

**Planning and Urban Form  
Strategic Policy Committee – May 2022  
Community Monuments Fund Update  
No. 3 on the Agenda**

## Dublin City Council Planning and Urban Form SPC

### Community Monuments Fund Update

#### Introduction

The Community Monuments Fund was established by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland's archaeological heritage. Part of this funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments and the provision of measures to ensure safe access during the Covid-19 pandemic. The core aims of this Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments.

#### 2021 Applications

A fund of €4.2m was allocated by the Government of Ireland for the Community Monuments Fund in 2021, nationally. Ten applications were made for projects in Dublin City and all ten were successful in receiving funding. The allocation awarded to Dublin City was €339,937 in total, €43,308 of which was awarded to a private owner (Drimnagh Castle). All ten projects were successfully completed by the applicants and assessed by the Dublin City Council Archaeology Conservation and Heritage Section of the Dublin City Council Planning and Property Development Department by the Department's deadline to ensure the money was recouped in full. The table below lists the ten Dublin City 2021 applications and the sums awarded.

Name	Stream	Outcome	Applicant	Award	Reference
Clontarf Graveyard and Church	1	Conservation works to the church ruins	DCC Parks	€70,000.00	CMF21-1-DC002
Donnybrook Graveyard	1	Conservation of the Boundary wall	DCC Parks	€70,000.00	CMF21-1-DC004
St Nicholas Within	2	Conservation Management Plan (report)	DCC Parks	€20,000.00	CMF21-2-DC001
Merrion (Bellevue) Cemetery	2	Conservation Management Plan (report)	DCC Parks	€11,070.00	CMF21-2-DC003
Bluebell Cemetery	2	Conservation Management Plan (report)	DCC Parks	€11,070.00	CMF21-2-DC001
St Canice's Graveyard	2	Conservation Management Plan (report)	DCC ACH/Parks	€29,520.00	CMF21-2-DC002
Jewish Cemetery, Ballybough	3	Interpretation Strategy & Audio-Guide	DCC Parks	€20,000.00	CMF21-3-DC003
Huguenot Cemetery, Merrion Row	3	Interpretation Strategy & Audio-Guide	DCC Parks	€17,484.50	CMF21-3-DC001
Cabbage Garden	3	Interpretation Strategy & Audio-Guide	DCC Parks	€17,484.50	CMF21-3-DC002
Drimnagh Castle	1	Conservation works	Drimnagh Castle	€43,308	CMF21-1-DC003

## 2022 Applications

On 19 April, the Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform announced the award of grants for a wide range of archaeological heritage projects under the department's 2022 Community Monuments Fund. Building on the impact of the scheme last year under which 139 awards were granted to an amount of just under €4.2 million, this year 128 projects are being supported with an overall investment of €6 million. Dublin City Council proposed ten applications for projects in 2022, seeking a total of €500,000. A total of €145,000 was sought by private owner applicants. Five projects were awarded an offer of monies totalling €240,762.50. Successful projects include three privately owned sites at St Audoen's Church (Stream 1 – Works), Christ Church Cathedral and Drimnagh Castle (Stream 2 – Conservation Management Plans). Two Dublin City Council led projects were awarded monies. These are St Canice's Graveyard, Finglas (Stream 1 - Works) and St James's Graveyard (Stream 3 – Access and Interpretation). The table below lists the ten 2022 applications and sums awarded.

Site	Stream	Outcome	Applicant	Award	Reference
St Audoen's Medieval Church	1	Works	Church of Ireland	€85,000.00	CMF22-1-DC004
Clontarf Graveyard	1	Conservation Management Plans	DCC Parks	€0	–
St Canice's Graveyard Finglas	1	Works	DCC Parks	€85,000.00	CMF22-1-DC001
Church of St Nicholas Within	1	Works	DCC Parks	€0	–
Christchurch Cathedral	2	Conservation Management Plan	Church of Ireland	€30,000.00	CMF22-2-DC001
Drimnagh Castle	2	Conservation Management Plan	Drimnagh Castle	€30,000.00	CMF22-2-DC002
Clontarf Graveyard	2	Conservation Management Plan	DCC Parks	€0	–
St Werburgh's Graveyard	2	Conservation Management Plan	DCC	€0	–
St James's Church and Graveyard	3	Interpretative Audio Guide	DCC Parks	€10,762.50	CMF22-3-DC001
St Assam's Graveyard Raheny	3	Community Project	DCC Area Office	€0	–

## Successful CMF Projects 2022

### St Audoen's Church Works

St Audoen's Church is the only medieval parish church in Dublin still in use. As a National Monument it makes an exceptional contribution to our built heritage, boasting many layers of antiquity including a 15th tomb and 17th century memorials. The grant award is for emergency conservation works to the unstable west gable of the Church. Proposed works include structural repair to existing facing stone where modern repairs do not tie into the wall core, replacing or refacing decayed stone, replacing inappropriate materials from 20<sup>th</sup> century repairs, raking out cementitious pointing and repointing with lime mortar.

