

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

Meeting: 19th April 2022

Item No: 4

Saint Canice's Graveyard Update

Conservation Management Plan Update

In 2021 the Community Monuments Fund grant-aided the preparation of a Conservation Management Plan for St. Canice's Graveyard. The plan (CMP) is one of several plans recently commissioned for historic graveyards in Dublin City. It is a non-statutory technical guidance document to help develop the management strategy for historic sites and places. The primary function of the plan is to enable Dublin City Council to make successful annual applications to the DHLGH Community Monuments Fund for carrying out essential conservation repair works. The aim of the plan is to assess the history, cultural significance, and current condition of St Canice's graveyard – its monuments and boundary wall. It assesses the threats to its significance; outlines a conservation strategy and makes recommendations for enhancement, improved management, and interpretation. This plan is drawn up in the context of proposals to conserve the church, mortuary memorials, and for the long-term conservation of the medieval high cross. Field surveys and community engagement activities were carried out in 2021.

The Conservation Management Plan will be available to the NWAC and local stakeholders in April. The report makes a number of recommendations for the site. Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services are now addressing the short term recommendations in it on a phased basis. The preparation and implementation of the plan by Parks (CRES) is guided by a Grade 1 Conservation Architect and is delivered in partnership with the project Steering Group. The steering group includes Parks, the Local Area Office, and the Archaeology Conservation Section of the Planning & Economic Development Department and is chaired by the City Archaeologist. An update on the live individual site projects is outlined below.

Habitat Survey & Laser Survey underway

1. In preparation for the proposed conservation works, Parks, Biodiversity & Landscape Services has commissioned a Habitat Survey. Site visits began in early April.
2. The Dublin City Council Survey and Mapping team have begun to make a laser scan of the church ruins and boundary walls. This survey will be used by the design team consultants to plan the detailed nature and extent of conservation works in 2022 subject to CMF funding.

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

Access Arrangements

Access protocols for those working in the graveyard have been devised by the Steering Group. The protocols will be communicated to all DCC agents by the steering group and to local stakeholders by the Local Area Office. The procedures in it must be followed by all concerned for health and safety reasons.

Proposed Conservation Works

A grant application for €85,000 was submitted to the Community Monuments Fund 2022 (Stream 1) on 1 March 2022 to fund priority repair works to the church ruins, the boundary wall and to a small number of mortuary monuments and carry out a structural survey of the high cross. The fund allocation will be announced by DHLGH in June 2022.

A conservation architect led team has been commissioned by Parks to undertake the design of the conservation works. The extent of conservation works undertaken will depend on the amount of CMF 2022 grant award allocation (if any).

Engagement

The steering group proposes holding a future workshop for local stakeholders led by conservation consultants on best practice maintenance for historical burial places, to assist the community in safeguarding of the site.

Proposed Next Steps

The Conservation Management Plan will be circulated to the Committee in May for discussion at the NWAC. The plan will be made available to the public on the City Council website.

This report was prepared on behalf of the Steering Group by:

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