



Report on Fingal Heritage Plan Pre-draft
Consultation

SINÉAD BEGLEY & ASSOCIATES

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1. Introduction

The fourth Fingal Heritage Plan will be a public statement of intent in relation to Fingal's heritage, which identifies strategic actions to be undertaken across all areas of heritage over the six-year period from 2024-2029. The Heritage Plan will be prepared by the Fingal Heritage Forum¹, facilitated by the Heritage Office, in accordance with guidance provided by The Heritage Council. The plan will be aligned with other local authority plans and strategies including the *Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029*, the *Fingal Climate Action Strategy 2019-2024*, *Fingal's Culture and Creative Strategy 2023-2027*, the forthcoming *Local Community and Economic Plan* and *Fingal Tourism Strategy*.

To inform the process of developing the plan and assist in prioritising areas for heritage action up to 2030 a pre-draft consultation was conducted to gather inputs from individuals and organisations in Fingal. A mixed range of methods was used to garner input from as wide an audience as possible, including stakeholders outside of the traditional heritage contributors. The consultation aimed to seek the views of individuals and groups on the importance of heritage, the key themes that should be addressed by the plan, and any perceived challenges to managing and protecting Fingal's heritage.

Online surveys, public information sessions, and stakeholder engagement

- An online survey was hosted from 5 April until 19 May 2023 on the Fingal County Council website (www.fingal.ie). The survey was promoted to the public, community groups and other organisations in Fingal through social media. The survey was also shared with Fingal Public Participation Network, and organisations involved in the Fingal Integration Forum.
- Library drop-in sessions were held in Blanchardstown and Balbriggan Libraries on 26 and 27 May 2023. Members of the public were invited to complete the survey using their phones and a QR code (paper copies were also available).

¹ The Fingal Heritage Forum oversees the compilation and implementation of the Fingal Heritage Plan in accordance with the requirements of the National Heritage Plan 2002. This is undertaken in partnership with interested stakeholders across communities, business, landowners, and local government [Microsoft Word - Fingal Heritage Forum Terms of Reference July 2020 \(fingalppn.ie\)](#)

- The Heritage Office also provided a stand at Newbridge House on 6 May 2023. Members of the public were invited to complete the survey using their phones and a QR code (paper copies were also available).

Consultation sessions were held with the following groups:

- The Heritage Forum, 17 May, Malahide Castle.
- The Heritage Network², 3 May, County Hall Swords.
- Fingal Comhairle na nÓg, 8 May, online meeting arranged with the assistance of Foróige.

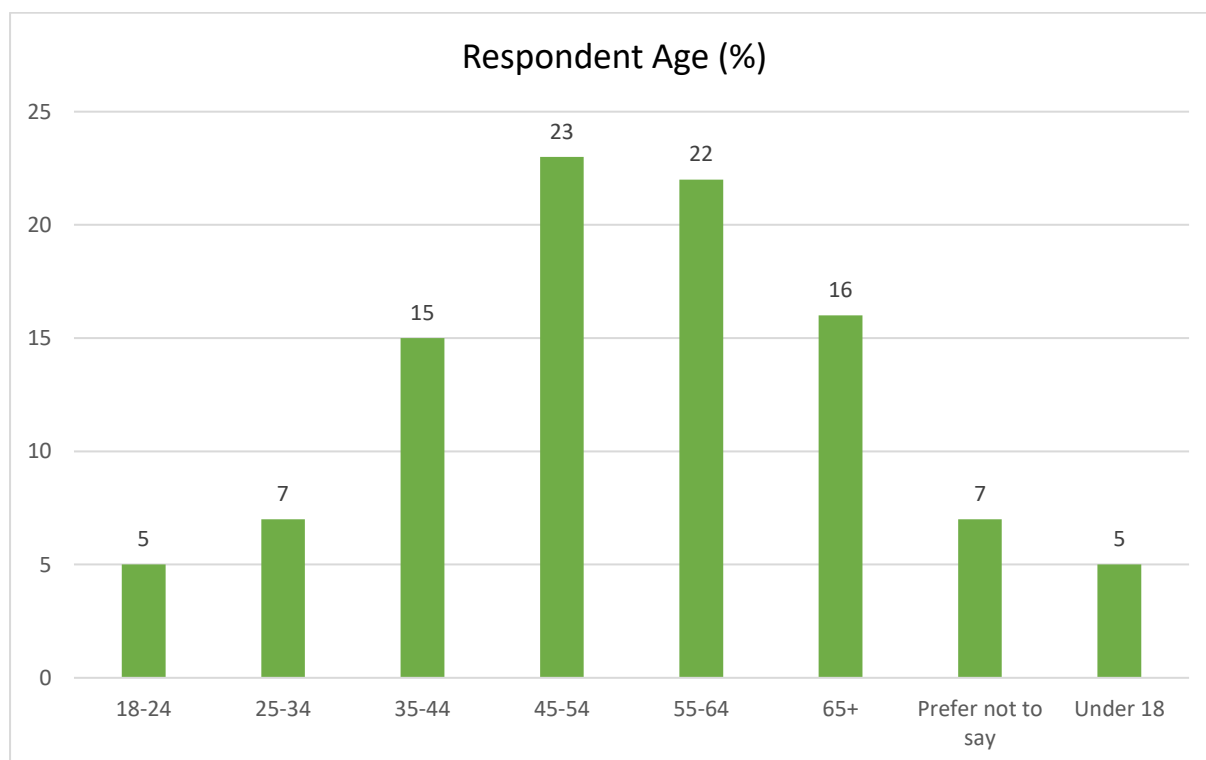
² The Fingal Heritage Network brings together heritage groups from around the county to work together and pool information and resources. The network also represents the views of its members and seeks to inform policy making in Fingal County Council and other relevant organisations [Heritage Groups and Societies | Fingal County Council](#)

2. Results of Fingal Heritage Plan Pre-draft Public Survey

Respondent Profile

As part of the pre-draft consultation for the Heritage Plan an online survey on the Fingal County Council website www.fingal.ie was undertaken from 5 April-19 May 2023. A total of 266 responses were received. In total 90% (239) of responses were from individuals and 10% (27) from groups and organisations including Tidy Towns, heritage, history, arts, community, youth and residents' groups, schools, faith-based organisations, sports clubs, and businesses.

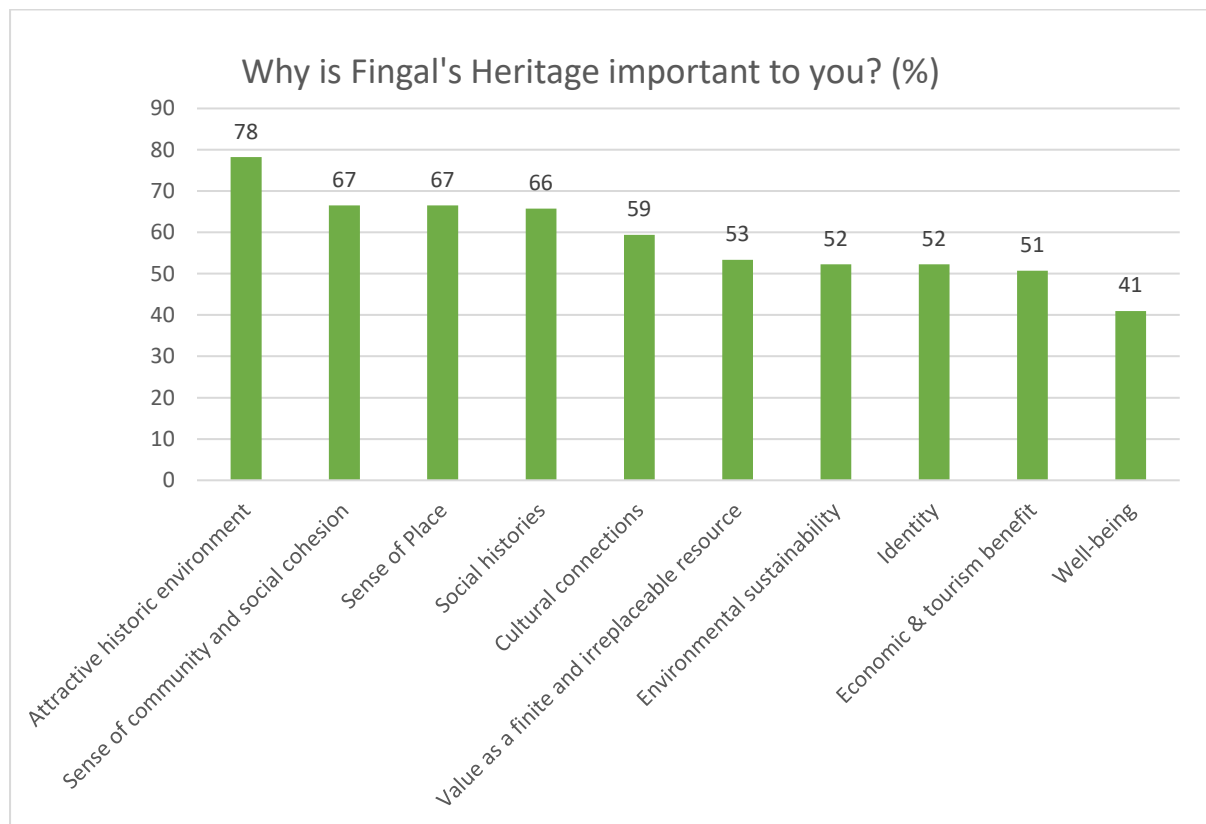
Chart 1: Respondent age



Over half (55%) of respondents were aged between 45 and 64, with 15% in the 35-44 age bracket, 16% were 65 or over, and 10% were aged 24 or under. While 56% of all respondents said they were not aware of any of the three previous heritage plans for Fingal, one third were aware of the most recent plan, which covers the period 2018-2023. There appears to be a higher level of awareness of the heritage plans among respondents from groups and organisations (66%) than from individual respondents. Less than one third (31%) of respondents are aware of funding sources for heritage.

Views on the importance of Heritage

Chart 1. The importance of heritage



When asked to select reasons why heritage is important to them respondents most frequently selected reasons relating to place and community. Having an attractive historic environment (78%) and sense of place (67%) were most frequently viewed as important, followed by the social or community related aspects of heritage including a sense of community and social cohesion (67%), social histories (66%), and cultural connections (59%). Over half of respondents (53%) also feel heritage is important because of its value as a finite resource, environmental sustainability (52%), and the economic and tourism benefits (51%). Heritage is seen as important in terms of identity and wellbeing by 52% and 41% respectively.

