



## Design and Project Team:

<b>Architects:</b>	Gaffney & Cullivan
<b>Director of Services:</b>	Ger Finn
<b>County Librarian:</b>	Josephine Brady
<b>Senior Executive Officer:</b>	Kevin Reilly
<b>Acting Senior Executive Engineer:</b>	Paul Mulligan
<b>Clerk of Works:</b>	Colm Fitzpatrick
<b>Archaeologist:</b>	Michael Drumm
<b>Main Contractor:</b>	J.J. McCauley

## Suppliers:

<b>Shelving:</b>	Desks International
<b>Furniture:</b>	Work Rest Play

## Library Contact Details

<b>Library Staff</b>	Jacqueline Magennis and Mary Prior
<b>Address:</b>	Belturbet Library and Civic Centre, Belturbet
<b>Phone:</b>	+353 (0)49 9522683
<b>Email:</b>	library@cavancoco.ie
<b>Web:</b>	www.cavanlibrary.ie

## Library Opening hours

<b>Tuesday</b>	10.00am – 1.15pm	2.00pm – 5.15pm
<b>Thursday</b>	2.00pm – 5.15pm	6.00pm – 8.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	10.00am – 1.15pm	2.00pm – 5.15pm

## Space Allocation

<b>Total Floor Area (Net)</b>	<b>550 Sq. Metres</b>
<b>Total Library Area (Ground Floor)</b>	<b>175 Sq. Metres</b>

## Funding

Reconstruction Costs:	€1,110,000.00
Grant Aid: International Fund for Ireland	€ 449,252.00
Grant Aid: Department for the Environment, Community and Local Government	€ 250,000.00
Cavan County Council: Own Resources	€ 410,748.00



## Cavan County Council and Belturbet Community Development Association

Welcomes you to the  
Official Opening of

## Belturbet Library and Civic Centre

By Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D.

Minister for the Environment,  
Community and Local Government

At 5pm on Friday 9th May 2014

*“Genuine politics is simply a matter of serving those around us: serving the community and serving those who will come after us. Its deepest roots are moral because it is a responsibility expressed through action, to and for the whole.”*

Vaclav Havel

## Building Community

Cavan County Council's commitment to delivery of safe, inclusive, equitable spaces with no physical, social or financial barriers continues with Belturbet library and Civic Space. With the active support of the CRAIC Advisory Group and in particular, Brigid Boyle, we have worked hard to tackle the universal access challenges thrown up during the renovation period. We are looking forward to seeing everyone, including People with Disabilities, benefiting from our determination to continue to deliver excellence in accessibility.

Belturbet Library Staff Team, Jacqueline Magennis and Mary Prior, want you to get the most out of your wonderful new library.



Help us to build a new community of users. Please come and visit us. We will be proud to introduce you to all services and facilities from **Tuesday 13th May**.

Opening Hours include, for the first time ever, full day Saturday opening, one late night opening and three full days opening weekly. Resources permitting, we will do our best to ensure that the library remains open year round.

On Official Opening Day, we want to demonstrate that our newest service is all about our users and the wider Belturbet community.

So, we are putting three very special Library Users at the centre of celebrations. We will welcome one of our most loyal and long standing members, our youngest and first new member of the new library, and the winner of our recent social media competition to mark this important event for this community.

## In Partnership with Belturbet Community

We work at the invitation of Belturbet community and with the understanding that, together and in real partnership, we will shape service provision from this landmark building.

We look forward to seeing this community grow in self worth and confidence through the exciting and creative developments that will take place in this wonderful Civic Space.

The Town Hall is Belturbet's landmark building and the approach taken by Cavan County Council and Belturbet Community Development Association together ensures sustainable usage of the entire space for the future.

There are real synergies between the Library Service and the Community and Resource facility. Both services take on a new significance as a result of co-location in this wonderfully restored building. The benefits will become clear over the coming months and years and we look forward to seeing this community thrive as a result.