## Christ Church Cathedral Conservation Management Plan

Christ Church Cathedral is the oldest surviving building in Dublin that is still in use and is one of its most iconic landmarks. The nave has been described as 'the most accomplished piece of Gothic architecture in Ireland' and the cathedral retains a wealth of architectural details as well as collections and archives. The year 2028 will mark the 1000th anniversary of the foundation of the cathedral by King Sitric of Dublin; the 900th anniversary of the birth of Archbishop Laurence O'Toole, patron of the archdiocese of Dublin and the 150th anniversary of the completion of the cathedral's complex restoration by the architect George Edmund Street. It is timely and appropriate to take stock and consider the cultural significance of the cathedral. In tandem it is necessary to identify threats to this cultural significance and following consultation with stakeholders, formulate and adopt policies that will ensure that its cultural significance is not diminished. The cathedral has brought together a team of notable experts in their respective fields to contribute towards the preparation of the CMP. Many of team have published important essays relating to the cathedral and the wider urban context of Viking and Medieval Dublin. The preparation of a CMP will establish policies which will ensure that the cathedral is cared for in a way that will ensure its significance is protected for future generations. The CMP will inform how anniversaries in 2028 will be commemorated and it is hoped that it will lead to further study and appraisal of the cathedral in both a national and international context.

## Drimnagh Castle Conservation Management Plan

Drimnagh Castle is a free-standing three-storey castle with undercroft, Great Hall and gallery built in a series of stages. It is one of very few medieval structures in Ireland to still retain an enclosing flooded moat. Occupied until 1954, its current form results from multi-period construction, which began by the acquisition of the lands by Hugh de Berneval in 1215. The castle has retained much of its important architectural fabric and is a testament to the rural and historical past of this area. The conservation plan will allow a thorough and detailed investigation of the site and document how the significance of the building will be retained in the future, altered, developed, or repaired. The plan will follow conservation principles and will be undertaken by a professional team comprised of a Grade 1 conservation architect, archaeologist, conservation engineer, Mechanical and Electrical engineer and surveyor. The plan will set out a conservation strategy that will enable the Castle and its environs to continue to be a place to visit in the future for those interested in the architectural and cultural heritage of Ireland.

## St James's Church and Graveyard Interpretative Audio Guide

The medieval parish church of St James was built in 1190 and the graveyard is likely to be contemporary, in use from the late 12th century onward. There is a 16th century gravestone in the graveyard, which remained the principal burial ground for both religious affiliations down through the centuries. The graveyard was one of the most commonly used by Catholics during Penal times and burial records indicate that over 30,000 people of all religions were buried there during the period 1742-1836. In recent years Dublin City Council has invested in the conservation of the graveyard and in building the resilience of its mortuary monuments to climate change. The site is currently inaccessible to the public for safety reasons. The aim of this project is to raise awareness of an important historic city site. The audio guide will enable visitors to the graveyard interested parties anywhere in the world to learn more about the people buried there and the development of the cemetery. The guide will enhance the knowledge of local people, many of whom have

relatives/ancestors interred in the cemetery. Local community and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to contribute to the audio-guide, to inspire more interest both in Dublin 8 and the wider diaspora.

## St Canice's Graveyard Finglas Works (Implementation of CMP)

The ecclesiastical site of St Canice comprises a medieval church ruin, within a bell-shaped graveyard surrounded by high walls and containing fine mortuary monuments. Its medieval high cross is the only surviving example in Dublin City. The monument is of Regional and/or National significance and is of great importance locally to the community in Finglas. This grant will fund urgent and essential works to conserve the church, boundary walls and adjacent mortuary monuments, which are in poor condition and at risk of further losses. The repairs will increase public access to the site and will implement the action of the conservation management plan for the site enabling greater community access.

The works proposed were identified as priority in the Community Monuments Fund grant-aided Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for St. Canice's Graveyard Finglas. The primary function of the plan is to enable Dublin City Council to plan annual applications to the Community Monuments Fund for carrying out essential conservation repair works to the site. The plan researches the history, culture, 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. It 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 St Canice's Conservation Management plan will be available online from May 2022. The plan makes a number of recommendations for the site, several of which Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services are currently addressing 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, the Archaeology and Conservation Section of the Planning & Economic Development Department. A conservation architect led team has been commissioned by Parks to undertake the design of the conservation works.

Ruth Johnson, City Archaeologist, Wednesday, 20 April 2022