Views on challenges facing Fingal's Heritage

The majority of respondents (94%) described what they perceive to be the biggest challenges facing Fingal's Heritage (See Appendix, Table 2. For all responses). The most frequently perceived challenge raised by 39% of respondents related to development impacting negatively on Fingal's heritage.

"Balancing the support for housing needs and protecting the environment and wild life habitat in that area."

"The building boom where buildings that should be listed are being knocked down..."

"Pressure to deliver new housing rather than use existing building stock. Lack of awareness in the building industry and amongst the public over appropriate interventions, materials and maintenance of historic structures."

The other most frequently raised challenges included lack of awareness, interest, or engagement with heritage, and lack of funding or resources (including staff and capacity within the Heritage Office) which were both noted by about a quarter of respondents.

"Lack of awareness and appreciation of these sites are probably what I would say. I think to connect with other communities still groups to develop sense of community to protect and make them aware of would be great."

"... engagement with new communities, historical societies etc seen as for "old people" - need to find a way utilise digital resources/particularly in schools and from 5th/6th Class on."

"Awareness of the heritage within communities particularly amongst young people needs to be strengthened and maintained."

"Lack of adequate funding perhaps to maintain conservation, raise awareness/train communities about local history and heritage."

"Ensuring sufficient staffing and resources are provided to the Heritage Officer to enable full potential of Fingal's Heritage Plan."

Impacts of climate change and coastal erosion were also identified as a challenge (7%). Other issues mentioned included antisocial behaviour, traffic management, access to heritage sites, balancing heritage and tourism, alignment with national and international sustainability targets and inclusiveness across multiple communities, and demographics in Fingal.

Priority themes for the Heritage Plan 2024-2029

Respondents were invited to select what they consider to be the most important strategic areas or themes that the new Heritage Plan should address from the list in Table 1 below. The resulting feedback suggests a clear priority emerging around conservation and caring for heritage sites among the majority of respondents (91%), followed by raising awareness and communicating heritage (64%). Engaging, working with and supporting communities (59%), and engaging young people and new communities (56%) were identified as priorities by over half of respondents respectively. Similarly, 55% of respondents would like to see more of a focus on local heritage e.g., vernacular buildings, recording oral histories, and placenames. The importance of research, education and training is acknowledged (50%) and themes such as marine and coastal heritage (49%) and climate change and heritage (41%) are also seen as priorities by a significant number of respondents. The latter reflects broader societal concerns and the need for mitigation of the impacts of the climate crisis.

Table 1. Priority strategic themes

Please select what you consider to be the seven most important strategic areas/themes that the new Heritage Plan should prioritise.	%
Conservation and caring for heritage sites (monuments, protected buildings, historic graveyards, natural heritage sites etc)	91
Raising awareness and communicating heritage	64
Engaging, working with and supporting communities	59
Engagement - Young people and new communities	56
More focus on the local (vernacular buildings, recording oral histories, placenames)	55
Recording the heritage of Fingal - research, audits and inventories	53
Research, training and education programmes e.g., traditional skills, biodiversity training	50
Marine and coastal heritage	47
Heritage led-regeneration	46
Climate change and heritage	41
Interpretation of heritage (digital mapping, guided, signage)	35
Resourcing heritage	33
Maintain and strengthen heritage partnerships (Local, Regional, National)	33
Digital heritage and communication	19

A total of 38% of respondents suggested other themes or areas that should be prioritised or had additional comments in this regard. Additional themes suggested included agricultural heritage, sporting heritage, biodiversity, coastal and maritime heritage

(lighthouses, fishing), Gaelic language, intangible cultural heritage, industrial heritage (mills), restoration, genealogy, emerging heritage and enrichment from newer Fingal communities, and inclusion and access for people with disabilities.

“Agricultural heritage of Fingal. Fingal has been feeding Dublin since Medieval times by virtue of fertile soils, temperate climate and expertise and tradition of Fingal farmers. This is not mentioned.”

“Restoration should be a strategic theme. Look at the great example of restoration work on the old medieval city walls in Tallin in Estonia and the unique economic vibrancy of the old town area as a best-in-class international standard for managing heritage assets.”

“Sporting heritage, (formation and foundation of sporting clubs... why did a minority sport like cricket flourish in Fingal?”

About 12% of respondents made comments relating to the importance of communication and community engagement with heritage e.g., engaging and educating young people, projects with schools, and community archaeology projects. The importance of inclusion of all sectors of the community was also reflected in respondent’s comments:

“Include voices from minorities.... New and historical... LGBTQI, Ethnic minorities, Traveller Community.”

“Mythology and storytelling-as a means of inclusion in the community.”

The issue of protecting heritage during the development and planning process was raised by a number of respondents, which aligns with views in relation to the challenge that development poses to Fingal’s heritage.

“Better attempts to incorporate heritage sites as amenity space into new developments.”

“Add a minimum area of 25% as protected habitat and recreation within five Km perimeter of boundaries to housing and commercial development.”

“More strict and more extensive rules/restrictions/penalties re: developments /building/demolition in Architectural Conservation Areas in towns.”

“Must be linked to new housing developments, as these can greatly detract from the heritage agenda. “

“Protection of hedge rows during housing developments, designing hedgerows into development plans instead of replacing them with walls and fences.”

A range of methods and approaches were suggested for communicating heritage including using narrative and stories, signage, walkways, branding, souvenirs, talks, tours, demonstration days and web-based resources or Apps.

"I know there's info on the FCC site but I'd love to see a physical and digital brochure of each town that was a bit more visual and included heritage sites and their locations, historical info, trails and some stats about the town. An app for all of Fingal as well... all the info is available in one place."

Some respondents would like to see more use of the Irish language.

"More use of Irish language in heritage plans and links with school as part of their social and community education."

The importance of traditional arts, crafts and skills was also raised:

"Irish language, the old Fingal language, lost skills and trades of Fingal, crafts and skills of the area, old oral traditions and beliefs (piseog), workshops on all of the above for the secondary schools in the Fingal area."

"Include art and craft people to pass on their knowledge of old crafts making. Not everyone is lucky to get it passed on from older generations."

"Traditional skills e.g., stonemason, woodturning, coopering, old traditional building methods training. Traditional food resources locally: foraging courses inland & coastal, boat making etc."

"Ensuring that the traditional skills/process intrinsically linked to an area are not lost. Examples fishing in Skerries, Loughshinny and Balbriggan. Farming horticulture and protected crop growers in rush and surrounding areas. Links established with schools and services to share knowledge."

Some respondents made comments relating to specific towns or sites and highlighted locally relevant themes. They also proposed a range of ideas for communicating and promoting heritage in their area.

"A local Museum should be open to the public in Swords".

"Bringing more people out to Howth at night time by having cultural night etc as Howth in the past was a very busy little village but now it closes down at about 8pm."

"Conserving and Communication about heritage in the Ward Valley Heritage Park."

"In the Clonsilla, Blanchardstown, Castleknock and Ongar areas and possibly more there was a huge horse breeding and training heritage. Can we first collect the data, review it with a view to erecting a memorial, likely in Clonsilla to reflect this history. This could be a series of paintings by local artists. It could be a simple granite statue of a

horse. It could be a document with the names and locations of the stud farms and training yards..."



Heritage Plan information stand in Newbridge House, 6 May 2023

Interest in community heritage projects or training

Almost two third (65%) of respondents expressed an interest in community heritage projects or training (this includes 25 out of 27 groups/organisations that responded to the survey). The types of training and projects that respondents are interested in include archaeology, conservation, biodiversity, genealogy, local history, research, and traditional skills:

"Archaeological dig, folklore collection, place name research."

"Archaeology, digital heritage resource recording and development."

"Building Conservation and Preservation, Biodiversity and wetland/marsh rewilding."

"Ancestry / local area or parish family genealogy records."

"Learning olden days crafts."

There is also interest in local projects relating to the built and natural heritage of specific areas and to cultural heritage around the county (see full details in Appendix, Table 3).

"Any local projects in the Malahide/Portmarnock/Baldoyle/Howth area, any training on biodiversity, training or projects involving working with local community groups."

"Boat maintenance, marine themed project, community bee keeping project (St Molaga in Balbriggan theme)."

"Developing the Royal Canal, in Dublin 15, as a heritage amenity, for local and overseas tourists."

"Historical, Archaeological and Conservation of local heritage in the Ward Valley Heritage Park."

"Mulhuddart Cemetery, Shackletons Mill, Opening up Farmleigh/the silver bridge, Liffey Valley/Strawberry Beds, Liffey Valley Trail - signage, walks."

"History of Travellers as a discriminated ethnic group."

Some respondents would like to know more about the training and project options available and are open to suggestions. Other comments reflect an interest in building capacity for communicating and engaging others with local history and heritage:

"Raising and sharing the profiles of local heritage themes in my area."

"Reaching out to young people."

"Identifying heritage sites, recording, excavations and outreach to create awareness and ensure protection."

"Oral histories, digitising materials for public use (both scanning and transcription), researching a specific site or skill and writing about it for the public."

"Something hands on that allows people of all abilities to come together and learn a new skill while finding like-minded people."

3. Fingal Heritage Plan Pre-draft Consultation meetings with stakeholder groups

Fingal Comhairle na nÓg

An online consultation was conducted with Fingal Comhairle na nÓg on 8 May 2023. The group discussed their perceptions of heritage. The theme of local history was identified as having potential to engage young people and spark interest; people would be surprised by what happened in their area in the past and how this links to wider historical events in Ireland (it was also noted that the topic of local history isn't always covered in post-primary schools). Positive experiences that group members mentioned in terms of engaging with heritage included visits to heritage sites with guides who were clearly enthusiastic and could bring the past to life and having opportunities to learn traditional skills from expert practitioners.

In terms of heritage education and awareness, the group raised the possibility of projects for primary schools and it was noted that if teachers knew about local history, they could share their knowledge with pupils. The group discussed formats for providing information including social media and signage with brief text and links to additional information online. The group wondered if the Heritage Plan would include a section on youth and are interested in intergenerational projects as many of the issues that Fingal Comhairle na nÓg brings forward affect older people too.

Fingal Heritage Network

A meeting was held with the Fingal Heritage Network on 3 May 2023, in Swords County Hall. The key strategic themes that resonated most strongly with the group included conservation and caring for heritage sites and a focus on local heritage (e.g., vernacular buildings, recording oral histories, placenames). These themes are of particular relevance for the heritage and history groups that make up the Heritage Network and align with their priorities in terms of protecting and promoting the heritage of their local areas.

