

Minister Noonan Announces Grants for 71 Projects under €1.4m July Jobs Stimulus Plan for National Monuments

The Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Mr Malcolm Noonan, TD, has announced the approval of grants for a wide range of heritage projects under the July Jobs Stimulus package. The funding will support 71 heritage projects across 30 Local Authorities under a new Community Monuments Fund.

The objective of July Jobs Stimulus is to offset some of the effects of Covid-19 by revitalising the economy, providing protection for small businesses and getting people back to work. The **Community Monuments Fund** has been established as part of the €1.4m in additional capital earmarked for National Monuments Service under the Stimulus Plan.

The core objective of the Community Monuments Fund is to support the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. It contains a number of different measures aimed at **enabling** conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, **encouraging** access to monuments and improving their presentation and also **building resilience** in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Community Monuments Fund is investing essential capital in our valuable archaeological heritage to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public and to stimulate local employment and economic activity.

Minister Noonan said:

"I am delighted to announce this investment as part of the July Jobs Stimulus to support those working to care for our heritage and to ensure the protection and promotion of our archaeological and built heritage. The funding will progress heritage projects across the country, ensuring that heritage is protected as a community asset and made more accessible. This measure will also allow steps to be taken under the Climate Change Action Plan in relation to our archaeological heritage and will create employment for many small businesses, skilled conservation specialists and tradespeople involved in heritage-related construction activity. "

Funding will be used to carry out conservation works at monuments in local authority care, as well as providing support to a number of community led projects, including those aimed at the care of historic graveyards.

A full list of the projects being funded is set out below.

Minister Noonan continued:

"I want to thank the local authorities for their enthusiastic response to the new Fund and for drawing up a wide range of suitable projects in record time. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of private owners in their custodianship of a significant share of our archaeological heritage. This heritage is so important, especially in these challenging times, in providing recreation, comfort and a sense of well-being to communities across the land and I am delighted to be able to provide this support through the Community Monument Fund.

Local Authority	Site/Monument/Address	Award
	Stream 1	
Cavan	Moybologue Graveyard	€42,760
Clare	Newtown Castle, Ballyvaughan	€10,782
Cork	Templebreedy Church, Crosshaven	€40,000
Cork	Camden Fort, Meagher	€30,500
Cork City	St Finn Barre's Cathedral	€5,900
Donegal	Rathmullen Abbey	€42,000
Dublin City	St Patricks Cathedral	€20,000
Fingal	Drumanagh Privy (Martello Tower), Fingal	€15,000
Galway	Abbeygormican Graveyard	€30,000
Galway City	Spanish Arch and Wall Walk	€25,000
Kildare	Johnstown Church, Palmerstown	€14,826
Kilkenny	Kilkenny City Walls	€60,551
Laois	Killabban Medieval Church	€25,000
Louth	Drogheda's Town Wall	€15,000
Limerick	Clonshire	€70,000
Mayo	Old Killeen Graveyard, Attymass	€6,727
Meath	Rathmore Graveyard	€4,710
Offaly	Drumcullen Medieval Church, Kinnity	€40,202
Roscommon	Kilteevan Cemetery	€31,502
Roscommon	Rahara Medieval Church	€8,655
Roscommon	Owen O'Connor Mausoleum, Ballintober	€5,893
Sligo	Ballynaglogh Abbey, Ballymote	€1,750
South Dublin	St. Finians Church, Esker, Lucan	€30,000
Tipperary	Pallas Church, Dorrha	€34,515
Waterford	Knockboy Church	€4,000
Westmeath	Athlone Town Wall	€35,305
Wexford	St. Marys Church, Bannow	€18,756
Wexford	Lady's Island	€12,467
	Stream 2	
Cork	Killgulane Church	€7,865
DL Rathdown	Williamstown Martello Tower, Blackrock	€3,630
Donegal	St Mura's Cross Slab, Fahan	€2,360
Donegal	Killydonnell Friary & Historic Graveyard,	€15,000
Fingal	Martello Towers, Drumanagh & Skerries	€12,000
Fingal	St Marnock's & St Catherine's Churches, Portmarnock and Rush	€12,000
Galway	Lydican Castle	€23,298
Galway	Kilclooney Tower House, Milltown	€20,017
Kerry	Kilshanig Church, Castlegregory	€2,904
Kerry	Cloghane Church	€2,904
Kerry	Ballinskelligs Castle	€2,904

