

Minutes

SPC for Tourism, Rural and Community Development, An Ghaeilge and Cultural Services

Date: Wednesday 25 February 2026

Location: Peace Campus, Monaghan Town

Present

Cllr. Sean Conlon	SPC Chairperson, Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr. Niamh McCooey	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr. Aidan Campbell	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	Monaghan County Council
Patricia Monahan	Monaghan County Council
Barry Eaton	Monaghan County Council
Olga McConnon	Monaghan County Council
Leona Keenan	Monaghan County Council
Yvonne Connolly	Monaghan County Council
Deirdriú McQuaid	Monaghan County Council
Mairéad Treanor	Monaghan County Council
Linda Lennon	Monaghan County Council

Apologies

Cllr. Paul Gibbons	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Cllr. Pat Treanor	Elected Member Monaghan County Council
Kara Ward	Monaghan County Council
Somhairle MacConghail	Monaghan County Council
Liam Bradley	Monaghan County Council
Dympna Condra	Monaghan County Council

1. Welcome

Cllr Conlon welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Niamh McCooey for chairing the last meeting in his absence. He also thanked attendees for the good wishes they expressed to him during his absence from duties.

2. Minutes of meeting 3 December 2025

A minor typographical error was identified in the minutes of the last meeting. With this error amended, Cllr Aidan Campbell proposed the adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 3 December 2026 and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Niamh McCooey.

3. Monaghan PPN Strategic Plan Review – Leona Keenan

Leona Keenan, Community & Enterprise, Monaghan County Council presented on the PPN Public Participation Network in Monaghan. Monaghan PPN was set up in November 2014 and has over 700 member groups. ALL community and voluntary organisations in the county are entitled to join. The purpose of the PPN is to facilitate the public and community sector to participate in local decision-making. Membership is open to all community and voluntary groups and organisations active in County Monaghan.

The PPN is in the process of developing a new strategic plan for the next four years. It is currently revising the previous strategy and consulting with community representatives. This will be followed, at the end of March, with a wider consultation process involving all PPN members. A draft plan will be prepared and brought to this SPC for informational purposes. PPN will be adopting the strategy – own Board to manage.

The Chair thanked Leona for the presentation and commended the work of the PPN.

4. Monaghan Community Safety Plan – Consultation

Barry Eaton, Community Safety Co-Ordinator presented on the Monaghan Community Safety Partnership. It was formed in 2025 and has met twice (November 2025 and January 2026). There are 29 members from a range of diverse demographics.

The Monaghan Community Safety Partnership has started to develop a three-year local community safety plan. Consultation has already started and will remain open until the end of March. The aim is to engage a diverse group that is representative of the community. The national strategy for community safety will be published in April and Monaghan County Council aims to publish its strategy in September.

The Chair thanked Barry for the presentation and noted that Carrickmacross MD had recently improved street lighting in urban areas.

5. Migrant Integration Strategy

Linda Lennon, Community & Enterprise, Monaghan County Council presented on the forthcoming Migrant Integration Strategy for 2026-2028. This will be a collaboration between migrants and migrant groups, the Equality Sub-group of the Local Community Development Committee and a range of stakeholders who support migrant integration (including CMETB, HSE and An Garda Síochána).

There will be public consultation online and in-person, and results of this process will inform a strategy and action plan. The new strategy will have 22 actions, deliverable under five goals.

The Chair thanked Linda for the presentation.

Seán Ó Murchadha noted that Muineachán le Gaeilge and Cumann Gaelach Muineachán are very interested in the forthcoming Migrant Integration Strategy because they have been supporting migrant integration by organising and funding programmes locally to enable social inclusion and equity for migrants through Irish language initiatives. One example is the Céad Míle Fáilte beginner Irish language classes for migrants held at Carrickmacross Library.

6. Library – EU FUTU4U project update

Mairéad Treanor, Monaghan County Libraries, presented FUTU4U, a project that aims to help people learn more about democracy and civic engagement. The project is funded by the European Commission under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme. Working with partners in Finland, Italy and Slovenia, Monaghan County Libraries designed two participatory workshops for young people (aged 18-30). The first workshop is called 'My Voice' and focuses on teaching people about democracy and how to vote. The second workshop is called 'My Future' and gives participants the opportunity to imagine and shape the future their preferred future.

Seven library team members in Monaghan County Libraries have been trained to deliver the programme. Since August 2024, the programme has reached more than 355 participants in Monaghan, Cavan and Louth. When the project ends in August 2026, Monaghan County Libraries will continue to offer the workshops in branches.

The Chair thanked Mairéad for the presentation and asked how this programme links with the EUROPE DIRECT centre at Clones Library. Mairéad noted that these are currently separate funding streams but there is potential to continue the work of FUTU4U under Europe Direct Clones when the FUTU4U project ends.

Noel Treanor noted the importance of this project due to a recent global trend in democratic backsliding.

7. Any other business

Disability Network

Nicola Payne, Community & Enterprise, reported on ongoing work with the Disability Network to develop a strategic plan through consultation. An update will be presented at the next SPC meeting and then to Council.

The chair referred to recent useful training he and other elected representatives had received from the Association of Irish Local Government on the topic of local government services for people with disabilities. Cllr Conlon will send course materials to the SPC members.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seán Ó Murchadha reminded members that Seachtain na Gaeilge will run from 1-14 March 2026.

8. 2026 meeting schedule

Cllr. Conlon noted that he will not be available for the April meeting.

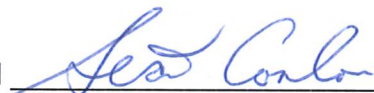
It was noted that the planned November meeting will clash with another SPC meeting and it was decided to change the date to 26th November.

The updated agreed meeting dates for 2026 are as follows:

- 22nd April
- 23rd September
- 26th November

Cllr. Conlon thanked everyone for attendance.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed  Date: 9-9-26

Chairperson