



## **Artists Brief (Stone Artist)**

### **Carlow County Council – Commemorative Commission - €30,000**

#### ***2 Stage commission***

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Carlow County Council would like to commission a high quality permanent external site-based work which is commemorative in nature. Carlow County Council has a reputation of commissioning high quality, innovative contemporary artworks and this commission will form part of County Carlow's programme of events to mark, remember and commemorate 1916.

The focus of this commission is to respectfully commemorate the lives of two important local figures, Fr Albert Bibby and Nurse Margaret Kehoe, from the Bagenalstown, County Carlow area, for their pastoral and medical care of those who fought in 1916.

We are now seeking proposals from artists that will connect with this significant local narrative of these key individuals. We also wish for the artist to work in stone, to consider the site and to identify an exact location on that site. Within the budget, the artist is also asked to consider how the artwork will enhance the area by proposing how the artwork will sit within its surrounds (e.g taking account of possible paving, lighting etc that will be required, that can be easily maintained).

**National Context** - Ireland 2016 is an ambitious and wide-ranging national commemorative initiative, embracing seven distinct programme strands each with an extensive programme of events that are being created nationally.

The Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme is underpinned by five intersecting and overlapping themes – Remembering, Reconciling, Presenting, Imagining and Celebrating.

We will remember the events of 1916 in the full context of our history and we will honor the people whose courage and idealism inspired a nation.

We will engage with the different traditions on our island and recognise the different narratives of today and we will seek to imagine the future in ways that strengthen peace and reconciliation and respect all traditions as envisaged in the ideals of the Proclamation.

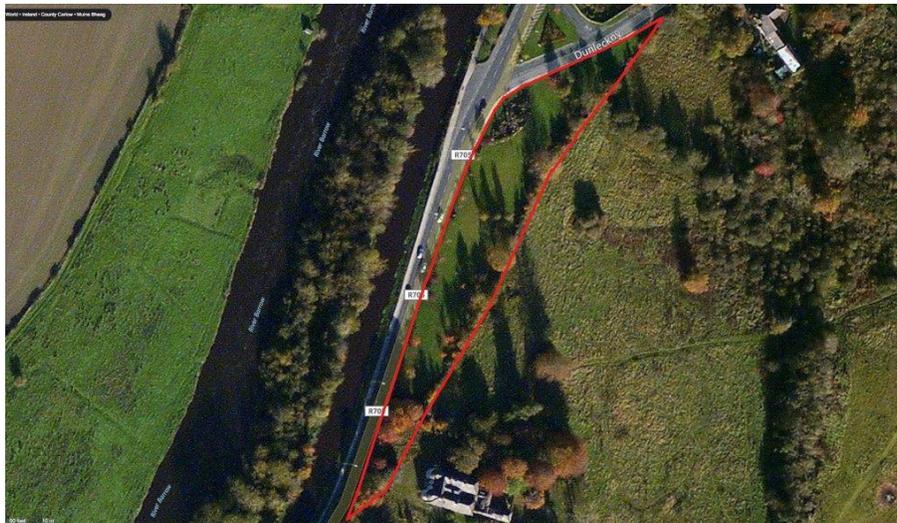
**Local Context** – As part of the County Carlow’s programme of events to mark, remember and commemorate 1916, County Carlow, like most other counties, has many undocumented histories and stories surrounding the 1916 uprising. In particular there are key County Carlow figures that were directly involved during the 1916 uprising. It is important that these local figures are respected and remembered. In particular those key figures connected to the Bagenalstown area include:

**Nurse Kehoe, Orchard, Leighlinbridge, County Carlow.** One of the first people to be fatally wounded on Easter Monday 1916 was Nurse Margaret Kehoe a native of Leighlinbridge, County Carlow. During Easter Week 1916, the Irish Volunteers occupied the South Dublin Union (subsequently St. Kevin's Hospital, James St.) and fighting took place there on Easter Monday. Nurse Margaret Kehoe became aware that one of the Volunteers was injured outside. She went to treat the volunteer and shots were fired and she was killed within the grounds of the hospital. The injured Volunteer was Dan McCarthy who recovered and subsequently became President of the GAA from 1921 to 1924. She is buried in the graveyard attached to St. Fintan’s Church, Ballinabranna, Co. Carlow.

