



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Re: Athlone Municipal District pre-draft public consultation on a new Heritage Plan and new Arts Plan for County Roscommon**

A chairde

Roscommon County Council is currently preparing a new Heritage Plan and a new Arts Plan for the county that will cover the period 2017-2021. Roscommon County Council welcomes your views and invites submissions for each plan.

A pre-draft public consultation newsletter and submission form for the Arts Plan is currently being finalised. A pre-draft public consultation newsletter and submission form for the Heritage Plan is attached. These will soon be available for download from [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie), and can soon be obtained from your local library or from the Roscommon County Council Customer Service Desk, phone 090 6637100.

Submissions for the Heritage Plan should be marked 'Heritage Plan' and emailed to [icarlos@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:icarlos@roscommoncoco.ie) or posted to Heritage Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon.

Submissions for the Arts Plan should be marked 'Arts Plan' and emailed to [ghoare@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:ghoare@roscommoncoco.ie) or posted to Arts Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon.

**To have your say on the new County Roscommon Heritage Plan or Arts Plan please make your submission before 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**

Le meas,

Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer  
Mary Mullins, Arts Officer

## What is the County Roscommon Heritage Forum?

County Roscommon Heritage Forum was first established in 2003.

The Forum is comprised of representatives of bodies and groups involved in heritage within the county. Membership of the Heritage Forum is drawn from the following sectors:

**Local Government:**  
Roscommon County Council staff  
Roscommon County Council Elected Member,  
**Local Development:**  
Roscommon Local Community Development Committee

**State Agencies:**  
Teagasc  
National Parks & Wildlife Service  
Bord na Mona  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

**Community and Voluntary Sector:**  
Public Participation Network

**Landowners:**  
Irish Cattle & Sheep Farmers Association

**Heritage Organisations/Groups:**  
County Roscommon Historical & Archaeological Society  
Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland  
Birdwatch Roscommon Branch

The role of County Roscommon Heritage Forum is to work together for the preparation and implementation of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan.



Many communities make a big effort to celebrate their local heritage during National Heritage Week



Major conservation works were carried out to save Tulsk priory from collapse

**We're on the web—**  
[www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/heritage](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/services/heritage)

Would you like to plan an event for National Heritage Week? See [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie) for event ideas

**Heritage is part of what we are!**

Specialist skills are needed from time to time, such as the mosaics conservation project in St. Coman's Graveyard



## Heritage is important!

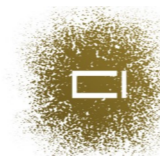
People, quality of life, and pride of place make heritage important. Heritage is a vital part of our identity and sense of place. It is an intrinsic part of our everyday life, and an exceptional resource offering employment, recreation, health, learning and enjoyment.

There is good economic justification in supporting heritage. Its social value is priceless in terms of community-led projects, pride in the

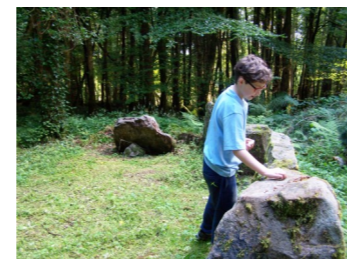
character of our streetscapes and landscapes, and in the need to care for our everyday environment. Heritage is integral to the future development of the county - for our economy and for our quality of life.

To protect, enhance and maximise the value of Roscommon's natural, cultural and heritage resources is a high level goal of the county's Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021.

Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland Programme  
2017 - 2022

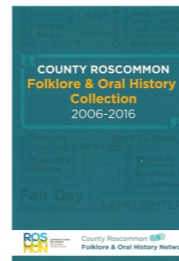


Can you suggest any opportunities for heritage under the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022?



Many of our monuments can be seen and visited from trails, see [www.irishtrails.ie](http://www.irishtrails.ie)

Over 120 recordings are now in the County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Collection. You can hear these in libraries all around the county. A free booklet details what is in the collection



Notice Nature events let people get a closer look at our wildlife

## Have Your Say in the new Heritage Plan!

It's important that the Heritage Plan reflects the views of the people of Roscommon.

Please tell us what aspects of Roscommon's heritage are of most importance to you or your group & what you think should the new heritage plan should focus on.

How can we link in with new priorities, such as the Local Economic and Community Plan and the new Creative Ireland

Programme? Can you help us deliver the new plan?

A submission form is can be used if you like. This is available from the Heritage Office of Roscommon County Council phone 090 6637325 or can be downloaded from [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie)

Any other comments you would like to make are also welcome.