Other themes that were raised included food heritage (agriculture, horticulture and food production in Fingal, from local food festivals to smuggling along the Fingal coast), and sporting heritage ranging from GAA to cricket.

The issue of heritage and climate change was raised and the Heritage Network is concerned about the threats posed to heritage assets in Fingal, identified in a recent FCC climate risk assessment.

There is strong interest among the Heritage Network in engaging young people and new communities and the groups in the network are keen to share ideas and models for how to do this. A pilot project is currently underway in schools in Skerries, involving children interviewing grandparents about when they grew-up and there is interest in replicating this initiative in other areas.



Fingal Heritage Network

Fingal Heritage Forum



The Fingal Heritage Forum

A workshop with members of the Fingal Heritage Forum was held on 17 May 2023, in Malahide Castle to discuss themes and areas of focus for the Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2029, which will demonstrate cognisance of National and EU legislation and alignment with best practice, while reflecting the themes in the Heritage Council strategy *“Our Place in Time”*.

A range of key themes were discussed during the meeting including protecting and caring for heritage and supporting awareness, education and community engagement at local level. The relationships between heritage and climate change, tourism and biodiversity were also discussed. The importance of collaboration and integrated approaches to delivering actions across heritage, biodiversity, arts, libraries, tourism and enterprise was highlighted.

Awareness and access to information are key to protecting heritage and a focus on people, community and stories at local level present a range of opportunities for connecting people with heritage. Recently developed trails in Balbriggan and Castleknock

demonstrate how elements of social history, local characters, and the people involved in the development of the area, can be brought together very effectively using digital media and Apps.

In terms of built heritage and the story of how places were made, there is extensive research available on the heritage properties under the management of the Council, which was undertaken while compiling management plans. Digital methods can be used to show buildings in landscapes and people in places, or how each town and village was made in a certain way by the community.

The issue of positioning of biodiversity was raised as it is not always recognised as an aspect of heritage by the public. Opportunities exist to address this through providing a definition of heritage and showcasing or highlighting the biodiversity aspects of Fingal's heritage properties, demesnes, designed landscapes and sites in guides, leaflets and online materials. There is also an opportunity to acknowledge where heritage fits into the context of the work that's happening across the Council in the areas of arts, libraries, heritage, and biodiversity.

Engaging young people with heritage is an important theme for the Heritage Plan and will require approaches that are relevant to their lives. For example, telling stories of people and places by bringing characters to life in an interactive way can shift the perception of heritage as 'just a building'. Community-led, enterprises based around natural heritage could also be used to engage young people. Fingal Archives have extensive collections and information on local history that can support projects and initiatives for children and young people. Existing programmes for schools e.g., Heritage in Schools or Fingal Creative Schools can be leveraged to support heritage education around themes such as folklore and local history. Models of engagement and outreach could be trialled, and links developed to the biodiversity plan initiative for primary schools to engage with experts annually. To build capacity for heritage education teacher professional development could be supported through Summer Courses accredited by the Department of Education delivered collaboratively between the Arts and Heritage Offices.

The importance of heritage for tourism was raised as the primary appeals and motivations to visit Fingal are embedded in its built heritage, coastline, and urban/rural balance of living culture and festival experiences. Heritage properties and assets are key drivers of tourism (which also require protection) and can provide people with experiences that raise awareness of Fingal past and present. Integrated delivery of tourism and heritage projects can facilitate people to tell their stories. For example, developing greenways provides an opportunity for telling stories of the community along the coast, linking to towns and villages.

The development of a new food strategy for Fingal is an opportunity to support public engagement with the theme of food heritage. Rural parts of the county have rich agricultural, natural, and architectural heritage that are untapped, which can be explored under this theme.

Fingal Leader Partnership are supporting heritage themed, community led enterprise projects and there is an opportunity for collaboration on providing heritage related best practice guidance.

Responding to climate change will be a key theme across all aspects of the Councils work in Fingal up to 2030 and beyond. The climate change risk assessment for heritage is complete and includes recommendations, which will inform the Heritage Plan.

Partnership and collaboration will be an important aspect of delivering the Heritage Plan by addressing shared themes across Council departments (arts, heritage, libraries, tourism, enterprise, biodiversity and community) and through working with external stakeholders.

4. Key findings and themes raised during consultation

Respondents to the public survey recognise heritage as important for a wide range of reasons, primarily relating to an attractive historical environment, a sense of place and community, and shared social history and cultural connections. Heritage is important for wellbeing and identity and the value of heritage as a finite resource and in terms of tourism, sustainability, and economic benefit is also acknowledged.

Protecting heritage

When asked about themes for the Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2029, the vast majority of respondents to the public survey (91%), identified **conservation and caring for heritage sites** (monuments, protected buildings, historic graveyards, natural heritage sites etc) as a priority.

Over half of respondents (55%) to the survey were in favour of prioritising a **focus on heritage at a local level** e.g., vernacular buildings, recording oral histories and placenames. Not surprisingly prioritising a focus on local heritage is also seen as a key theme by local history and heritage groups involved in the Heritage Network. The **marine and coastal heritage** of Fingal was seen as a priority by 47% of respondents.

Respondents to the survey perceive the key challenges facing Fingal's heritage as pressure from development, lack of awareness or engagement and lack of funding, resources, and capacity for managing and protecting heritage. **Heritage-led regeneration** was a priority theme for 46% of survey respondents.

A wide range of sub-themes such as marine and coastal heritage, agricultural heritage, sport, food, traditional skills, Irish language and industrial heritage also emerged as valued and important during consultation.

Connecting people with heritage

Raising awareness, communicating heritage, and engaging the community (including young people and new communities) emerged as priorities for over half of respondents to the public survey. Raising awareness that heritage encompasses biodiversity, natural

heritage, cultural heritage and how people lived, can extend interest beyond monuments, archaeology, and architectural heritage.

The theme of **engaging younger people with heritage** was raised frequently in the public survey and in consultation meetings with stakeholder groups. Local history was mentioned by young people consulted as a possible theme for sparking interest. The Heritage Forum identified a range of opportunities for engaging young people through collaborative approaches that leverage the resources and capacity of the group, as well as existing programmes (Heritage in Schools, Department of Education Teacher Summer Courses).

Recording the heritage of Fingal (research, audits and inventories and research) and **training and education programmes** (traditional skills, biodiversity training) were also identified as priority themes by over half of respondents to the public survey. There is a strong level of interest in taking part in heritage projects or training among respondents and a range of suggestions for site specific heritage initiatives from Dublin 15 to the North county.

Climate change, which is a theme across all aspects of Fingal County Councils policies and operation to 2030 and beyond, was identified as a priority by a significant number of respondents to the public survey (41%) and was also raised in consultation with the Heritage Forum and Heritage Network. The climate change risk assessment for heritage is complete and can inform the Heritage Plan.

Heritage is a key driver of tourism in Fingal and integrated approaches to delivery of **tourism and heritage** projects can support accessible and inclusive community engagement. **Heritage based community-led enterprise** projects also offer potential in this regard.

Appendix 1. Survey responses (open-ended questions)

Any personal or identifying details included by respondents to the survey have been omitted.

Table 1. Other priority areas and themes

Would you like to suggest any other area/theme to be included in the Plan that is not listed above?
A local Museum should be open to the public in Swords.
Active community engagement in local heritage for all ages. Better attempts to incorporate heritage sites as amenity space into new developments.
Add a minimum area of 25% as protected habitat and recreation within five Kms perimeter of boundaries to housing and commercial development.
Agricultural heritage of Fingal. Fingal has been feeding Dublin since Medieval times by virtue of fertile soils, temperate climate and expertise and tradition of Fingal farmers. This is not mentioned.
Agricultural Heritage Celebrating Heritage e.g., Fingal Heritage Week whereby entries are discounted.
Ancient crafts.
Arts & Cultural initiatives to activate heritage visibility across a range of themes.
Assistance in securing buildings or rooms in existing buildings/libraries for storage and displaying of collections that would be accessible to the communities.
Assuming 'resourcing heritage' theme includes staff and internal resources as well as resources to maintain and conserve existing heritage, Also given some recent heritage finding using drones etc - inclusion of this for Fingal would be useful *it may be included under 'Digital heritage and innovation' already?
Biodiversity and heritage.
Bringing more people out to Howth at night time by having cultural night etc as Howth in the past was a very busy little village but now it closes down at about 8pm.
Coastal - Lighthouses.
Community Archaeology.
Conserving and Communication about heritage in the Ward Valley Heritage Park.
Destruction of the natural environment and existing building footprint based on Global Investor Led/Speculative Development in Mass Density/Height in construction of unaffordable and unsustainable housing that that is beyond the average family income.
Development of designated heritage villages at the heart of our suburbs.
Development of historic sites.
Did you consider narratives, short stories about living in Skerries. In the 1960's and 1970's I spent all my summer holidays there, all good memories. I still return to Skerries to simply walk around and to recall those days. Consequently, I have completed a short story on the nostalgia of remembering Skerries.
Don't actually understand all of the above, a little vague what they are?
Educate young adults on the importance of heritage sites and monuments. They are not there to vandalise, set fire to or graffiti.

