
REDEVELOPMENT OF CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM TO BEGIN IN 2010

The detailed construction drawings and specifications for the new Carlow County Museum have been finalised and the plans are presently at tender stage. The main contractor will be appointed in February 2010 with construction beginning shortly thereafter. It is expected that the Museum will reopen in the summer of 2011.

The new Carlow County Museum is being established by Carlow Local Authorities as part of its overall strategy for social, economic and cultural development of the county and the Museum will help cater for the cultural and educational needs of the community and provide a much needed indoor heritage tourism amenity for the county. The Museum already contains a growing collection of over 5,000 artefacts. The collection represents a wide range of periods and topics including natural history specimens, stone and Bronze Age archaeological objects, coins, medals, stamps, religious objects, military and police artefacts and memorabilia, agricultural implements, trade, craft and industrial items, sporting memorabilia and a large collection of photographs and archival material. It is a good representative collection of the county, containing many interesting objects some of which are of national and international importance.

The new development involves the restoration of the former Presentation Convent on College Street, Carlow Town. The building is in a prime town centre location and is part of a complex that already houses the Co. Library, Archive and the Tourist Office. The vision is to create a central cultural complex in Carlow town that provides easy access to cultural amenities. The new VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art and George Bernard Shaw Theatre, which opened in September 2009, is situated in close proximity in the grounds of Carlow College.