

**To the Cathaoirleach and Each Member of Roscommon County Council**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application.**

The Royal Sites of Ireland are a group of six unique collectives of largely prehistoric monuments and sites associated as early medieval sites that were the principal ancient sites of royal inauguration in Ireland. Four of the sites represent the ancient Kingdoms of Ireland and were located in the current provinces of North (Emain Macha), South (Rock of Cashel), East (Dún Ailline) and West (Rathcroghan). Tara was the seat of the High Kings of Ireland which was situated in the ancient 'fifth' province of Meath (Midhe) while the Hill of Uisneach the 'omphalos' or centre was where the 5 kingdoms met located in Westmeath..

The respective Local Authorities of Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon, with Tipperary as lead authority have been working together during the lifetime of the last World Heritage Tentative List to develop the case for 'outstanding universal value' the key attribute for world heritage sites.

The current World Heritage Tentative List is scheduled for renewal. Royal Sites must reapply to remain on the Tentative List in order to progress further.

Engagement with communities in the six counties has been challenging during the Covid 19 restrictions. Consultation has been organised by establishing a website [www.royalsites.ie](http://www.royalsites.ie) to update communities and to input into the process. The website includes a survey which communities may complete during May.

The application for the World Heritage Tentative List requires the support of the Cathaoirleach & Elected Members of Roscommon County Council.

  
Majella Hunt  
Director of Services