

Sligo County Council

Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2008

‘Involving communities in Heritage’

Application Guidelines

Sligo County Council’s Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2008 is designed to involve communities in heritage and to support community based heritage activity in County Sligo.

In providing such support Sligo County Council seeks to promote interest, education, knowledge, and pride in the local heritage resource. In addition the grant scheme seeks to facilitate appreciation and enjoyment of the heritage of County Sligo.

For the purposes of this scheme, heritage is defined according to the Heritage Act 1995, as including the following:

Monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways. Sligo County Council will also consider projects relating to the following areas: local history and traditions, placenames, folklore, traditional crafts and skills and museums and archives.

The total available budget for the Community Heritage Grant Scheme is €20,000 and it is unlikely that any grant allocated will exceed €1,000.

GUIDELINES

It is the County Council's intention that support be given to a broad range of heritage projects. In doing this under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme it is unlikely that applications for building programmes, ongoing revenue costs and assistance to cover loans or deficits, or projects which could be undertaken on a commercial basis would be successful.

Applications will be assessed by a panel, therefore do not omit information that you believe the County Sligo Heritage Office may or should already know. It is important that you provide full information on your project, by completing the form in full and by providing appropriate supporting documentation.

If you are considering applying for a Community Heritage Grant in 2008 the following information may be relevant to your application.

Hedgerow Management:

Under section 40 of the 1976 Wildlife Act, as amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, it is prohibited to cut, grub, burn or otherwise destroy, during the period March 1st to August 31st, in any year, any vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch, except in certain, legally defined circumstances.

Protected Structures

A protected structure is a structure that a planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural and scientific, social or technical point of view. The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) forms part of the County Development Plan. Any community group considering applying for funding for protected structures should seek advice from Sligo County Council/Sligo Borough Council.

Any works involving the built heritage must adhere to best conservation practice guidelines as issued by the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the Heritage Council. Projects must also take cognisance of legislation governing architectural heritage.

Archaeological Monuments

All known sites and monuments (recorded monuments) are identified and listed for protection by the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service of the DoEHLG, in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP), a statutory inventory of sites protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004).

The Record of Monuments and Places is a set of 6" maps of County Sligo with an accompanying index which shows all known sites, monuments and zones of archaeological potential, recorded to date in the county. The Record of Monuments and Places is available to the public at the Planning Office of Sligo County Council and in the County Library (local history section).

Projects concerning archaeological sites or objects or wrecks will not be considered unless they have written approval from the landowner (if appropriate), the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Environment and Local Government and/or the National Museum of Ireland. Proof of approval should be submitted with the application. All work on such projects must be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Historic Graveyards

The annual Community Grant Scheme administered by the Community & Enterprise Office of Sligo County Council provides grant assistance to community groups and burial ground committees for general graveyard maintenance.

Under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme applications relating to historic graveyards only (i.e. sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places for County Sligo) will be accepted for assessment.

Sligo County Council would be particularly interested in receiving proposals relating to historic graveyards involving, graveyard mapping, inscription recording, archaeological and ecological reports.

Community groups should check the ownership and legal status of a graveyard i.e. is it a recorded monument (check the Record of Monuments and Places described above). A licence is required from the National Monuments and Historic Properties Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government prior to undertaking any work on a recorded monument. All works in graveyards funded under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme shall be in accordance with the guidelines as set out in the '*Care and Conservation of Graveyards*' (OPW 1995).

Natural Heritage

If work involving flora and fauna requires a licence under the Wildlife Act, 1976, proof of approval should be submitted with the application. If the project involves work adjacent to or within a designated natural heritage area, the consent of the landowner and appropriate permissions from the National Parks and Wildlife Section of the DoEHLG will be required.