**Written submissions to the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017-2021 are invited up until 31st May 2017.**

These should be posted to: **Heritage Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.**

Or emailed to: [jcarlos@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:jcarlos@roscommoncoco.ie)

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council

# County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017-2021 Pre-draft Public Consultation

## A New Heritage Plan for Co. Roscommon

Roscommon County Council and County Roscommon Heritage Forum propose to review the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 and prepare a Heritage Plan for the years 2017 – 2021. The Heritage Plan is a countywide action plan, initiated and led by Roscommon County Council but also involving the partnership of various other statutory and non-statutory bodies for its implementation.

The importance of heritage has been recognised at national level with the publication of the 'National Heritage

Plan, 2002'; the 'draft National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2016'; Culture 2025, a draft framework policy to 2025, 2016 and Creative Ireland, 2016. The County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2017-2021 will work to deliver those national priorities at a local level.

Roscommon County Council and County Roscommon Heritage Forum will work in partnership with the Heritage Council to support the priorities set out in *Heritage Council Priorities 2016 and Beyond*.

In a local context the importance of heritage is recognised

in 'County Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 -2021' which has heritage as one of its high level goals: 'Protect, enhance and maximize the value of Roscommon's natural, cultural, heritage and environmental resources'. The new Heritage Plan must support the LECP.

The Heritage Plan will also have regard to the policies and objectives set out in the Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020 for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.



Rathcroghan Mound as it may have looked like in the Iron Age when it was a major Royal Site and place of assembly (c) JG O'Donoghue

## What is Heritage?

Heritage includes our landscapes, countryside, rivers and lakes, our archaeological sites and buildings, our history, folklore, language and customs.

All the elements of our heritage add up to give each town, village and local area it's identity and sense of place, it's character and distinctiveness.

A positive approach to heritage management enhances quality of life and environmental sustainability and plays a vital role in ensuring that our local areas and communities are good places to live and work.



Pollinator workshops were held in support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the 'Lets get Buzzing' Pollinator awards



Training workshops were held around the county to promote best practice in recording historic graveyards and publishing the details on [www.historicgraves.com](http://www.historicgraves.com)

## How Will We Prepare the New Heritage Plan?

This initial call for submissions will inform the preparation of the draft County Roscommon Heritage Plan.

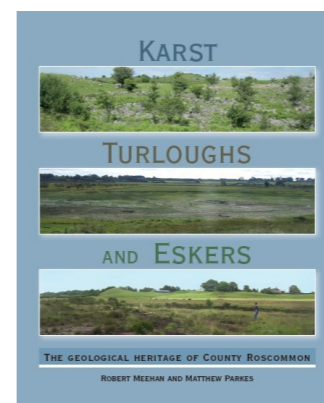
We will identify heritage issues and needs based on the information gathered and from these formulate the objectives and specific actions.

The draft County Roscommon Heritage Plan will be presented to the Roscommon Economic Development & Enterprise Support (including Roads & Culture) Strategic Policy Committee in spring 2017.

We will put the draft Plan on public display, so you can comment on how well it reflects

your views.

All submissions on the draft Plan will be considered. It is intended to have the Plan completed, launched and ready for implementation in autumn 2017.



Roscommon has an important landscape that has only been fully recognised in recent years



Traditional skills training in lime mortar and stonewall building



Warrior training as part of the Táin March Festival

## County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016

The aim of the County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016 was 'to continue to create and promote an increased knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the natural, built and cultural heritage of County Roscommon, and to conserve it for future generations'.

The preparation process followed guidelines set out by the Heritage Council for the preparation of local Heritage Plans and included public consultation. This led to the identification of actions for the County Heritage Plan to achieve. These were grouped into broad objectives of:

**Objective 1: Collect and disseminate heritage information—'Notice'.**

To facilitate the development of a comprehensive heritage database for the county, to make this information available for all.

**Objective 2: Promote best practice in heritage conservation and management—'Care'.**

To promote and advise on best practice standards for heritage conservation and management within the county.

**Objective 3: To raise awareness of our heritage—'Enjoy'.**

To increase knowledge, awareness, understanding and enjoyment of Roscommon's heritage.

*Pupils from Kiltrustan NS came out to see the conservation works at Kiltrustan medieval church and meet the expert stonemasons working on the job*



Roscommon 3d enabled us to use photogrammetry to see our carved stones in fantastic detail



## Implementation of County Roscommon Heritage Plan 2012-2016

The heritage plan had three objectives which included sixty two actions. Many of these actions were projects carried out every year, such as promoting events for National Heritage Week. Some actions involved one off projects - when they were done they were done! Other actions involved several individual projects which evolved from year to year.

