Appendix 13. Cultural Heritage

Appendix 13-5 Galway County Development Plan(2022-2028)

12.5 Architectural Heritage Context

AH 1 Architectural Heritage

Ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Galway, which is a unique and special resource, having regard to the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).

AH 2 Protected Structures (Refer to Appendix 6, Galway County Development Plan)

(a) Ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of structures including their curtilage and attendant grounds included and proposed for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) that are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, together with the integrity of their character and setting.

(b) Review the Record of Protected Structures in order to provide a comprehensive schedule for the protection of structures of special importance in the County during the lifetime of the plan.

(c) Ensure that development proposals are appropriate in terms of architectural treatment, character, scale and form to the existing protected structure and not detrimental to the special character and integrity of the protected structure and its setting.

(d) Ensure high-quality architectural design of all new developments relating to or which may impact on structures (and their settings) included in the Record of Protected Structures.

(e) Promote and ensure best conservation practice through the use of specialist conservation professionals and craft persons.

(f) Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part, for the demolition of protected structures, save in exceptional circumstances.

AH 3 Protection of Structure on the NIAH

Give regard to and consideration of all structures which are included in the NIAH for County Galway, which are not currently included in the Record of Protected Structures, in development management functions.

AH 4 Architectural Conservation Areas (Refer to Appendix 7)

Protect, conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) included in this plan through the appropriate management and control of the design, location and layout of new development, modifications, alterations or extensions to existing structures, surviving historic

plots and street patterns and/or modifications to the character or setting of the Architectural Conservation Area. Works within the ACA shall ensure the conservation of traditional features and building elements that contribute to the character of the area. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscape, shop fronts, landscape and setting. New proposals shall have appropriate regard to scale, plot, form, mass, design, materials, colours and function.

This will be achieved by:

(a) Protecting all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all features which contribute to the special character of the ACA from demolition and non--sympathetic alterations.
(b) Promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and sites within the ACA.
(c) Ensure new development within or adjacent to an ACA respects the established character of the area and contributes positively in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes to the ACA.
(d) Promote high-quality architectural design within ACAs.
(e) Seek the repair and reuse of traditional shopfronts and where appropriate, encourage new shopfronts of a high-quality architectural design.
(f) Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities to buildings within ACA are designed, constructed, and located in such a manner that they do not detract from the character of the ACA.
(g) Protect and enhance the quality of open spaces within ACAs and ensure the protection and where necessary reuse of street furniture and use of appropriate materials during the course of public infrastructure schemes within ACAs.
(h) Prohibit development proposals, either in whole or in part for the demolition of a structure within an Architectural Conservation Area that contributes to the special character of the area.
(i) Protect structures in ACAs from non--sympathetic alterations and encourage appropriate in-fill developments.
(j) Works materially affecting the character of a protected structure or the exterior of a building/ structure within an ACA will require planning permission.
(k) Any works carried out to a protected structure or the exterior of a building/structure within an ACA shall be in accordance with best conservation practice and use sustainable and appropriate materials.
(l) Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions materially affecting the character of a protected structure, or a structure adjoining a protected structure, or a structure within or adjacent to an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character or setting of the protected structure or of the ACA.

AH 5 Maintenance and Re-use of existing Building Stock

Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing stock of buildings with architectural merit as a more sustainable option to their demolition and redevelopment.

AH 6 Vernacular Architecture

Recognise the importance of the contribution of vernacular architecture to the character of a place and ensure the protection, retention and appropriate revitalisation and reuse of the vernacular-built heritage including structures that contribute to landscape and townscape character and resist the demolition of these structures.

AH 7 Local Place Names

Protect local place names as an important part of the cultural heritage and unique character of an area. Support the use of appropriate names for new developments that reflect the character and heritage of the area and that contribute to the local distinctiveness of a place.

AH 8 Energy Efficiency and Traditionally Built Structures

Ensure that measures to upgrade the energy efficiency of protected structures and traditionally built historic structures are sensitive to traditional construction methods, employ best practice and use appropriate materials and methods that will not have a detrimental impact on the material, functioning or character of the building.

AH 9 Local Landscape and Place Assessment

To support proposals from local communities including Tidy Town Committees, Chambers of Commerce and residents' groups in analysing the character of their place and promoting its regeneration for their own use and enjoyment and that of visitors to the area.

AH 10 Designed Landscapes

Protect the surviving historic designed landscapes in the County and promote the conservation of their essential character, both built and natural. Consider protection of the designed landscape by inclusion in an Architectural Conservation Area.

Development proposals in designed landscape shall be accompanied by an appraisal of the contributing elements and an impact assessment.

