



MEDIA RELEASE

CLARE HERITAGE FORUM ELECTS NEW CATHAOIRLEACH

County Clare, IRELAND, 12th April 2007 - Cllr. Pat Hayes has been unanimously elected as the new Cathaoirleach of the Clare Heritage Forum at the March meeting of the group. Cllr. Hayes takes over from renowned environmentalist and historian Hugh Weir, who steps down after four years as Cathaoirleach.

On stepping down from the position, Hugh Weir reflected on his tenure as Cathaoirleach as witnessing, *“a huge growth in the amount of people engaged in heritage in the County”*. Mr Weir continued, *“Because heritage is such a broad area, as Cathaoirleach of the forum, I had the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of heritage enthusiasts who are ultimately the trustees of our heritage.”*

Commenting on his new role, Cllr. Pat Hayes said, *“The position of Cathaoirleach of the Clare Heritage Forum is extremely important in coordinating support for the Clare County Heritage Officer in the implementation of the Clare Heritage Plan.”*

Cllr. Hayes, who is also the Chairman of Clare County Council’s Community and Cultural SPC, added, *“The Council recognises the great work undertaken by the Heritage Officer and see the Heritage Forum as an opportunity to assist in some way in developing heritage projects.”*

According to Tomás Mac Conmara, Acting Heritage Officer with Clare County Council, *“The Heritage Forum have been of tremendous support to the Heritage Office for a number of years and importantly ensure a strong representation from a variety of sectors across the county. I am looking forward to working with Cllr.*

Hayes and the Heritage Forum in continuing to implement the final stages of the Clare Heritage Plan”.

The Clare Heritage Forum is a non-statutory advisory group. The Forum has been established to advise, develop and help implement the County Heritage Plan. The purpose of the Heritage Forum is to provide a platform for a broad and comprehensive consultation and to inform the work of the Heritage Officer and the implementation of the County Heritage Plan. The Heritage Officer has worked closely with the Heritage Forum in the development of the Heritage Plan now in its implementation. The Forum consists of County Council and Town Council elected members, Local Development, State Agencies, Community, Voluntary Sector, Education and Heritage organisations.

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Note to Editor:

Cllr. Pat Hayes, Hugh Weir and/or Tomás Mac Conmara are available for interview. To arrange please contact Mark Dunphy of Dunphy Public Relations on 00353-868534900 or media@dunphypr.com