



## National Landscape Forum 2017

Abbeyleix, Co. Laois Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017

### LOCAL COMMUNITIES & THEIR LANDSCAPE

*'Place, Space, People & Planet'*

This year's landscape forum marks a significant development in the evolution of the forum with it being hosted by the dynamic, progressive **Civic Community of Abbeyleix (2017 *Entente Florale entrant*)**. The theme chosen is intended to facilitate an in-depth exploration of the close interactive relationship between communities and their landscape as we work together to meet the challenges of managing our landscape responsibly, creatively and sustainably to deliver a high quality of life for present and future generations. Abbeyleix and its hinterland will provide a tangible living stage-set for the exercise. The forum aims to find effective ways of converting the aspirations of our national and international strategies and conventions into action where it matters: in the local living place and space where natural processes and human activities interact to shape our shared landscape and planet. The forum is being convened in the context of the aims and objectives of:

**Our National Landscape Strategy • European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000 • National Planning Framework 2040 • UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development • Council of Europe Strategy 21 for Cultural Heritage • Convention on Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, Faro, 2005 • Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022.**

Outline Forum Programme: **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Open evening forum following overview presentation to maximise community participation; **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Full day programme featuring presentations, field visits, workshops and open forum all based on the themes of the natural, the settlement, the cultural and the farmed landscape. The forum platform is open to all points of view focusing on identifying issues, priorities & solutions. Landscape embraces the whole of society, the forum is a democratic mechanism to reconcile diverse personal perceptions. Participation is free but advance booking is strongly recommended to ensure a place & facilitate planning workshops and field visits.

**Sectors invited to participate in the forum include:** • Active Citizens • voluntary organisations • 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 • Tourism folk • Urbanists • & all others

**The forum is an IPI/ILI Structured CPD event** *Forum details, programme & booking form overleaf.*

## **Information for intending Participants & Speakers** (check websites for updates)

**Abbeyleix Forum Landscape Circle:** The 2017 forum geographic focus is a 50km radius circle centred on Abbeyleix – communities & their landscape concerns within that circle are particularly welcome.

**Speakers from the floor please note:** To facilitate maximum participation at the open forum on Thursday & workshops and final plenary session on Friday time slot for speakers is limited to 5 mins.

**Rules of the Forum:** All points of view are entitled to be heard • Respectful listening and dialogue • Objective is to agree consensus solutions respecting both the common good & property rights.

**Venue:** All plenary sessions and workshops will be at the **Abbeyleix Manor Hotel** – Forum B&B rate - Thursday €55.00 single, € 73 double - contact 057 8730311 or [info@abbeyleixmanorhotel.com](mailto:info@abbeyleixmanorhotel.com)

**Dress Code:** Sensible walking shoes are recommended + weather wear suited to the day's forecast.

**Fees:** Thanks to the support of DAHRRG, Laois Co Co and the Heritage Council there is no forum fee.

**Travel Advice:** Public transport by train or bus services will get you to Portlaoise, please note on booking form your arrival time in Portlaoise & we will try to link you with car or taxi sharing options.

### **Programme: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** – evening open landscape forum

7.00pm – **Registration** at Abbeyleix Manor Hotel

7.30pm – **Introductory Presentations**

8.00 – 9.00pm – **Open Forum**

### **Programme: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** – Presentations, Workshops, Field Visits, Reports & Conclusions

8.30am – **Registration** at Abbeyleix Manor Hotel

9.00 – 10.40am – (Plenary) **Opening Address, Keynote Presentations, Q & A session**

10.40 – 11.00am – Break for Tea/coffee

11.00am – 1.00pm - **Field visits – 4 options**

**'A' Settlement Landscape** – Abbeyleix town

**'B' Natural Landscape** - Abbeyleix Bog

**'C' Cultural Landscape** – Heywood Gardens

**'D' Farmed Landscape** – Talbot Farm

    ('A' & 'B' on foot, 'C' & 'D' by bus)

1.00 – 2.00pm break for light lunch.

2.00pm - 3.40pm – **Workshops - 4 options**

**'A' Settlement Landscapes**

**'B' Natural Landscapes**

**'C' Cultural Landscapes**

**'D' Farmed Landscapes**

3.40 – 4.00pm – Break for Tea/coffee

4.00 – 6.00pm – (Plenary) **Workshop/Field Visit Reports, Open Forum and Closing Address**

Participants are invited to consider & recommend how best to manage our shared landscape taking account of inclusive concepts such as: The importance of *all* landscapes • Principles of Sustainability • Participation by all • Aesthetic quality • Communal Health • Legal frameworks and guidance • Education and training needs • Nature and biodiversity • Cultural Heritage & Diversity • Social integration • Accessibility • Economic viability • Political and community support • Climate change & Global warming •