



## NATIONAL LANDSCAPE FORUM 2015

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (9.00am to 5.00pm)

Venue: National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9

*Bringing together all key players & stakeholders in our landscape to identify issues, challenges, priorities, objectives & potential solutions to drive the implementation of the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025*

On the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1995 the National Landscape Forum first convened in response to a civil society call for a National Landscape Policy. The forums convened regularly until 2005 to inform and drive the national agenda with regard to sustainable landscape management. In March 2002 Ireland signed and ratified one of the most integrated Council of Europe conventions – The European Landscape Convention (ELC) Florence 2000. Whilst initially official there was a limited understanding of the convention and a poor level of public awareness-raising and engagement, the work of the Heritage Council and changes to our planning and development legislation in recent years suggests a growing recognition of its importance culminating in the arrival this year of a National Landscape Strategy (NLS) - see <http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/Heritage/NationalLandscapeStrategyforIreland> for strategy and all public consultation submissions received – the latter marking a welcome step towards more open governance. The strategy outlines a range of actions and an overlong 10 year timeframe!

Strategy documents are worthless unless they are resourced and implemented with the requisite sense of urgency. Civil society must be transparently engaged with/in the process. Such awareness-raising and civil engagement are at the heart of the ELC and are vital to ensure that delivery mechanisms and methodologies are accepted, respected and effective. A National Landscape Strategy is but one very overdue step on the road to implementing the ELC. Landscape Alliance Ireland (LAI) is not convinced that government appreciates that the hard work is yet to come!

Thus the National Landscape Forum is being convened to provide citizens with the democratic opportunity to demonstrate that our landscape - in urgent need of our shared attention 20 years ago is now on the critical list. Much time has been lost in the interim and unnecessary damage inflicted on our landscape. This forum will consider priorities, landscape objectives, potential solutions, the requisite resources and timeframes, & begin the difficult process of achieving consensus on how best to conserve our landscape heritage and guide, sustainable development and change.

The forum platform is open to all points of view, but presentations/interventions must of necessity be short (6 or 3 mins) & to the point to facilitate all viewpoints being voiced. Landscape embraces most sectors of society – see overleaf for an indicative list. All are invited to attend and participate.

**\*\*\*Advance booking is essential as venue capacity is somewhat limited\*\*\***

**LAI acknowledges with thanks the assistance of the Department of Arts, Heritage & the  
Gaeltacht in the organising of the event**

**Sectors that should be represented at the forum:** ● Active Concerned/interested Citizens/NGO's ● Planners ● Heritage folk ● Landscape folk ● Geographers ● Landscape Architects ● Architects ● Geologists ● Horticulturalists ● Arborists ● Artists ● Landowners ● Farmers ● Foresters ● Utility providers energy/telecoms/water/waste ● Industrialists ● Mari-culturalists ● Multi-culturalists ● Fishing Folk ● Archaeologists ● Poets ● Educationalists (all levels) ● Environmentalists ● Historians ● Politicians ● Engineers ● Walkers ● Hill climbers ● Ecologists ● Naturalists ● Climate Change folk ● Cartographers ● Agronomists ● Peatland folk ● Historians ● Tourism folk ● Urbanists ● & all others

**Forum Programme** (with comfort breaks for tea/coffee and lunch\*)

<b>9.00 – 9.30</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>9.30 – 11.00</b>	<b>Session 1</b>	<b>90 minutes - 11 x short (6 + 2 min) presentations</b>
<b>11.20 – 12.30</b>	<b>Session 2</b>	<b>70 minutes - Forum open to the floor (3 min limit)</b>
<b>1.30 – 3.00</b>	<b>Session 3</b>	<b>90 minutes - 11 x short (6 + 2min) presentations</b>
<b>3.20 – 4.50</b>	<b>Session 4</b>	<b>90 minutes - Forum open to the floor (3 min limit)</b>
<b>4.50 – 5.00</b>	<b>Closing Address</b>	

**\*Lunch:** Please note that lunch is not included in registration fee, options include Botanic Gardens, café, nearby hostelryes and cafes/delis – or bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the wonderful gardens.

**Information for intending speakers:** The National Landscape Forum in the '90's extended to 3 day events and even then did not manage to accommodate all the themes and issues that merited investigation, discussion and resolution. The scope and depth of the challenges we face today is even more extensive so a one day forum can only serve to identify and briefly illustrate the issues, the urgency and the often conflicting positions of players and stakeholders that must be faced up to if the NLS is to be seen to serve any useful function. We therefore appeal to speakers to adopt a bullet-point style for their presentations with very brief explanations. It is envisaged that the issues raised and solutions offered will inform the agenda for future forums, workshops and conferences that must of necessity form part of the NLS implementation process.

Prospective speakers have two options - short 6 minute presentations (power-point slides if used must not exceed 5 no.) OR short 3 minute interventions from the floor. We urge speakers to condense their presentations/interventions to one side of an A4 sheet. Those wishing to use power-point slides must send them to LAI in advance. **(Provisional Speakers List on LAI website - mid June)**

- **Rules of the Forum:**
- All points of view are entitled to be heard
- Personalised references and insults are to be avoided
- Objective: consensus solutions respecting both the common good & the personal rights

**Getting to the Botanic Gardens & Car Parking facilities:** participants should (where possible) use public transport or car-share as **car-parking at the Gardens is limited & charged at € 2.00 per hour.** To minimise disrupting visitors to the gardens & facilitate forum participants LAI has arranged for all day parking (**30 spaces**) at Na Fianna GAA Club on Mobhi Road – (10 min walk). Public Transport options include Bus Routes 83, 4 & 9. **Route 83** is the best option for train users – take Luas to Four Courts and get **83 Bus** on Church St. Refer to [www.botanicgardens.ie](http://www.botanicgardens.ie) for more info incl. maps

**Useful Publications:** Many LAI & CoE landscape publications will be available free at the Forum.

**National Landscape Forum 2015,  
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin D9  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Forum Booking Form**

**Please book in advance**, returning this form by e-mail or post (details below)

Name: .....

Organisation (if applicable): .....

Address: .....  
.....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Expected mode of travel:      Public Transport/bicycle/foot                       Car

***If travelling by car please see note overleaf re parking limitations/arrangements***

Do you wish to address the forum      YES -                       NO -

If so will it be:

A. 6 minute presentation – Session 1 or 3                     

or

B. Short contribution to open sessions 2 or 4                     

Topic (optional): .....

**Forum fee: € 25.00 with € 10.00 concession\*\* rate – lunch not included (see \* Page 2)**

\*\*Concession rate - Students, OAP's, Unemployed, NGO members & interested active citizens

Please remit by cheque (payable to Landscape Alliance Ireland) or pay cash on day. We regret that we do not have facilities for payment by credit/debit card; but you may pay directly to the LAI bank account (IBAN - IE11 BOFI 9026 4510 4693 12      BIC - BOFIE2D)

Purchase O. No. – if applicable:.....

*Completed booking forms should be returned to:*

**Landscape Alliance Ireland,  
Old Abbey Gardens,  
Waterfall,  
Near Cork City**

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