

PRESS RELEASE 16.03.11

Planning for Fingal's Heritage – Our Past Is Our Future

Fingal County Council is currently developing the second Heritage Plan 2011-2017 for the county, which presents us with an opportunity to build on the achievements of our earlier 2005-2010 plan, and to renew our efforts to protect, manage and promote Fingal's heritage.

Heritage is a valuable asset much of which is non-renewable and therefore needs to be cared for and managed as Fingal grows and develops. It may be found in nature, buildings, waterways, and our culture, and gives each town, village and local area its identity and sense of place, and provides a high quality environment for all. Our heritage also makes a contribution to the economy through tourism and by making Fingal an attractive place to work in or in which to locate a business. Our commitment to the green infrastructure approach as a major and novel element in the Fingal Development Plan 2011-2017 will also contribute greatly to heritage management in the County.

Over the coming weeks the council will be holding a number of public meetings at venues across the county, and residents of Fingal are welcome to attend. Gerry Clabby, Fingal's Heritage Officer said, "Anyone coming to the meetings will be very welcome to participate and could consider a number of questions such as: What can we all do to take better care of our heritage? How can local people become more involved in caring for and managing local heritage? How can we promote Fingal's heritage to a wider audience? How can we make it easier for people to enjoy Fingal's heritage? "

The council's Heritage Team covers a wide range of disciplines and includes a full-time Heritage Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Conservation Officer, Archivist, a Local Studies Librarian, a recently established Parks and Heritage Properties division, and with support and assistance from Planning, Libraries, Architects, Community, Water Services and Operations amongst others. In addition, our team work with and consult with Elected Councillors, state agencies, businesses, NGOs, the farming community, local heritage and community groups and various professions.

For further information, please contact Gerry Clabby, Heritage Officer, Fingal County Council at Gerry.clabby@fingalcoco.ie or tel 01-890 5697.

ENDS 16/03/11

Notes to Editors

Examples of the range of heritage facilities and services over recent years include:

- Research and Surveys
- Biodiversity Action Plan (including dedicated website www.fingalbiodiversity.ie)
- Turvey Nature Project
- A wide range of academic and general publications
- Exhibitions and Seminars
- Howth Loop Walks and Howth Special Amenity Area
- Events at our Heritage Properties (open-air theatre, weddings, children's events etc)
- Green Infrastructure Strategy (forming part of the County Development Plan)
- Relocation of Fingal Archives and Local Studies to Swords and including acquisition of important collections such as the Hely-Hutchinson collection
- ACAs – Architectural Conservation Areas