



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

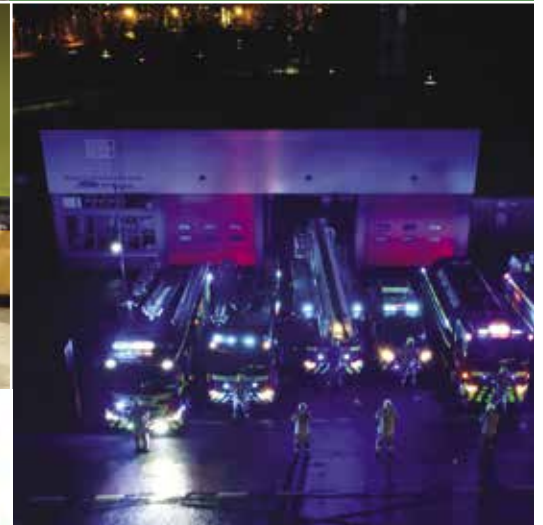
Nollaig / December
2020



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p5



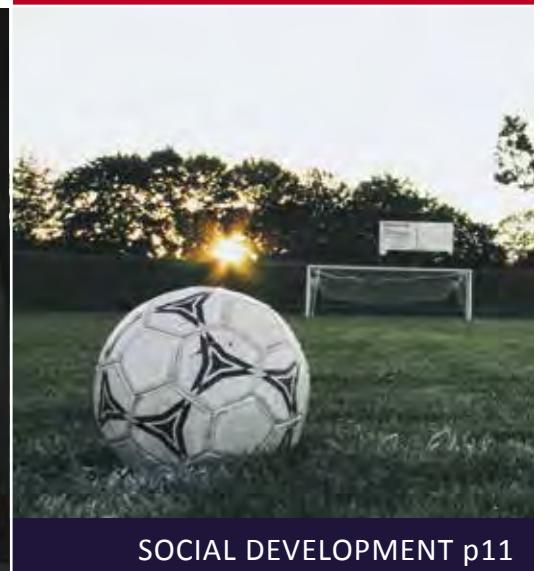
FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES p2



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT p18



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT p34



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT p11

FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES



Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020

Clare County Council and Clare County Library are delighted to have won the award for “Best Library Service” in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020 for the project, *Connections: Stories by Syrian Families in County Clare*.

These awards highlight the vital work done by Local Authorities in communities around the country. Clare County Council was shortlisted in a total of six initiatives as follows:

- Best library Service – *Connections: Stories by Syrian Families in County Clare*
- Supporting Sustainable Communities – The Ennistymon Multi-Service Innovation Centre, Enabling a Sustainable Community
- Initiatives through the Municipal Districts – Ennis Town Centre Mobility Plan
- Best Practice in Community Engagement – Ballyalla Lake Amenities Enhancement Plan
- Festival of the Year – Clare Food and Drink Fleadh
- Heritage and Built Environment – Restoration and Refurbishment of the Turret Lodge.

Register of Electors

The List of Claims is now compiled and will be circulated for inspection to post offices, area offices and Clare Members of the Dáil, Seanad and Elected Members.

The County Registrar, Pat Wallace, has appointed Wednesday, 16th December, 2020, at 2.30pm as the date and time for the Revision Courts to be held. Due to Covid-19 restrictions it will not be necessary for claimants to appear at the Revision Court. Claimants should write to the Register of Electors, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, County Clare, in respect of any claim he or she wishes to make. Any claimant should submit an application form accompanied by a birth certificate for those reaching

the age of 18 years of age before 15th February, 2021.

All claims will be adjudicated on by the County Registrar and those allowed will go through to be included on the final 2021/2022 Register of Electors, which will be published on 1st February, 2021.

Freedom of information and data protection

2020 Statistics to 30/11/2020:

- 152 Freedom of Information requests
- 6 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- 5 Access Requests (Data Protection) – Data Subjects
- 20 Access Requests (Data Protection) – Third Party Access

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published on eTenders during November 2020:

Short description	Response deadline
Renovation works in Active Ennis, Sandfield Road, Lifford, Ennis, County Clare	20/11/2020
Supply of a New Digital Colour Printing Press and 5-year Maintenance Contract	02/12/2020
SEA, AA & RES – Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, Renewable Energy Strategy and Energy Emissions Balance for Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028	09/12/2020
Housing Strategy, including Housing Need Demand Assessment for County Clare	18/12/2020
Mechanical Services Installation	14/12/2020
Bus Shelter Enabling Works – 11 No.	15/01/2021

COMMUNICATIONS

Mind your wellbeing

We're having quite a year, and we all need a little help to get us through. Starting with a plan to do one small thing that will keep you well is a great way to look after your mental health and wellbeing.

The 'Keep Well' campaign is aimed at showing people of all ages how we can mind our own physical and mental health and wellbeing by adding healthy and helpful habits to our daily and weekly routines. It will provide guidelines, information and tips on activities and resources that will help us keep well through the coming months. The Keep Well campaign is focused on five main themes.

Keeping active
Keeping active and being outdoors, even during the winter, is important to help physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Staying connected
Staying connected with people, addressing isolation, supporting volunteering and initiatives that support person-to-person connection are important to our wellbeing.

Switching off and being creative
Switching off and being creative or learning something new, getting back to nature and finding ways to relax can help our general wellbeing.

Eating well
By nourishing our bodies and minds, we can develop a better connection between the food we eat and how we feel and positively impact our physical and mental wellbeing.

Minding your mood
It's normal to be worried or to feel stressed during this difficult time, but there are many things we can do to help us mind our mental health and wellbeing and to keep ourselves well.

Community Response Helpline
A helpline is available to respond to the needs of vulnerable members of our community. If you need practical supports, like your shopping delivered, or you just need someone to talk to you, the Clare Covid-19 Community Response Helpline is here for you. Call Freephone 1800 203600 or email clarecommunityresponse@clarecoco.ie

Find ideas on what you can do and what's available in your local community at clarecoco.ie/together

KEEP WELL

Follow Clare County Council on social media

The Communications Office communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest.

The 'Keep Well' campaign aims to support people and communities to mind their physical and mental wellbeing over the winter months. A designated 'Keep Well' page has been created on the Clare County Council website (clarecoco.ie/together), which will be continually updated with useful resources for the public. The website has been promoted across Clare County Council's social media in November, with posts highlighting different aspects of wellbeing and linking to various online events and activities. The Communications Office has co-ordinated a media campaign that includes information in the local newspapers, daily radio advertisements and an ongoing series of interviews on Clare FM's *Morning Focus* show.

There were 13 media releases during November including: the adoption of the Clare County Council Budget for 2021; the naming of the Burren Ecotourism Network in Lonely Planet's 'Best in Travel 2021' award scheme; the announcement of Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year; and an initiative by the Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard, to reach out to the community during Covid-19. Council news featured in *The Irish Times*, *Irish Independent*, *The Clare Champion*, *The Clare Echo*, and *The Clare Herald*, and on Clare FM.

Waste Awareness Week took place from 16th-20th November. The Communications Office provided support to the Environmental Awareness Officer with 60 posts throughout the week across Clare County Council's social media channels.

Social Media

The Communications Office continues to monitor and update social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In November, the Communications Office:

- Posted 102 times on Clare County Council's Facebook page, with followers now 14,948. Posts reached 53,289 users with 11,664 engagements
- Tweeted 112 times on Twitter, with total followers now 6,711. Tweets earned 217,000 impressions, 281 mentions and 2,357 profile visits.
- Posted 76 times on Instagram with followers now 1,797.

Print and Graphic Design

The print and graphic design service continues to provide services including layout and production of posters and signage, forms, certificates and booklets.

Irish Language Department

November saw the translation of documents relating to the provision of information and services regarding the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) and the Draft Register of Electors.

The annual conference of Irish Language Officers in Ireland (COFG) was held on successive Thursdays via Zoom, a valuable update and an opportunity to discuss the issues and challenges facing this network in the Covid-19 era.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during November 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained Fire-fighter Part-time Panel (Killaloe, Kilrush, Shannon and Kilkee) (Open) Executive Librarian Panel (Confined and Open) A/Senior Executive Engineer Panel (Confined) Professional Counselling Services Panel (Open) Library Facilities Attendant Panel (Confined and Open) A/Assistant Scientist Panel (Confined) Co-Op Student Placements (University of Limerick). <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/Assistant Scientist (Confined) Retained Fire-Fighter Part-time Panel (Open).
Learning and Development	<p>Among the training programmes held in November were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Pass (8 participants) Manual Handling (36 participants) Managing Confined Spaces (8 participants) PHECC Occupational First Aid (13 participants) Temporary Traffic Management Training Level 1 and 2 (12 participants) Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (1 participant). <p>With the Covid-19 restrictions, we have had a reduced number of training courses with a limit placed on the number of participants who can attend. However, the range of online learning is expanding, particularly noteworthy is the remote delivery by the IPA of their programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government A-Z (22 participants) Certificate in Local Government Studies (11 participants) Diploma in Local government Studies (3 participants). <p>An online Disability Awareness course was provided by Ability Focus over four Fridays in November and 25 staff participated.</p> <p>Over 58 courses were completed on the Essential Skillz training portal by a number of staff - new and existing staff.</p>
Covid-19	The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary with regard to Covid-19 matters.
Unions	The HR Department continued to engage and consult with unions on various matters.

FINANCE

Restart Grant Plus

The Finance team have been facilitating the Restart Grant and Restart Grant Plus schemes announced by the Government since May.

The scheme closed on 31st October and Finance are continuing to bring the administration of the scheme to a close.

To date, Clare County Council has paid €13.7m to over 1,700 applicants across various business sectors in the county.

Nine-month Waiver of Commercial Rates

A 100 per cent waiver, in the form of a credit in lieu of commercial rates has been applied to the rate accounts of all businesses, for a nine-month period (27 March to 27 December), with a small number of categories excepted. This is in recognition of the fact that not only have many ratepayers been forced to close business due to the public health requirements, but many others who remained open have suffered significant reductions in turnover. Funds, of approximately €12.5m, to compensate for same will be issued by the Government to Clare County Council.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

'Lonely Planet' award for Burren Ecotourism Network



Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard, and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, are pictured with the Chairperson (George Quinn) and Chief Executive (Jarlath O'Dwyer) of Burren Ecotourism Network together with the Chair of West Clare Municipal District (Cllr Joe Garrihy) and staff of the Tourism Department: Deirdre O'Shea, Carol Gleeson, Eamon Doyle and Leonard Cleary.

The Burren Ecotourism Network was named in Lonely Planet's 'Best in Travel 2021' award scheme and the Burren has been included in the top 30 places to travel to in the world. The Network is the only Irish entry on this year's prestigious list.

The Network, which comprises 60 local businesses promoting sustainable tourism in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark, develops and manages an environmentally sustainable tourism product that seeks to attract people to the Burren in a way that both promotes and also protects its wealth of natural and cultural attractions.

The award is the result of many years of collaboration and commitment by Burren Ecotourism Network members and the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark, reinforced with financial supports from the Local Authority and other agencies.

The Burren Ecotourism Network was established in 2008 by Burren Connect (now the UNESCO Global Geopark) and a handful of local tourism businesses. Since then, the Burren Ecotourism Network's membership and profile has grown from strength to strength. A key requirement of membership is that each business completes the UNESCO Global Geopark's Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism.

This leadership in sustainable tourism is the direction and objective of the newly adopted *County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030*. The vision is to develop Clare's profile as a globally renowned sustainable destination, as demonstrated by Lonely Planet's recognition of the Burren and all it has to offer. Clare County Council will continue to support and promote the Burren region as a model for sustainable tourism in a protected area.

