

## Kerry County Council Decade of Centenaries Plan 2020

### 1. Engagement of a Historian in Residence

The Historian in Residence will be contracted from October 2020 – January 2021 and the brief will be to raise awareness of the significant events and people associated with the history of County Kerry within the period 1919-1922. A programme will be put in place comprising online webinars and the development of research sources for public use. Details will be available on the Kerry County Council [www.kerrycoco.ie](http://www.kerrycoco.ie) and Kerry Library [www.kerrylibrary.ie](http://www.kerrylibrary.ie) websites.

### 2. Digitisation programme

As part of an ongoing digitisation programme, Kerry Library will digitise from its holdings the archive of Con Casey, Tralee, who was an O/C of Kerry County Command, IRA. This archive includes a range of "IRA Papers", folders of organisational correspondence, 1921 & 1924-1926; a list of former IRA volunteers who emigrated to the USA [88 Items]; a list of casualties (deaths) in Kerry County Command, Battalions 1-9, 1921-1923; etc. Digitisation will facilitate conservation and increased public access to this archive.

### 3. Kerry County Council Decade of Centenaries policy

- *Kerry County Council recognises that this is an important centennial commemoration period. We are aware of the complexities with regard to events that occurred in Kerry during this period.*
- *Kerry County Council, the local democratic structure of the State in Kerry, will use our own resources; including the County Museum and Library Service, to inform and educate the general public in an unbiased manner using only historical fact and leaving any interpretation to the individual. This is entirely in keeping with the National Advisory Board for Commemorations aims to, 'support local and county commemorative exercises to widen and deepen a historical understanding of the significance of the events being commemorated'.*
- *KCC will not undertake individual commemorative events and will focus on education and events with particular relevance for the Local Authority. We will use resources we have available to inform the public with particular recognition of local democratic structures. Kerry County Council will highlight the importance of democracy as the primary democratic body of this county. A five-year Kerry exhibition at the County Museum detailing the War of Independence and Civil War in Kerry is proposed as an ideal way to communicate facts and engage many with the Kerry story of the period. This will be enhanced by lectures and talks.*
- *Kerry County Council supports the possibility of one day nationally designated to commemorate all losses during this time.*
- *Kerry County Council will facilitate, as much as possible, other agencies and communities with their commemoration programmes.*

It is intended to keep the Kerry County Council Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht Strategic Policy Committee updated on a regular basis.

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