Education of young people re Heritage.
Ensuring development doesn't negatively impact built or natural heritage.
Ensuring that the traditional skills/process intrinsically linked to an area are not lost. Examples fishing in Skerries, Loughshinny and Balbriggan. Farming horticulture and protected crop growers in rush and surrounding areas. Links established with schools and services to share knowledge.
European Commission Culture funding such as "Heritage-Pro".
Everyone knows that we are a people with more and more elderly people. We need accessible public toilets. Ones that use to be open in railway stations and on north beach Skerries are now closed. The new dart wagons I hear have no toilets. It is a long way from Greystones to Malahide. This lack of toilets limits where we go. One of the cubicles in the toilets on the South beach Skerries has been closed since last July. Throughout August and early September, there were queues outside in the evenings during good weather. The man who cleans them told me this very morning that he has reported it several times. Someone is not doing their job!!!please PLEASE GET IT FIXED BEFORE THE GOOD WEATHER.
Fingal forest.
Fingal Heritage Branding.
Further resourcing and developing community archaeology projects, like Swords Castle Digging History project and the current Digging Drumanagh projects.
Gaelic Language, Gaelscoil schools in Fingal with little Gaelic language community events.
Genealogical research with the recent visit of the president. North Dublin has a lot 24 villages and lots of hotel capacity so it might be a good idea to push this type of niche tourism. A lot of Americans may trace their history outside of Dublin but there are so many branches to families there must be a lot of ancestors from the Dublin area.
Habitat protection and sanctuary areas for birds, plants and wildlife.
Heritage centre.
Heritage in the sphere of Lifelong Learning.
Heritage led regeneration and the ability to engage existing and new communities are particularly relevant to Fingal.
Historic landscapes.
Historical walkways e.g., the Great Famine Walk.
I feel having worked in heritage all my life that we don't secure our built heritage as we should. Specifically, around Dublin 15 a number of planning permissions have been granted without concern for the historical buildings that are being damaged or deemed not listed.
I know there's info on the FCC site but I'd love to see a physical and digital brochure of each town that was a bit more visual and included heritage sites and their locations, historical info, trails and some stats about the town. An app for all of Fingal as well where all the info is available in one place.
I would suggest creating heritage souvenirs e.g., books containing photos and facts, postcards, greeting cards, memorabilia, framed photographs etc.
I'd like to see information plaques in local parks on the types of trees in the park and were relevant information on old houses or farms in the vicinity.
Improved infrastructure, more information on heritage sites.
In the Clonsilla, Blanchardstown, Castleknock and Ongar areas and possibly more there was a huge horse breeding and training heritage. Can we first collect the data, review it with a view to erecting a memorial, likely in Clonsilla to reflect this history. This could be a series of paintings by local artists. It could be a simple granite statue of a horse. It could be a document with the names and locations of the stud farms and training yards. It should include Greyhounds as well. For example, the only Greyhound to win the Irish Derby three times, 1953, 1954, 1955 was Spanish Battleship. His trainer Tom Lynch trained him in Blanchardstown. We also have Greyhound Pub

where totally by chance I met Tom's son. Greyhounds were exercised in fields behind the Greyhound Pub for years.
Include art and craft people to pass on their knowledge of old crafts making. Not everyone is lucky to get it passed on from older generations.
Include voices from minorities.... New and historical... LGBTQI, Ethnic minorities, Traveller Community. Incorporate focus on emerging heritage and enrichment from newer Fingal community...I feel sometimes Facebook area pages (not run by Fingal) don't reflect how diverse our communities are... Also, maybe attention to how events, spaces, narratives can be disability friendly and inclusive.
Include 1. Industrial and transport heritage 2. Cultural and lifestyle heritage
Inclusion of community groups in buildings of heritage.
Inland waterways -canals-Deep Sinking.
Intangible Cultural Heritage.
Intangible heritage.
Investigate and evaluate low tide or offshore sites.
Irish language, the old Fingal language, lost skills and trades of Fingal, crafts and skills of the area, old oral traditions and beliefs (piseog), workshops on all of the above for the secondary schools in the Fingal area.
Keep the snapshots theme that was so wonderful in 2021. More Digital Heritage projects essentially building on what has been worked on but focussing on buildings and institutions no longer in existence in Fingal e.g., Kenure House, The Tideway Cinema, The Palladium, Red Island, the Good Old Days venue, the carnival that used to visit Rush each Summer so Heritage Network can help preserve these images and information online as well as in books. Also perhaps physical photo exhibits in similar modern buildings as a nod of respect to the days gone by i.e., the Palladium and Tideway photos in the Millbank Theatre, Red Island in Blue Bar or Joe Mays. "Make your wall a window into the past" Heritage office has done amazing work with key local landmark signposting also which has generated great interest and local pride as well as education and would love to see more of this.
LGBT inclusion and history of LGBT people from Fingal.
Linkage/ connection with local schools.
Living heritage - traditional skills at work/in action; fairs like Viking Village; school engagement in heritage sites.
Living history.
Main points covered.
Make Blanchardstown and Castleknock pedestrian only as in Malahide. Otherwise 30 kmph.
Making people aware of the importance of our environment and ultimately enjoying our surroundings.
Making the heritage of the future, raising awareness that what we do now must be of value now and into the future.
Malahide Town has a lot of heritage, but Fingal has neglected the Graveyard and Band room in Yellow Walls Sea road. Fingal has also neglected a very important building in Malahide castle grounds, Lime Kiln. Caves marsh sea road is a very important site and it is said that is was here that Vikings once landed here and there salt pans, sea mill.
Martello Towers used as a resource- part of the built and historical heritage. Keeping them "idle" only invites neglect.
More local museums in Fingal.

More strict and more extensive rules/restrictions/penalties redevelopments/building/demolition in Architectural Conservation Areas in towns.
More use of Irish language in heritage plans and links with school as part of their social and community education.
Must be linked to new housing developments, as these can greatly detract from the heritage agenda.
Mythology and storytelling-as a means of inclusion in the community.
New Heaven Mesolithic tomb.
None I can think of other than spreading this important initiative to the other local authorities in the country.
Not aware of them but being aware and protect them for future generation would be good.
Old houses.
Preservation of towers, thatch cottages, main streets. Martello towers, lifeguard boat houses.
Probably the approved planning for high density tall storey apartments at Pinnock Hill. A lot green area (with history) will disappear. And any other green area that's developed on (beside Tesco Holywell). There's a little Holy well there that I hope is documented in the new cultural quarter.
Promote existing heritage despite being ruled by U K and explanation of names.
Promoting historic and archaeological sites as places to visit for local people with information about them on site and online, based on Leave No Trace principles. Connecting such sites to national history.
Promotion of our national sports, a central part of Irish heritage. Further resources are required such as pitches that can be used through winter and during hours of darkness. This will afford the opportunity to all citizens to play our national games.
Protecting our heritage.
Protection of hedge rows during housing developments, designing hedgerows into development plans instead of replacing them with walls and fences.
Protection of natural heritage.
Protection of waterways e.g., ditches and smaller rivers servicing water in rural areas to animals and gardeners. Preservation of local small areas like wells along roadsides and village pumps and telephone boxes.
Public education of Fingal history and heritage, primarily through print and web with associated talks, tours, and demonstration days.
Publish exactly where local heritage sites are located.
Reconnect with our past by prioritising and preserving local heritage.
Restoration of damaged buildings.
Restoration of historic buildings for use in community today, e.g., building in St. Ita's brought back to life for local community.
Restoration should be a strategic theme. Look at the great example of restoration work on the old medieval city walls in Tallin in Estonia and the unique economic vibrancy of the old town area as a best-in-class international standard for managing heritage assets.
Saving Biodiversity.
School programs and visits.
Spread the word about Fingal heritage.
Hedgerow protection.
Schools/ education.
Showcasing our incredible heritage. Building pride in our heritage.
Sporting heritage, (formation and foundation of sporting clubs and why, i.e. why did a minority sport like cricket flourish in Fingal?) economic historical heritage such as Mills, fishing etc that brought new communities to Fingal in previous centuries.

Sports Facilities.
Talks with elderly local people about life back then.
The area around the old Clonsilla school house should be kept for the community and not sold off to highest bidder. The land around it has been hacked from external contractors and only for residents protesting, they would have destroyed more of the area. Fingal did nothing to stop it happening and would very doubt they fined them either.
The ward valley needs to be fenced off and protected not turned into another "amenity".
There is a lot of neolithic sites in Fingal. I would love to see them protected and highlighted.
To recognise the Neolithic nature of Rockabill Island and promote it.
Tourism including making heritage sites financially sustainable.
Traditional skills e.g., stonemason, woodturning, coopering, old traditional building methods training. Traditional food resources locally: foraging courses inland & coastal, boat making etc.
We can look at other similar countries and learn from their ideas, or mistakes.

Table 2. Challenges facing Fingal's heritage

What do you think are the biggest challenges facing Fingal's Heritage?
A heritage office staffed by only one person.
Achieving genuine engagement with local heritage groups. Developing a holistic vision for Swords based on convincing historical and archaeological evidence.
Acts of vandalism and destruction by landowners and property developers.
Adequate funding.
All the housing developments being allowed, without proper infrastructure or enough engagement with local communities.
Anti-social behaviour.
Apathy, Lack of awareness.
Apathy.
As ever Financial support.
At present the Heritage Office simply does not have sufficient staffing to cover continual development management/planning related matters, mitigating the effects of climate change on our heritage, delivering a thorough Heritage Plan and engaging with communities across the county.
Awareness.
Awareness and public engagement.
Awareness of the heritage plans.
Awareness of the heritage within communities particularly amongst young people needs to be strengthened and maintained.
Balancing the support for housing needs and protecting the environment and wild life habitat in that area.
Being active across the county. Dublin 15 area is dominated by over-development, and roads. Little effort has been made to resource heritage here to the same extent as coastal Fingal.
Being taken for granted.
Budget and Planning laws.
Budget constraints.
Budget to prioritise investment in protection, preservation and promotion of site.
Builders.
Building.
Building too much in the area, historical sites being destroyed. Ruining for future generations.
Buy in to regeneration aspects.
Challenge to preserve & restore natural heritage when population is increasing, & in the face of climate change and reducing biodiversity.
Change in culture and new infrastructure.
Changing plans all the time.
Climate change, increased urbanisation. lack of community awareness/pride of place. Need more links to our roots.
*Climate Change *Economic challenges and lack of affordable - public housing.... People's focus can become narrow if they feel left behind, forgotten, neglected, creating a disconnect with care for environment, Community. Suburban communities now have more young people staying in their parents' homes and local amenities, social spaces, art and cultural events, activities need to be inclusive and mindful of their needs... *Sometimes suburban spaces and local events can feel suffocating and restrictive in what is both available and can nearly be run without cognisance of

the diverse young adult population in communities.... LGBTQI visibly friendly spaces, visibility, and inclusion of cultural diversity. *Marrying an appreciation of Fingal's past heritage to our more multicultural present and future....
Climate change and lack of public awareness of heritage on their doorstep.
Climate change and potential droughts - need to prioritize completion of scheme to pipe water from Shannon.
Climate change generally and lack of awareness of impact on the environment, anti social behaviour.
Climate change, Derelict and unused buildings, erasure of nature.
Climate change, lack of public awareness.
Commercialism. Lack of respect for biodiversity and history.
Commitment to preserving local buildings at risk.
Communicating all the great work being done behind the scenes.
Community awareness.
Community awareness and financial resources.
Community awareness and participation.
Competing demands and limited resources.
Connecting all the heritage sights in Fingal as a tourist destination, an example is the Norman Way in Wexford. Lusk has more heritage than most towns in Ireland yet there is nothing to inform people, no sign posting, no information, nothing.
Conservation & activating engagement with newer communities especially in places with significant archaeology like parts of D15.
Conservation & budget limitations.
Conservation and repair.
Conservation of the sites.
Conservatism, apathy, risk adverse.
Conserving our built heritage against development.t
Consistent funding for example Bremore Castle's renovation was stopped and started so many times that there's a danger that the initial renovations may need to be done again!
Convincing people of the importance of our heritage.
Coordination of everything to do with Heritage and rolling out of same.
Cost of maintaining historic buildings v need for modern development.
Costal erosion.
Covering all areas of Fingal and not simply particular areas.
Creating more information and awareness of local heritage sites, keeping them as vandal free as possible. Trying to educate people more about their local communities and how they can help.
Cultural intrusion from USA and Britain. Local accents (another important part of Irish heritage) are being lost by the influence of foreign TV shows on children. Proximity of new housing to heritage sites is also a risk to our built heritage.
Definitely, in Clonsilla (Dublin 15) it is encroachment by development, on the Royal Canal and on vernacular heritage.
Demand for houses... over populating the area.
Demographic changes.
destruction of green belts and nature for housing estates and business parks, also climate change is going to be more severe than expected.
Developers and Fingal planning Dept, no consistency sadly what developers want they get especially when it comes to Rush/ Lusk Needs to be stronger fines and planning laws need to be put in place.

