

**The Chairman and Members of  
North West Area Committee.**

**Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Item No: 4**

**St Canice's Graveyard, Finglas**

**Conservation Management Plan Update**

In 2021 the Community Monuments Fund grant-aided a Conservation Management Plan for St. Canice's Graveyard. The resulting Conservation Management plan is currently under final review by the Project Steering Group in advance of circulation and presentation to the NWAC. The report makes a number of recommendations for the site, which Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services are now addressing on a phased basis. The preparation and implementation of the plan by Parks is guided by and delivered in partnership with the Steering Group led by the City Archaeologist and which includes the local Area Office. An update on the live individual site projects is outlined below.

**Tree Works and Initial Ivy Trimming Completed**

The proposed tree works and the initial ivy trimming works were completed by consultants in February 2022. The nature and extent of these works were outlined in a report for the December 2021 NWAC. These works act to safeguard the site's built heritage. In particular, the ivy trimming will facilitate further investigations of the church and the boundary wall, to ascertain structural stability and extent of repair needed to them in 2022.

**CMF 2022 Grant Application Submitted**

A grant application for €85,000 was submitted to the Community Monuments Fund 2022 (Stream 1) on 1 March 2022 to fund the proposed conservation works. The application is for priority repair works to the church ruins, the boundary wall and to a small number of mortuary monuments identified as in need of urgent work. It includes a structural survey of the high cross, which will assist in assessing its resilience to climate change. The fund allocation will be announced by DHLGH in June 2022. In preparation for a potential grant award, a conservation consultant will be appointed by Parks to prepare a detailed brief for the contractors. A framework of conservation stone masons (stage 1) has been advertised in order to fast track procurement and to ensure the suitability of contractors and the transparency of the appointment process.

**Habitat Survey & Laser Survey Commissioned**

1. In preparation for the proposed conservation works, Parks, Biodiversity & Landscape Services have now commissioned a Habitat Survey, which will be carried out over Spring and Summer 2022.
2. Following the recent removal of ivy, the Dublin City Council Survey and Mapping team will carry out a new laser scan of the church ruins and boundary walls. This survey

work will be used by the design team consultants to plan the nature and extent of conservation works.

N.B. Due to resource programming and the weather dependant nature of such surveys, the dates of site work are available 24 hours in advance.

#### Access Arrangements

Advance notice of project site visits has been provided to the local stakeholders through the Area Office and NWAC to date. Future conservation works will require more frequent site visits and on-site meetings. For this reason a more formalised access arrangement and site protocol is proposed for consultants and contractors as outlined below.

It is proposed that:

1. A set of keys for both gates will be held by both the local District Parks Operations team and by the Area Office.
2. All surveyors and conservation contractors may enter and exit the site with equipment through the Church Street gate to avoid risk of damage to the Nethercross near the Barrack Lane gate.
3. All consultant visits will be undertaken in pairs or in small groups for health and safety purposes.
4. A temporary Harris type fence may be erected to provide a secure works area for the duration.
5. When works are taking place, the site is legally under the control of the consultants and contractors from a health and safety and insurance perspective, and public access will be limited during these times.
6. Local stakeholders should be advised of temporary site closures through the North West Area Committee and the Local Area Office.

#### **Proposed Next Steps**

A synopsis Conservation Management Plan will be circulated and a summary presented to the NWAC.

**Ruth Johnson**  
City Archaeologist

**Christina Todd**  
Executive Landscape Architect