

Connolly Barracks Reimagined Museum

The museum at Connolly Barracks will be a modern, accessible, and interactive cultural facility located on the ground floor of the redeveloped Officers' Mess building.

Key features include:

- **Exhibition galleries** showcasing Longford's social, military, and cultural history, as well as the story of the barracks itself.
- **A music heritage section** highlighting local traditions, musicians, and the digitisation of significant collections
- **Interactive and multimedia displays** to engage visitors and make the experience accessible and enjoyable.
- **A museum shop** supporting local artists, craftspeople, and food producers.
- **Universal accessibility** with step-free entry, accessible WCs, braille signage, and autism-friendly design elements.

Purpose

The purpose of the museum is to:

- **Preserve and celebrate Longford's heritage:** By collecting and displaying artefacts, stories, and music, the museum will safeguard the county's unique history for future generations.
- **Foster community pride and integration:** The museum is designed as a welcoming space for all, encouraging participation from Longford's diverse communities
- **Support education and lifelong learning:** Through school programmes, workshops, guided tours, and interactive exhibits, the museum will offer educational opportunities for children, young people, and adults.
- **Promote cultural tourism:** As a flagship visitor attraction, the museum will increase footfall to Longford town, encourage longer stays, and support the local economy.
- **Enable creativity and collaboration:** The museum will host events, talks, performances, and collaborative projects with local artists, musicians, historians, and educational partners.
- **Ensure accessibility and inclusion:** The design and programming will ensure that everyone, regardless of age, ability, or background can access and enjoy the museum.



Opportunities Provided by the Connolly Barracks Reimagined Museum

- **Cultural Engagement:**

The public can explore Longford's history and music heritage through exhibitions, interactive displays, and community-contributed artefacts.

- **Education and Lifelong Learning:**

Schools, families, and adults can participate in workshops, guided tours, and educational programmes tailored to all ages and backgrounds.

- **Community Integration:**

The museum serves as a welcoming space for all communities, supporting social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, and the sharing of diverse stories.

- **Creative Expression:**

Local artists, musicians, and storytellers have a platform to exhibit, perform, and collaborate on cultural projects and events.

- **Volunteering and Skills Development:**

Community members can volunteer as guides, event organisers, or workshop facilitators, gaining valuable experience and skills.

- **Economic and Tourism Growth:**

The museum acts as a flagship attraction, increasing visitor numbers, supporting local businesses (including the museum shop and café), and boosting the local economy.

- **Heritage Preservation:**

Residents can contribute to the preservation and celebration of Longford's unique identity by sharing artefacts, oral histories, and family stories.

- **Accessible Participation:**

The museum's universal design ensures everyone, including people with disabilities can access and enjoy its offerings.

- **Collaboration and Partnerships:**

Opportunities for joint projects with schools, community groups, historians, and cultural organisations, strengthening local networks.

- **Event Hosting:**

The museum provides a venue for talks, performances, launches, and community celebrations, making it a lively hub for public life.