***"The library is a place where knowledge and information freely dwell to define, empower, preserve, challenge, entertain and transform individuals, cultures and communities.***

***The dwelling place is both a by-product of civil communities and a catalyst for cultural progress, inspiration, expression and exchange.***

***The essence of the library's community role is not the technological mastery over knowledge and information, but rather the provision of sanctuary for human thought and expression in any medium."***

Libraries in the 21st Century  
Salzburg Seminar, Austria  
2005

# Cathaoirleach's Message

As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council it gives me great pleasure to see the Official Opening of Belturbet Library and Civic Centre. It represents the culmination of years of endeavour by successive Councils, Co. Managers and Co. Librarians.



This is a landmark building of architectural and historical significance. Belturbet is an important urban area for the West Cavan region that has suffered greatly as a result of the Troubles. With the Peace Process, the town had shown signs of increased commercial activity, but the economic downturn impacted negatively on Belturbet's regeneration.

Cavan County Council and Belturbet Community Development Association worked together to address the lack of a central civic area and quality library Service for the town and its catchment. Belturbet Library and Civic Centre will serve as a strong foundation on which to build social, educational, cultural and economic development in this area.

I wish to compliment everyone associated with this project including Cavan County Council staff, Architect, Design Team and Contractors. A special word of thanks to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and to the International Fund for Ireland, who provided grant aid without which this project could not have progressed.

This milestone in community development in County Cavan will enable a regeneration of Belturbet and its environs. This community deserves no less.

**Cllr. Val Smith,  
Cathaoirleach  
Cavan County Council**

# County Manager's Message

This landmark building provided Cavan County Council and Belturbet Community Development Association with the opportunity to work together to deliver a great multi-purpose civic space for the people of Belturbet. It is with pride that we mark its Official Opening today, and with the understanding that together we can find solutions to the problems facing this community.



Belturbet Library and Civic Centre will deliver needs-based services, shaped by and for this community. We are ambitious for this Centre and see it promoting community cohesion, cross border relationships, economic growth, social and cultural identity.

This centrally located, imaginative and highest quality Civic Space will deliver well planned and co-ordinated services that will play an important role in economic and social regeneration. A true partnership approach with the community together with a Civic Space that enables flexibility, choice, a pleasurable environment, and barrier-free interaction should ensure that this Civic Space becomes a powerhouse for Belturbet into the future.

Today would not have been possible without much hard work by a number of people and the support and co-operation of many more. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Cathaoirleach and members of Cavan County Council, and the Cathaoirleach and members of Belturbet Town Council, for their commitment to this major, large-scale project. The Minister, Mr Phil Hogan, T.D., and his Departmental staff have been extremely supportive throughout the design, renovation and fit out process. The contribution of the Libraries Development Unit within the Local Government Management Agency was invaluable and much appreciated. Without the input of the International Fund for Ireland, this project simply would not have been deliverable and it is my privilege to thank this international organisation most sincerely.

I want to thank Ger Finn, Director of Services, Josephine Brady, Co. Librarian, Kevin Reilly, Senior Executive Officer, and the Design and Project Team for their outstanding commitment and determination to deliver excellence for the people of Belturbet.

Tá súil agam go mbainfidh an pobal usáid as na seirbhísí atá le fáil anseo agus go mbainfidh said taithneamh agus tairbhe as na seirbhísí sin.

**Mr. Jack Keyes,  
County Manager  
Cavan County Council**

# Belturbet - a Town of Importance



**“Big enough to matter in this world,  
but small enough that you can matter in it!”**

Belturbet has a proud story to tell. Once the largest town in the county and a thriving economic hub, it is rich in natural beauty and heritage and has important archaeological and historical features. Two local historians in particular – George Morrissey and Dr. Brendan Scott - have explored the origins, evolution, development and current condition of this unique place and the people who have made it what it is.

