

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UIBH FHAILI

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

**BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2024
AND HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2024**

Offaly County Council wishes to invite applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024 and Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2024, as operated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Built Heritage Scheme seeks to encourage the leveraging of private capital to invest in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve Protected Structures and in certain cases those within Architectural Conservation Areas and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. The Historic Structures Fund assists with works to safeguard structures or parts of structures in immediate danger of significant deterioration and seeks to conserve and enhance historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public. **Applicants cannot avail of funding under both the Historic Structures Fund and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in the same year.**

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2024 will be administered by Offaly County Council. Grants of between €2,500 and €15,000 may be awarded, with applicants required to provide a minimum of 50% of total costs. Applicants should read the guidelines and be familiar with the qualifying criteria and conditions of the scheme and must include photographs of the proposed works in their application.

The Historic Structures Fund (HSF) will also be administered by Offaly County Council. The total funding available for each individual project shall not exceed 80% of the total project cost. It is a requirement of the Historic Structures Fund that the applicant engages an appropriately qualified conservation professional to oversee the work. **Stream 1** will offer grants **from €15,000 up to €50,000** and is aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works, the Department will consider only 3 applications per local authority from private owners or community groups and 1 application for a public building. **Stream 2** offers grants **from €50,000 up to €200,000** for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects. Only 1 application per local authority from private owners or community groups and 1 application for a public building can be put forward, where a) a clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated or b) a clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary).

Stream 1, Historic Shopfronts sub-stream – to incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts each Local Authority is invited to submit 1 additional application under Stream 1 for eligible essential repairs and 1 application for Irish-language shopfronts.

Vernacular Structures Stream will offer grants **from €5,000 up to €10,000** for conservation repairs to non-protected vernacular buildings to safeguard the structure and keep them in use. A grant of over €200,000 may be awarded in exceptional circumstances where a case is made by the applicant in relation to the significance of the project and the works proposed. Only 1 application per local authority can be put forward.

A suitable Method Statement drawn up by a competent conservation professional must accompany all applications received under Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund.

Application forms and particulars for the above schemes are available to download on www.offaly.ie or alternatively hard copies can be obtained from Offaly County Council, Heritage Department, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly (057 9346800) or by email to BHIS@offalycoco.ie or HSF@offalycoco.ie All applicants must complete the Application Form and submit it, with supporting documentation in electronic copy by **4pm Thursday 18 January 2024.**

Applications must be clearly marked **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024/Historic Structures Fund 2024** and emailed to BHIS@offalycoco.ie. Or HSF@offalycoco.ie **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Ann Dillon
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