Developers generally have the capita behind them to hire consultants to frame an argument for maximising a site, regardless of what assets (constraints) may be present on the site. Unfortunately, those that perhaps value our built heritage/assets, being individuals or communities personally invested in a place, may not have the same resources to counter many arguments, collectively.
Developers!
Development.
Development and too much infrastructure.
Development companies are generally in it to make money, to maximise the development potential of a site and profit margins.
Development encroachment.
Development management, climate change, sufficient funding to resource heritage.
Development of Apartment blocks on historic lands without Geo and Archaeological survey and protection.
Development of housing estates without proper planning and sensitivity for the local villages and environs. These more than anything else change the community and not for the better. Also loss of folklore attached to the landscape, local features including fairy trees, wells, springs are usually wiped out.
Development projects overriding heritage.
Development, climate change.
Development, climate change, lack of funding.
Development, funding.
Development, funding.
Developments close to historical buildings and monuments.
Diversification of the area which is then diluting the interest in the younger generations of what came before them. We need to marry the new with the old so both can thrive. We need to link in with the Irish language schools of Fingal (6/7 of them) both primary and post primary as this is a key element in promoting and saving our culture and heritage, as a teacher in an Irish language school in Fingal I would be happy to promote local heritage and culture and I'm sure the other teachers are the same.
Dublin 15 has had the highest concentration of housing development in the country for the past five years. It once was a rich landscape of Demesnes and local villages, and yet Fingal is refusing to protect the few remaining historic structures, which help give local communities a sense of identity and connection with the past. The odd preference of the protection of WW2 bunkers, over unique Time Capsule Keane's cottages and the Clonsilla Forge, is both unfair (with Swords clearly favoured over D15 by the exec officers) and misguided, as these precious buildings will surely be demolished with the next ten years without listing in the RPS.
Economic pressure.
Educating new arrivals on Irish history and heritage.
Encouraging community to care and have respect for our heritage.
Encouraging local interest.
Encouraging younger generations to engage in heritage.
Engaging future generations in the importance of heritage to ensure the sites are protected.
Ensuring sufficient staffing and resources are provided to the Heritage Officer to enable full potential of Fingal's Heritage Plan.
Environmental pressure.
Ever-increasing land development (for houses, factories, etc. when the developer ignores potential historical sites.

Excessive development in Fingal.
Fast paced development not taking time to consider heritage.
FCC not adhering to timescales and understanding importance, loss of funding due to political interference at local and national level.
Finance.
Finance.
Finance, Priorities.
Finances.
Financing conservation efforts.
Finding practical ways to keep it alive and protect old buildings.
Fingal County Council apathy.... Not focused on what we have and what we will lose...
Fingal County Council employees and Councillors voting for things that go against the very nature of what heritage is!! Ruining the lands that they are supposed to be supporting. The environment on the Royal Canal Greenway is slowly being obliterated. Flora and fauna being removed without a second thought.
Fingal County Council should consider making provision for assembling a Heritage Team within the council, composed of the existing Heritage, Conservation and Town Regeneration Officers and complimented by additionally employed staff. Consideration should be given to employing an additional 4/5 staff members to compliment a heritage team, perhaps including additional skillsets to complement existing staff e.g., an additional anthropologist/researcher, Surveyor/GIS Specialist, UX designer/digital heritage assistant, Assistant Public Outreach Officer, Conservation scientist.
Fingal has great staff doing a great job, but it seems to be understaffed and underfunded, a lot more public participation/involvement in local projects like the Heritage digs with Christine Barker.
Fingal is big and the road network is not great. Funding projects that can be easily access and that benefit large numbers can be difficult.
Fingal's built heritage is certainly challenged by development pressure. As the county grows and inevitable development opportunities arise, so too do challenges in how our built heritage resource is managed. Often our built heritage assets, streetscapes, village scapes, landscape features, structures, ensembles, urban grain and vernacular structures (either protected structures or safeguarded under policy in the development plan/national policy) do not have the same level of value placed upon them by developers, as communities may hold for such assets.
Funding.
Funding.
Funding.
Funding and awareness.
Funding and engagement of local people.
Funding and political interference by vested interests inside and outside the state.
Funding and resourcing and impacts from a changing climate and extreme weather events.
Funding and time.
Funding for long term projects and protecting any funds awarded legally.
Funding, access to sites on private land. I find included of natural heritage confusing in this context. Where is line of responsibility between Parks including Biodiversity officers, Environment, Operations and Heritage?
Funding, bringing awareness to all but especially the younger generation. Providing relevant jobs to develop & grow this area to that is so important as part of our identity.
Gating of properties that blocks access to the general public and locals to their heritage sites. Examples are Corr castle and now possibly Aideen's grave with the fencing that is erected around

Deerpark with private security blocking access to the park. The rights of way of the locals have been decimated by gates and other methods. I grew up in the area, so I have first-hand knowledge of the walking routes around Sutton and Howth many of which have been blocked off.
Generating interest from public for fundraising.
Getting across its value to each generation.
Getting people to love and take care of our heritage.
Given the extremely broad meaning of what heritage is, all that it encompasses and how heritage influences most aspects of our daily life, there is an onus on us, morally, socially and for future generations, to ensure, not only the protection of our heritage, but to ensure a dialogue with our heritage as a continuum. There needs to be increased resources to ensure the heritage of our county thrives as the county grows.
Globalisation.
Gross neglect of local heritage by Fingal CO. CO.
Habitat destruction/degradation.
Heritage and values of the past is not integrally linked to modern life, it's an 'add-on' for a small number of enthusiasts. If it continues on this path, the heritage value will be forgotten. This is especially so in relation to the agricultural heritage of the area. It's not even mentioned in a drop down menu of 14 areas of heritage.
Heritage can sometimes be seen by certain people as something niche, something which can be put in a box and unfortunately, sometimes, as something secondary. This cannot be further from the truth - in actuality, heritage is everything, its, our crafts/skills, traditions, language, stories, folklore (our intangible heritage), our monuments, archaeology, buildings, artefacts, landscapes (our tangible heritage), qualities of place, crops, breeds, biodiversity, geology - it's us, our identity.
Heritage-led regeneration.
History goes back before independence.
Housing development.
Housing Developments.
Housing developments, coastal erosion.
Human disregard and impact on environment. Agriculture, pesticides, plastic rubbish.
I feel there isn't enough support or education on the topic.
I think a big challenge would be educating people about it. Not many people know anything about Fingal's Heritage.
I'd say funding. And trying to make it affordable for people. And also preserving thatched houses in Fingal. Not many left.
Ignorance and lack of appreciation, uninhabited Heritage buildings allowed decay.
Imagine how many hurdles/challenges which our county faces that could be surmounted if additional resources in the form of staffing were provided to the Heritage Office. There is potential, through outreach/education to bring about a cultural change and protect and enhance the county's heritage to the highest possible level if additional staffing and resourcing are made available.
In reality the Heritage Office needs to be better equipped by the LA through additional resourcing/staffing, so that the many challenges can be tackled and so that the highest level of ambition of the Fingal Heritage Plan can be met.
Inadequate resources to sustain and manage the heritage expectations and needs of Fingal.
Incremental loss of heritage through development of lands in the county, lack of awareness leading to lack of interest contributes to this (less public pressure to preserve/maintain/protect), cost involved in upkeep of protected structures, rapid change in society - without collecting the stories of the older generation, a way of life would be lost.
Indifference.

Indifference.
Integration.
It is in this entrepreneurial approach, or culture, that our built heritage assets (or character of a place) become secondary to self-interests.
Lack of access for the public to heritage sites and artefacts.
Lack of accommodation therefore old buildings being demolished to make way for new.
Lack of adequate funding perhaps to maintain conservation, raise awareness/train communities about local history and heritage.
Lack of attention and ideas surrounding ruins.
Lack of awareness.
Lack of awareness about the Heritage within Fingal.
Lack of awareness and appreciation of these sites are probably what I would say. I think to connect with other communities still groups to develop sense of community to protect and make them aware of would be great.
Lack of awareness in the building industry and amongst the public over appropriate interventions, materials and maintenance of historic structures.
Lack of awareness of local heritage and history, protection of biodiversity, maintaining historic sites.
Lack of conservation, lack of joined-up thinking.
Lack of digital resources. I don't see much on line but I do remember a lot of handsome booklets.
Lack of funding.
Lack of funding.
Lack of funding from central government. Not enough promotion from relevant stakeholders.
Lack of funding, engagement with new communities, historical societies etc seen as for "old people" - need to find a way utilise digital resources/particularly in schools and from 5th/6th Class on.
Lack of incorporation of old into new.
Lack of interest in local heritage....
Lack of interest/awareness. Lack of engagement of experts with communities.
Lack of investment in D15.
Lack of knowledge.
Lack of knowledge in community.
Lack of knowledge of local heritage and pressure for modern development.
Lack of knowledge. Seminars on Fingal Heritage.
Lack of maintenance. Example you were given the Irish Potentilla collection. It was planted up in Ardgillen, but allowed to be overcome with weeds, and when I asked for a leaflet about it was told that there was not any. You did not reprint them nor train the staff about this wonderful collection of plants.
Lack of protection.
Lack of public understanding/interest.
Lack of resources - a heritage audit of all villages would ensure a comprehensive plan for promoting, preserving, and educating Fingal residents and national and local visitors to the amazing history heritage and folklore of the area.
Lack of resources and information, events not being repeated.
Lack of resources, vandalism, lack of public transport.
Lack of support.
Lack of support from the local Council.
Lack of understanding and funding.

