

# **Summary Report on submissions to the Draft Heritage Plan**

## **14 January 2016.**

### **Five submissions were received following Public Consultation on the Draft Heritage Plan**

#### **1. Name: Tom Trill, Galway Bohemians A.F.C.**

##### ***Summary and Heritage Officer Response***

As secretary of the Club and a member of the Community Forum, Mr Trill emphasised the importance of preserving Sporting Heritage. He elaborated on the Galway Bohemians and their history. They had their origins in the 1930's and are the longest serving club in Galway, having been inaugurated by Mr. John O'Dowd who initially approached The Galway Football Association to seek approval to promote the juvenile soccer. The League began in earnest in 1931 and played on lands acquired by Galway Corporation under the Carnegie Trust. The Bohemians made their début in the Minor Cup in 1934-35, and upon winning this competition, set their sights outside of Connacht, playing against Cork team, Rockville. The 'Bohs' were also the first team to win the FAI Cup in 1941. The humble beginnings of the Bohemians in establishing youth football in the City is deserving of praise.

In response it is indicated that the sporting aspect of heritage is acknowledged and has been promoted in recent years. An associated exhibition was held in the City Library in 2012, on Cycling Heritage in liaison with the Transportation Unit.

The Heritage Officer noting the submission contents will liaise with the Sports Partnership Officer to see whether Sporting Heritage can be promoted jointly, in conjunction with local sporting organisations.

In addition it is proposed to add an action to the Draft Heritage Plan relating to promotion of sporting heritage, its history and an interest in such heritage and to liaise with sporting organisations. In view of significant heritage interest manifested from the submission for the Galway Bohemians A.F.C, an invitation will issue to the football club to recommend a member to fill one of the two vacant positions in the Heritage Forum.

#### **2. Name: Brendan Smith of Conservation Volunteers Terryland Forest Park.**

##### ***Summary and Heritage Officer Response***

This submission promotes the development of the Terryland Forest Park and the potential there is for development of the park, natural heritage, community events and general public and educational benefits.

The importance of natural heritage, in particular the Terryland Forest Park is acknowledged. Actions relating to natural heritage are included in the Draft Heritage Plan in particular there is direct reference to Terryland Forest Park in this regard.

The Heritage Officer is in agreement that there is much potential for joint promotion and will endeavour through the Recreation and Amenity Section and Environment Section to work on suitable joint projects which would promote and develop the lands in accordance with City Council

Policies and objectives.

**3. Name: *Derrick Hambleton of Galway Branch of An Taisce.***

***Summary and Heritage Officer Response***

The main thrust of this submission is that there is seen as a deficit in the plan where it is claimed that there are no references to the need to maintain or to reclaim or even to enhance the restoration of some of the city's most important heritage attractions. Mention is made of (a) waterways (b) Menlo Castle (c) preservation of the character and ambience of main streets (e) management plans for various other streets.

The Heritage Plan includes a number of actions directly referring to the built heritage. It is also intended that the action relating to annual Galway Heritage Conference as included for 2.1.1 in the Draft Heritage Plan will be specifically dedicated to Galway's Waterways in 2017. In addition two additional actions are included in the Draft Plan. These include the preparation of an audit on the built heritage elements of the Galway Docks area and a report on the associated Maritime Heritage. Secondly, to prepare a conservation and management plan for the Waterways in the city.

**4. Name: *Eleanor Hough on behalf of Galway City Community Network.***

***Summary and Heritage Officer Response***

This submission supports many of the actions included in the Draft Heritage Plan and also states that it would be desirable and worthy for the City Council to appoint a Tree Officer and a Biodiversity officer. There are many additional references to items in this submission which overlap between Heritage Plans, Arts Plans, Cultural Strategy and Biodiversity Plan.

In response it is contended that the Heritage Plan is not the platform for lobbying for additional staff with specialities. It is also noted that there is recruitment embargos in existence and associated resource issues for the Local Authority. Noting the enthusiasm and interest expressed in the submission it is considered appropriate that Ms Hough or another member of the *Galway City Community Network* be invited to join the Heritage Forum.

**5. Name: *Caroline McNeill, Manager, Dúchas na Gaillimhe/ Galway Civic Trust.***

***Summary and Heritage Officer Response***

The submission suggests that in relation to the RPS and protected structures and archaeological heritage to include mention of the Red Earls Hall as an example of the promotion of best practice in heritage conservation and management.

This is a policy request rather than an action appropriate for the Heritage Plan. Best policy approach is included for the City Development Plan Ch. 7 Built Heritage and Urban Design and also in national policies such as *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. In addition all actions in **2.1.2 of the Draft Heritage Plan** relate to the –“Promotion of Best Practice in Heritage Conservation and Management.”

The Heritage Council and City Council have continued to promote and support the development of

traditional heritage crafts and skills, including building materials, arts and crafts, sign making and are building up of a data base of such skilled workers.

