

Appendix 1:

Suggested themes and initiatives set out by Dept. for consideration by local authorities in 2023

Broad themes are set out below. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Community-led commemoration and reflection; Remembering local legacies, personalities, places, events, and themes that have particular significance within counties, parishes, and communities.
- Respectful, sensitive, and non-partisan remembrance of all of those who suffered and died during the period from 1922-1923.
- The partitioning of Ireland – exploration of the impact and legacy of the events that occurred during this period on communities living along the newly established border and further afield.
- Ireland and the Wider World – exploration of the international dimension, including local connections, emigration, and the role of the Irish Diaspora in the events that occurred during the revolutionary period. Also, exploration of the evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
- The admission of the Irish Free State into the League of Nations in 1923.
- Experiences of women - exploration of the experiences of women during this period and their contribution to the events that occurred, including their changing role in society. <https://www.mna100.ie/> is the online, research platform led by the D/TCAGSM to highlight the role and experiences of women during this period. If local authorities have any initiatives, which could be publicised or supported in collaboration with Mná 100 (#Mna100), please contact the Mná team at commemorations@tcagsm.gov.ie.
- Establishing a New Order –
 - Exploration of the significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures at national and local level;
 - Including establishment of the various institutions of the Irish Free State (including Civil Service, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, judiciary, and courts services);
 - Development of new infrastructure (transportation, communications, postal services); and
 - Becoming a member of the International Labour Organisation in 1923 – the first international organisation which the new State joined.
 - Continuing the parliamentary tradition – exploration of the prominent personalities and local issues associated with elections during this period, e.g. the 1923 general elections.
- The process of rebuilding a nation in the context of the traumatic legacy of the Civil War
 - reflections on healing, repairing, and rebuilding after the Civil War – of people, communities, and places
- A Changing Society during this period, including.
 - The labour movement and civil disobedience;
 - Popular social, cultural and civic movements;
 - Social class and gender;
 - The Irish language;

- The Land Question;
 - The role of religion and faith during this period;
 - The significance of sport in communities during this period;
 - The humanitarian response during the period 1921 – 1923;
 - The experiences of people in Ireland during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
 - The experiences of minority ethnic groups in Ireland during this period;
- Innovation and developments in the fields of agriculture, industry, science, commerce, health, medicine, and education.
 - Creative thinking and the arts – poetry, literature, music, theatre, and other art forms,
 - 1921 – 1923. For example, this year we will mark the centenary of the awarding of the 'Nobel Prize in Literature' to William Butler Yeats.
- The impact and legacy of the partitioning of Ireland on communities living along the newly established border and farther afield.
 - 'Ireland and the Wider World' – local connections with the international dimension, including the role of the Diaspora in the events of this period; an exploration of how these events were received and reported abroad.
 - Emigration from and immigration to the local authority area during this period – an exploration of personal accounts and memories, grounded in the rich material held in archival collections.
 - The social and economic consequences of the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War within the local authority area.
 - The contribution and experiences of women from the local authority area in all aspects of this transformative period in our history and their changing role in society (see above reference to <https://www.mna100.ie/>).
 - The impact of the revolutionary period on families and children.
 - The experiences of people during this period who would today identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community;
 - The experiences of minority ethnic groups during this period;
 - Land and rural life in the newly independent Irish State.
 - An exploration of the labour movement and associated issues of class and gender, to broaden our understanding of how people were mobilised in popular social, cultural and civic movements during this period – how local events resonated nationally.
 - The significance of local government reform and the evolution of new political and administrative structures during the revolutionary period at national and local level.
 - Elections during this period – the prominent personalities and local issues associated with the 1920 local elections and the 1921, 1922 and 1923 general elections.
 - The use of propaganda in the revolutionary period at home and abroad – including print media, cinema, and radio – particularly linkages to local events that occurred.
 - The role of local newspapers in a time of conflict and change – how were local events reported?
 - The evolution of all-island institutions following partition.
 - The handing over of barracks from the British Army to the new Free State Army; and the impact and legacy of this on the barracks towns, in terms of identity and practical ramifications (e.g. social and economic impacts).
 - Initiatives to explore the 'Big House' perspective on the events that occurred during the Struggle for Independence and the Civil War.

- The aftermath of World War I and the experiences of those who were part of the war effort and returned home to their communities in a changing Ireland.
- Initiatives that explore this period from a humanitarian perspective, examining the contribution of movements such as The Irish White Cross Organisation.
- The Irish language during this period.
- Creative thinking and the arts, including poetry, literature, music and theatre (1912 –1923).
- Significant developments in the world of innovation, industry and commerce, science, health, agriculture, and communications, (1912 – 1923).
- The importance of sport to communities during the revolutionary period.
- The archaeology of the revolutionary period – an exploration of the imprint left by these events on the local landscape. Before finalising any initiatives on this theme, please consult and seek expert advice from relevant members of your local authority or the National Monuments Service, concerning the legislation and protocols pertaining to our archaeological heritage.
- Other significant events not mentioned above that were unique to the local authority area and were recorded from this period, e.g. natural disasters.