments Fund CMF 2020* which should be carefully noted by all applicants. Applications for grants can be made to the Department by Local Authorities for:

- projects relating to monuments in public ownership where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated, and
- projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are acting as owners or custodians of monuments.

Local Authorities are invited to submit their nominated proposals to the Department by completing the attached Application Form *CMF-A* in each case and emailing it to [nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie](mailto:nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie) by close of business on **22 September 2020**. Applications will be assessed promptly by the Department and Local Authorities will be notified of successful projects shortly thereafter. Projects must be completed and claims for grants submitted to the Department no later than **10 November 2020**.

It is acknowledged that the timelines set out above are very challenging but this reflects the fact that the Community Monuments Fund is part of a suite of fresh initiatives specifically designed to urgently counter the economic effects of the Covid virus. While the timelines are tight the Fund provides a new and positive contribution to heritage funding, supplementing existing heritage grant mechanisms.

Any queries should be addressed by email to [nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie](mailto:nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie) under the heading '*Community Monuments Fund 2020*'

Yours sincerely



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Terry Allen  
Principal Officer  
National Monuments Service

cc Heritage Officer  
County Archaeologist  
Architectural Conservation Officer