

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UIBH FHAILI

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

**HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND 2025 &
BHIS HISTORIC THATCHED BUILDINGS STREAM 2025**

Offaly County Council wishes to invite applications under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2025 and Historic Thatched Buildings Stream (HTBS) 2025, as operated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Historic Structures Fund seeks to assist the conservation and enhancement of protected structures and buildings and works to safeguard structures or parts of structures in immediate danger of significant deterioration for the benefit of communities and the public. The Historic Thatched Buildings Stream seeks to protect the conservation and heritage value of historic thatched roof buildings including dwellings and other structures. **Applicants can only avail of funding under one of the following schemes, the Historic Structures Fund, Historic Thatched Buildings Stream and the Built Heritage Investment Scheme in the same calendar year.**

The Historic Structures Fund (HSF) will be administered by Offaly County Council. Grants **from €50,000 up to €200,000** can be offered for larger enhancements, refurbishment or reuse projects, 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). Applicants are required to provide **50% of the total project cost**. In exceptional circumstances, a higher percentage may be sought subject to a maximum of 80% grant. It is a requirement of the Historic Structures Fund that the applicant engages an appropriately qualified conservation professional to oversee the work. The Department will consider only 3 applications per local authority from private owners or community groups and 3 applications for public buildings. Grants may be phased over two years.

The Historic Thatched Buildings Stream (HTBS) will also be administered by Offaly County Council. Grants **up to €20,000** may be awarded, with applicants required to provide a minimum of 20% 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.

A suitable Method Statement drawn up by a competent conservation professional must accompany all applications received under the Historic Structures Fund and Historic Thatched Buildings Stream.

Application forms, criteria 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 or hard copy by **4pm Friday 17 January 2025**.

Applications must be clearly marked **Historic Structures Fund 2025** or **Historic Thatch Buildings 2025** and emailed to BHIS@offalycoco.ie or HSF@offalycoco.ie. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Andrew Murphy
Acting Director of Services,
Planning Department