In all, over half of the actions in the plan were addressed. Of these, over one hundred projects were carried out, all working to implement the aim and objectives of the Heritage Plan.

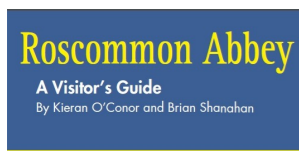
As part of the implementation of the heritage plan expert heritage services were used where required, such as conservation architects & engineers, archaeologists, ecologists and experts

from the 'Heritage in Schools' scheme. The Heritage Plan had a spin-off for secondary services, mainly for venue hire, publication design & print, and advertising of events.

Working with communities around the county was key to many of the projects carried out and the plan could not work without community support!



Heritage information panels specially designed for use on farmland and at monuments have been introduced around the county



Copies of the guidebook are available from [www.rathcroghan.ie](http://www.rathcroghan.ie)

## Notice Heritage - Achievements

Five bursaries were awarded for new heritage research in the county. Bursary reports from each year can be downloaded from the heritage page of [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie)

Other projects completed included:

Archaeology Ireland Heritage Guide No. 68 'The Black Pigs Dyke - Power Lines in the Landscape' & new website [www.blackpigdyke.ie](http://www.blackpigdyke.ie)

'Karst Turloughs and Eskers - the geological heritage of County Roscommon' guidebook. You can buy copies from [www.rathcroghan.ie](http://www.rathcroghan.ie)

'Roscommon Abbey - A Visitors Guide' guidebook & leaflet. Also available from [www.rathcroghan.ie](http://www.rathcroghan.ie)

Roscommon heritage data is now available on [www.heritagemaps.ie](http://www.heritagemaps.ie)

County Roscommon Folklore and Oral History Collection - now has over 120 interviews in the collection. You can listen to these in any library around the county.

A major conservation project was undertaken at Tulsk priory to save it from collapse. A celebration day was held to tell people about the site and about how the works were carried out. An interpretation panel was installed so visitors to the graveyard could find out about the priory.

## Care about Heritage—Achievements

Several memorial inscriptions, graveyard sketch maps and photographic surveys were completed are now available on [www.historicgraves.com](http://www.historicgraves.com). Community training in best practice in recording graveyards was carried out and survey results are also being added to that website.

Roscommon 3d promoted best practice in recording carved stones using digital photography and 3d imaging software. Results can be found on [www.sketchfab.com/roscommon3d](http://www.sketchfab.com/roscommon3d)

Pollinator Workshops were held for community groups on how they can help save pollinators. The new national and local 'Let's

get Buzzing' pollinator award was supported.

Bursaries were awarded to five community groups. Reports from each bursary project can be downloaded from the heritage page of [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie)

A training course in working with traditional lime and stonewalls was held for Roscommon County Council staff.

Rathcroghan has been included as one of the 'Royal Sites of Ireland' on the Irish tentative list for addition to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Projects carried out under the heritage plan have been working to support this. A drawing was commissioned for Rathcroghan mound

to show how it may have looked in the time of Queen Maeve and used on new signage. Rathcroghan car park got new wheelchair accessible picnic benches and new signage.

Urgent conservation works were carried out at Lissonuffly and Kiltrustan medieval churches to stop them from collapsing.

Rindoon deserted medieval walled town is one of the most unique heritage sites in the county. Several projects were carried out under the heritage plan to help care for and manage the site. Many groups and people were involved in this, such as the landowners, the Irish Walled Towns Network and St. Johns Parish Heritage Group.



Caring for heritage also entailed operating national grant schemes such as the 'Structures at Risk' and 'Built Heritage' - helping owners care for their historic properties in the best way possible

## Enjoy Heritage - Achievements

Five schools projects were carried out to encourage children to enjoy their heritage. These projects focused on historic graveyards and memorials, Mote Park, the Famine, St. Comán and pollinators.

National Heritage Week is a major event in the county with increasing numbers organising and enjoying heritage events around the county. A children's event is a new addition to the week.

Celebrating biodiversity has

evolved from several small events into one big one—the Notice Nature marquee which was at the Roscommon Lamb Festival for the past few years. This was a great chance for the Heritage Forum partners to showcase their work - fisheries, wildlife, red grouse, bogs and more with a fun children's activity too!

Working with the people of Ballintubber has allowed managed public access to the castle a few times over the past years. A Conservation

Management Plan for the castle has just been prepared.

Invasive species workshops for community groups, RSS workers and council staff were held to raise awareness of how to manage Japanese Knotweed and other invasives.

The Táin March festival [www.tainmarch.ie](http://www.tainmarch.ie) starts out every year from Rathcroghan. In 2016 local school children under went 'Warrior Training' so they could join Queen Maeve's army on the march!