**Father Albert Bibby, Regent Street, Bagenalstown, County Carlow.** Thomas Bibby was born on 24 October 1877 in Bagenalstown, County Carlow. He joined the Franciscans Order in 1894 and was ordained in 1902. In the aftermath of the Easter Rising Fr Albert Bibby ministered to a number of rebel prisoners in Kilmainham Gaol. He became associated with the movement for independence and continued to minister to prisoners during both the subsequent War of Independence and Civil War. Fr Albert was active in the Gaelic revival movement and was a fluent Irish speaker. In the mid 1920s he moved to California and died there in 1925. In 1958 he was reinterred in the Franciscan cemetery in Rochestown, Co. Cork.

## Site / Location for Commission

Attached is a site map of the proposed location in Bagenalstown County Carlow. As you enter Bagenalstown from Leighlinbridge to your right is the beautiful River Barrow. As you pass the swimming pool on your right further along this road towards Bagenalstown is a large landscaped, locally maintained, grass area up to your left, as outlined on the images below.



The artist, as part of their proposal, will identify an exact location on this site, with a view to public accessibility of the artwork and enhancement of the existing area. The artist will be mindful of that this commemorative commission and its location will allow people to have a contemplative space to reflect.



## Criteria for selection process

Proposals will be assessed under the following criteria:

- The commission will allow for the development of **a new piece** of contemporary work with artistic merit
- The commission will be assessed by the evidence of how experienced and accomplished the stone artist/designer is
- The originality of the design will respectfully commemorate the lives of Margaret Kehoe and Fr. Bibby whilst reflecting on the national significance of 1916
- The capacity of the artist to deliver the project within budget, on time and evidence of a meaningful response to the location (consideration given to the artwork's surrounds, durability and long-term maintenance)
- The commission, it is hoped will provide the local and wider audience the opportunity to connect and reflect on these significant Carlow figures in a meaningful and engaging way

### **Timeframe and shortlisting process**

#### **Stage 1 : Open Competition - Closing date **21st September 2015, 5pm.****

In response to the above brief please send into to us (hardcopy only):

1. Current and up to date CV.
2. Approximately 8 images (high quality JPEGs – sent on a disk - *no emailed images*) of previous relevant and most recent work, with a list - outlining scale, location and date of each work.
3. Clear proposed drawing(s) of the design idea for this commission, with reference to material, scale and actual location within the proposed site.
4. A draft breakdown of costs

5. Explain in no more than 1x A4 pages an outline concept and initial approach to this brief with reference to the local context and local key figures of 1916

**Stage 2: Shortlisting process – Shortlisted artists will be given a small fee.**

1. Initial shortlisting of applications received will take place **by the end of September 2015 by Carlow County Council Public Art Working Group**. Assessment will be marked against above Selection Criteria.
2. Following this, shortlisted artist(s) will be notified and paid a small fee to develop and present their final design to the Carlow County Council 2016 Committee.
3. With the recommendations from the Public Art Working Group initial selection process, and following artists presentations - the Carlow County Council 2016 Committee will thereafter select and approve the final artist/artwork for the commission.
4. Completion and installation of Commission no later than Easter 2016.

**Budget:**

The total commission budget is €30,000 (which is inclusive of artist fee, materials, site works, production costs and all related install costs).

Shortlisted final artist will be required to supply Carlow County Council with an up to date Tax Clearance Certificate and appropriate Indemnity Insurance Certificate.

**To apply please send all requested information to : Sinead Dowling, County Arts Officer**

**Carlow County Council,**

**Arts Office,**

**Athy Road**

**Carlow. PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE '2016 – Stone Artist Commission'. If you require the return of your information please include a stamped address envelope.**

**TO BE SUBMITTED BY 21st September 2015, by 5pm. HARD COPIES ONLY – NO EMAILS.**

