

**MINUTES of SPC for Tourism, Rural & Community Dev. An Ghaelige & Cultural Services
Held on Wednesday 3rd December 2025.**

Present

Cllr. Niamh McCooey	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr. Pat Treanor	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr Raymond Aughey	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr. Aidan Campbell	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr. Paul Gibbons	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Fiona McGuinness	Business / Commercial (Tourism/Hospitality Sector)
Emer Brennan	PPN – Environment Electoral College
Noel Treanor	PPN – Community & Vol Electoral College

In Attendance

Nicola Payne	Monaghan County Council
Patricia Monahan	Monaghan County Council
Olga McConnon	Monaghan County Council
Leona Keenan	Monaghan County Council
Michelle Murphy	Monaghan Sports Partnership
Dympna Condra	Monaghan County Council
Lisa Connolly	Monaghan County Council
Deirdriu MQuaid	Monaghan County Council
Carol Lambe	Monaghan County Council
Kara Ward	Monaghan County Council
Catherine McKenna	Monaghan County Council

Apologies

Cllr. Sean Conlon	SPC Chairperson, Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Carol Smyth	PPN – Social Inclusion Electoral College
Seán Ó Murchadha	PPN – Community & Vol Electoral College
Somhairle MacConghail	Arts Officer Monaghan County Council

1. Welcome

In the absence of Cllr. Sean Conlon, following a discussion amongst members, it was agreed Cllr. Niamh McCooey would act as Chairperson for this meeting.

Cllr. McCooey welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished Cllr. Conlon a speedy recovery. All members reiterated these good wishes.

2. Minutes of meeting 25th September 2025

Cllr. Pat Treanor informed the committee that Cllr. Sean Conlon asked that the SICAP Disability Committee attend a future meeting to deliver a presentation on the role of this committee, its programme of work and any areas where the Council/SPC can support.

Patricia Monahan informed the committee that discussions are taking place within the Community Development team in relation to the Disability work programme and Disability Network. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. Pat Treanor and seconded by Noel Treanor, the minutes of the SPC meeting held on 25th September 2025, were unanimously agreed.

3. Monaghan County Heritage Strategy 2026-2031 – Kara Ward

Kara Ward, Heritage Officer delivered a presentation to members on the draft Monaghan County Heritage Strategy 2026-2031.

Cllr. Aidan Campbell thanked Kara for her presentation and all members concurred with this.

Cllr. Campbell made the comment that a lot of work is being done, and this is a very important aspect. However, Built Heritage can be quite strict and stringent against owners of these buildings. Whilst it is important to respect and preserve these buildings, we must also adopt a pragmatic approach that considers the needs and responsibilities of current property owners.

Kara agreed with this and recognised that having a building in use is what everyone wants. She also informed the committee that a Conservation Officer is coming on board with MCC soon and that the current records of Protected Structures within the County are to be reviewed.

Cllr. Treanor agreed with previous speakers that this is a very important area of work but there are times when things need to move on at a quicker pace and a common-sense approach should be used.

Cllr. McCooey asked what the timeline is for the Biodiversity Action Plan adoption. Kara replied that Patricia McCreesh Biodiversity Officer will be going out to public consultation shortly. Cllr. Treanor asked that we ensure that the Irish Language be included in the plan. Kara agreed with this and ensured this was a strategic priority for the Plan.

Cllr. McCooey thanked Kara for her presentation and thanked her for safeguarding our Protected Structures.

4. Treinfhir Clan – Noel Treanor

Noel Treanor Co-Chair of the Treinfhir Clan delivered a presentation to the committee about the history and origins of the Treinfhir Clan.

Cllr. Treanor thanked Noel for his enthusiasm and commitment to the project. Cllr. Treanor noted that this SPC has an important role to play in supporting this annual event, given its tourism potential.

Dympna Condra reiterated Cllr. Treanor comments. She informed the committee that she has gave advice to the Clan on different funding streams i.e from Failite Ireland and social media campaign in connection with the library. In relation to the geneology side, Matt Mohan is very interested in developing this diaspora engagement.

Olga McConnon commented that she recently spoke to Cllr. Raymond Aughey in relation to the Gathering and they are very interested in bringing this further and replicating this with other family clans. A follow-up meeting is taking place to discuss next steps.

Deirdriu McQuaid noted that Genealogy /DNA testing is an issue in relation to GDPR and ethics. CMTEB host Genealogy Workshops quite often and the clans can contact CMTEB in relation to this. The Library through Peace Plus has a project called ‘Who do you think you are’ this is a 2-and-a-half-year plan for everyone across the County. Over 30 years hosting these events. Caitriona from the Library receives 3000 + enquiries every year and up to 5000 – 6000 queries are dealt with across the County.

Cllr. Paul Gibbons thanked Noel for a very interesting presentation. Genealogy Tourism is very interesting. Cllr. Gibbons asked where he could point people if they enquired to him. Noel replied that the Clan would be happy to help anyone.

Cllr. Raymond Aughey commented that this is big Tourism and this is a huge chance to get to people to come to Monaghan and we need to grasp it. Cllr. Aughey noted that the trip to Prince Edward Island was very beneficial to showcase what can be achieved.

Cllr. McCooley thanked Noel for his presentation and wished him and the committee well going forward.

5. Peace Campus Update – Catherine McKenna

Catherine McKenna, A/Peace Campus Cultural & Development Manager provided the committee with an overview of Monaghan Peace Campus and all its facilities. She advised members on how to book these facilities and gave examples of some of its previous successful events.

Olga McConnon said that they are delighted to have Catherine on board and they are aiming to attract more people to County Monaghan and the Peace Campus.

Cllr. McCooley thanked Catherine for her presentation and wished her well in her new role.

6. Everybody Plays Policy – Carol Lambe

Carol Lambe presented members with an overview of the draft Everybody Plays Policy. She advised members that this policy has been reviewed and updated in 2025 by the Social Inclusion Officer and the Play & Recreation Officer in preparation for the publication of the Council's first Play & Recreation Strategy.

Fiona McGuinness asked if there was a survey done on all playgrounds in the County, and particularly Lough Muckno. Carol replied that carrying out a survey of each playground is a large body of work and is included as a future action in the new Strategy. In preparation, Play Services Ireland was recently engaged to carry out accessibility audits on three of the Council's destination playgrounds, namely Rossmore, Muckno Park and Cara St in Clones. These audits focus on how accessible an amenity is for people with a disability. The Council will review the data which resulted from the audits before deciding whether there is a value in commissioning more.

Cllr. McCooey thanked Carol for her presentation.

7. Agenda Items for Future Consideration

Cllr. Treanor requested that this committee ensure that we remember this SPC also has an important remit to An Ghaeilge. He also pointed out the role of the Irish Language Officer as identified in the Workplace Strategy. Cllr. Aughey replied with members agreement this should be added to the next Council meeting agenda. All members agreed with this proposal.

8. Date of Next Meeting

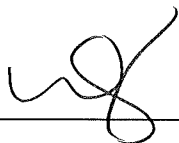
Members agreed to add all 2026 meeting dates to their diaries. The agreed dates are outlined below:

- 25th February @ 3.30pm
- 22nd April
- 23rd September
- 25th November

Cllr. McCooey thanked everyone and wished everyone a Nollaig Shona and Happy New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed



A/ Chairperson

Date:

22/04/26