

**PRESS RELEASE: Friday 16 September 2022**

**Community events in the Wicklow Mountains to discuss local interest in heritage tourism development**

Individuals, community groups and businesses in Baltinglass, Tinahely, Rathdrum and surrounding areas are warmly invited to attend one of three community events being organised by the CUPHAT (Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism) project next week in South Wicklow. They will take place on Tuesday 20 September in Germaines Pub, Baltinglass from 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Wednesday 21 September in Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely from 7:00 – 8:30 pm and Thursday 22 September at Wicklow GAA Centre of Excellence in Rathdrum from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

These events will offer local communities an opportunity to share their views about heritage tourism development in their local areas. Project officers will provide a short introduction to the project before opening the discussion to hear local views about the type of tourism development that would best support local communities, businesses and services.

CUPHAT, supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland-Wales Cooperation programme, focuses on sustainable and regenerative heritage-based tourism in the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales. The project seeks to showcase the shared and distinctive heritages of the coastal uplands of Ireland and Wales bordering the Irish Sea.

The UCD project leads, Dr Arlene Crampsie and Dr Christine Bonnin describe CUPHAT as “an innovative project directly involving all members of local communities and stakeholders in collaboration so that CUPHAT can 1) develop locally appropriate tourist activities that support rural economic development, 2) help address some of the challenges facing coastal upland communities, and 3) ensure that the kind of tourism promoted by the project is not just sustainable but also actively beneficial to the region.”

“We invite anybody who is interested to come along and find out more, meet with us and share their ideas. We want to learn from local communities about aspects of the cultural

and natural heritage of the Wicklow Mountains that are most significant and meaningful to them and that could be better showcased to a tourist audience.”

To find out more about the CUPHAT Project, all are welcome to attend the events next week. They are free to attend, and tea and coffee will be provided.



**ENDS**

#### **Further information**

**Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism (CUPHAT)** is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Ireland Wales Co-operation Programme. The project will work with a range of community, local and national stakeholders from Wales and Ireland, with Aberystwyth University leading the project, and working in partnership with University College Dublin and the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The project aims to showcase the natural and cultural heritage of four coastal upland areas in Ireland (Wicklow and

Blackstairs Mountains) and Wales (Cambrian and Preseli Mountains) to increase sustainable forms of tourism within them, thus leading to the creation of more sustainable livelihoods, communities and environments.

<https://cuphat.aber.ac.uk/> | [cuphat@aber.ac.uk](mailto:cuphat@aber.ac.uk) |  @CUP\_HAT\_ |  @CoastalUplands