Clare Youth Action wins prize at all-Ireland community awards



Clare Youth Action was awarded a major prize at the all-Ireland Pride of Place awards on Saturday, 21st November. The group was named winner in the 'Community Youth Led Initiative' category. The awards, hosted by Marty Morrissey, took place online due to Covid-19 restrictions, with 6,000 people logging in from across Ireland to see community groups pick up gongs. Clare Youth Action was praised by the judges, who said: "This fantastic youth-led project demonstrated the power of young people coming up with an idea and presenting it to the right agency for support. A top-class presentation and wonderful testimonials by exceptional young adults absolutely convinced the judges of the value of this great project."

Elsewhere, Labasheeda Le Chéile came runners-up in the category for areas with a population under 300. Broadford Community Action Group was nominated but missed out on a prize. Sponsored by IPB Insurance, the Pride of Place competition was initiated 18 years ago through a Co-operation Ireland programme to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development. It has grown into the largest competition recognising community development achievements on the island of Ireland. President Michael D Higgins, who is Joint Patron of Co-operation Ireland

with Queen Elizabeth, said the awards played an important role.

"The Pride of Place awards are a most important initiative, reminding us that creating societies that are ethical and inclusive is a task for all of our citizens, of all ages and circumstances."

John Treacy, Pride of Place Coordinator in Clare, said: "I would like to heartily congratulate all three community projects that represented County Clare in the 2020 IPB Pride of Place Awards. My job was made very easy by the incredible people who volunteer their time so generously for the betterment of their communities and place. Broadford Community Action Group did their locality proud with a very strong interactive presentation to the judges. Labasheeda Le Chéile also presented an excellent record of their works to date and deservedly placed as runners-up in their very competitive category. Clare Youth Action won their category outright, a testament to their remarkable youth-led activation and taking a leadership role across a wide range of issues of national and international importance. My colleagues in the Rural Development Directorate of Clare County Council and I are very proud of the achievements of all three groups and also the strength of the wider community and voluntary sector in County Clare. We look forward to continuing to support the sector in 2021. Comhghairdeas lenár ngrúpaí."

Joint Policing Committee

The Clare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) held its last meeting of 2020 on 12th October, 2020. Chief Superintendent Seán Colleran provided a comparison of crime statistics from 2019 to 2020, highlighting the increases and decreases per category over the 12-month period. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services Department, Clare County Council, updated the JPC on the current position in relation to CCTV and requirements to remotely operate CCTV under Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act (2015). Mr Feeney discussed with JPC members and the Gardaí, the use of dash cams, data protection, Covid-19, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), personal CCTV cameras, the complexities in evidence gathering, and caution of using same. Karen Fennessy, Age Friendly Development Officer, Rural Directorate, updated the

JPC on the Age Friendly initiatives around safety and security for older people including work of the Gardaí, and the benefits of community schemes and the positive effects of inter-generational projects. She spoke of the social disconnect due to Covid-19 lockdowns and work with local libraries to help older persons use technology to stay connected. The Age Friendly Programme had developed an *Information Guide of Services to Older People* to communicate all relevant information to those not digitally connected with the Internet. Detective Sergeant Paul English briefed the JPC on the new specialist Garda Protective Services Unit which opened in Crusheen, Co. Clare. The unit investigates sexual and domestic crimes under the Victims of Crime Act (2017). He outlined the structure of the unit, the referral process, supports, and spoke of the specially trained personnel providing a safe place for victims to talk.

Mayor welcomes €261,000 in CLÁR funding for rural schools and communities

The Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard, has welcomed the announcement by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, of over €261,000 in funding under the 2020 CLÁR programme for seven projects in Co. Clare. These projects are among 115 projects in the country to benefit from €4.1 million in funding announced by the Minister on 2nd November under the CLÁR scheme.

CLÁR is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small projects in areas that have experienced significant depopulation in the past. The aim of CLÁR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of maintaining the population of those areas.

Launched in May 2020, this funding supports the provision of safety measures around schools and community facilities (Measure 1) as well as the development of community recreation areas (Measure 2). The CLÁR programme for 2020 had a particular focus on responding to the challenges for communities arising from Covid-19 in providing infrastructure that will help communities to stay in touch with each other, within the parameters of the public health guidelines at any given time.

Under the funding announced €161,365 will be provided to projects in five communities in Clare to provide and improve safety infrastructure such as footpaths, public lighting, pedestrian crossings, speed safety signs, car-parking facilities and to adapt the environs around schools/community facilities to meet



the public health requirements arising from Covid-19. This funding has been awarded to projects at Lackyle National School, Kilnamona National School, Kilnaboy Community Development Association, Broadford National School and Kilkee Pedestrian Crossing.

A further €100,000 is being provided to two projects for community recreation areas where people can socialise safely outdoors in line with Covid-19 public health guidelines. The two successful Clare projects in this category include Lisseycasey Community Ltd and Kilmihil People's Park.

A further Measure 3 for Community Wellbeing Supports, administered directly by the Department of Rural and Community Development, is due to be announced in the coming weeks for projects relating to: Meals on Wheels and linked services; and mobility and cancer care transport.

Ennis Men's Shed goes from strength to strength



Pictured (back row, l-r): Leonard Meaney, Fran Hehir, Tommy Whitney, members of the Ennis Men's Shed committee; and (front row, l-r) Anthony Considine, Acting Executive Engineer, Environment Department, and Niamh Wiley, Rural and Community Development Officer, Rural Development Directorate, Clare County Council.

The 'dream' of a forever home for the Ennis Men's Shed group moved a step closer in October with the decision by Clare County Council to grant planning permission to the Ennis Men's Shed group to develop a site at the Doora Landfill grounds on the Ennis-Quinn Road for community use.

Led by Rural Development, this initiative involved a cross-directorate collaborative effort between Rural Development, Environment, Economic Development, the General Design Department and Ennis Municipal District. The journey began in August 2019, Roche Ireland Limited was approaching closure

and a number of the workers expressed an interest in forming a men's group as a way of keeping up social contact and to provide an activity outlet for people moving into retirement. Under the guidance and support of Niamh Wiley, Rural and Community Development Officer, and Anthony Considine, Acting Executive Engineer, Environment Department, they were supported through a process which led this cohort of men to join forces with the existing Ennis Men's Shed. This strengthening of capacity within the group inevitably led them to secure a permanent base at Doora. The group have increased in both numbers and capacity with a combined skills base of varied trades ranging from carpentry, plumbing and horticulture and professions in construction engineering, project management and financial experience. Following a temporary lease agreement from Clare County Council in May the group began work to prepare the site. They received a donation of a large portacabin from Roche, which will be their primary social and recreation area. They are currently awaiting delivery of a large insulated steel workshop and a polytunnel. The total investment to date in this project is in the region of €95,000. Support and financial assistance was secured from Clare County Council, Ennis MD Councillors, Roche, philanthropic organisations, National Lottery, Clare Local Development Company and other smaller donations. The future looks very bright for the growth of Men's Shed in Clare as this location in Doora has the potential to be the central training and meeting base for all Men's Sheds within the county.

Clare Older People’s Volunteer of the Year



Clockwise from above left: Mary Slattery, Clare Older People’s Volunteer of the Year 2020; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; and Karen Fennessy, Age-Friendly Development Officer, Clare County Council, with Patricia-Anne Moore, Chair, Clare Older People’s Council.

Cratloe volunteer Mary Slattery has been named the 2020 winner of the Clare Older People’s Volunteer of the Year Award. An award ceremony was live streamed from Áras Contae an Chláir in Ennis on Tuesday, 17th November, 2020, via Clare County Council’s YouTube channel. The function was hosted by the Clare Older People’s Council and supported by Clare County Council. Nineteen community volunteers from all over Clare were nominated for this year’s award. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, virtually presented Mary Slattery with an engraved glass trophy as well as a Clare Gift Card.

Mary has been an active member of her community for over 48 years and is currently a member of Cratloe Community Council. She attends their meetings and involves herself with all activities to improve the life of the community. She has been a member of the Irish Countrywomen’s Association (ICA) since 1967 and has held all offices. Mary has provided catering for events, organised by groups such as the GAA, the Church and the annual Milford Hospice fundraiser. She is a Eucharistic Minister and visits nursing homes. She takes older people to

Ennis for hospital appointments and visits their homes to help organise medication, which she collects from pharmacies if required. During the Covid-19 restrictions she has collected groceries and medication for people.

Addressing those attending virtually, the Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard, spoke of the importance of voluntary work to local communities and of how such work contributes to the resolution of challenges faced by those communities.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, congratulated the winner and all the nominees, who received a framed certificate in recognition of having been nominated by their communities. Nominees will also receive a framed letter from President Michael D Higgins, which was read out during the ceremony.

Mr Dowling also praised the organisers of the event, Clare Older People’s Council, and acknowledged the resilience demonstrated by the older community during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the leadership role they have played in following Government guidelines.

'From a Distance' virtual concert series



The Cultural Companions Programme, led by Age Friendly Clare, has created a series of 'virtual concerts' being broadcast live every Sunday afternoon over five weeks in the run-up to Christmas. The concerts are being funded through Creative Ireland and are being viewed through the Ennis Cathedral webcam that older people regularly tune into for mass.

The Clare Cultural Companions Programme is an Age & Opportunity arts initiative designed to link older people

interested in arts and culture through a network so they can attend events together as a group. Obviously, this year there haven't been many events to attend so the Creative Ireland funding was put towards a series of virtual concerts that would also be of benefit to local musicians performing in them.

The concerts are free for anyone to watch and so far the feedback from these concerts has been excellent. They have been a welcome boost to older people, both at home and residing in nursing homes.



'Experience Clare' Holiday Calendar



The Clare Tourism Department has produced a 2021 'Experience Clare' Holiday Calendar.

After the year that was 2020, we hope and expect that 2021 will be better, and we will be working hard to help bring this about for Clare as a destination.

The Tourism Department are very mindful that everyone deserves a break and we hope to encourage a wonderful visitor experience to our county during 2021, when it is safe to do so. The images featured in the calendar and guide show just some of what Clare has to offer. One of the Tourism Department goals during 2020 was to significantly expand the Clare photo image bank. This new imagery will also be available on the Visit Clare trade blog for free use and future promotional sharing of Clare.

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience

Residents within 5km have been welcome to visit the café, open for takeaway teas and coffees. When the current restrictions are eased, admission will be complimentary every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Friday, 3rd December, for residents to County Clare. All are welcome to come enjoy the festive spirit, shop local and enjoy the cliff walks. County Clare residents are invited to purchase a local pass, which offers phenomenal value and includes admission year round with generous discounts in retail and cafes. Passes are available from just €20 per year.

You can give a little Moher this Christmas. If you wish to buy a gift for a friend or family member, do so in the knowledge that you are supporting the wonderful Clare Crusaders charity. For every family admission ticket purchased, Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience will donate a complimentary admission to the Clare Crusaders so that they can enjoy an autism-friendly visit.

Open 9am-5pm daily, closed 24th, 25th and 26th December, visit www.cliffsofmoher.ie for information. Contact the sales office for passes and gifts: bookings@cliffsofmoher.ie



WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Works carried out at the Bridges of Ross by the West Clare Municipal District (WCMD) under the Department of Community and Rural Development's 2019 Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme.



Restoration improvement works on the L60081-0 in Oughterard, Loop Head.



Rock Armour recently installed by the WCMD in Ballyvaughan Pier under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2020.



Resurfacing of the R474 at Shanavogh East.



Works recently carried out by the WCMD in Spanish Point as part of the ongoing beach amenity improvement works.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

November is traditionally the busiest month for the Directorate with intensified activity to achieve end-of-year targets and draw down funding. This year was no different in spite of Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions. Business continued at pace during November to deliver essential services with non-essential services closed. Remote working remained a priority to protect the welfare of staff; significant advances were made in equipping staff to work remotely. Business processes have changed in response to the pandemic, however staff remain available and are committed to service delivery.

