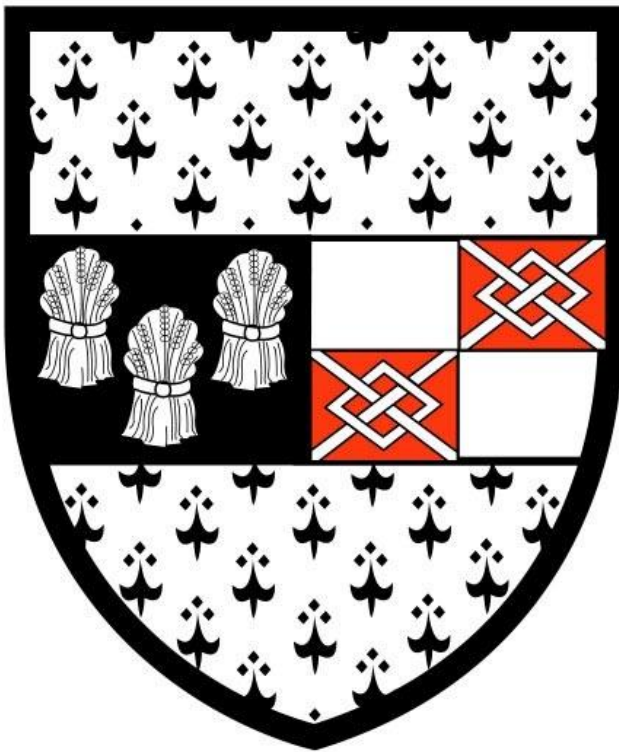




## **The Local Government Perspective**



**John Mulholland,  
Kilkenny County  
Council.**

- **Co Kilkenny is located in the South East of Ireland about 100km from Dublin.**
- **Population of approx 100,000 people**
- **A rural County with strong agricultural outputs and strong heritage , cultural and tourism traditions.**
- **Kilkenny City, The Marble City, has a population of 25,000 and was formerly the seat of Parliament in Ireland.**
- **Granted a City Status Charter by King James I in 1609.**



**Recipient of many  
award including  
Ireland's Tidiest  
Town, 2014,  
Cleanest Town in  
Ireland,  
2012,2013,2014  
and The Academy  
of Urbanism  
Award in 2009.  
Ireland's entry in  
the 2015  
International  
Communities in  
Bloom  
Competition.**

















**Kilkenny City and County offer an abundance of fascinating historical sites. Kilkenny City is often referred to as the “Medieval Capital” of Ireland.**

**Kilkenny’s heritage is what gives it its special character and contributes to its sense of place. Heritage is a valuable economic resource and is the basis for a strong tourism industry.**

**Heritage is also vital for the health , well being and quality of life of its communities.**





















ROSEMARIE  
DURR  
POTTERY

OPEN













Rebok

MIRO

FAST

THORPE'S  
HOUSE OF FISH

PARKING

Yellow traffic light













**In Ireland the Autumn Crocus is found only in the valley of the Nore river and is associated with early monastic settlements. It is used as the Logo for Kilkenny's Heritage Forum.**





**High Cross at  
Kilree,  
an example of  
Early Christian  
Sculpture**









**Recent discovery of 14<sup>th</sup> century double effigy at St Mary's Kilkenny.**



# Heritage and The Regulatory Environment

- The policy setting locally is contained in the **County or City Development Plan**. This is a statutory (legal) plan that lays down specific objectives typically for five year periods.
- The Kilkenny County Development plan is heavily focussed on Heritage Policy as follows;
- **Natural Heritage**
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Geological Heritage
  - Woodland ,Trees and hedgerows,
  - Inland Waters and Wetlands
  - Native Plant Species



# Heritage and The Regulatory Environment

- **Built Heritage**
  - Traditional Shopfronts
  - Archaeological Heritage
  - Walled Towns
  - Industrial Heritage
  - Historic Graveyards
- **Architectural Heritage**
  - Urban Structure
  - Public Realm
  - Views and prospectives
  - Record of Protected Structures
  - Architectural Conservation Areas
- **Cultural Heritage**



## Supporting Policies and Guidance

- County Heritage Plan
- County Biodiversity Plan
- Conservation Plans for Specific Sites
- Government Built Heritage Policies
- National Policy on Town Defences (*Very important for some Irish Towns and particularly Kilkenny City*)
- Burra, Venice and Washington Conventions
- Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland



# Collaborations and Community Supports

- Working effectively with Dept of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, National Monuments Service, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Office of Public Works
- Local Heritage Forum
- The Heritage Council of Ireland



# Collaborations and Community Supports

- Twinning arrangements can be very effective for continuous learning and mutual benefit, eg
  - Leicester, UK,
  - Moret sur Loing , Paris
  - Kilkenny, Minnesota , USA ( field formation, graveyards, genealogy)
- Civic Trust (Local organization with charitable status and focus on preserving the built heritage)



# Collaborations and Community Supports

- Local Authority financial support for Heritage
- Financial support for voluntary organizations
- Paint the Shop Schemes
- Support for Historical Graveyard work
- Amenity Grants
- Specific projects and writings



# Local Resources

- Full Time Heritage Officer
- Full time conservation officer
  - Conservation Architect
- Strategic Policy Committee
  - Planning Officers



# Ongoing Challenges and Opportunities

- Regeneration of urban centres
  - Possible Conflicts within Architectural and Archaeological Conservation Areas
  - Maintaining economic and social activity in the core of the city , economic viability.
  - Community opinion
- New development at edge of towns
  - Possible removal of habitat and amenity
- Heritage and Business
  - But Heritage is big business also !
  - Co productions ?