



## Architectural Heritage Fund **STITCH IN TIME GRANT**

### Grants for Minor Repairs & Conservation Advice Reports



#### WHAT IS THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND 'STITCH IN TIME' GRANT?

Fingal County Council operates a grant scheme on an annual basis to assist owners towards the cost of minor repairs or maintenance works to Protected Structures, proposed Protected Structures or historic buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas that enhance the place or street. Other historic buildings may be considered but priority will be given to those with statutory protection. To ensure that owners are appropriately advised on the works required to their property the scheme can also be availed of for the production of building condition reports/surveys, method statements or specifications by conservation professionals to identify and prioritise works that adhere to best conservation practice.

#### ELIGIBLE STRUCTURES

- Protected Structures
- Proposed Protected Structures
- Historic or Older Buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) that enhance the place or street
- Rural and Urban Vernacular Buildings
- Non-designated Historic Buildings
- Industrial Heritage Structures
- Maritime Heritage Structures
- Military Heritage Structures
- 20th Century Architectural Heritage Buildings (rare or distinctive building types)

Buildings or structures with statutory architectural heritage designations of Protected Structure or within an ACA will be given priority when allocating funding. For all other structures the applicant should provide in writing an explanation along with photographs as to why the building or structure merits considered under the scheme.

#### WORKS — TYPE OF WORKS THAT QUALIFY

The scheme is targeted at small-scale works where the costs fall under €5,000. There are other conservation grant schemes for medium-sized or large-scale repairs. The types of work that would be eligible for the Stitch In Time Grant would be minor repairs to the original or historic physical fabric of the building where these follow best conservation practice of repair using appropriate

materials, matching like-for-like. Also, works that help protect or extend the lifespan of the historic material can be funded or those that support a traditional building craft/skill such as thatching, stonemasonry or stained glass artistry. Examples of works that would be eligible include:

- Patch repairs to thatched roofs
- Blue-stoning of thatched roofs
- Minor repairs to natural slate roofs (e.g. fixing slipped or broken slates)
- Chimney repairs
- Repair of lead or copper roof valleys
- Repair of sections of cast iron rainwater goods (gutters and downpipes)
- Fanlight repairs
- Iron railing or gate repairs
- Lime mortar or lime render repairs
- Repair of stone gate piers or boundary walls
- Minor historic door or windows repairs, including repair of window surrounds, doorways, historic timber shop or pub fronts.
- Repairs to internal decorative features such as plasterwork, fireplaces, staircases.

In certain circumstances the re-instatement of a feature that had previously been removed may be eligible but photographic or documentary evidence would have to be provided for this to be considered.

#### REPORTS—CONSERVATION ADVICE/SURVEYS

For requests for funding for conservation advice and reports applicants must select an experienced conservation professional with proven and appropriate conservation expertise to produce the conservation report, survey, method statement and/or specification. The documents should conclude with recommended conservation measures, with prioritisation for the outlined works. The professions of architects, surveyors and engineers operate conservation accreditation registers which can be found on the websites of RIAI, SCSi and Engineers Ireland. For other conservation professionals a statement of their relevant conservation qualifications and demonstrated conservation experience must be provided with the application. The proven experience of the conservation professional in an integral part of the assessment of the application.

To accompany the application:

- Details of the conservation professions accreditation or statement of conservation qualification and demonstrated conservation experience.
- An outline by the conservation professional of the content of the proposed report should be provided with the application form. (For guidance on what should be contained in such a report see Historic England direction on Conservation Report Structure <https://historicengland.org.uk/content/docs/advice/conservation-reports-structure-mar18pdf/>)

On competition of survey/assessment

- Copy of the Final Report needs to be submitted to Fingal County Council's Conservation Office as evidence before the grant can be paid. It is recommended that when the initial draft of the report is produced that the Conservation Professional consult with Fingal's Conservation Office so that any comments can be considered prior to finalisation of the report.
- The Final Report should conclude with recommended conservation measures or works. These should be prioritised based on significance and urgency.

#### GRANT AMOUNTS

Grants of 50% to max 80% of the total cost of the eligible works may be awarded.

**Minimum Grant €100 Maximum Grant €2,500**

Please note that payments of the grant will be by electronic transfer only and so successful applicants will need to provide the Council with bank details to facilitate this.

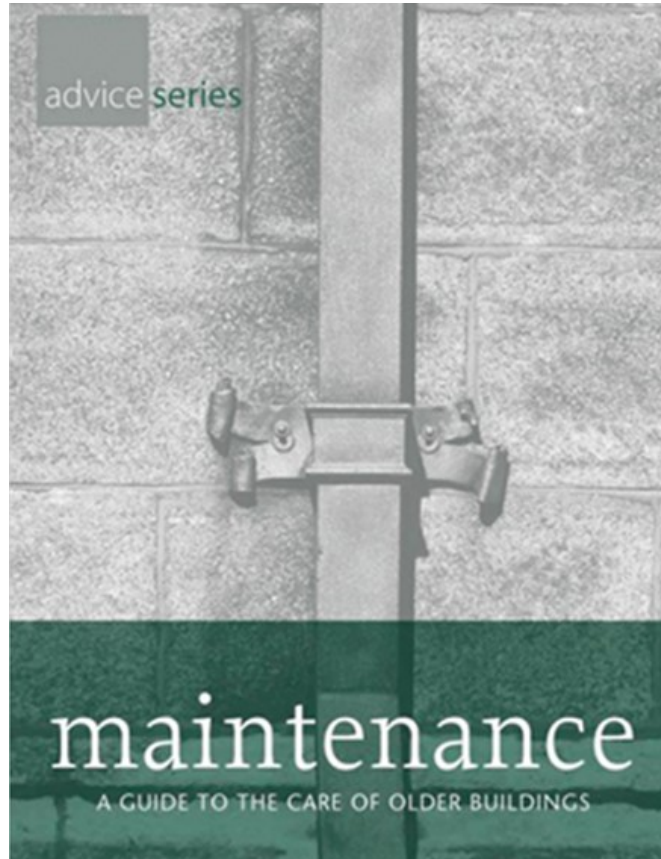
#### HOW TO APPLY

Application forms must be completed and returned to the Conservation Officer at the address provided below. Forms are available to download online or can be requested by phone or email. The form must be accompanied by

- *Quotation* - or estimate from a contractor

for the proposed works or conservation professional for a report

- *Specification* - from the contractor for the repair stating the materials and methods to be used
- *Statement of Conservation Professionals Qualifications and Experience* - where application for report
- *Outline of Conservation Report* - Brief summary of the content and format of the Conservation Report being commissioned.
- *Photographs* - showing the current condition of the feature or element to be repaired
- *Evidence of Contractor's Tax Compliance* - tax clearance certificate or details to check tax clearance online



For further guidance on maintenance and specific features or issues relating to older buildings see National Government's Advice Series available for free from NIAH website <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/resources/>

If you have further queries please contact:

Architectural Conservation Officer,

Architects Department,

Fingal County Council,

County Hall,

Main Street,

Swords

Co. Dublin K67 X8Y2

Mobile: 087 7695304

Email: [conservation@fingal.ie](mailto:conservation@fingal.ie)