Housing

During Level 5 the housing public counter remained open daily to the public from 9am to 1pm and by appointment from 1pm until 5pm (Monday-Friday).

Limited allocations were processed during Level 5 and in this regard available stock was advertised on Choice Based Letting.

Construction activity is continuing during these Level 5 restrictions, there are 217 social housing units under construction in the county at this time through LA direct build, AHB and the PPP scheme at Shannon. The new development in Quilty was allocated; this will see 16 families in beautiful A2 energy rated properties in time for Christmas.

Housing in numbers

Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District (including RAS and leasing):		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,150	651
Shannon	642	152
West Clare	907	392
Killaloe	338	168
Inter Authority HAP		53
TOTAL	3,037	1,416

2,529 LA tenancies	1,416 HAP tenancies	218 RAS tenancies
287 leased properties	2,655 LA properties	3,130 Rent accounts

Summary of activity

Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions continued to impact service delivery, particularly services in occupied properties, in this regard private rented inspections are stood down and the process for delivering private house grants is changed. The impact of the restrictions is reflected in the numbers hereunder.

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from 28.10.2020 to 30.11.2020)	43
Offers refused	3
AHB nominations	52
Tenancies signed up	20
Tenancies terminated	6

Voids work programme	
Voids/casual vacancies	41
Acquired properties (works on-going)	18
Average vacancy period	135 days
Number voids returned to stock	9
Average spend	€29,748

Position at the end of November.

Housing maintenance calls	
November	525

Private rented inspections

*Inspections were suspended due to Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions.

Private rented inspections	
November	0*

Housing grants

Grants approved for November		
Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works (€)
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	12	243,300
Housing Aid for Older People	14	59,400
Mobility Aids Grant	8	40,840
Total	34	343,540

Rebuilding Ireland home loan

35 Applications	13 Approvals	2020 to date
84 Loans approved	63 Loans drawn down	Cumulative to date: 26/11/2020

Homeless

Homeless services are an essential service and remain available to anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291.

We continue our focus on exits from homeless services and, during the period 23rd October to 20th November, 2020, five households exited from homeless services; of this five households: two were housed in own door properties through HAP, leasing, AHB and local authority allocations; two self-discharged and left homeless services; and one returned to family. The interagency Homeless Action Team continues to support clients in the transition from homeless services to accommodation.

Homeless presentations to 20th November, 2020	
New presentations	19
Repeat presentations	102

Status as at 20th November, 2020				
	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	12	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	6	9	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	5	13	6	1
EA Families	6	8	7	2
EA Individuals	0	12	0	9
TOTAL	16	67	22	15

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The end of November marks the end of year in relation to the drawdown of Department of Transport grants. The delayed start to the roadworks season due to Covid-19 represented a challenge to meet these deadlines. All works as per Schedule of Municipal District Works have been completed.

Additional Grants received over the last half of 2020 were:

Active Travel

- Doonane Walkway Tulla, connecting the town to sports facilities – complete
- Tulla Southern Walkway trail, connecting the town towards the GAA field – complete
- Blueway Trail – Tuamgraney to Scarriff – 12km trail connecting both communities – 95 per cent complete.

Rural Development:

The MD is supporting Scarriff Town Team with surveys and traffic data as part of a plan to develop a masterplan for the Market Square, Scarriff.



Section of Blueway Trail near Ballycuggeran.

Christmas

The Outdoor Staff of the MD will be working between Christmas and New Year to ensure maintenance is carried out to the road network over the festive period as well as reacting to any emergency situations that arise.



Feakle R463 resurfaced.

Update on capital programme

SHIP capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start date	Completion date
Quilty	18	16 no. Units Substantially Complete 2 No. Units Under construction.	Q2 2019	Q4 2020
Sixmilebridge	2	Substantially Complete	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Kilmihil	2	Under construction.	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Shannon PPP	51	Under construction.	Q4 2019	Q3 2021
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under construction.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Miltown Malbay	27	Under construction.	Q4 2020	Q1 2022
Tulla	25	Under construction.	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under construction.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Doonbeg Sites	2	Under construction.	Q4 2020	Q4 2021
Cloughleigh – Turnkey Dev.	4	Under Construction	-	Q4 2021
Scarriff	18	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG Design Team Appointed.	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Stage 2 approved. Part VIII approved.	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Design Team appointed.	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Clarecastle	2	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Contract ready to be awarded.	Q1 2021	Q4 2021
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team.	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Sixmilebridge	16	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team.	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Subtotal	272			
CAS - Cahercalla Phase 2 (Cuan an Chlair)	15	CAS Construction. Under construction	Sept 2019	Q4 2020
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	29	CALF Acquisition approved. Under construction.	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	2	CALF Acquisition approved. Under construction – to close in 2021.	Q1 2020	Q2 2021
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	3	CAS – Stage 2 with Dept. for approval	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Sycamore Drive, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
	2	Part V	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Crusheen (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Subtotal	79			
Total	347			

CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

Clare Library Service was delighted to win the “Best Library Service” award in the Chambers Ireland Awards for its literacy project with Syrian students in Ennistymon. This project is testament to the commitment of staff to deliver an inclusive library service for all.

During these Level 5 restrictions Clare libraries are providing a home delivery service, e-resources and online material. In addition, library staff are also operating the local Covid-19 Community Response Helpline.

Library Covid-19 Services



Social media response to Clare Library delivery service.

Delivery service

A total of 1,862 deliveries were completed comprising 22,556 items (from 27th April). Over one-thousand deliveries have been made since the end of October.

Local Studies have also provided email and post services in November.

The demand for online resources reveals that e-books and e-audio remain popular.

	E-books	E-audio-books	E-magazines	Online courses
January	595	1,010	542	399
February	662	903	710	750
March	1,145	1,202	934	577
April	1,891	1,776	1,059	1,925
May	2,013	1,881	1,204	2,861
June	1,927	1,600	1,290	1,350
July	1,546	1,709	1,134	560
August	1,470	1,684	898	372
September	1,296	1,604	996	620
October	1,476	1,645	1,104	218
	14,021	15,014	9,871	9,632

Marketing

Please see below Clare Library social media activity for November.

November 2020	Posts	Likes	Shares/retweets	Comments
Facebook	168	516	182	19
Twitter	137	443	250	22
Instagram	109	964	25	36

Touch-type, read, spell (TTRS) literacy software

Clare County Library received Dormant Account funding to provide literacy software to Clare schools. Library staff have contacted over 100 primary schools in the county in a phase 1 roll-out of TTRS licences. Schools have requested 365 licences for their students. Library staff have also contacted adult education providers and a number of licences will be issued for adults engaged in learning in December. Library staff are also providing training for teachers and administrators on how to use the software.



Kilrush Library became a music studio to provide concerts into nursing homes. Patrick Roche entertains Clare nursing homes.

Healthy Ireland

Two online Chair Yoga workshops were successfully delivered including participants from nursing homes, including St Joseph’s Nursing Home, Ennis, Mowlam Nursing Home, Regina House, Brothers of Charity and also members of active retirement groups.

Sonia Millar, mindfulness instructor, delivered a total of 11 online mindfulness workshops to a number of schools, which were welcomed by teachers and enjoyed by children. These workshops are a taster of Level One of the Mindful Heart, which is part of the SPHE school curriculum. Sonia places a focus on giving children a toolbox of mindful exercises to manage stress and anxiety and the many challenges that children are facing at this time.

Pius Murray delivered a very inspiring workshop on the benefits of walking, which incorporated many tips on mindful walking. This online event was very well attended by individuals as well as people who are already members of various walking groups throughout the county.

Clare Library partnered with the HSE and West Clare Mental Health Association to deliver a pilot concert, via Zoom, to four nursing homes, Brothers of Charity and day care centres in West Clare. The concert was delivered by the well-known local

singer Patrick Roche, which was very successful and greatly appreciated by all who tuned in to this most enjoyable event. This concert will be replicated to include nursing homes in all regions of the county.

Creative Ireland



Author Elaine Feeney hosted a workshop with Shannon Library Book Club.

The Creative Ireland programme continues to support 'Creativity in the Community'. Recent events include online creative writing classes with Helen Blackhurst, online puppet shows for primary schools with Yourman's Puppets, film making classes for secondary students with the West Clare Film Club, online writing classes for transition year with Sarah Moore Fitzgerald and writer Elaine Feeney held online workshops with book club groups from Clare County Library aimed at re-energising and encouraging book clubs.

Creative Ireland Clare also funded Ruairí McKiernan for his podcast series 'Creative Souls of Clare', launched on 18th November through the Project Awards scheme, and gave grants to the Sparks Youth Film Festival and Music Generation's Musicales Festival.

Creative Ireland also grant-aided a garden at Ennis Day Hospital and received the following feedback from the project: "There were weeks where our garden project was the only therapeutic and social connection for many; a sense of meaning, hope and purpose, in an otherwise confusing world."

Decade of Centenaries

Project awards were granted to the Feakle Memorial Group for a booklet to commemorate the Feakle Ambush in October and to the East Clare Memorial Committee and Whitegate Community Council for their commemoration of the Scariff Martyrs in November. Grants were also given to Inis Cathaigh Kilrush and Lisseycasey Historical Group for their 1920 commemorative events marking local events of the War of Independence and to Connolly Community Development for their booklet commemorating the death of Charles Lynch. Details of all events can be found on the Decade of Centenaries section of the Clare Library website: <http://www.clarelibrary.ie>

Clare Arts Office

The Arts Office commissioned Tommy Baker, puppeteer, to develop a Zoom puppet show for children. Around 350 children (junior and senior infants) experienced a 'Random Act of Puppetry' in 15 schools. A total of 260 children in a further 13 schools experienced the Zoom Art Room whereby eight artists delivered online workshops in music, dance and visual art.

The Arts Officer was a guest speaker at the round table online discussion, the closing event of the National Arts in Education Portal Conference. The Association of Local Authority Arts Offices issued a nationwide call for a bursary for artists called Platform 31, which will see one artist from each county receive a bursary and peer networking in 2021. Almost 20 artists participated in two days of Communication and Digital Marketing Strategy training and further online training with Visual Artists Ireland on making funding applications was delivered.

East Clare artist, Paul Berg, was commissioned to work with internationally renowned artist Cleary Connolly on the ECO Showboat through Creative Ireland. Paul will create work that will be on show when the barge visits Clare in 2021. Eighty people attended the "Tar Isteach" online webinar to celebrate a project working with direct provision in Clare, Galway and Roscommon as part of the Bealtaine Festival. Over 30 cultural events and resources aimed at the creative sector were uploaded to the Council website as part of the Healthy Ireland 'Keep Well' wellbeing initiative.

Clare Museum



One of John Joe 'Goggles' Doyle's GAA medals.

Staff in Clare Museum have photographed 25 GAA medals from John Joe 'Goggles' Doyle collection (he was the captain of the Clare team beaten in the 1932 All-Ireland hurling final), using the new studio equipment purchased from a Heritage Council grant. The photographs were captioned by the curator, placed on the museum website and promoted to the local community through social media.

A press release on the shoe found on the excavation at Derryboy in 2019 was published. The report itself was placed on the Museum website for community access. Disaster plans for Beechpark and the Museum were reviewed and updated for the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland. The artsorb in all of the showcases in the galleries were replaced, and all the showcases were cleaned internally during the month. This is an important Care of Collections task that is normally difficult to conduct when the Museum is open to the public. Photocopies of patterns of Clare embroidery have been made available to the LCETB in support of their sewing classes in Ennis and Ennistymon.

Clare Archives

The Archive Digitisation Project is continuing with scanning of the older District Electoral Registers.