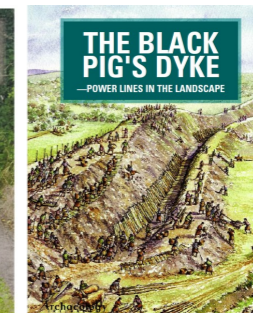
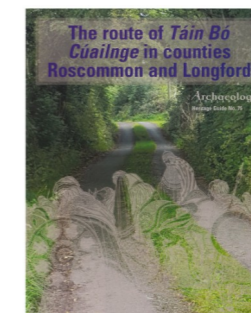
**All publications mentioned are available from the Heritage Office of Roscommon County Council**



One community bursary funded a survey of Swift nesting sites in Roscommon town



Providing fun children's events during National Heritage Week is a great way of getting children interested in their heritage



Archaeology Ireland Heritage Guides have been produced for two important sites in the county—the route taken by Queen Maeve's army when they set out from Rathcroghan on the Cattle Raid of Cooley and the Doon of Drumsna which is part of the Black Pigs Dyke - an Iron Age earthwork which can be found in Donegal, Leitrim, Roscommon, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan & Louth

An Chomhairle Oidhreacht  
The Heritage Council



Roscommon County Council and the Heritage Forum work closely with the Heritage Council who provide invaluable support for the heritage plan through their annual County Heritage Plan funding programme and also in terms of support and guidance for the Heritage Officer from their professional staff.

# Have your say on the new County Roscommon Heritage Plan

Roscommon County Council & County Roscommon Heritage Forum are preparing the third County Roscommon Heritage Plan for the years 2017-2021. We are seeking your views on the key priorities and opportunities for Roscommon's heritage over the next five years. The Heritage Plan will address natural, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage<sup>1</sup>

## We want to hear from you!

Information on the County Roscommon Heritage Plan and the work of the County Roscommon Heritage Forum can be found on <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Heritage/>

**Submissions to the Plan are invited up until Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May and should be posted to Heritage Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, or emailed to [jcarlos@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:jcarlos@roscommoncoco.ie)**

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**1. Name:**

**2. Organisation Name (if applicable):**

**3. Address:**

**4. Phone:**

<sup>1</sup> The term 'Heritage' encompasses natural, built and cultural heritage. The Heritage Act, 1995 defined heritage as including monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, landscapes, heritage gardens and parks, flora & fauna, wildlife habitats, inland waterways, architectural heritage, geology and seascapes & wrecks.

**5. Email: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**6. Are you a member of a heritage/community group or organization?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please tell us which one and where the group is based

**7. If you are not already on the Heritage Office emailing list, would you like to be included to receive updates in the plan and heritage news and events?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Are you involved in a heritage project in your locality?**

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please tell us about it:

## IDENTIFIED AND AGREED HERITAGE PRIORITIES FOR THE COUNTY

The County Roscommon Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (LECP) is the new framework for economic and community development in the county. Any projects outlined in the County heritage Plan must support the objectives and actions laid out in the LECP.

Most Heritage actions in the LECP fall under High Level Goal 4 to '***Protect, enhance and maximize the value of Roscommon's natural, cultural and heritage resources***'. Specific actions under this goal include:

- Deliver the Roscommon County Heritage Plan 2012- 2016 (incorporating County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan) and subsequent County Heritage Plans
- Supporting the promotion of Rathcroghan as one of the Royal Sites of Ireland, including the proposal for designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Maximise the tourism potential arising from the county's strong natural, cultural and heritage resources through development and promotion activities, including delivery of related actions in the Local Development Strategy
- Implement initiatives as part of the Decade of Commemorations scheduled for the Region
- Support and implement national, regional and local strategies to promote and ensure environmental protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment including the River Shannon and its waterways
- Deliver the County Roscommon Biodiversity Action Plan which is incorporated in the Roscommon County Heritage Plan 2012-2016, and subsequent Biodiversity Action Plans

You can download the LECP from <http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Local-Economic-and-Community-Plan/> or request a copy from the Heritage Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon phone 090 6637325.

