



European Heritage Open Days 2026

Sponsorship Guidance



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Introduction

European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) is an annual celebration of local architecture, history, culture and heritage, taking place throughout Europe each September. In Northern Ireland, EHOD is coordinated by the Department for Communities with support from the Council of Europe and the European Commission.

In 2026, EHOD will take place from Monday 7 September to Sunday 13 September 2026.

The Department for Communities EHOD 2026 theme is:

“Heritage at Risk – Revive, Resist, Reimagine”

This theme invites organisers to explore the stories behind the places they care about, connecting physical sites with the human voices, memories, craft and culture that bring them to life.

Whether through storytelling tours, Why This Place? statements, craft demonstrations, digital interpretation, exhibitions, workshops or creative community projects, EHOD offers opportunities to reimagine and animate heritage for visitors.

If there is a local character you wish to celebrate, a historic area that deserves recognition, or a story about your home, workplace or community that you want to share, EHOD is your opportunity to showcase it. Heritage can mean different things to different communities, and we welcome a wide range of interpretations and experiences.

Council Support

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is committed to supporting communities to explore, protect, develop and share our rich heritage. In line with the Council’s Heritage Plan, we aim to:

- Work in partnership across communities and sectors
- Develop and promote our heritage assets and stories
- Protect and sustain our heritage for future generations

- Improve access to heritage and participation opportunities

Through the EHOD 2026 sponsorship programme, the Council will support up to 10 groups or organisations with grants of up to £300 each, alongside assistance with marketing and publicity.

We are particularly interested in events that celebrate local stories, encourage participation, increase access to heritage, and reflect the geographical and cultural diversity of the Fermanagh and Omagh district.

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible for sponsorship, applicants must:

- Be a constituted group or organisation
- Have a bank account with at least two signatories
- Hold public liability insurance
- Be located within the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area

Eligible Events and Activities

To be considered for support, events must:

- Relate to the EHOD 2026 theme and/or support the objectives of the Council's Heritage Plan
- Enhance public understanding, enjoyment of, and engagement with local heritage
- Be free of charge and open to the public
- Demonstrate clear public benefit
- Take place between 7 and 13 September 2026
- Commit to being included in Council-supported promotional activity

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality and creativity of the proposed event
- Opportunities for active participation and engagement, including walks, talks, tours, workshops or demonstrations
- Geographic spread across the district
- Diversity of heritage content, including built, cultural, natural and community heritage
- New or first-time participation in EHOD
- Partnership working and collaboration between groups or organisations
- Inclusivity and outreach to families, young people, older people and underrepresented communities

What We'd Love to See

We particularly welcome proposals that:

- Increase access to heritage sites, buildings or stories not usually open or shared with the public
- Encourage community storytelling and intergenerational learning Highlight lesser-known, at-risk or overlooked heritage
- Celebrate traditional skills, crafts or local knowledge
- Use creative or digital approaches to interpret heritage
- Demonstrate environmentally sustainable approaches to heritage activity
- Activities that consider accessibility and inclusion, including physical, sensory or financial access barrier

Eligible Costs

Funding may be used towards reasonable event-related costs including:

- Materials and workshop supplies
- Venue hire
- Equipment hire
- Marketing and promotional materials
- Performer, facilitator or speaker costs
- Hospitality @ 20% of the total cost unless the event is solely a heritage food event.

The following costs will not be supported:

- Core organisational running costs
- Alcohol
- Retrospective costs
- Activities not linked to EHOD 2026

Acknowledging Sponsorship

Successful applicants may be required to acknowledge the support of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and EHOD in promotional materials and social media activity.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful applicants will be required to complete a short evaluation following their event, including attendance figures, outcomes, feedback and images where possible.

Claims and Payment

Funding will be awarded following assessment and approval of applications. Please note that all payments will be made retrospectively following the completion and submission of a claim form through the Council's online funding system.

Successful applicants will be required to provide evidence of expenditure and confirmation that the event or activity took place. This may include receipts, invoices, photographs, attendance figures and promotional materials. Monitoring and evaluation information will be included within the claim form. All claims must be submitted by 30 November 2026.

How to Apply

Apply online at www.fermanaghomagh.com

Applications will close at 5pm on Thursday 02 July 2026

For further information or support with your application, contact the Heritage Team: sponsorship@fermanaghomagh.com or Telephone: 0300 303 1777