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex reopens (once again!) from Tuesday, 2nd December, following the lifting of Level 5 restrictions by the Government. The facility will open under Level 3 guidelines. The capacity of the pool and gym will remain reduced to ensure compliance with Covid-19 guidance. All sessions must be pre-booked and pre-paid in order to ensure the comfort and safety of customers. Each session is one hour in duration with 30 minutes between sessions for cleaning and sanitising of equipment and all areas.

The complex has separate entrances/exits for both gym and pool areas. The gym side is train only and pool side is swim with short shower. The gym is operating with increased floor space, as we have transferred a selection of our equipment into the aerobics studio. All customers must wear masks entering and exiting the complex.



Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road

The outdoor facilities at John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road and Tim Smythe Park remain open for individual use. All pitches must be booked and pre-paid.

The pitches are available for training, but not matches.

Non-contact training may take place outdoors in pods of 15.

All other training activities should be individual only.

All clubs are obliged to adhere to strict return to play protocols.

Biodiversity

Over a period of two weeks the team in Lees Road have planted over 3,500 spring bulbs in Tim Smythe Park and John O'Sullivan Park. The bulbs are a mixture of crocus, daffodil and *Chionodoxa*. These bulbs will provide a welcome splash of colour in February and March and also serve as an important early food source for pollinators emerging from hibernation.

Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park

Construction of the dressing rooms continues at pace with completion in early 2021. There is increased footfall in the park with people availing of the lit walkways.



Clare Sports Partnership

Clare Sports Partnership has been very active in the promotion of sport in Clare. To that end, our website (www.claresports.ie) has been updated to make it more user friendly for those with additional needs.



We welcome Jessica O'Keeffe who was appointed as a Sports Development Officer during November; this post is supported by funding from Clare County Council. Jessica is responsible for New Communities/Ethnic Minorities and Club Development. Jess has coached rowing for over a decade at all levels in Ireland and abroad. She has been recently Head Coach of the Shannon Dragons – dragon boating club. Previously she has worked in community development and outdoor education. She has represented Ireland in both rowing and coaching and she has captained Parteen ladies football team.

In addition, we secured funding through the Dormant Account fund to employ a graduate under the ASPIRE Graduate Employment Programme. The programme is set up to enable

recently qualified sport and physical activity graduates to gain relevant experience in sector-based organisations. Interviews have taken place and the position has been offered.

Other notable activities include: Xcessible. Clare Sports Partnership has been involved in a national pilot programme where we are hoping to attain a 'Bronze Ribbon' in the Xcessible award process.

Outdoor Adventure Hub – Kayak le Cheile/ Scoil Christí, Cloughleigh

We have received an incredible financial boost of €26,600 to the project through benefit in kind from three very welcome partners:

- Clare Youth Services – €12,000 towards capital, and €3,500 towards Kayak training for two of their staff members.
- Limerick Clare Adult Education Board (LCAEB) – funded introductory level training for 'Kayak4Dads' (€1,800), and have now committed to funding their Level 1 training. Five of the dads are from the Travelling community. They are also funding another kayaking introductory course for more parents within the school, and a Burren outdoor pursuits course. Total funding from LCAEB IS €9,000.
- Cllr Mark Nestor – nominated Kayak Le Cheile for €2,100 from his GMA fund, to be used to improve the access point from Scoil Christí Rí to the River Fergus slip way bounding the school.

This additional funding will help cover the shortfall between original funding sought/received from our Dormant Accounts application to Sport Ireland and will allow Kayak Le Cheile reach its full envisaged potential.

Club development: Sport Ireland Covid-19 small grants

Out of 87 applicants, we had 76 successful sports clubs, with a total grant allocation of €70,276.39. Currently working through paperwork from all successful clubs, with a closing date for receipt of all necessary paperwork of December 10th, 2020, with a view of having all funding processed and transferred to clubs prior to December 23rd. Of those that were unsuccessful, eight sports clubs will receive Covid-19 grant supports through their NGB instead.

Ennis Hockey Club: Over €4,000 worth of hockey equipment

transferred to Ennis Hockey Club to support the growth and development of this club.

Athletics

Athletics Ireland in association with Clare Sports Partnership ran an Assistant leader coaching course via Zoom on October 23rd. Seventeen coaches from St Mary's AC, St John's AC and Derg AC participated. Up to now St Mary's AC has run singlehandedly for the past seven years with one coach, and now we have six new trained up coaches to assist with the workload. St John and Derg AC are also growing their coaching base as they are both progressive clubs.

Soccer

Clare FAI together with Clare Sports Partnership ran PDP1 soccer coaching course over Zoom on November 11th/18th; 27 coaches from around Clare participated. This is a great opportunity during Covid-19 to get new coaches upskilled.

Rugby

Kilrush Rugby club together with Clare Sports Partnership worked with Munster Rugby to run coach development workshops over two evenings in November. We have 25 coaches from across Clare take part in the sessions.

Swimming

In a challenging year due to Covid-19 and lockdown, we managed to complete the only Swim for a Mile in Ireland this year.

Men on the Move

We started the latest version of Men on the Move via zoom on 2nd November. Following on from Sport Ireland's #YourPersonalBest month and both our social media and print media campaign, over 30 men over 45 years of age took part in our physical activity programme. On Monday, 30th November, we will have John Hayes (former Ireland/Munster rugby player) spoke to them as he is Sport Ireland Brand Ambassador for #YourPersonalBest. Our aim to get these men active for 30 minutes a day and achieve 10,000 steps daily.

Traveller Men

Our Traveller Men programme will continue every Thursday in Cloughleigh 4G pitch when restrictions allow.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

The Roadworks Programme for 2020 is substantially complete including the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) approved for 2020.

Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions allowed for the continuation of the delivery of the Roadworks Programme during November.

Following a submission made to the Department of Transport, additional grant funding was allocated in respect of Active Travel and Climate Change Adaptation. These grant allocations facilitated significant additional works being carried out in each Municipal District during October and November.

The annual programme of work is substantially complete in each Municipal District for 2020.

Strategic Transportation

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy Document was approved by the NTA board during the summer and the draft Report and the Executive Summary have been published. There were over 100 submissions during the process, which the NTA are now considering.

Public lighting

At the April meeting of Clare County Council the Members approved a Section 85 (of the Local Government Act 2001) agreement between Clare County Council and Cork County Council for the Public Energy Efficiency project. This will entail Cork County Council managing the relevant procedures, procuring the necessary design, and managing the carrying-out of the construction works for the project within County Clare.

Also at the April meeting of Clare County Council the Members approved the Raising of a Loan Facility to fund the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare.

Regarding the contract itself, Cork County Council have published the tender on 1st October, 2020, with a return of tenders to be submitted by 8th December, 2020. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed and on site in 2021.

For the benefit of Councillors, the following are the options available to facilitate reporting of public lighting faults:

- Internet: Direct reporting on the website – www.airtricitysolutions.com
- Phone: Airtricity Utility Solutions dedicated call centre – 1850 372 772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority’s website or contact number.

Road Design Office

Current projects – monthly update

It should be noted that this monthly project update is relevant only to the current period and the milestone progressions during that period.

Team toolbox talks in relation to Covid-19 have taken place during this period.

TII road safety projects – monthly progress

Project	Update – November 2020
HD15 and HD17 site inspections, with TII Regional Road Safety Officers, were conducted on 29th September.	
TII HD15 sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic and speed counts including a traffic simulation for an alternative design has been requested by the TII for Clareabbey Roundabout. In this regard a revised design, focusing on reducing speed with pedestrian crossing points, has been submitted to the TII for approval. • The TII are reviewing additional design proposals for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd. <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derrycrossaun junction design and feasibility report is completed and has been submitted to the TII for approval. Further to a Notice of Motion from the West Clare MD an alternative design has been also submitted for consideration by the TII.
TII HD17 sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to on-site inspections at Cranny, Crag and Parknamoney junctions the TII have requested the RDO to progress detailed site surveys, conceptual designs and an option feasibility report. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topographical surveys of the identified junctions for phase 1 is now complete, ie. Galway border to Ballyvaughan. Design and Feasibility Report for phase 1 is progressing. Land acquisition will be required at these two junctions. • A revised design for Minster Place, Kilkee, has been approved by the TII. A detailed design, Feasibility Report and Preliminary Design Report are being prepared for submission to the TII.

Low-cost safety schemes – monthly progress

Project	Update – November 2020
R463 junction at Westbury	<p>Proposal to upgrade the existing signalised junction to MOVA system and add an additional exit lane from the Westbury estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 38 process complete. Adopted by the Elected Members of Shannon MD on 24th July, 2020. Drawings and pricing document completed and circulated to MD. Limerick City and County Council has completed Road Safety Audit. Construction works commenced on 20th October, 2020, with the laying of ducting for the MOVA traffic signalling system. Construction works ongoing, laying of kerbs, new concrete footpath, new tactile paving. Works on new signalisation to commence first week of December.
R352 Hurlers Cross Junction	<p>A Specific Improvement Grant Application for R352 (Henchy's Cross) Upgrade has been submitted to the Department of Transport on 18th November, 2020, in order to progress the project to the next phase.</p>
L2034/L2032 Moanmore Crossroads on the Kilrush to Doonbeg road	<p>Near completion.</p>
R474, Mahonburg	<p>Near completion.</p>
R483 Cree Bridge	<p>Completed.</p>
Low Cost Safety 2021	<p>A list of projects, across all MDs, was submitted to the Department of Transport for approval on 9th October, 2020.</p>

Other projects – monthly update

Project	Update – November 2020
Larkins Cross/ Gillogue Bridge Specific Improvement works	<p>Traffic signals at Larkins Cross:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The detail design is completed and has been updated with modifications based on feedback from the TII. AA screening is completed. Section 38 process complete. Adopted by the Elected Members of Shannon MD on 24th July, 2020. Limerick City and County Council has completed Road Safety Audit. Drawings and pricing document completed. Construction works commenced on 14th September, 2020. The road surface overlay has been completed with the civil works near completion. Installation of traffic signals is due to commence in first week of December.
EuroVelo 1	<p>Funding of €182,000 has been secured from DTTAS for development of the EuroVelo route in County Clare. All EuroVelo signs, bike racks and bike repair stations have now been delivered to the Municipal Districts. The installation process through the MDs has advanced. The tender process for outdoor mapboards has been completed. Marketing and promotional strategies to be developed in conjunction with Rural and Community Development Directorate.</p>
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<p>Wheelchair-accessible bus stop on Bothar Linne, Shannon Town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is completed and issued to the Shannon MD. The projects received NTA funding approval for €30,733. A Preliminary Safety and Health Plan has been issued to the Shannon MD with works programmed for December this year. Works commenced in late November, however the project has been delayed as the NTA bus shelter installation contractor was unable to commence in Shannon this year due to Covid-19 related scheduling issues. A continuance process for 2021 has been initiated with the NTA.

Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	NTA has assessed proposed locations. Six new bus shelters (Kilkee, Lisdoonvarna, Crusheen, Newmarket, Limerick Road [Ennis] and Westbury) and upgrading five existing bus shelters in Shannon. Prior to a formal application the NTA have requested costs relating to the civil works. Contract documents have been completed and uploaded on eTenders with a tender return period of 15th January, 2021.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule are carried out as updates are being received.
Circular RW 10/2020 – Active Travel Measures Allocations 2020	Clare County Council received an allocation of €1,264,340 from DTTAS for Active Travel projects submitted for funding consideration in August. Projects identified for completion in 2020 are near completion. Approval for the transfer of submitted allocations into 2021 has been approved by The Department of Transport. A feasibility study to provide physical separation between the existing cycle lanes and carriageway on the R458 has commenced.
Circular RW 09/2020 – Climate Change Adaptation Allocations 2020	Clare County Council received an allocation of €580,900 from DTTAS for Climate Change Adaptation Projects submitted for funding consideration in August. Projects are near completion.
Circular RST 04/2019 Safe Overtaking Width for Cyclists Signs	Clare County Council has received an allocation of funding from DTTAS of €29,350 for the provision of safe overtaking width signs for cyclists. The signage has been delivered.
Cycle counts	Ongoing monitoring of cycle counts at four locations in Ennis and one in Lahinch.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.

Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced. Collaboration with IT and GIS will be required to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
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2020 Bridge Rehabilitation monthly update – November 2020

- Carrownisha Bridge: Works completed.
- Sixmilebridge: Works completed.
- Mountievers Bridge: Works completed.
- Bunratty Bridge: Awaiting National Monuments formal response shortly.
- Gilloge Bridge: Works completed.
- Breaghva Bridge: Works completed
- Stonepark Bridge: Works to start January 2021
- Kilmacduane East Bridge: Works completed
- Carron Bridge: Works completed
- Agouleen Bridge: Works completed.
- Carrowduff Bridge: Works completed.
- Smithstown Bridge: Delayed with water levels. Works to commence early December to be complete end December.
- Riverstown Bridge: Works completed.
- Drumanure Bridge: Contractor on site works to be complete mid-December.
- Ballyalla Bridge: Delayed with water levels. Works to commence early December to be complete end December.
- Doonsallagh and Kildema South: Contractor on site, works to be complete mid-December.
- Annagh Bridge: Works completed.
- Latoon Service Diversion Removal: Contractor on site, works to be complete mid-December.
- Latoon Masonry Bridge: Designer appointed, design works commenced.
- Sragh Bridge: Designer appointed, structural investigations underway.

Health and Safety

During the past month the Health and Safety Team continued to provide support and guidance in the format of Covid-19 risk assessments to the Crisis Management Team and all Departments of Clare County Council in the delivery of essential services and in accordance with the Government's National Framework for Living with Covid-19. In addition, the Health and Safety Team continued to review and assess national, sectoral and operational Covid-19 Guidance Documents in order to revise and update the Council's Covid-19 Response Plan. A Schedule of Covid-19 Inspections was completed to check compliance with the Covid-19 Response Plan. The Health and Safety Team continued to progress their Schedule of Workplace Risk Assessment reviews and programme of Health and Safety Inspections.

Bridge Rehabilitation Photos



Sixmilebridge.



Gilloge Bridge.



Carrowduff Bridge.



Kilmacduane Bridge.



Gilloge River Bridge.



Canal Bridge, Gilloge.

Active Travel Measures for Regional and Local Roads 2020



L-5246: Inchiquin Lake, Corofin – Resurfacing to access road and amenity area at Inchiquin Lake Corofin along the Mid Clare Way walking route.



R352 and L-8148: Tulla pedestrian linkages to recreational facilities.



R463: Blueway Trail at Ogonnelloe on route Bealkelly to Killaloe Bridges.



Off the N67: Entrance to Vandeleur Gardens, Kilrush. Provision of new or widened footpath/cycle track.



Off the N67: Entrance to Vandeleur Gardens, Kilrush. New section of path through existing forest.



Off the N67: Entrance to Vandeleur Gardens, Kilrush. Start of new path inside the main gate of Vandeleur Gardens.



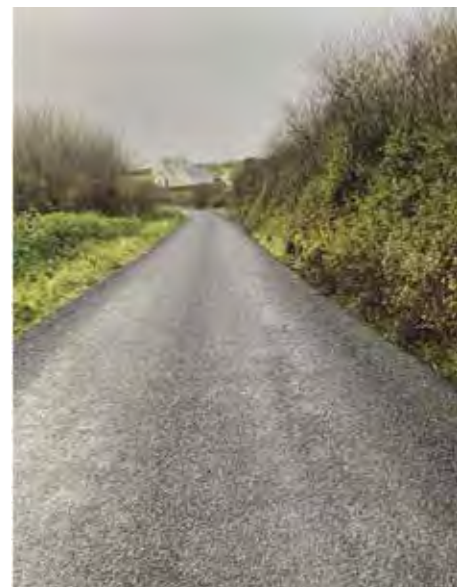
Off the N67: Entrance to Vandeleur Gardens, Kilrush. New path will link up with existing path and provide a looped walk via the newly restored Turret Lodge, i.e. it will be possible to walk/cycle from Vandeleur Gardens' main entrance (new pathway) → Vandeleur Gardens (new pathway) → Turret Lodge (existing pathway) → Kilrush town centre (Moore Street) → Kilrush town centre (N67 – Stewart Street & Killimer Road) → back to Vandeleur Gardens main entrance. (Total length of loop approx. 2.5km.)

Climate Adaptation Measures for Regional and Local Roads 2020

Photos below of a project at Kilfilum on the L-8168-0 where the road edge had been collapsing into adjacent drainage network following repeated severe weather events. Works involved open and piped drainage, significant embankment works, road reconstruction and fencing.



Photos (right) of reconstructed bog rampart road, L-4222, at Ballyshea, Co. Clare, that had deteriorated badly during extreme weather conditions.



General Design

The General Design Office are delivering the following projects across the organisation.

DigiClare hubs – site selection, design, tender, contract management

- Carron, Corofin, Cross, Flagmount, Kilkee, Kilmihil, Kilrush, Killaloe, Sixmilebridge, Ennis.

Economic development and property

- County Museum refurbishment – tender analysis commenced.
- Quin Road Campus development – phase 4 commenced.
- HQ and Libraries (space remodelling).
- Council property management – Claureen.
- Property clean-up; Masterplans input; property assessments.
- Feasibility Study for Enterprise Centre.
- Tullyvarraga Hall – access and building repairs – designed and tendered.



Claureen property clean-up.

Rural Development and Tourism

- Ennistymon Hub basement unit.
- Cliffs of Moher Walking Paths – 60 per cent complete.
- Burren Discovery Trail and Burren signage plan.
- George's Head, Kilkee.
- Lough Derg Amenity Trail.
- Loophead Lighthouse Visitor Centre.
- Burial grounds: countywide – parking, access, maintenance works

Project Management Office, Municipal Districts, Planning – mapping services

- Capital projects – Ennis Flood Relief, Killaloe Bypass.
- Taking in charge – mapping.

Roads and transportation

- Traffic management plans.
- Funding applications for footpath works.



FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

The following brigade training courses was held during November: Bronto Operator Course – Ennis Fire Station.

Virtual Station Officer Meeting and Health & Safety Representatives Meeting took place through Microsoft Teams.

Light up for Road Safety

Families around the country were asked to join Clare County Council and other local authorities in 'lighting up for road safety' on World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims on Sunday, 15th November, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is commemorated on the third Sunday of November each year to remember the millions of people killed and injured on the world's roads and their families and friends. It is also a day to thank the emergency services for their role in saving lives; to reflect on the impact of road deaths on families and communities; and to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness, infrastructure, technology and post-crash response to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one.



Áras Contae an Chláir and other Local Authority Buildings across the country were lit up. Fire Service vehicles outside their respective stations were all lit up blue as an addition to the lighting-up of buildings across the county.



Ennis Fire Station redevelopment works

Works are progressing on the Fire Service Maintenance Building. It is currently being plastered and receiving first fix electrical and plumbing works. The building should be weather sealed with windows and doors in the next two weeks.

Clare Civil Defence

Operational duties

Civil Defence provided the following operational duties:

- Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Board with their blood donation clinics.
- Members provided transport for a patient to a hospital

appointment in Dublin.

- Members visited a young Ennis girl on her birthday who has cystic fibrosis. She had been self-isolating since March.
- Members assisted Clare County Fire and Rescue Service with a road traffic collision exercise.

Fire & Building Control Activities

Fire and Building Control Section Main Activities	October 2020	November 2020	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	73	62	901
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	4	3	77
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	9	9	89
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	3
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	4	2	64
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	7	6	65
Number of Commencement Notices Received	35	36	357
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	1	21

(Note: In the November Monthly Report, the October figures related to 1st to 27th October due to timing of report.)



CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The following is the up-to-date position on the key projects.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

The OPW has approved an application from Clare County Council under the Minor Works scheme and allocated funding to carry out the much-awaited Flood Relief Scheme at Church Road, Miltown Malbay. The scheme involves the provision of a new section of culvert under Church Street to replace an existing deficient culvert, the upgrade of a further section of existing culvert and all associated ancillary works. Part VIII permission and Section 50 approval have already been obtained for the project. The next steps include detailed design and tender preparation with work on site expected to commence in early summer 2021.

Spanish Point Coastal Protection Scheme

The OPW has approved our application under the Minor Works scheme to carry out a much needed Coastal Protection Scheme at Spanish Point, Miltown Malbay. The scheme involves the construction of a 75m section of rock revetment to dissipate wave energy and thereby protect a section of cliff that is quickly eroding. It is expected that construction would commence on site during summer 2021.

Springfield, Clonlara

Subject to a number of conditions, An Bord Pleanála approved Clare County Council's application for the much-awaited Flood Relief Scheme at Springfield, Clonlara. The scheme involves the construction of a flood protection embankment, land raising, penstock/sluice, pump station and associated works at the townlands of Springfield, Cappavilla North, Cottage and Illaunryegan. The Project Team led by Clare County Council and consisting of the OPW and consultants Byrne Looby & Partners met on site to discuss the detailed design, ground investigations and construction plans. A contractor has been appointed for the Ground Investigations (GI) work and this will commence shortly subject to ground conditions and weather. The PMO continue to liaise with local residents and affected landowners to deliver the project. Construction work on site is expected to commence in late spring (April) of 2021 and work is expected to take six months to complete.

Access to UL/upgrade to walkway along the Errinagh Canal

The successful contractor will commence site clearance in the coming week following discussion and clarification on a number of items. The works when complete will form part of a proposed walkway from Limerick to Scarriff.

Asbestos Remediation Programme

We are currently preparing the brief for the specialist Technical Advisors to assist on the final remediation of the sites. In the meantime, the sites will continue to be monitored on an ongoing basis and maintained as necessary. We continue to engage with the EPA who have confirmed that following the Council's temporary measures carried out to date, that the sites do not currently pose a risk pending the permanent remediation works being carried out.

Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building

Discussions are ongoing with the Design Team to finalise a programme and scope of work to progress this much-needed infrastructure. This will result in the Council being in a position to submit a planning application at the earliest juncture possible and to advance the delivery of the scheme.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

Following recent periods of heavy rain and high tides the scheme was again robustly tested. It worked efficiently and in accordance with the design delivering surface water from St Flannans College and Ballybeg to the food plain at Clareabbey through the newly installed culverts. Work is now almost complete on the various sections of the sheet pile flood defence along the riverbank. Eighty per cent of the new sluices are installed and work has begun to connect the back drain to the new sluices. The construction of the pump station and the landscaping will begin when the environmental window opens in April 2021 and the overall project is on programme to be completed in August 2021.

Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme (Club Bridge to Bank Place Section)

Work has begun on the final section of the Town Flood Defences along the River Fergus bank from the Club Bridge to Bank Place. A temporary entrance has been created from Harmony Row to access the site. This will be closed on completion. The site has been cleared, the piling platform constructed and piling is progressing. The work is programmed to be completed in April 2021 and is currently on course to meet this date.

Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)

An Bord Pleanála are currently considering the Council's CPO application and the various submissions received during the public consultation phase. We await their decision in this regard.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

The Project Team continue to progress the delivery of this important piece of infrastructure and are due to meet again virtually for the December Steering Group Meeting. We are now nearing the stage where we will be in a position to finalise the detailed design and sign off on technical compliance through independent checking which will enable us to publish the tender for the Main Scheme works before the end of the year.

