



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

**Meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Item No: 4**

**St Canice's Graveyard, Finglas: July Update  
to the Chair and Members of the North West Area Committee**

**Conservation Works – Phase 2 (CMF Grant 2023)**

The appointment of a Conservation Contractor is imminent. The exact timing of conservation works

will be dependent on the conservation contractor's programming, but the grant funded works deadline is November 2023. Access protocols for those working in the graveyard will continue to be

communicated to all City Council agents and to local stakeholders by the Local Area Office and should

be followed by all concerned for health and safety reasons.

**General Project Updates**

- The priority gravemarker repairs are completed
- The Project Team (DCC PM, DCC City Archaeologist, DCC Area Office and key consultants)

hosted an engagement meeting/workshop on the 23rd May 2023. The session commenced with a short presentation of recent works and upcoming projects. A question and answer session followed and then the site visit focused on the recent assessments of the church structure's evolution. This positive engagement again highlighted the depth of importance this site has for the local community and the key presentation images are attached, as requested.

- The Project Manager hosted a second engagement meeting, on the 14th June 2023, specifically concentrating on the best practice maintenance of historical burial places and the new pilot maintenance regime. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the fragile nature of the site and assist the key local community stakeholders, in safeguarding of the site. Attendees comprised

DCC PM, DCC Community Liaison Office members, Project Archaeologist, Landscape Contractor and key local stakeholders; including representatives from Finglas Tidy Towns and

Finglas Historical Society. Key landscape maintenance measures were agreed, with an understanding that the management regime will be reviewed in the future, in light of lessons learnt through this pilot scheme.

## **Next Steps**

Focus on the proposed grant funded conservation works and commission specialist assessments to inform potential next steps.

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

**Ruth Johnson**

**City Archaeologist**

Archaeology, Conservation & Heritage, Planning  
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**Christina Todd**

**Executive Landscape Architect**

CRES, Parks, Biodiversity & Landscape  
Services,  
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8  
29th June 2023

## **St. Canice's Graveyard, Finglas - Workshop 23/05/23**

### **Feedback Overview/Response**

**Dear Councillors and Local Stakeholders,**

Thank you for your attendance at the recent workshop, on the 23rd May 2023. We appreciate all the

local support for the site and associated projects.

Please find below a short response to the key issues raised, with a view that we will continue project

updates at key milestones. As requested, attached are the key slides from the presentation.

Please note that the recent and upcoming conservation works to the church ruins follow best practice conservation, according to the requirements of the CMF grant funding

Conservation Contractor to commence on site in July/August and works to be completed by

November 2023

Some conservation repairs will be carried out to the site's boundary walls – extent to be confirmed, while church conservation project is on site.

Potential future projects were suggested at the workshop, please note that our core remit is

to deliver the CMF grant funded works.

As noted during the discussion the site research, assessments and urgent conservation works are

fundamental to all future projects and therefore remain our focus.

In summary, following the 2021 report; 'CMP 8.6 CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS', the

following items have been delivered;

St. Canice's Church Conservation works (phase 1)

St. Canice's Graveyard gravemarker conservation repairs (phase 1)

*And the following items are proposed for the short-term;*

St. Canice's Church Conservation works (phase 2)

The potential long-term aspirations may be reassessed, once the key (funded) elements addressed

and delivered.

Best regards,

**St. Canice's Graveyard Steering Group 2023**

10th July 2023

**St. Canice's Graveyard - Landscape Maintenance Workshop  
14/06/23 Feedback Overview/Response**

**Dear Local Stakeholders,**

Thank you for your attendance at the recent landscape maintenance workshop, on 14th June 2023.

Again, I/we appreciate all the local support for the site and associated projects.

This is my understanding of what was agreed on site, for record purposes;

Local attendees noted that no trees or shrubs, even those within graveplots are/were memorials and that they could be removed.

**Church interior grounds**- the Landscape Contractor was shown the shielded plasterwork and

noted that it is especially precious. Also noted that all walls and plaster are fragile. Agreed that Landscape Contractor will keep (ground based) weed growth down, without touching walls, before conservation contractor gains control of church site. Project Archaeologist noted fragility of leger stones – and highlighted the requirement to avoid walking on them

**Path surface** – agreed not optimum long-term surface treatment. Agreed Landscape Contractor to weed pick during planned site visits.

**Vaults near church** (southeast corner) - agreed to cut ivy at base and then review treatment

when more of structure becomes visible – noted risk of vault depth/collapse

**Grass low** – Landscape Contractor agreed to keep most grass low, including in graveplots

**Grass medium to high** – agreed that on areas near boundaries, gates, not near grave plots,

that grass can be left higher. One oval area of higher grass agreed near the centre of the graveyard, once visitors can still circulate around it

**Shrub/scrub island in centre of site** – to be retained

As agreed on site, we propose to review this pilot project at a future date for re-assessment and

feedback purposes.

Best regards,

**Christina Todd**

Executive Landscape Architect/PM

Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services

10th July 2023