Land "development" destroying our heritage.
Land containing potentially significant heritage sites being over farmed or considered for commercial development purposes.
Local volunteers.
Losing heritage as urban development grows.
Losing the little-known historical sites/quirks. May only known by collection of local data (verbal history anecdotes). I refer as well to the more recent history. A lot of people are very nostalgic about their Swords roots & would love to see some of the more recent history represented.
Loss of heritage and local knowledge / sites due to overdevelopment and poor planning.
Maintaining voluntary interest in younger generations more dependant/interest on technology who will not write things down. Accuracy/robustness of storytelling being diluted due to a lack of interaction with older community members.
Maintenance of the canal.
Making people aware of the vast heritage in our area.
Management of heritage sites. I believe the management of heritage sites may be better served through direct management rather than the current out-sourcing model.
Massive expansion and building of new houses without investing in culture and community.
Money.
Money.
More houses being built, heritage getting left behind.
Neglect.
New housing which will change the look of the area, will clash.
New, poorly planned housing developments, of which there are many.
No ideas.
Not a lot of people know it.
Not being connected to other efforts / plans.
Not enough young people interested in gathering historical memorabilia etc.
Not making funding multiyear, forcing bodies to start and stop activities each year.
Our Built and Natural Heritage face extreme challenges and often measures which are required to bring about improvements to our environment and built heritage are reluctantly acted upon due to various barriers and a lack of understanding of opportunities/resources available to landowners. Opportunities to engage with landowners and impart advice on opportunities for protecting, conserving, and enhancing our built and natural heritage would be highly beneficial. Material science demonstrations, conservation techniques, energy performance in our built environment, landscape restoration education trips/community projects (stepping into the biodiversity realm, although there is no definitive line) community archaeology, recording projects are extremely valuable projects which brings about a ripple effect/change.
Our county is rapidly growing, with that comes increased development management, particularly with regard to our built, natural, cultural and archaeological heritage resources, to ensure coordination of development in line with the vision for our county. The executive must ensure that the resources grow to cater for this additional demand - so that the qualities of our place(s), the character of our areas and our distinct identity is sufficiently managed and protected.
Over building in Howth is its biggest problem not one-off sites. Tecrete, Deerpark, Balscadden and other large sites when built will destroy Howth as we used to know it. Shame on the council for letting this happen they will destroy Howth forever. But then again money talks.
Over development.
Over development of warehouses and roads through areas of historical significance.
Overbuilding.

Overdevelopment of new infrastructure.
Overdevelopment surrounding important buildings, housing pressures causing demolitions and re developments. Climate chaos.
People.
People/developers.
Perhaps Finance, funding, and planning.
Personally, I feel the divide between Ireland Ancient East and Dublin being separated for heritage purposes.
Planning decisions which have already caused destruction or have the potential to destroy sites of huge cultural and environmental importance e.g., the removal of 100 yr + trees on Station Rd. Portmarnock and other parts of Fingal and the proposed gddp which, if it goes ahead, will have enormous negative impact on Baldoyle Bay, Dublin Bay Biosphere, the Fingal beaches, Lambay and Ireland's Eye. Alternative localised reed and willow bed solutions will lock carbon into the ground and be far more effective and environmentally safe than pumping effluent into the sea.
Planning decisions, lack of museums on main streets, inhabitants not identifying with Fingal as a county or home.
Planning legislation.
Political commitment.
Pollution from litter, not much knowledge on what's in the area.
Population and greed.
Population growing. Young people not as interested. Need to reach the younger population in different ways to older population.
Population increase and people diversity inclusion.
Preservation of heritage sites.
Preserving coastal environments.
Pressure for development.
Pressure to deliver new housing rather than use existing building stock.
Pressures of funding for multi culturalism and diversity projects taking away from funding for our Irish heritage.
Priority given to conserving and preserving all aspects of Fingal's Heritage. With other "greater needs" being prioritised Heritage gets pushed to the back of the queue.
Private companies and growth of Fingal.
Probably cost.
Promotion of the heritage Fingal has to a broader audience who do not know of it/don't expect/realise it is there.
Proper funding.
Property Developers.
Property developers.
Property developers, time and community spirit.
Protecting biodiversity.
Publicity.
Quite simply, as the county grows, so too should it's resources.
Raising and maintaining community engagement; alignment with national and international sustainability targets; inclusiveness across multiple communities and demographics in Fingal.
Raising awareness.
Rapid development.
Resources.
Resources and finance.

Resources and funding.
Resources both capital and personal.
Resources to maintain heritage not in place before development of new buildings.
Rising sea levels and consequent coastal erosion.
Speed of conservation to avoid further decay.
Spreading the development of heritage resource branding across Fingal and integration of heritage with Fingal Coastal Greenway.
That engineering constraints are allowed to have precedence resulting in valuable and historical sites being bypassed.
The building boom where buildings that should be listed are being knocked down. Also we need to educate young people in a more modern fun way than a lot of current museums/ heritage centres do.
The challenge Fingal faces is ensuring that polices guide development in a sustainable manner, that enforcement ensures protection of our built heritage assets (and landscapes) and most crucially that the resources, particularly a sufficient level of staffing, is there to ensure that development can be guided/managed as growth increases the demand for these services.
The development of houses with little or no regard to the surrounding area. Removing open spaces and focusing on building is reducing the areas left with heritage. This has led to a bias within areas that have been over developed and have negative views of Fingal Council.
The Fingal council.
The LA needs to provide additional staff and resourcing to deliver the highest standard and best possible outcome of achieving all of the Heritage Plan and to meet as many of the objectives of the County Development Plan as possible.

Table 3. Community Heritage Projects or Training that respondents are interested in

Community Heritage Projects or Training that respondents are interested in
Adopting a building, local heritage trails, recording local oral histories.
Agricultural Heritage of Fingal.
Ancestry / local area or parish family genealogy records.
Any.
Any.
Any.
Any and all available.
Any local projects in the Malahide/Portmarnock/Baldoyle/Howth area, any training on biodiversity, training or projects involving working with local community groups.
Any projects to promote or support tourism, or the celebration of the history of Fingal.
Any training including site surveying. Interpretation etc. Also, archaeological digs etc.
Any type. I want more extra circular and to learn more on the topic because this survey made me realise, I know little on the topic.
Any. Recording data, preservation etc.
Anything.
Anything I could do to help.
Anything related to archaeology.
Anything related to historical preservation.
Anything related to the archaeological heritage of Fingal.
Anything that promotes local history in a positive way.
Anything that will raise awareness of our heritage and the need to protect it.
Anything that's practical and useful in some way or other.
Appropriate landscape treatment of heritage sites in public areas.
Archaeological dig, folklore collection, place name research.
Archaeology and local history projects.
Archaeology, digital heritage resource recording and development.
Archaeology, heritage awareness activities, events.
Archaeology, old/ancient buildings.
archaeology...history.
Archaeological.
Archaeological and historical.
Archaeology and artefact preservation including photographs. Preservation of oral storytelling.
Archaeology/Environment.
Architectural Heritage.
Archiving of historical documents and collections.
Archaeology if I could spell it.
Awareness, education, outreach to young people.
Biodiversity - promoting abc protecting hedgerows.
Biodiversity training.
Biodiversity, environmental, habitat restoration and conservation.

Boat maintenance, marine themed project, community bee keeping project (St Molaga in Balbriggan theme).
Bringing historic building back into use for community.
Building Conservation and Preservation, Biodiversity, and wetland/marsh rewilding.
Clean up and Conservation (volunteer).
Climate related project. Have brought the kids down to previous FCC 'Big Digs' and archaeological excavations which they loved.
Coastal heritage.
Coastal heritage.
Community archaeology.
Community Archaeology.
Community cleaning.
Community protection projects.
Connecting people to their land and heritage. It just virtual but experience the connection as a place-based task.
Conservation.
Conservation of graveyards, community archaeology.
Creating local area heritage action plans.
Cultural heritage and Development of Fingal cultural hub.
Developing heritage awareness in my town.
Developing the Royal Canal, in Dublin 15, as a heritage amenity, for local and overseas tourists.
Don't know until I see what is available.
Drumanagh, sadly it's just being left there and still no visitor centre.
Educating communities on how to protect their local heritage sites and monuments.
Educating younger generations about the importance of our landscape in our ancestors - and our - lives. (Four knocks, Faery Rings, Beaches, etc.)
Education, local history.
Engaging, working with and supporting communities.
Environmental preservation.
Environmental protection and awareness.
Environmental sustainability.
Environmental/sustainability and regeneration projects.
Training related to above; engagement & communication; policy writing.
Every year I participate excavations during Heritage week.
Funding and how to create ideas for heritage developmental & protection.
Funding the replacement of lost heritage by engaging with third level colleges universities and Technology Groups. Design Plan and Construction of significant Architectural structures destroyed or neglected by local authorities.
Heritage conservation, making people aware of our heritage and what it is through historical tours of our area.
Heritage plan/trail for Blanchardstown Village and surrounding areas, Old Scaldwood Training in compiling local plans/trails.
Heritage-led regeneration. Training and community engagement workshops with the newly formed regeneration office perhaps in conjunction with Ali Harvey from The Heritage Council. National and local policy sets out specific objectives and a general approach.
Historic building. Climate change challenges.
Historic interest.

Historical, Archaeological and Conservation of local heritage in the Ward Valley Heritage Park.
History of traveller as a discriminated ethnic group.
History, archaeology, biodiversity.
History/Language place names/environment.
How to engage with local communities about our heritage.
I am interested in recording of local oral histories and projects that could bring historical derelict buildings back to use as an appropriate functional space.
I said yes, but as it is, I do not live in Skerries, but would be interested in the development of the project.
Identifying heritage sites, recording, excavations and outreach to create awareness and ensure protection.
If there was ancient craft training available, I'd enjoy that.
I'm open to hear more. I'm interested in the local community, heritage & resources.
Industrial heritage is an area of interest that is often overshadowed by natural and cultural heritage. In particular Balbriggan's textile industry but perhaps also consider opportunities for promoting/researching transport heritage from aviation, railways, canals, motorsport etc.
Interested in archaeology/ history.
Invasive species removal, fruit and native tree education, more Allotments inside the town and village areas that do not need cars to attend, Gaelic language club, community bird watching documenting.
Keeping heritage of local villages.
Learning more about the Royal Canal habitat-wildlife and history of its land along the canal.
Learning olden days crafts.
Local History.
Local history, especially notable locals.
Local monuments/areas.
Locally.
Looking after the ward valley and improving its biodiversity without turning it into an accessible dog walking park.
Maintaining holy wells.
Marine and costal projects.
Mulhuddart Cemetery, Shackleton's Mill, Opening up Farmleigh / the silver bridge, Liffey Valley/Strawberry Beds, Liffey Valley Trail - signage, walks.
Natural heritage and Gaelic.
Natural Heritage Surveying Projects.
Not aware of any at the moment but would be interested to hear more.
One related to Blanchardstown and Clonsilla.
Open to all heritage related training, both cultural (main interest) and Natural heritage.
Oral histories, digitising materials for public use (both scanning and transcription), researching a specific site or skill and writing about it for the public.
Place and field name mapping and research, archaeological digs.
Preparing a heritage map and literature for Ballyboughal.
Project/training around old local crafts and piseoga, stories from the oral tradition, and anything to do with the Irish language or the old Fingal language.
Projects restoring or maintaining heritage sites. Interested in training in heritage in general.
Promotion of the importance of Neolithic sites of sites in Fingal.
Protecting current amenities about to be built on.

