

1st February 2016

Elected Members of the Adare - Rathkeale Municipal District

**Re: Report on two thatched cottages in Adare damaged by fire.**

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Dear Councillors,

I refer to the two thatched cottages in Adare that were damaged by fire in June 2015 and update you as follows.

'Benson's'

The owners of the 'Bensons' cottage have submitted a Section 57 Declaration Request in respect of re-instating the thatched house and alterations to the extensions at the rear.

They have made an application for assistance under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2016. A recommendation that they be allocated the maximum level of funding available was forwarded to the Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht in mid-December.

An application has also been made by the Bensons to the Irish Georgian Society for assistance, which has been favourably received. The building featured in that body's annual fund-raising drive in North America.

The Benson's have secured their building, and the party wall with the building to the west, against ingress of water.

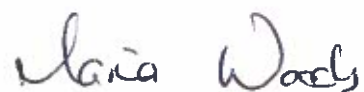
'Barry's'

The owners informed the Planning Authority in Mid January that they have appointed a firm of Engineers and Project Managers, to assess the reinstatement of the easternmost building on behalf of the owners. A conservation expert has also being appointed to identify the full scope of the works.

This team met with Limerick City and County Councils conservation officer on the 22nd January 2016 to discuss the way forward. Basic strategies and approaches were set out, discussed in some detail, and will form the basis of costing proposals to be forwarded to the owners for their consideration. To assist the team prepare these documents,

a request for a Section 57 Declaration, to which the Planning Authority will formally respond by setting out what interventions(including reconstruction and restoration work) will be acceptable, is to be submitted in the coming days.

Mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Woods". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Maria Woods,  
Senior Executive Planner,  
Economic Development and Planning.