



## PRESS RELEASE

### Casting Light on the Subject

#### Funding for Restoration of Balbriggan Lighthouse Available

Fingal County Council is delighted to confirm that funding has been received to start restoration of Balbriggan Lighthouse. Under the Civic Structures Conservation Grant Scheme 2010, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has made €15,310 available to the Council to start work on Phase 1 of the restoration.

The highly rated project plans will consist of opening up blocked up windows, general repairs, and will hopefully make the lower part of the building open to the public at set times.

Fingal County Council's Conservation Architect, Fionnuala May said "It is important to preserve our built and architectural heritage, and we are please to be able to start work on this project to restore such a key building in Balbriggan. We also hope to start investigative work to allow fabrication of a replica lantern as a future phase of the work."

For further information, please contact Ann Murphy, Assistant Communications Officer, Fingal County Council at 01-870 4453 or 087 990 8470 or e: [ann.murphy@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:ann.murphy@fingalcoco.ie)

**ENDS 21/05/10**

**Editors Notes**

1. Balbriggan Lighthouse was built in 1769, and is situated at the end of a 600 ft long pier. It is a tapered profile on a circular plan. Originally lit by candles, it was maintained for 43 years by the Rev. George Hamilton of Hampton Hall who was paid £200 per year for this duty. In 1820 the Lighthouse lantern tower was raised by approximately 30 ft to avoid sea damage, and 5 oil-burning lamps with reflectors provided the illumination. In 1860, with the establishment of Rockabill, Balbriggan Lighthouse ceased to be a sea light, and became a minor harbour light. The next major change was the installation of electric lighting in 1960.

There are two plaques on the Lighthouse, with the upper inscription recording the building of the pier by George Alexander Hamilton and the lower inscription recording the bravery of Patrick Joseph Hanley who lost his life during a storm in 1957, attempting to rescue two friends in danger.

2. In applying for the Civic Structures Conservation Grant Scheme 2010, the project was scored 10/12 (the average score was 8).