Providing access, protecting the heritage sites and buildings, and researching historical data.
Raising and sharing the profiles of local heritage themes in my area.
Reaching out to young people.
Recording buildings for prosperity....
Research.
Research.
Research, mapping, presentation.
Research and data collection...
Research, Guide work.
Restoration.
Restoration and art and building conservation.
RPS.
Signage and information are of utmost importance to ensure the future of our history and heritage of local sites. Education of younger members of our community as to the history and heritage of their areas.
Something hands on that allows people of all abilities to come together and learn a new skill while finding like-minded people.
Something to do with sustainability.
St Columba's towers.
Stone, wood, planting trees.
Sustainability of initiatives.
Talks/seminars on the history of settlements, built heritage in the county, social history.
-The community digs. -An art-based community project would be really interesting with either schools/adult groups or both. -Any type of training regarding the social and cultural histories connected to the sites would be great.
The three elements used to describe historic heritage are Fabric, Stories and Culture. One or all of these things make up the historic heritage of a place. Heritage skills specialists work to protect, conserve and maintain older and traditional buildings, from houses to palaces, churches to ancient monuments, traditional farms to industrial buildings.
Trade, construction, regeneration.
Traditional skills preservation Archaeology.
Traditional skills training.
Training young people.
Typing admin recording.
Vernacular buildings.
What is available? I am a professional facilitator so could support initiatives.
Wildlife conservation.
Would need training.

Table 4. Additional Comments

Additional Comments
<p>I believe there is huge potential for creating a community heritage space in Portmarnock which would include information on local environmental/heritage sites, walks or cycles, guided tours and local history courses. It could also include a cafe and shop selling local arts, crafts and artisan foods which could also be used for poetry/ singer songwriter evenings, exhibitions, talks etc. The basement of Lidl or the Scouts Hall would be ideal locations. As our community grows with the new developments, I believe it is important to assist in the integration of new residents, in particular new immigrants, by giving them a sense of place. I came to Portmarnock via Finglas and Blanchardstown and lived through the social upheaval and disadvantage, much of which was caused by lack of resources and social infrastructure for young, growing communities. I'd imagine the same social problems might occur in Portmarnock in a few years if we don't provide resources and opportunities for social integration and only focus on the physical infrastructure.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Our railway line could be used to more advantage i.e., Greenways. •Most importantly preserve the beautiful railway bridges (to have dismantled the hand cut stone bridge at Skerries Golf Club & replaced it with what's there was terribly wrong). •Take example from English bridges.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Keep and conserve our old stone walls ... both private ones and public ones. Big high stone walls and high pillars have been levelled in Skerries to facilitate totally modern buildings, in the Architectural Conservation Area. 2. Keep and conserve the old kerbstones in our towns. These have often been removed /dumped during water leak repairs etc.
<p>A generation ago, every citizen of Dublin knew of the importance of Fingal in producing food, and animal feed (hay and oats for horses used for transport) This was the case for Millenia. The weed bank of the fields of North Dublin harks back to a time that these 'weeds' were in fact crops that were consumed by Fingal people. Over the course of 25 years, this knowledge has been wiped away in the push for cheap food policy.</p>
<p>A lot of heritage across Fingal is on private property. Opening up the likes of Dunsink Observatory will take a lot of investment in the short term but would reap incredible rewards locally and nationally.</p>
<p>Actual laughable that you have a heritage plan when Fingal Council have been destroying the local Blanchardstown heritage.</p>
<p>After living abroad, I returned home to Fingal appreciating more than ever before the beautiful beaches, parks and heritage buildings that we all have access to free of charge on our doorstep. The proximity to Dublin City and Dublin Airport, and a national network of motorways makes Fingal an amazing location for holiday makers and visitors. I don't think we celebrate it enough. I think that our coastal communities (apart from Howth and Skerries) could do with better investment and planning to make the best of their resources, but not at the expense of their local charm. Loughshinny and Rush for instance would benefit from more attention.</p>
<p>Artificial intelligence is something of concern for our future, advancing human emotional intelligence is essential to protect ourselves from being abused by owners of AI. I believe resourcing and leading the network of heritage activists we have is critical for our future quality of life. I recommend that a strategy to do this should be informed by ISO9000 seven quality management principles and groups should be encouraged to learn and apply these principles in running their groups.</p>
<p>Bigger tidy towns support.</p>
<p>Bring awareness to local groups of importance of local heritage, even smaller sites and provide funding to protect these.</p>
<p>Bring community into projects in voluntary capacities, as individuals not just Tidy Towns groups</p>

Can you prioritise near ruins instead of giving the same places money. No are money to Ardgillian and Malahide etc. fix Balrothery towers, Martello towers, Swords castle. I know iccomos states do not rebuild but the job done to Balriggeran/ Balscadden is amazing. Can the same people now fix Balrothery and Swords?
Careful consideration given the impact on nature and the environment, to any tourism focused initiative by the Council.
Each village and town should have their own identifiable heritage sites clearly marked. Good signage and key information given for passers-by to read. As an example, I am interested to learn more about Feltrim Mill on the Feltrim Road. It would be good to have a plaque or photo signage with the history of the site located near it so this bit of local heritage is easily accessible to people. I'm sure there are many other small local sites in Fingal that could benefit from the same.
Financial assistance for thatched dwellings crucial/ insurance.
Fingal commitment and record on heritage research and action is very good.
Fingal County Council needs to properly fund and resource its heritage. Fingal has the fastest growing population in the country and the youngest population. Fingal, being the wealthiest local authority in the country, has perhaps the best opportunity to safeguard and protect its heritage out of all of the local authority areas in the country. Fingal should increase its funding for heritage, to keep our unique cultural heritage and built heritage alive for future generations. Fingal has the opportunity to not only preserve its heritage, but to have a young population who engender their distinct Fingallian heritage, continuing the rich cultural legacy of the county. As a county with so much rapid urbanisation and development there is a risk of distinct places being lost to placelessness. Arguably, Fingal's heritage is under much more pressure than other areas in the country and as a result Fingal County Council needs to adjust it's budget to ensure the very identity of the county is preserved and can be kept alive for future generations.
Funding for cultural heritage and protection such as provided by organizations i.e., UNESCO.
Further development of best practice guidelines on heritage management based on evidence-based research would be great.
Good luck with the new plan.
Good luck with your Project.
Great idea this survey and more inclusion of local residents' association directly will help with communities being more involved.
Great that you consult us and best wishes of success.
Heritage officer ought to have a team.
Heritage themed competitions for primary and secondary schools, events locally, similar to young scientist where students research local heritage/oral history of older generations. Displayed in community.
I am passionate about local and national heritage but am concerned about the threats to some of our most iconic sites such as Bremore Neolithic cemetery, which is the only such site in Fingal and, in conjunction with Fourknocks may have timeline and other linked association with the Boyne Valley sites of International significance.
I am very glad to see this kind of survey being sent out to the people of Fingal. I hope you get a great response from old and new residents.
I believe (and I am an Irish speaker) that the Irish language is more of a heritage language than cultural language. To most people.
I did a council-sponsored tour of Naul a few years ago. It cost €5 & was most informative and enjoyable. More of this please.
I previously noticed an old stone building in a town centre garden was removed & the garden left idle: can more be done to record such old structures before they are secretly demolished?
I think the libraries do a great job but they could be more training in the area of genealogical research.

I think the work of the Heritage Office is fantastic and really vital to Fingal and hope it can get more recognition and resources to help with raising awareness of the work and plans with the latest Heritage Plan over the next number of years.
I think the works in Ushers Wood is great. I lived there all my life but only since it started getting developed would I feel safe walking there alone.
I would like to see complete transparency in relation to FCC and heritage sites...
I'd like to see faster commitment to work and faster completion times.
I'm interested in the preservation/restoration of the Tower House attached to St Patrick's Church of Ireland on the Square, Donabate.
Increased access to historical sites e.g., burial ground and Abbey in Malahide....tantalisingly close!!
Irish language promotion needs more resources. An Irish language hub in a main town would be beneficial. Conradh na Gaeilge are trying to develop such a network of centres.
It is disappointing that the Old Clonsilla School House site is not being preserved and the cluster of buildings including the Old Keane Cottage adjacent - particularly since these dwellings and buildings date back to pre and post famine Ireland - a significant and poignant time period in Irish history. The Old Keane cottage is depicted on the 1st Irish Ordnance Map. Ordnance Survey Ireland has evolved from the original Ordnance Survey of Ireland, which was established in 1824. This office was initially part of the British army under the Ministry of Defence. The Ordnance Survey of Ireland was created to carry out a survey of the entire island of Ireland, for the purpose of updating land valuations for land taxation purposes. The original survey at a scale of 6 inches to 1 mile was completed in 1846 under the direction of Major General Thomas Colby. Ireland thus became the first country in the world to be entirely mapped at such a detailed scale. There is an inherent conflict of interest between state bodies who on one hand have been chartered with the protection of our historical monuments & buildings as part of public service but on the other hand are being assumed into new more commercial and business functions under the various Acts.
It's an important part of community capacity building.
Keep up an obair maith!
Keep up the good work.
Knocksedan Inn House post box stolen after being mentioned on Facebook, houses being built without sufficient preservation of local landmarks e.g., Lord Mayors.
Local graveyard needs to be cleaned up and researched archeologically.
Local Heritage branding presents an opportunity for spreading economic development opportunities across the rural areas of Fingal. Heritage plans need to integrate with digital opportunities in order to ensure strong communications for both visitors and residents of Fingal.
Love to know how much solar power is used in heritage projects.
Lusk has some of the most fascinating heritage of any town in Ireland, from Iron Age settlements, our local church building spans three different historical periods, early Christian, medieval, 19th century. We have one of the finest medieval tombs in Europe, connections to Emer, Cuchulain's wife, a medieval town structure that is unique in Ireland, vernacular buildings etc, most of which is locked up and not even known about by the local community. Fingal has one of the busiest airports in Europe, we can attract weekend visitors from around Europe and within 20 minutes could be visiting all these smaller heritage sights around the county. Heritage is one of Ireland's biggest selling points and in Fingal we do a very poor job of selling it. If the tombs we have in Lusk where in France for instance, Irish people would be excited to go see it, yet in Lusk these magnificent medieval tombs have been locked up now for years and not even known about by people living in the town.
Lighting poles in the centre of the paths on Skerries Rd this has caused huge issues for walkers, wheelchair users etc this will prevent a safe route to Drumanagh.

