

A Heritage Plan for South Dublin County

What is 'Heritage'

The Heritage Act 1995 defines heritage as including "monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, inland waterways, geology, heritage gardens and parks". Heritage is therefore all around us, reflecting that which we have inherited from preceding generations. It helps to define us and it influences the way we live our lives.

Heritage in South Dublin County

In South Dublin County, aspects of heritage in the county include the natural environment, architecture, archaeology, and our cultural inheritance. The value attached to heritage in general is recognised in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2004-2010, where the preparation of a County Heritage Plan is a stated objective.

South Dublin County Heritage Plan

South Dublin County Council, with the support of the Heritage Council, is in the process of preparing the County's first Heritage Plan.

A County Heritage Plan is a way to reach consensus on how local heritage can best be conserved and managed on a partnership basis. It offers a broad context within which the efforts and initiatives of local groups and state agencies can operate. It is an opportunity to identify heritage issues and heritage needs at a local level, and to address them locally, within a regional and national framework.

The objectives of the County Heritage Plan will be broad *e.g.* 'compile and review audit of surveys and sources of the archaeological heritage of the county', or 'provide on-site interpretation for heritage features in the county', or 'prepare a county biodiversity plan'.

The final Plan will be a statement of strategy, dealing with heritage issues on a county-wide basis. It will be a five-year programme, listing objectives and actions focusing on 4 general heritage themes: natural environment; archaeology; architecture; and cultural heritage. Over the life-time of the Plan, annual work programmes will be agreed, prioritising individual projects which will meet the objectives listed in the Plan.

Following a period of public consultation and assessment of objectives, it is intended that a first draft of the Heritage Plan will be ready by the end of 2008.

Public Consultation Process

An integral part of the success of any plan is consultation and consensus. There are many groups and individuals in this county with an interest and expertise in heritage-related matters. South Dublin County Council is actively encouraging participation in the preparation of the County Heritage Plan.

You are therefore invited to take part in the process of formulating the Heritage Plan by attending any of the 5 public consultation meetings listed overleaf. Alternatively, you

can submit your views and ideas in writing. In your submission, you may wish to consider the following:

- What do you see as being the main heritage issues in the county?
- What factors do you see as being either positive influences or negative impacts on the County's heritage resource?
- What heritage projects/actions would you see as being a priority for either the County as a whole, or for your own local area?
- What facilities, services, or information sources would you like to see developed as part of the Heritage Plan?
- What measures would you envisage/propose that might afford greater protection and promotion of heritage in the County?
- Do you or your organisation hold any archive material or heritage related information that could be useful in the preparation and implementation of a County Heritage Plan? If so, could such information be made available?
- Are you or your organisation currently involved in any project to promote or protect heritage in the County? If so, please give a brief summary.

All written submissions will be acknowledged in writing. All submissions will be considered in the preparation of the Heritage Plan.

Preparation of the Plan

Following the public consultation period, advisory working groups will be established as part of the County Heritage Forum to assist in the assessment of submissions and in the preparation of the Plan's objectives and targets. The County Heritage Forum will advise the Council on the preparation and the implementation of the Heritage Plan.

The Heritage Forum and its working groups will be comprised of representatives from the County Council, elected public representatives, national and state agencies, various non-governmental organisations, community groups and local interest bodies.

Following further public consultation on the draft Heritage Plan in early 2009, it is intended that the County Heritage Plan for South Dublin County will be launched in early summer 2009.

PLEASE SEND YOUR VIEWS AND SUBMISSIONS TO:

Mr. Paddy McNamara,
Administrative Officer,
Planning Department,
South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,

Dublin 24.

Or by email to pmcnamara@sdublincoco.ie

See www.southdublin.ie for heritage information on South Dublin County.

All written submissions must be received not later than 4.00pm on 17th September 2008

Dates and Venues for Public Consultation Meetings:

Monday 28 th July 2008 (8pm)	Lucan Library, Superquinn Shopping Centre, Newcastle Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin. (01 621 6422)
Thursday 31 st July 2008 (8pm)	Ballyroan Library, Orchardstown Avenue, Rathfarnham,, Dublin 16. (01-4941900)
Thursday 28 th August 2008 (8pm)	County Library, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24. (01-462 0073)
Tuesday 2 nd September 2008 (8pm)	Rathcoole Community Centre, Main Street, Rathcoole, County Dublin. (4580238)
Thursday 4 th September 2008 (8pm)	Clondalkin Civic Centre, 9 th Lock Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 (01-414 9000)