To achieve this, the following elements are being progressed in parallel:

- The assessment of the submitted SAQs (Suitably Assessment Questionnaires) by an independent assessment board has now been completed and letters confirming the shortlisted candidates have issued. A total of six contractors have been shortlisted to progress to stage 2 – competitive tender for the Main Works contract which will be published before the end of the year.
- A number of Advance Works contracts are also being progressed and managed by the PMO office. These consist of:
 - Bat roost construction which is now complete.
 - Invasive Species Treatment which has been completed for 2020.
 - Archaeological investigations. Given the recent difficult weather and ground conditions prevalent, Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd are progressing well with the works on site.
 - Letters of intent and Letters of regret have issued for the Enabling Works contract. The recommended standstill period has now lapsed and it is envisaged the Letter of Acceptance will be issued to the successful contractor in the coming days. This work includes site clearance, fencing, demolition, sewer diversions and access road construction which will progress over the winter months and into the spring/summer 2021.
- The Notice to Enter has recently issued to all landowners affected by the scheme. This letter outlines the intention by the Statutory Authority and its agents to enter and take possession of the lands to facilitate completion of the Advance Works contracts as outlined above.
- Significant progress continues to be made in completing Land Acquisition deals even without the benefit of face-to-face meetings with landowners and their agents. The majority of agreements are anticipated to be in place by the end of 2020 with the last few remaining expected to close in early 2021. These will be concluded in the main by agreement, with a small number through the arbitration process.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

The most recent Steering Group Meeting was held by video link on Tuesday, 24th November, between consultants JBA/JB Barrys, Office of Public Works and Clare County Council. Due to unsuitable weather and sea conditions experienced in the November period, the bathymetric survey of Moore's Bay was not carried out as planned. The specialist survey contractor continues to

monitor weather forecasts and upcoming tidal cycles to avail of a suitable window to carry out the works. The final CCTV report is now with the consultant for review and any outstanding or incomplete data will be scheduled for completion in December. The topographical survey data is also under review by the consultant. A contractor has been appointed to install and monitor additional rain gauges, flow meters and water level monitors. The locations of all instruments were agreed onsite with the contractor following their site visit on in late November.

Public consultation will continue during the December period through our online information video and associated information literature available on the scheme website: www.kilkeefrs.ie

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

During November, we finalised the Project Appraisal Suite of documents which include the Project Brief, the Traffic Modelling Report, the Cost Benefit Analysis Report and the Project Business Case. These were formally submitted by Clare County Council to the Department of Transport as Lead Authority on 19th November last for its review and approval to progress to the next stage. We await their decision in this regard.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

While we await final determination on the planning permission for the road infrastructure, we continue to explore the various options in terms of the optimum development of the zoned lands. These lands once serviced by the proposed road and associated infrastructure, will facilitate the delivery of much-needed housing for Ennis and its environs.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The Project Team led by Clare County Council and consisting of Midwest Regional Road Design Office, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Shannon Airport Authority along with our consultants Fehily Timoney & Associates and Clandillon Civil Consulting continue to meet each month. The non-intrusive utility survey works have been completed on site recently by Apex Surveys. The results of the survey will provide background utility mapping of the study area necessary to identify any constraints associated with the various options being considered.

Phase 2 (Options Selection) is currently ongoing and the associated public consultation runs from 16th November until 2nd December. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place, we could not host an "in-person" public consultation so an interactive map illustrating the Preliminary Route Options and a copy of all the consultation material is available on the project website at: <https://www.shannonaccess.ie>. The Shannon MD Councillors were briefed on the matter in advance of going live with the website and media campaign.

N85 Upgrade at Kilnamona

Following a scope change on the original proposal, we need to appoint Technical Advisors to advance this project. We await approval from TII in this regard but in anticipation of a favourable response, we have sought a significant allocation of funding in their 2021 Budget for this project.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Progress continues despite the Covid-19 restrictions. Third-party surveys have been procured. The next monthly Steering Group meeting comprising of Clare County Council, the OPW, Shannon Airport Authority and scheme consultants RPS is scheduled for early December while the Technical Group continue to meet on a fortnightly basis to deal with specific details and topics associated with the scheme.

A draft Ground Investigation scoping document and Appropriate Assessment Screening has been completed. Following review of the documents and a recommendation from the consultants, it was concluded that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is required to inform Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment for the Ground investigation works. RPS has now submitted a draft

NIS and the documents are currently under review.

The CCTV Survey and Flow/Level/Rain monitoring has been combined into a single contract which also includes surveys of the three main pumping stations and associated drop tests of pumps. Draft specifications and tender documents are currently with CCC and the OPW for review. The tender documents and specification for the geophysical survey has also been issued for review. Tender documents for the topographical survey are also being prepared.

West Clare Railway Greenway

The Preliminary Strategic Assessment Report (SAR), which is a requirement of the Department of Transport (DoT), has now been completed. The Tender Package for the Engagement of Technical Advisors for the Planning Phase of development between Kilrush and Kilkee is being finalised and will be published on eTenders in the coming week. Following which, we would hope to be in a position to appoint the successful consultants in late January/early February. Stakeholder and landowner consultation is continuing and we would welcome engagement and correspondence from all interested or affected parties.

ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect operations in the Environment section but the effects are mitigated by our adaptable business continuity planning. To date all services in the environment section have continued uninterrupted. The Level 5 restrictions will affect our output in terms of inspections, interaction with the public, businesses, contractors and other agencies. As previously seen in earlier restriction periods the level of activity tends to increase in the Civic Amenity sites. This will be monitored during the recently announced Level 3 restrictions due to commence shortly.

Environmental Awareness An Taisce Green Schools Seminar

An Taisce Green School series of evening seminars took place for the first time via Zoom during this month. A total of 43 schools, which included primary and secondary schools, attended this annual event. Individual seminars took place for Litter and Waste, Water, Biodiversity, Travel as well as Global Citizenship seminars for the Marine Environment and Energy. The seminars were very well received by the schools who attended.

Clare Waste Awareness Week

An awareness week to provide information and tips that will help the public reduce its waste production took place from 16th to 20th November, 2020.

The Waste Awareness Week was a five-day virtual event organised by Clare County Council, in association with the Southern Regional Waste Management Planning Office, to highlight the role of the county's five civic amenity facilities, inform citizens on what they can do to correctly dispose of their waste and provide up-to-date information on reusing, reducing and recycling. The week comprised of a comprehensive social media campaign, series of videos, as well as a waste reduction and recycling workshop. Media coverage was featured on the Clare Echo and The Clare Champion.



Smoky Coal campaign

An online *Clare Echo* campaign took place throughout November. Statistics from mid-October to 24th November show that this advert made 14,302 impressions. This was further supported with a newspaper advert on the *Clare Echo* during November.

Water and Scientific Services

Water pollution complaints

A total of 139 complaints (Section 4 licensed sites, wastewater and agriculture) have been received and investigated to date in 2020. A total of 90 of the investigations are closed and the remainder are open until re-inspections are carried out or requested information is received. A total of four enforcement notices/letters were issued where required under the Water Pollution Acts and the Good Agriculture Practice Regulations 2017 as amended.

National Inspection Programme of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS-Septic Tanks)

A total of 39 inspections are required in 2020. Up to the end of November, 35 inspections have been carried out in West, East and North Clare catchment areas. The EPA hosted a meeting on 24th November to discuss the inspection programme for 2020. The EPA confirmed that if greater than 50 per cent of required inspections are completed in 2020, they will consider this as compliance due to the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 restrictions. Clare has exceeded this revised compliance rate as we have already achieved a 90 per cent inspection rate.

Planning referrals from Planning Department

Compliance is achieved through inter department referrals of planning reports. To date this year, 290 reports have been prepared and submitted by environmental staff to the planning section. Assessment and recommendations were made in order to minimise potential water pollution. In addition, 52 forestry applications have been processed.

Lake Sampling Programme 2020

TMS Environmental continued the Water Framework Directive (WFD) lake monitoring programme throughout November. All samples are transported to the EPA laboratory in Castlebar for analysis.

Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

LAWPRO hosted a Virtual Public Community Meeting for the Priority Area for Action (PAA) Doo Lough and Annagheragh River on 26th November. This was attended by all relevant Environment staff. The catchment manager for the region (Clare, Limerick, Kerry, Cork) presented the proposed lists to all stakeholders. The list for County Clare includes 130 water bodies. The EPA will prepare the draft RBMP plan which is due to be

complete in December 2020. This will be followed by a public consultation process until June 2021.

BallyduffBeg Waste Landfill Licence Monitoring Requirements

Our environmental contractor continues to carry out monitoring on site to comply with EPA licence conditions. There are zero non-compliances to report. Clare County Council staff carry out weekly sampling of surface water ponds. A weekly update on green waste processing at the Central Waste management Facility (CWMF) was submitted to Cré (Composting Association of Ireland).

Gardening

The Gardening Team continue to play a central role in the construction of the Remembrance Garden at the Áras, with assistance from Roads and Water Services. While recent weather conditions have generated obstacles, it is anticipated to complete the project in the coming weeks. While this work is a priority within the team, other scheduled and seasonal works have been maintained during November.

Waste Management

Forestry

The tender for the next stage of tree felling as per the Council's Tree Felling Licence at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh has been assessed and awarded. Work on the site will begin early in the new year. Local community groups have been kept informed of progress in November.

BallyduffBeg Closed Landfill Site

The Closure Restoration Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP) invitation to consultants has been issued. Tenders are closing shortly and will be assessed without delay.

Doora Landfill

Work on site has been completed as part of the ORIS (Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme) funding grant. The work completed on site has involved the cutting back and clearing of existing walkways, creation of new walkway routes, resurfacing of approx 690m of existing footpaths, installation of 2 no. picnic areas and the creation of a Children's Fairy Trail with approximately 25 items to be explored along the route.

Bring banks

Additional glass bring banks have been provided in November at the Francis Street site beside Tesco. This is to cater for the high usage this location has been experiencing in recent months.

Waste Enforcement

RMCEI PLAN

In line with the RMCEI plan, the Waste Enforcement Team

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

continues to carry out planned inspections. During November the target areas were Solid Fuel Retailers, Specified Vehicle Importers and Dental Practices.

Solid fuel inspections

Businesses in the Low Smoke Zones (Ennis and parts of South East Clare) were written to and informed of their responsibilities under the Air Pollution Act. Inspections by the Community Wardens both of premises and of delivery vehicles are currently ongoing. An online *Clare Echo* awareness campaign took place which doubled down on the message that regulations apply within Low Smoke Zones in Clare. A newspaper advert on this topic was also featured in the *Clare Echo* during November.

Suspected importers of Specified Vehicles were written to in November, under the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations, requesting proof of membership of the approved body, ELVES and confirming that they are participating in a satisfactory manner in a national collection scheme for the recovery of end-of-life vehicles.

Dental Practices in Clare were written to under The Mercury

Regulations 2018 (Regulation of the Disposal of Dental Amalgam) to provide evidence of compliance with the above regulations.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter-related complaints in November. A total of 203 complaints relating to litter and waste were received in November, of these complaints 73 have been closed already. Four litter fines were issued in November, as a result of evidence found in waste.

A total of three Section 14 Notices were issued in November, two of which have been closed out.

School Bikes to Africa

This project in conjunction with Rotary Ireland is still running. In line with Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions, the public have been informed that they can drop off second-hand bikes to their nearest Civic Amenity site, not just the CWMF at Ballyduffbeg. The Rotary Club continue to promote this initiative.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Department of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water and in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines. The monthly key performance indicators have achieved a score of 88.4 per cent compliance at the end of Q3.

Water and waste water operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity/work being carried out by the water and waste water teams throughout the county from 22nd October, 2020, up to and including 24th November, 2020. The figures do not, however, reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 16 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 4 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 354 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 130 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 33 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period.