Publications/Signage

Projects concerning heritage publications must contain information, which is of the highest quality. The text or content of the publication must be completed, and proof of this, such as a chapter or script, must be submitted as part of the application. Where possible, the entire manuscript should be submitted. In the case of leaflets, brochures or information signage the draft text and layout must be submitted with the application

CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria and subject to the availability of funds:

1. An application for funding under the above scheme can be made by, a heritage group, an organization, an individual in association with an organization or a community group that is Sligo based and has its operational focus in the county.
2. Sligo County Council is particularly interested in receiving proposals aimed at:
 - a. Raising public awareness of Sligo's heritage through local media channels and/or alternative means to raise public awareness of heritage and its contribution to our quality of life and wellbeing.
 - b. Supporting projects which collect information about our local heritage, including oral history projects, research, archaeological surveys and conservation studies.
 - c. Education, community and outreach, aimed at supporting education initiatives within and between schools, local museums and/or which meets the interests and needs of the community through making heritage accessible and relevant.
 - d. Seminars and training courses, supporting the development of conservation skills and raising awareness of heritage through training, conferences, seminars and workshops.
3. The project must benefit or relate to at least one of the aspects of heritage as set out in the Heritage Act, 1995. Priority will be given to those projects, which benefit two or more aspects, and/or deal with an unexplored or neglected aspect of Sligo's heritage.
4. All projects funded by Sligo County Council must be carried out in accordance with the principles of best practice and on the advice of suitable qualified personnel.

5. The project is effectively planned, budgeted and has clear aims and objectives.
6. That the appropriate consents (where required) have been sought and given.
7. How the organizing body demonstrates that there is a need and demand for this and future heritage projects and what active support there is from the community.
8. That the applicants demonstrate that they have made an effort to raise income or assistance from other sources other than the Community Heritage Grant Scheme.
9. That the organizing body is deemed sufficiently experienced to carry out the project.
10. That the project represents overall value for money.
11. That the project makes a contribution to public interest in heritage and be of significance to the community in which it is based

CONDITIONS OF GRANT OFFER - 2008

1. Projects **must** be completed by Friday 17th October 2008.
2. The maximum grant available to any one project is €1,000.
3. That the grant is used for the specific project applied for. The County Council reserves the right to revise the offer of grant assistance should this not be the case.
4. It is expected that the organisation will co-operate fully should the County Council wish to publicise, monitor or evaluate the project by any means. The project will be used for information purposes when the County Council is assessing future applications.
5. That there is acknowledgement of the grant by the organising body through the inclusion of the Sligo County Council crest on all print material associated with the project, with 'Sligo County Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2008' stated underneath the crest, and specific reference is made to the County Council's support in press releases and other publicity.
6. Successful applicants will be required to provide a final report at the end of the project. In addition to the final project report, applicants will be required to submit a separate short summary of the project (less than 500 words).
7. For successful applicants, satisfactory accounts must be provided to Sligo County Council in advance of grant-aid payment. An audited set of accounts, or a full set or receipt of expenditure and an independent account of income, as in for example, a set of bank statements must be provided. Grants will not be made to projects, which have been completed, or for the repayment of debt. Sligo County Council will allow supplementary funding or sponsorship from other funding sources. These sources must be specified in the application form. Sligo County Council reserves the right to vary or withhold funding at its own discretion.
8. Applications will be accepted by post/fax/email on or before the closing date (5.00 pm on Wednesday 13th February 2008). Completed applications should be forwarded to: Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2008, County Sligo Heritage Office, Sligo County Council, County Hall, Riverside, Sligo.
9. **Four copies of each application must be submitted in order to be eligible for assessment.**

Please note:

- The application period is from Wednesday 16th January 2008 to 5p.m. Wednesday 13th February 2008, irrespective of post mark.
- Applications must be made on an official application form, with additional information, and delivered to Sligo County Council by post/or in person. Applications sent by fax or e-mail will also be accepted.
- Applications are assessed based on the material supplied in the application. Additional information will not be sought from applicants.
- Original and valuable documents and records are not required. Please do not enclose them with your entry, as they cannot be returned.

- In awarding the grants Sligo County Council's decision is final.