As part of the re-development of the current Town Hall building, an excavation licence was secured. This uncovered stone remains, believed to be over four centuries old and among the first foundations laid in the municipal development of the town. Belturbet native, Michael Drumm, carried out this detailed excavation and, together with the original corporation records, cartographic surveys and finds made, we can be very certain that this site was at the economic and municipal heart of this area for centuries.

Belturbet suffered greatly as a result of the Troubles and was bereft of economic activity over many years as a result of its border location and isolation from its natural hinterland. It also suffered disproportionately during the current economic crisis due to the numbers historically employed in the building, construction and manufacturing industries in this region.

Recent capital investment, including the Castlesaunderson Project, is contributing to the revitalisation of the Belturbet area. The town functions as a local service centre for the surrounding community and as a residential centre. It benefits from employment and commercial activity in the Cavan town region. As a tourist destination, Belturbet has unique amenities, including Castlesaunderson, Belturbet Railway Station, the Canal and the river Erne. With a catchment population of close to 4,300, five primary schools, a secondary school, two childcare services and a plethora of active community organisations, demand for a Library and Civic Centre is high and usage levels are expected to exceed all expectations.



# Belturbet's Library Service



**“A library outranks any other one thing a community  
can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in  
the desert.”**

**Andrew Carnegie**

The library story began in Belturbet over 65 years ago and suffered greatly throughout its history from grossly inadequate facilities. However Belturbet was extraordinarily lucky in its Branch Librarians, most notably **Mrs Ellen Bannon**. This dedicated woman was a vivid presence in the library for close to fifty years who understood that poverty can, if allowed; trap talent and drain away potential. In a very modern sense she grasped the poverty of a community that does not value a culture of reading and approached her library work with the intention of getting local children hooked early.

Children lucky enough to meet her in Belturbet library were not only encouraged but nurtured in their reading. We remember her with profound gratitude. Go ndéanaí Dia trócaire uirthi Méadú ar a ghlóir ins na Flaithis.

Belturbet Library Staff Team, Jacqueline Magennis and Mary Prior, will bring the same dedication to quality service delivery and commitment to community.

The wait for modern library facilities and services for Belturbet has been a long one. Everyone, staff and users alike, is eagerly looking forward to quality library service provision from this inspirational civic space, in a prime location. Local pride in this building has been palpable during the design, construction and fit out stages.

The location of key services in this landmark building allows Cavan County Council and the Belturbet community to tap into the potential of an invaluable resource for the economic and cultural development of this region.



# Services and Facilities

## Collections

Books are and always will be at the heart of our service, and fostering a passion for reading remains our core aim. You won't find a better collection in any library serving this population level, whatever your interests might be. An exciting departure is the introduction of a special D.V.D. film collection.

For children, libraries offer the best chance to open wide the doors to the world of knowledge. In this information age, literacy skills are growing in importance. Reading, more than any other skill, provides the gateway into the digital world. Parents, Teachers and Children will not be slow to recognise the great Children's Service now on offer.

Business and Community Information - print and digital - will now be available to support job seekers, local enterprise and to provide much needed economic stimulus for this community. We expect that great study and reading facilities, completely absent in the old library, will be heavily used and appreciated by all sections of the community.

## Library Events

The multi-purpose Library Events Space together with the facilities on offer in the Civic Centre should ensure that this building establishes itself as a key strand in the cultural life of this community. We look forward to working with the people of Belturbet to ensure that all facilities are heavily used and that people come together to enjoy cultural programming.

## The Virtual Library

The old manual library service, bereft of access to even one computer is, thankfully, a thing of the past. A fully computerised service with eRegistration, online and web registration, and SMS texting, catapults Belturbet Library from the 19th to the 21st century in one giant leap.

Free Wi Fi access, public PC facilities and broadband access to the Web, together with print and photocopy facilities, complete this 21st century library designed to attract all age groups and abilities. Belturbet Library Staff and Users alike will benefit from direct access to Cavan Library Service's ground breaking, innovative, and nationally important Web and Social Media presence.