**If there is a heritage project you would like to see included in the new Heritage Plan, can you tell us what it is and how it fulfills the aims under High Level Goal 4**

**For us to prioritize your idea in the Heritage Plan, it is important for us to get a sense of the level of community support for the project and how it will be sustainable.**

**Please tell us:**

- **Why it is a priority for the community**
- **How you see the project developing**
- **Who will be involved in progressing and managing the project**
- **How the project will be sustainable**
- **Are there any economic opportunities associated with the project**

**THE ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL HERITAGE OFFICE AND THE HERITAGE FORUM WORK TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT THE HERITAGE PLAN. THE HERITAGE OFFICE CAN SUPPORT YOUR PROJECT**

This will be the third County Heritage Plan. Experience over the past two plans has taught us that while there is much we can do, there is a limit to what can be achieved within the human and financial resources available. It is important that we focus resources where they can generate the maximum benefit for the heritage of the county and to offer best support to community groups undertaking heritage projects. The Heritage Office can:

- Help individuals or groups that need advice on best practice in heritage conservation and management
- Help heritage projects link in with funding opportunities
- Help people share experience and knowledge through events such as National Heritage Week
- The Heritage Office receives a lot of queries from people trying to trace family burials. Memorial recording projects have been carried out in several graveyards around the county under the Heritage Plan. Would you or your group be interested in taking on a graveyard recording project in your area?

**Let us know what help you or your group would need to undertake your heritage project**



**14. We have listed some suggested priority areas/themes below. Please rank them according to importance.**

	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>
Raising awareness of Roscommon's heritage through education, publications, events, social media and new technologies			
Promoting best practice in conservation and management of our heritage			
Increasing community involvement in heritage			
Increasing understanding of the value of Roscommon's heritage			
Collecting information on Roscommon's heritage (research, surveys and inventories)			
Improving the quality of life in Roscommon through heritage			
Heritage as a driver for economic development			
Heritage opportunities as part of the national Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 <a href="http://creative.ireland.ie/">http://creative.ireland.ie/</a>			

**18. Have you any other comments regarding the new Heritage Plan?**

**Thank you for taking the time to make this submission. Please feel free to add any extra comments or suggestions on additional sheets, if needed.**

**Please return your submission to Heritage Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, or email it to [jcarlos@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:jcarlos@roscommoncoco.ie)**

**Please return your submission by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**

# Have your say on the new County Roscommon Arts Plan



Roscommon County Council is preparing a new Arts Plan for the years 2017-2021. We are seeking your views on the key priorities and opportunities for the next five years.

## We want to hear from you!

Information on the current County Roscommon Arts Plan can be found on [http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Arts\\_Office/programmes.html](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Arts_Office/programmes.html)

Submissions to the Plan are invited up until 31st May 2017 and should be posted to The Arts Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, or emailed to [ghoare@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:ghoare@roscommoncoco.ie)

The template supplied below is an optional format that you may find useful.

<b>1: Name:</b>	<b>Artist:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Type of artist:</b>			
<b>2. Organisation Name (if applicable):</b>			
<b>3. Address:</b>			
<b>4. Phone:</b>			
<b>5. Email: PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>			
<b>6. Are you a member of an arts group or organization?</b>			
Yes:	No:		
If yes, please tell us which one:			

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**7. If you are not already on the Arts Office e mailing list, would you like to be included to receive updates on the plan and arts news and events?**

Yes:	No:
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**8. Are you involved in the arts in your locality?**

Yes:	No:
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If yes, please tell us about it:

**10. What aspects of the arts are of most interest to you / your group, and why?<sup>1</sup>**

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The Arts Act 2003 defines the arts as @any creative or interpretative expression (whether traditional or contemporary) in whatever form, and includes, in particular the following visual arts, literature, music, theatre, dance, opera, film, circus, architecture.

**13. Which aspects of the arts do you consider that the new County Roscommon Arts Plan should focus on? Please rank them according to importance.**

	Not Important	Important	Very Important
Visual Arts			
Literature			
Music			
Theatre			
Dance			
Opera			
Film			
Architecture			
Other (Please specify)			

**14. We have listed some suggested priority areas/themes below. Please rank them according to importance.**

	Not Important	Important	Very Important
The Arts - children and young people			
The Artist			
Increasing public engagement in the Arts			
Increasing understanding of the value of Arts in Roscommon			
Improving the quality of life in Roscommon through the Arts			
Arts as a driver for economic development			
Arts opportunities as part of the national Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 <a href="http://creative.ireland.ie/">http://creative.ireland.ie/</a>			

**15. Would you like to suggest other priority areas/themes?**

**17. Please tell us if you have any suggestions for strategic (countywide) actions/projects for the new County Roscommon Arts Plan**

**18. Have you any other comments regarding the new Arts Plan?**

**Thank you for taking the time to make this submission. Please feel free to add any extra comments or suggestions on additional sheets, if needed.**

**Please return your submission to The Arts Office, Roscommon County Council, Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, or email it to [ghoare@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:ghoare@roscommoncoco.ie)**

**Please return your submission by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017.**