Kildare	Whites Castle, Athy	€14,883
Laois	Dysart Gallen Church, Ballinakill	€29,014
Longford	Knock Windmill , Lanesborough	€5,000
Longford	Abbeysrule Abbey Tower house	€19,705
Mayo	Kill Abbey, Shrule	€12,740
Meath	Beaubec, Bey More	€4,598
Meath	Dulane Church, Kells	€4,598
Monaghan	Errigal Trough Church	€25,000
Offaly	Blundall Castle, Edenderry	€8,000
Offaly	St Brendans Church, Birr	€4,235
Roscommon	Elphin Cathedral Conservation	€7,306
Sligo	Enniscrone Castle	€10,000
Tipperary	Carney Castle, Nenagh	€14,760
Waterford	Kilmolash, Knockboy and Kilronan Churches	€2,500
Waterford	Dysert Medieval church & St. Declan's Holy Well, Ardmore	€4,000
Westmeath	Fore Gaol, Fore	€16,280
Wexford	Barntown Castle	€8,364
	Stream 3	
Carlow	Ballinree, Killougherane & St. Mullins	€10,000
Clare	Carigaholt Castle, Rinemacaderigg	€16,331
Cork City	Elizabeth Fort, Cork City	€18,975
DL Rathdown	Historic Graveyards, Dun Laoghaire	€6,353
Galway City	Three Castles (Tirellen, Menlough, Merlin)	€30,000
Galway	Ballinastack Megalithic Tomb & Childrens' Burial Ground	€2,648
Kerry	Killaclohane Portal Tomb, Milltown	€4,418
Kilkenny	Medieval Mile Museum	€10,625
Laois	Lea Graveyard, Portarlinton	€3,450
Mayo	Kilmovee Heritage Trail	€9,135
Roscommon	Various sites	€12,000
Sligo	Queen Meabhs Trail, Knocknarea	€30,000
Tipperary	Monastic Site, Emly	€1,445
Westmeath	Hill of Uisneach	€13,995
Wicklow	Medieval Arklow	€7,700

What is the Community Monuments Fund?

Under the Jobs Stimulus Package in July, Minister Noonan announced an allocation of €1.4m for expenditure in 2020 on improvements to national monuments, including the establishment of a new Community Monuments Fund.

The main aims of the Community Monuments Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and historic sites. It has a number of funding streams aimed at **enabling** conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, **encouraging** access to monuments and improve their presentation and also to **build resilience** in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Community Monuments Fund will invest essential capital in our valuable archaeological heritage and help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The fund will, in turn, deliver a considerable boost to local employment.

The fund is administered by the National Monuments Service of the Department through the Local Authorities.

What are Grants Available for?

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

Stream	Available Funding	Maximum Grant
Stream 1	Grants up to €100,000 for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments.	100% of eligible costs
Stream 2	Grants of up to €30,000 for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports aimed at identifying measures for conservation of monuments and improved public access.	100% of eligible costs
Stream 3	Grants of up to €30,000 for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation at archaeological monuments (including COVID 19 protection measures).	100% of eligible costs

Who Could Apply?

The **Community Monuments Fund** provides capital funding for projects involving:

- (i) Monuments that are included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) under the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended).
- (ii) Monuments included in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as compiled by the National Monuments Service.

Eligible projects were drawn from the following categories:

- a) projects proposed by a Local Authority in relation to monuments in public ownership where a clear heritage focus and community or public benefit has been demonstrated;
- b) projects proposed by a Local Authority on foot of applications from private applicants who are the owners or custodians of monuments;
- c) Relevant projects identified within County Heritage Plans.

Local Authorities could submit applications for works to monuments in public ownership directly to the Department. Private applicants or community groups, who are the owners or custodians of monuments, were asked to submit applications through their Local Authorities.

What has been approved?

Stream	No. of Applications Awarded	Value of applications Awarded
Stream 1	28	€681, 801
Stream 2	28	€295,865
Stream 3	15	€177,074
Totals	71	€1,154,740