AH 11 Custodianship

Promote an inter-disciplinary approach demonstrating best practice with regard to the custodianship of protected structures, recorded monuments and elements of built heritage.

AH 12 Placemaking for Towns and villages

Promote the value of placemaking in cooperation with communities in their towns, villages and local areas.

AH 13 Traditional Building Skills

Support and promote traditional building skills, training and awareness of the use of appropriate materials and skills within the Local Authority, community groups, owners and occupiers of traditionally built structures.

AH 14 Design and Landscaping in New Buildings

Encourage new buildings that foster an innovative approach to design and acknowledges the diversity of suitable design solutions in appropriate locations while promoting the added economic, amenity and environmental value of good design.

12.6 Archaeological Heritage

ARC 1 Legislative Context

Support and promote the preservation, conservation and appropriate management and enhancement of the County's archaeological sites and monuments, together with the settings of these monuments, having regard to the legislative, statutory and policy provisions relevant to the conservation of the archaeological heritage.

ARC 2 Archaeological Sites

Seek to encourage and promote awareness of and access to archaeological heritage of the County for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.

ARC 3 Archaeological Landscapes

To facilitate where possible the identification of important archaeological landscapes in the County.

ARC 4 Protection of Archaeological Sites

Protect archaeological sites and monuments their settings and visual amenity and archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments, or that are newly discovered and seek to protect important archaeological landscapes.

ARC 5 Development Management

All planning applications for new development, redevelopment, any ground works, refurbishment, and restoration, etc. within areas of archaeological potential or within close proximity to Recorded Monuments or within the historic towns of County Galway will take account of the archaeological heritage of the area and the need for archaeological mitigation.

ARC 6 Burial Grounds

Protect the burial grounds, identified in the Record of Monuments and Places, in co-operation with the National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Encourage the local community to manage burial grounds in accordance with best conservation and heritage principles.

ARC 7 Battlefield Sites

Protect the Battle of Aughrim site and other battlefield sites and their settings.

ARC 8 Underwater Archaeological Sites

To protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated features. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, intertidal and sub-tidal locations.

ARC 9 Recorded Monuments

Ensure that any development in the immediate vicinity of a Recorded Monument is sensitively designed and sited and does not detract from the monument or its visual amenity.

ARC 10 Zones of Archaeological Potential

To protect the Zones of Archaeological Potential located within both urban and rural areas and around archaeological monuments generally as identified in the Record of Monuments and Places. Any development within the ZAPs will need to take cognisance of the potential for subsurface archaeology and if archaeology is demonstrated to be present appropriate mitigation (such as preservation *in situ*/buffer zones) will be required.

ARC 11 Industrial and Post Medieval Archaeology

Protect and preserve the archaeological value of industrial and post medieval archaeology such as mills, limekilns, bridges, piers, harbours, penal chapels and dwellings. Proposals for refurbishment, works to or redevelopment/conversion of these sites should be subject to careful assessment.

ARC 12 Archaeology and Infrastructure Schemes

Have regard to archaeological concerns when considering proposed service schemes (including electricity, sewerage, telecommunications, water supply) and proposed roadwork's (both realignments and new roads) located in close proximity to Recorded Monuments and Places and their known archaeological monuments.

12.7 Cultural Heritage

CUH 1 Cultural heritage

Protect and promote the cultural heritage assets and the intangible cultural heritage assets of County Galway as important social and economic assets.

CUH 2 Special Places of Historic Interest

To protect and promote where possible special places of historical interest.

CUH 3 Placenames/Naming of New Developments

Promote and preserve local place names, local heritage and the Irish language by ensuring the use of local place names or geographical or cultural names which reflect the history and landscape of their settings in the naming of new residential and other developments. All names will be in the Irish language only. The naming and numbering schemes including associated signage must be submitted to the Planning Authority prior to the commencement of a new development.

CUH 4 The Gaeltacht and Linguistic Heritage

(a) To protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht and to promote Irish as a community language. To promote and facilitate the sustainable development of An Ghaeltacht and Island communities in County Galway.

(b) To support organisations involved in the continued promotion and preservation of the Irish language and culture. To work in a positive and encouraging way to create and maintain a bilingual environment in the County, and to ensure the availability of opportunities for the use of spoken and written Irish.

CUH 5 Library and Archives

(a) To facilitate the development and implementation of Galway Library Development Programme 2016-2021 or subsequent programme and support the development and promotion of the library network in the county.

(b) Galway County Council shall support the provision of a purpose-built repository, meeting international archival standards, to house, and ensure the preservation, of this important heritage resource.