

## **MINUTES of SPC for Tourism, Rural & Community Dev. An Ghaelige & Cultural Services Held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025.**

### **Present**

|                     |                                                         |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Cllr. Sean Conlon   | SPC Chairperson, Elected Member Monaghan County Council |
| Cllr. Pat Treanor   | Elected Member Monaghan County Council                  |
| Cllr. Niamh McCooey | Elected Member Monaghan County Council                  |
| Cllr Raymond Aughey | 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                |
| Carol Smyth      | PPN – Social Inclusion Electoral College           |
| Noel Treanor     | PPN – Community & Vol Electoral College            |
| Seán Ó Murchadha | PPN – Community & Vol Electoral College            |

### **In Attendance**

|                       |                                                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Nicola Payne          | SEO Monaghan County Council                               |
| Leona Keenan          | Administrative Officer Monaghan County Council            |
| Michelle Murphy       | Monaghan Sports Partnership                               |
| Somhairle MacConghail | Arts Officer Monaghan County Council                      |
| Lisa Connolly         | Assistant Staff Officer Community Monaghan County Council |
| Yvonne Kelly          | Assistant Staff Officer Monaghan County Council           |

### **Apologies**

|                      |                                        |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Cllr. Aidan Campbell | Elected Member Monaghan County Council |
| Patricia Monahan     | Monaghan County Council                |
| Olga McConnon        | Monaghan County Council                |

## **1. Welcome**

Cllr. Sean Conlon, Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies.

## **2. Minutes of meeting 28.05.2025**

On the proposal of Cllr. Niamh McCooey and seconded by Carol Smyth, the minutes of the SPC meeting held on 28<sup>TH</sup> May 2025, were unanimously agreed.

### **3. Monaghan Local Sports Plan – Michelle Murphy Monaghan Sports Partnership**

Michelle Murphy delivered a presentation to members on the proposed development of the Monaghan Local Sports Plan

Cllr. Conlon thanked Michelle for her presentation and all members concurred with this.

A discussion followed and Michelle responded to queries from the SPC members.

Noel Treanor thanked Michelle for her presentation. He commented that one of his experiences in sport is the drop off of females and teenagers from participating in sport and he asked Michelle can engagement with this group be prioritised.

Noel also queried would the plan be completed by the end of this year.

Michelle replied that this has been identified through various programmes delivered by MSP and as a team this group is a priority.

Michelle replied that the Plan will not be complete by year end 2025 and that mid-June 2026 is the more likely timeframe.

### **4. Garage Theatre Work Programme – Joanne Brennan and Eileen Costello**

Cllr. Conlon welcomed Joanne Brennan and Eileen Costello from the Garage Theatre.

Joanne and Eileen presented to members an overview of the Garage Theatre Work Programme.

Cllr. Conlon thanked Joanne and Eileen for their presentation and commented that the contribution of Arts is very important in our County. All members agreed.

### **5. Take Action on Disability Inclusion at Local Authority Level**

Cllr. Conlon referred to the Disability Federation of Ireland Bridging The Gap report. the documents refer to implementation at local level as defined in legislation and strategic policy documents. In the 2010/2011 minutes of a meeting implementing a strategy called making Monaghan accessible.

Cllr. Conlon called for the reestablishment of the Disability Steering Committee and the appointment of a dedicated Access Officer and he suggested this motion be brought to the to the full council.

Cllr. Niamh McCooey thanked Cllr. Conlon for bringing this to her attention as a new member. Cllr. McCooey noted that Part M of the legislation about accessibility, and in this regard the accessibility in the Glen Office and Motor Tax Office would need to be addressed and indeed we need to ensure that all of the county offices are accessible to everybody.

Nicola Payne informed the committee that within the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) implemented by Monaghan Integrated Development, a Disability Network is in place and supported by a dedicated SICAP worker.

The motion to bring the Bridging The Gap report to the full Council was proposed by Cllr. Pat Treanor and seconded by Cllr. Raymond Aughey

#### **6. Any Other Business**

Leona informed the committee that Patrick McCarville has resigned from the committee due to personal reasons. Leona stated that the Corporate Services department will source a new member.

Cllr. Conlon informed members that a new Irish Language coffee shop in the former premises of Missy A's, Park Street Monaghan will open soon. This venture is a Social Partnership and an enterprise like this is very welcome to our town. It was suggested that when the coffee shop is up and running, that the members of the committee might visit it to show our support.

#### **7. Agenda Items for Future Consideration**

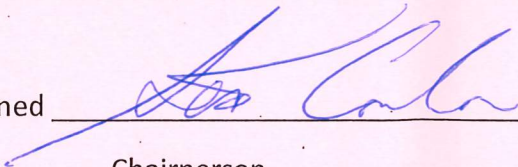
Cllr. Conlon asked the committee that any ideas or suggestions to be brought forward to Leona Keenan or himself as Chairperson and then these items will be added to the agenda.

Cllr. Conlon informed the committee that he had recently attended training a one-day workshop designed to support elected members who serve as SPC Chairs and the staff who work directly with them.

**Date of Next Meeting - Next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> December @ 3.30pm**

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed



Chairperson

Date:

27/01/26