Water operations

Up to 24th November, there were 33 outages placed on the Irish Water reporting portal, which generates a notice to consumers of both planned and unplanned interruptions to their water supply.

There were 24 unplanned outages primarily consisting of emergency water main burst repairs at the following locations.

East Clare Area – 6 outages	Burst repairs at Parteen, Athlunkard and Bunratty, and the 12" town line in Shannon.
Mid Clare Area – 6 outages	Ongoing operational repairs in Ennis PWS network including College Road, Barefield, Leim an Bhradain estate. Large burst in Tobertaiscain on 17th November (6" Asbestos Main). Replace 6m section with new UPVC pipe. Outages in place for all repairs.
West Clare Area – 9 outages	Burst repairs at various locations in North Clare at Liscannor, Lehinch, Ballyvaughan and Kilshanny. Repairs also undertaken at Tullabrack, Kavanagh's Bridge and Killimer.

There were two planned water supply outages to facilitate the following works:

Find & Fix Programme – Leak Detection works	Kilkishen DMA Ennistymon DMA
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Maintenance works

Installed new magmeter at HQ on 09/11/2020 as previous meter had failed.

Replaced sand in Corofin DAF unit on 18/11/2020.

Mains flushing was carried out on the new Doolough to Moneypoint line.

RAL Upgrades

Ward & Burke Construction Ltd have been appointed by Irish Water to undertake the Clare Remedial Action List (RAL) upgrade contract. As required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), milestones for the completion of the projects at the individual sites have been set as follows:

- Corrofin WTP – 30th November, 2021
- New Doolough WTP – 30th February, 2022
- Ballymacravan WTP – 30th January, 2023.

RAL upgrade meeting was held with IW/W&B on 11/11/2020 for Corofin WTP and Doolough.

Water conservation

Under the National Leakage Reduction Programme Irish Water set Clare County Council a leakage reduction target of 850m³ per day in 2020. To date, Clare County Council have achieved a saving of 2,840m³ per day, greatly exceeding this target. Water production in Drumcliff Ennis has reduced from 12,000m³ per day in November 2019 to 10,800m³ per day in November 2020, a 1,000m³ saving over a 12-month period. The savings achieved in 2020 reflect the excellent work undertaken by all water services staff in Clare County Council (both Operations and Capital) in collaboration with Irish Water.

Work programme

In November, the Leak Detection Find Crews continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in Ennis (Sandfield District Metering Area [DMA] and Clon Road DMA) and Shannon areas (Tullyglass and Shannon Town DMA).

The Find & Fix Crew concentrated activities in East and North Clare with leaks repaired in Ardnacrusha and Bellharbour district metering areas. Leak detection find works are currently taking place in Lahinch DMA and Quin DMA.

Waste water operations

The current sludge landfill site at Tradaree in Shannon has now reached capacity and Irish Water will be making alternative arrangements to dispose of sludge from the waste water treatment plant.

Irish Water capital programme

Shannon Waste Water Treatment Plant interim upgrade

Ward and Burke commenced work on site on 1st January, 2020. Construction work is continuing on the WWTP and on the four pump stations. All flow has now been diverted to the new industrial stream. There is a good improvement in treated

effluent quality from the upgraded works when compared to the September 2020 results before flows were diverted. Works are continuing on the domestic stream. The bulk of the civil works will be completed by year end. The full project including testing and commissioning is scheduled for completion in March 2021. Sludge is being conveyed to skips and will be removed off site.

Kilrush Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade

A new waste water treatment plant, rising main and upgrade of the existing Frances St pumping station are proposed in Kilrush. EPS were awarded the contract under the IW Early Contractor Involvement framework to design and build the works. A Site Investigation Contract (to determine ground conditions and locate utilities) is substantially complete. Detailed design is ongoing. A new planning application is to be lodged by IW to deal with necessary alterations to the design of the WWTP. This is anticipated to be in February 2021. Construction is expected to commence late 2021 with completion early 2023.

Clarecastle Agglomeration upgrade

Under Irish Water's UTAS the waste water collected at Quay Rd pumping station will be diverted via a new waste water pipeline to Clareabbey WWTP.

Workshop No 4 was held on 25th September, 2020. Site investigation was carried out on Quay Road, Clarecastle, at the site of the proposed upgrade to the pumping station. The design is being finalised and IW expects to issue a tender for the full project before the end of 2020. The advance contract for the construction of 311m of rising main from Quay Road to a point just past the Church is at tender clarification stage and works are anticipated to commence on site in early January 2021 with a duration of approx. one month. Works at Clareabbey WWTP are required before flows can be diverted from Clarecastle.

Liscannor Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade

A new waste water treatment plant, pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer are proposed for Liscannor. The design/build contract was awarded to EPS in January 2020 under the IW Early Contractor Involvement framework.

A Site Investigation Contract has been completed at the WWTP site, the pump station site and on public roads. Detailed design is ongoing. Irish Water has been notified that An Bord Pleanála will determine the Compulsory Purchase Order without holding an oral hearing. The An Bord Pleanála decision on the CPO is awaited. The project is expected to go to construction in mid 2021 with completion late 2022.

Ballyvaughan Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade

A new waste water treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Detailed design process is ongoing by EPS. Site investigation and on-site surveys at the WWTP site, pump station site and rising main route have been completed. Irish Water has been notified that

An Bord Pleanála will determine the Compulsory Purchase Order without holding an oral hearing. The An Bord Pleanála decision on the CPO is awaited. It is proposed to lodge a planning application for the scheme by mid-2021. The expectation is to go to construction early 2022 with completion mid-2023.

Kilkee Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade

A Design Summary Report has been prepared by the consultants in June 2020 in relation to construction of a WWTP. Drafting of a project brief has commenced and will be issued to EPS, the design/build contractor. The site selection process is not yet finalised. A planning application is expected to be lodged in late 2021. IW/CCC have agreed in principle that pumping of flow will continue from the Victoria Stream to the outfall. This is done to protect the Blue Flag status of the beach during the bathing season – end of May to mid-September each year. The project is expected to go to construction in late 2022 with completion late 2024.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade

The Feasibility Study Report was produced by Mott McDonald Consulting Engineers for various options including combining Ennistymon and Lahinch treatment and the Report was reviewed by Irish Water. The project constraints were discussed at a meeting in mid-September and the consultants have included the West Clare Railway and the infrastructure safeguards for both Ennistymon and Lahinch on the constraints mapping. Land zonings, SACs, pNHAs, NIAHs, and National Monuments are included in the mapping along with a 50m buffer zone around buildings. Potential sites are being evaluated and a draft of the Site Selection Report is due in December 2020.

Newmarket-on-Fergus Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of primary effluent from the existing WWTP to Lough Gash. A Design Inception Report and outfall route selection have been prepared. In the next phase of the project site investigation, ecological studies, licences, wayleaves and planning application documents will have to be undertaken/prepared. A Foreshore Licence and Discharge Licence review will be required. A Pre-application Form and associated drawings for the proposed outfall have been submitted to the Department. A site investigation is required along the rising main route which includes part of Kilnasoolagh Park and the R458. An Appropriate Assessment Screening was carried out for the Site Investigation and it has been screened out. The site investigation is anticipated to commence in late January 2021 and temporary traffic management will be required. Ecology surveys and river flow surveys have commenced. It is anticipated that a survey of the existing network in the town will commence in early January. It is anticipated that the planning application will be lodged mid-2021. Construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be

completed by early 2024.

Kilfenora WWTP upgrade

It is proposed to upgrade the existing Kilfenora WWTP, reuse the existing treated effluent rising main to the current discharge point and construct a new percolation area at this site. Planning permission has been granted. Landowner negotiations are ongoing. The CPO was published in *The Clare Champion* dated 14th August, 2020, and correspondence from An Bord Pleanála is awaited by Irish Water in relation to an oral hearing. Some site investigation is yet to be completed and detailed design is ongoing. Construction is planned to commence in September 2021.

Asset Transfer

A total of 375 water and waste water assets, in Co. Clare, have been identified for potential transfer to IW to date. Of these 51 are non-operational assets (prior to January 2014) and as such will not be transferring to Irish Water, leaving 325 for transfer. Of these 325 assets 190 have now been transferred to IW.

The remaining 135 assets are broken down as follows:

- Pending – 17 assets are being prepared for transfer to Irish Water in the coming months. Some of these assets will have to be subdivided by map/plan. Once a consensus has been reached on the remaining assets with both IW and Clare County Council, a CE order will issue thereafter.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) – This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities – four assets are with the NSPO for investigation to ascertain if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved IW will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval. Note that underground assets, i.e. all water mains and sewers (other than storm water sewers) and any related accessories, and all pipes, waterworks and waste water works that are located under land, along with any related accessories, were vested in IW by S.I. No. 13 of 2015.
- Property Registration Authority Ireland – No assets have gone to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- Third-Party/Unregistered assets – Of the 135 assets 114 have been identified as Third-Party Registered lands (97) and Unregistered Lands (17). 6 No. third-party assets located in the Ennis Municipal District have now transferred to Irish Water. The remaining assets in Ennis MD are overground assets where the land is still vested in the developer and the team is currently in discussions with Irish Water in relation to these. Discussions are ongoing with Irish Water and the Council's solicitors in relation to the additional information required in support of the application for first registration of Quay Road, Clarecastle.

Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme works have recently been completed on Dough GWS

(Lahinch), Castlequarter Ballinphonta GWS (Cratloe) and Noughaval Kiltan GWS (Kilfenora) with the installation of booster pumps on the three schemes to ensure increased pressure to customers. As a result of the works Taking in Charge Applications will be submitted to Irish Water on behalf of the schemes in the near future.

Works on the replacement of the Feenagh GWS mains continues and it is hoped to have the new network operational in early 2021.

Works on the replacement of 4.6km of the Tullaher GWS (Doonebg/Kilkee) mains are currently out to tender with a view to the appointment of a contractor for the project prior to year's end.

All of the above works are being carried out under Measure 5 of the Programme (Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes to Public Network) which entails the works are funded at 100 per cent and the Clare Rural Water Programme shall be submitting taking in charge applications on behalf of the schemes on completion of the aforementioned works.

Where schemes have been approved under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme the Clare Rural Water Programme

continues to endeavour in encouraging schemes to undertake works at the earliest opportunity.

An additional 3 no. schemes have been taken in charge by Irish Water in November with Quinspool North/Ballycannon East GWS (Meelick/Parteen), Lislanahan GWS (Kilkee) and Castlecrine Fortwilliam GWS (Sixmilebridge) transferring to the public network. This brings the total number of schemes taken in charge in Clare to 10 in 2020. Irish Water has advised no further schemes shall be transferring to the public network in 2020 due to funding constraints. This results in an additional 5 no. schemes submitted by Clare County Council to Irish Water awaiting taking in charge.

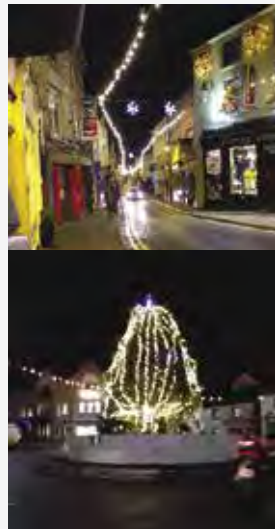
Following on from new grant conditions for the 'Grant for the Improvements to a Private Water Supply to a House' the significant uptake on the grant has continued in November. To date in 2020 there have been 85 applications which are assessed under the Rural Water Programme.

The Rural Water Team continues to work with group water schemes to ensure their members have a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water available to them.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Lighting-up Ennis for the festive season

The Christmas lights were switched on in Ennis on 20th November. While the traditional switching-on event could not take place this year, a virtual event was shared on social media. The Mayor of Ennis, Paul Murphy, and the Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, took this online opportunity to extend season's greetings to all Clare citizens. The event attracted circa 20,000 views. The illumination involves a significant amount of time and effort on the part of the Ennis Municipal District together with Jason Malone from JMS and his team.