More local museums would be very positive for local communities and for tourism. E.g., A town the size of Balbriggan should have a local museum. These are to be found in many much smaller communities e.g., in Ballyferriter and Ballina.
More promotion of projects, event's, research happening.
Most local historical and archaeological societies tend to attract primarily older age groups as members and attendees at lectures. There is a need possibly through more interaction with schools to attract younger age groups.
Needs to be a scheme to designate "heritage" villages of the county. Castleknock, Swords, etc, identify heritage buildings, conserve them, restrict modern planning in those locations etc.
Of course will welcome new initiatives, but historically there has been little effort from the Council to invest and restore built and natural heritage in Dublin 15. Shackleton Mills is an expensive white elephant. Shackleton Gardens are nice but are small in size and impact. Old Porterstown National has been left to rack and ruin, and developers have been allowed free reign with all of the historic 'mansions' in the area. Has one been saved and restored to it's original condition? One green artery, the Royal Canal, is not being protected from adjacent over-development. Compare the number of heritage properties managed by the Council in both coastal Fingal and Dublin 15?
Our county is growing, so are the challenges which face our Heritage. Fingal County Council needs to step up to the challenges and provide staffing and resources to ensure the protection and development of our heritage.
Our heritage needs to be protected and communities aware of what's on the doorstep.
Participated in Community Archaeology digs at Swords Castle and Drumanagh and thoroughly enjoyed it.
Perhaps more Media coverage of these very positive developments.
Place names and their origin and relevance.
Planning laws need to protect heritage including hedgerows.
Plant more trees, build up instead of out.
Please protect Dublin 15s few remaining historic structure, while there is still time.
Please stop building apartments in the town of Swords.
Replacement theory.
Resource increases are needed - Our Heritage is our identity which needs to be protected and developed.
Some areas in Fingal may have lost the visual remains of their heritage... i.e., Clonsilla, a rich heritage of horse racing, breeding, training, of jockeys, farriers and forges. Little remains today and we are fighting to get one of the last forge buildings listed! This heritage could be brought back to life, centred on Lohunda Lodge. My dream is to see a sculpture of a horse being shod by a farrier, whilst a trainer/ jockey looks on.
Some important sites are forgotten and no indication of those in local sources.
Some information about the former Hartstown House located in what is now the Hartstown Park would be nice to see along with the current upgrading. A museum perhaps in Ongar about the stud and Rita Hayworth.
Stop building on big sites as both Sutton and Howth cannot take it. Stop people parking illegally on small roads during the summer. I live in [location] and 1 day last summer it took 40 minutes in the car to get home from the village.
Thank you for consultation and work done by Fingal Heritage.
The biggest challenge for Fingal is the large population growth. Most people coming io live in Fingal don't have a connection. They rightly, have immediate concerns such as family and housing needs. Most are likely to be working further away. So perhaps FCC could target the

recently built estates with a prominent communication or advertising. It may ignite some 'newbies' interest in their new surroundings.

The heritage / archaeology sector in Ireland are responsible for promoting the preservation of heritage by way of studies, research, books and academic papers etc and do not make heritage accessible to the mass public - it smacks of intellectual snobbery. Fingal County Council do very little to show case heritage in an immersive - physical - tactile- visible way. My expectation is that Fingal CC will produce a leaflet or a social media post about heritage and consider it job done and ignore the opportunity of bringing heritage assets into everyday use, and ironically vernacular heritage of the built environment degrades and dereliction spreads like a virus.

The Heritage officer is doing brilliant work, keep it up!

The old school in Clonsilla!

The recently renovated church at St. Catherine's, Rush and little castle beside it need some form of interpretive signage.

The rich heritage in Fingal makes it a very desirable and enjoyable place to live. Raising awareness of this heritage through community engagement has the benefit of developing citizens that will protect and value what is available to them. This has huge benefits in protecting heritage and developing community spirit.

The work that has been done on houses on St Ita's avenue shows how we can be sympathetic to the history of a building, it's place in our community's history while also making it useful and practical for families today. I would love to see this approach expanded into other vacant buildings in St. Ita's to create spaces for communities and families to use.

There is such a huge wealth in the Fingal area of heritage and this is beautiful area is being subjected to trying to address the housing crisis. If you look at the distribution of the Palmer estate lands, now all currently being allowed to be built on with micro estates with no cohesiveness or attempts to preserve the heritage that remains. There is also the very significant Silent loss of the rural farming community. Fingal was unique in having protected crop growers that have just about disappeared. The last Irish pepper grower stopped last year, and it caused barely a ripple, yet a huge loss of knowledge and skills have gone.

There needs to be a fully staffed heritage office, more staff to cope with the wide range of needs.

There should be more experience and learning for schools available. Heritage in schools experts should be funded by the government and not rest on the shoulders of the schools to pay for these experts to come into schools.

There should be more local public awareness of the protection to Heritage sites. Commercial enterprise interest should not override the heritage of our towns.

This is all about the skills sets that made Fingal working living and self-sufficient for a few hundred years so with one thousand acres of public lands and construction of a working village paid for by the new data centres and using waste energies the market gardens and contribution to energy costs would be a fantastic achievement.

This process is great. I can see the huge impact that investment in heritage is having on Fingal communities in recent years. Thank you.

To ensure finance is available.

To restore and preserve the unbelievable history that Knockedan/ River Ward area of Swords has to offer. Instead of urbanisation house after house right up to the edge of Dublin airport. Look at restoration of the ancient forts, wells, bridges and even undiscovered history. Fingal needs not to lose it's sense of identity and character instead nurture the pride of its past.

We in the Ward Valley Heritage Group have now amassed quite detailed inventories of historical heritage sites, principally in the Ward Valley Park but also around Swords and it's environs. The challenge facing any cultural revival in Swords is to link together ALL the elements that have constituted to shaping it's history and that of it's people. These are cultural narratives that fit together to produce a convincing and real historiography of our great town and it's inhabitants

down the years. Among these heritage themes I would cite:

*The Prehistory of Swords. The Ward Valley is full of artefacts from much earlier inhabitants.

*The landed gentry and their houses around Swords, e.g., Viscount Robert Molesworth have impacted hugely on the town we see today. They also gave much-needed employment in the area.

*There is world-class heritage to be found in the Ward Valley Park. This would make the area very appealing to activity-based walking heritage routes.

*We have completed 5 bespoke and guidance Walks on the Ward Valley Heritage Park.

*We have just published 6 acclaimed Visitors Brochures on the Ward Valley Heritage Park.

The Ward Valley Heritage Park is both the biodiversity, historical and cultural 'lungs' of Swords. Any convincing holistic narrative of Swords needs to place this Valley at the centre of the inquiry.

We would like help with preparing a heritage brochure for Ballyboughal area.

What will happen to Clonsilla school house and surrounding wildlife and the habitat and history in the deep sinking as this needs to be protected for future generations as it is so unique and amazing and historical.

When a project is mentioned and grants available start the project as soon as possible. Publicise it to keep the momentum going, otherwise people can lose interest.

While development related pressures do impact heritage, so too does time. There is an immense wealth of knowledge out there held by older generations, whether it be stories/intangible heritage practices, folklore, observations on built heritage and indeed our changing environment - our older generations hold invaluable recollections of our heritage. Recording, interviews, research, community projects, such as field names, social history projects or even just recollecting and reflecting on the past is extremely important. Time, along with development, climate change and other unknowns poses a great challenge to our heritage. Equally too does technology.

While there are benefits to our seemingly unlimited connectivity, in some respects, on a traditional human level, we, at times seem even more disconnected. The art of conversation is not what it used to be before our lives were dominated by screens and with this we seemingly preoccupy ourselves with 'content', while time passes on.

In some respects, I am concerned that intergenerational communication, storytelling, conversation, folklore and casual/circumstantial passing of knowledge is somewhat more limited by the new norms of society which we practice (as a whole). To mention the dreaded 'go to' reference, again, of the 'times of the pandemic', we yearned for social interaction and to get back to 'normal' and in person events, although, in some sense, we have long-since drifted from our more traditional norms, to a much greater degree. There is immense benefits of technology as a tool, however, as people, we should ensure in-person collaborative participation events take place as much as possible, as sometimes older generations may miss out on opportunities for sharing knowledge and insight. Again, resources need to be there to support this as much as possible, such as staffing and providing for heritage activities in terms of capacity. Our older generations play such an important role in transmuted our heritage to our younger generations and Fingal County Council can play an important leadership role, providing a conduit to facilitate this.

There is nothing worse than the regret of missing opportunities to chat to older generations about the past - when it is too late to do so. Just like our DNA fragments as we age, so too do aspects of our heritage when direct links and lineages are broken, and characters pass away. There are known knowns and unknown knowns. While climate change poses a considerable risk to our heritage resource, so too do other threats which may be less visible or under particular focus.

The situation of declining water quality across the country (/world) is extremely concerning. While the EPA, advocacy groups, communities and local authorities monitor water quality, this is often infrequently or on a quarterly basis - a lot goes on under the radar, diffusing through the veins that are our county's rivers and avoiding the river sampling regime. According to research done on our ancient cultural traditions, such as the Brehon Laws, it is evident that in the past we placed such importance on our natural world. Specific protections was given to trees and various aspects of our environment/ecology. Rivers, through their folklore associations were given godly/goddess like importance. Rivers, which sustained life, providing for nourishment for early settlers who settled and formed the origins of communities, some of which survive today, have become secondary to the advanced communities which they once sustained. A shift from a source of nourishment to a route for drainage has occurred and unfortunately the development of many communities has facilitated our backs being turned on our rivers. As a result, water quality is declining. With that so are our habitats, biodiversity, fish stocks, intangible traditions such as leisure/swimming in rivers and angling heritage. Environmental protection is crucial to keeping certain aspects of our heritage & traditions alive.

Why are the windmills in Skerries not kept working. After all they use wind power.