

Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee

Date: Monday 10 November 2025
Time: 9.30 am
Location: Library Events Space, Johnston Central Library

Present: Cllr. C. Kelly; Cllr. N. Brady; Cllr. C. Brady; Cllr. Á. Smith; Cllr. N. Smith; Cllr. S. Conaty; Dr. F. O'Hanlon; M. Goldrick; E. Wilson Higgins; L. McGavigan, Director of Services; T. Treacy; L. Carey; S. Howe, K. Charles Lynch; A. Gerety Smith; C. Mac Giolla Phádraig; E. Clancy, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: L. Teevan

1. Welcome:

Chairperson welcomed all to the meeting

2. Declaration of Interests:

Chairperson outlined the responsibility of Committee members to declare any beneficial interest in matters being discussed by the SPC.

3. Cavan County Museum – 2025: Ms. Ann Gerety Smith, Curator

Ms. Gerety Smith, newly appointed Curator, presented an overview of recent Museum programming, which included:

- Public launch and re-opening of the award-winning WW1 Trench Experience on 24 September following extensive re-development. Officially re-opened by Cathaoirleach and including an immersive Drama "Johnny B" (funded through Creative Ireland).
- Book launch,
- Guided tours to schools and other groups.
- Exhibitions
- Staff training on cultural museum delivery
- Promotion of museum – virtual tour of museum has been created and included on website. This bi-lingual (Irish and English) promotional video is a valuable tool which can also be used if tour guides are not free or to share with groups seeking to visit the museum.

2026 is the 30th anniversary of the museum. Planning has commenced for events for anniversary focusing on trenches which are proving extremely popular following re-opening.

Cllr Áine Smith congratulated the Museum Curator on the delivery of tours to schools, reiterating that the best way to learn is to experience in reality, as provided by the Trenches experience.

4. Irish Language Officer – Role and Duties - Mr. Ciarán Mac Giolla Phádraig

Newly appointed Irish language Officer Mr. Mac Giolla Phádraig gave an overview of his role and the programme to date. His role includes delivery of the Irish language plan dealing with street names, signage and translating documents. Plans for 2026 include Staff training, bilingual signage, liaison with local Irish Language groups on

Ms. Laura Carey delivered an update on Cavan Monaghan Science Festival 2025. Presentation on Cavan Monaghan Science Festival Science week 30th anniversary – theme is 'Then, Today and Tomorrow'. This year sees the 10th birthday of CMSF Partnership with Monaghan County Council. The week of events launched on Saturday 8 November with a family fun day in Cavan Institute. Funded through Taighde Éireann, the Festival aims to spark a curiosity in the science in our everyday lives, to broaden participation, making science more accessible and foster new partnership. 2025 delivery includes 28 events across Co Cavan providing Informal learning environment to encourage learning.

Primary audience has now changed – initially focused on children but now focus on adults, adults without children and women. A number of Age Friendly activities have been included following collaborative working with Cavan Age Friendly who consulted with Cavan Older Peoples Council.

Ms Carey referred to working in partnership with internal Council departments as well as external partner organisations for delivery of programmes.

AOB

Date of next meeting. 15 December 2025 in Cavan Museum @11 am.



Cllr. Clifford Kelly
Chairperson,

Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport SPC