Active Travel and Clár funding

A Section 38 public consultation process for the Gort Road Pedestrian Crossing at Aughtanteeroe and Kilnamona footpaths and pedestrian crossing have commenced. Award of works for traffic calming at Abbeyville-Abbeycourt under Active Travel funding are also in process. Ennis Municipal District are awaiting availability of the Asphalt Contractor, to complete the traffic calming works in the Turnpike Road area in Ennis. Works are due to commence on the cycleway-pedestrian crossing at Ashline on the Kilrush Road.

Cycling School of the Year goes to... Ennis National
Ennis National School was awarded this 'Green-Schools Travel'

national award during an online ceremony in November. This award recognises the significant contribution made by school staff, board of management and volunteers in organising the 'Cycling Bus' and thus maximising the cycle ways provided by the Ennis Municipal District. Visit: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/big-travel-challenge-winners-announced/>

Protecting our environment...

Ennis Municipal District have trialled a non-chemical method of killing weeds that involves hot water and an insulating foam which proved very effective but labour intensive.

A large decayed limb of a beech tree was removed from near St Flannan's College. This was part of the Mature Tree Maintenance work undertaken by Ennis Municipal District in 2020 at a cost of €25,000.

Staff of Ennis Municipal District cleaned up an illegal encampment in Skehanagh.

Roadworks programme – progress update

The following works were undertaken by Ennis MD staff during November:

- Upgrade of traffic lights at Coote's Junction, Kilrush Road, to LED was completed including installation of inductive loop vehicle detector and dished kerb and pedestrian crossing.
- The removal of an old wall, hedge and gate in addition to the installation of new footpath, fence and gate at Cahercalla Road.
- Removal and replacement of existing substandard concrete footpath (18m) at Simms Lane, Ennis.
- Restoration Improvement Grant Works for Ennis MD were completed in November.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Pictured during a preview site visit to one of the two new MeiraGTx buildings at the Shannon Free Zone due for completion by Shannon Commercial Properties are (l-r): Gerry Fitzmaurice, Head of Asset Management, Shannon Commercial Properties; Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer, Clare County Council; Liam Conneally, Director of Services, Economic Development Directorate, Clare County Council; Mary Considine, CEO, Shannon Group; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council; Ray O'Driscoll, Chief Operating Officer of Shannon Group; and Gerry Dillon, Managing Director, Shannon Commercial Properties.

Clare Economic Taskforce

The next Clare Economic Taskforce meeting is scheduled for December 18th, 2020. Work is ongoing in relation to the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan. During November the Council Executive met with the Shannon Group Management in Shannon and the Council continues to assist the work of Shannon Group in relation to the Airport and the substantial regeneration of the Shannon Free Zone. During November the Shannon MD submission on the draft Limerick Shannon

Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) was submitted to the NTA.

Future Mobility Campus Ireland

The Council is a partner in the Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI) initiative. This Enterprise Ireland funded project is Ireland's first future mobility campus which will act as a testbed facility for autonomous vehicles. Updates on the FMCI project will be presented to the Economic Development SPC.

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS

Ennis 2040 Spatial and Economic Strategy

During November the Economic Directorate made presentations on the Ennis 2040 Spatial and Economic Strategy to the Elected Members of Clare County Council and also to the seven Oireachtas Members for County Clare. Both presentations were well received and feedback on the Ennis 2040 Strategy content has been very positive.

The Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy itself was completed in Quarter 4, 2020. This 20-year spatial and economic strategy has identified nine transformational projects for the town and will be used by the Council to bid for future EU, national and regional funding opportunities for Ennis and Clare. The opportunity sites consist of a mix of private and public owned lands which presents enormous opportunity for re-development.

During November 2020 the Council-owned Ennis 2040 Designated Activity Company (DAC) was established and this company will lead the implementation of the Ennis 2040 Strategy. In December 2020 An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD will visit Ennis to launch the Ennis 2040 Strategy and from there the Ennis 2040 Strategic Development Designated Activity Company (DAC) will be responsible for delivering a programme of targeted investment and property development. Details of the launch will be announced following the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

In November 2020 further stakeholder engagement on the Shannon town centre economic and spatial masterplan was completed. Subject to the positive outcomes of future URDF funding applications, the Council will assist in pump priming the regeneration of Shannon Town and the Town Centre Masterplan will be used by the Council to bid for future EU, national and regional funding opportunities for Shannon.

Earlier in 2020, the Council has made an application for funding under the URDF scheme for a project to enhance the R471 into Shannon and to create new link road to the Shannon Free



Ennis 2040 Abbey Riverside Transformational Project model.

Zone East. The outcome of this application is awaited. Further URDF applications will be made by the Directorate when the call for funding is re-opened.

University of Limerick (UL)/ South Clare—Strategic Development Zone

During the month of November Clare County Council continued working through SDZ DAC legal arrangements. The DAC will be the SDZ applicant. In the coming month further engagement will take place to prepare for the making of an application to seek the designation of the UL South Clare SDZ by Government.

Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre

This Masterplan, which is funded under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Clare County Council, will drive the economic future and spatial pattern for the centre of Shannon Town, and is now three-quarters through the master planning exercise.

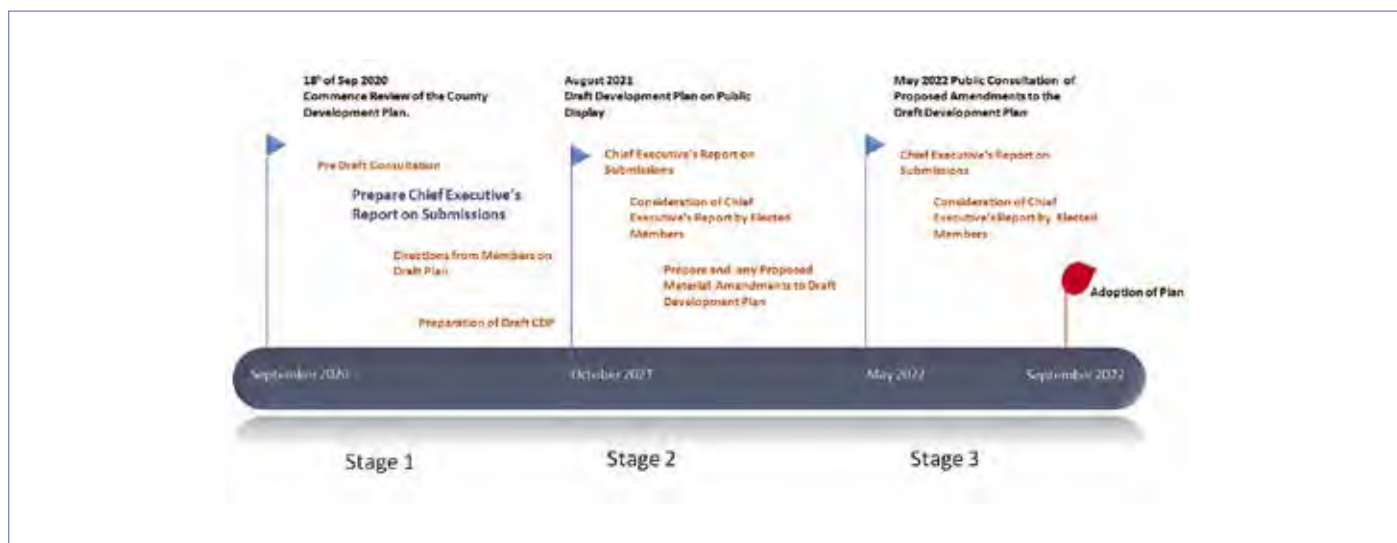
FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028

The eight-week period of public consultation for the pre-draft stage of the Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028 ended on 16th November, 2020, with a total of 194 written submissions received. Ahead of the deadline for public submissions a presentation on the County Development Plan was made to the Oireachtas members which was very positively received and TDs and Senators have engaged and contributed greatly to the consultation process.

The next phase in this pre-draft stage of the Development Plan process is for the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received within the public consultation time period. The report will present the Chief Executive's opinion and recommendation for each submission received and upon completion will be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration and to give a direction to prepare a draft Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028. This stage in the plan preparation process is an essential step in confirming the strategic planning policy issues that the new County Development Plan

must address. This, in turn, will set the framework for the formulation of implementable and measurable objectives for all key planning policy areas of the new Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications and planning enforcement during the month of November and also gives the year-to-date totals.

Development management	November 2020	Year to date 2020
Planning applications		
No. of planning applications received	110	915
No. of planning decisions made	126	965
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	38
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	26	264
No. of Section 5 applications	5	49
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications	6	47
Submissions received regarding compliance	42	412
Planning enforcement		
No. of new complaints received	16	184
No of files opened	7	135
No. of Warning Letters issued	23	138
No. of Enforcement Notices served	4	12
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	0
No. of Enforcement files closed	3	109

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge team continue to progress remedial work contracts on a number of housing estates, several of these have now been completed and there are others with minor works to be carried out, as outlined in the table below.

Estate	Update regarding remedial works
Gort na mBláth/Rathban/Lios Ard, Tulla Rd, Ennis	One minor issue to be completed before Christmas.
Dun Aras/Cluain Alainn/Dun Aras Ave/Ballycasey Ave, Shannon	Remedial works are ongoing.
Tir an Fhia, Kilkishen	Remedial works 90 per cent complete, some landscaping to be carried out in spring 2021.
Clochan na Mara and Blackthorn Drive, Liscannor	Remedial works complete. Further landscaping contract to be carried out in spring 2021.
Woodstock View and Woodstock Hill, Shanaway Road	Contractor carrying out remedial works which are to continue through January and early February 2021.
Cluainin, Shannon	Tenders for remedial works were procured and a contractor is currently being appointed.

7 Estates were taken in charge in November 2020, 5 in West Clare MD, 1 in Shannon MD, 1 in Killaloe MD.

The Statutory Process in relation to the Taking in Charge of five estates commenced on 13th November, 2020, 3 estates in West Clare MD and 2 estates in Shannon MD.

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY



Above: Day 1. Wild About Miltown clearing ivy and brambles at the Church Car Park as part of the hedgerow restoration plan and their biodiversity actions at the public area. Right: Uncovering a Moher stone wall, unique to this part of County Clare. Ivy was cut back to make the wall a feature at the boundary.



Heritage and biodiversity projects are being finalised for 2020 and funding recoupment has been made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and to the Heritage Council.

Phase 2 of the Biodiversity Demonstration Sites continues with hedgerow restoration and further action at Miltown Malbay Church Car Park.

The Clare Swift Survey 2020

In light of the very low numbers of breeding Swift in Clare, Swift nest bricks and nest boxes will be made available to house owners in 2021 to encourage building owners to retain and supplement

opportunities for Swifts nest sites in suitable buildings.

Clare ICAN group

The Clare ICAN group (Irish Community Archive Network) continue to meet on line and are planning joint projects for 2021, including a wellness initiative on awareness and the collection of local placenames. For more details please visit: <https://heritage.clareheritage.org/>

Keep Well

Heritage and biodiversity initiatives and publications will form part of the County Clare 'Keep Well' media campaign materials.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE



Covid-19 supports

LEO Clare continues to support our local businesses through the month of November. A very high uptake of these supports is in evidence:

- Business Continuity Vouchers: Of the 397 approved applications, approximately 270 (worth over €550,000 in support) have been completed (the appointed consultants have completed their work and submitted their report), with the balance expected to conclude in the coming months.
- The Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an e-commerce website, has seen strong interest. To date, over 400 applications have been approved, with a further 150 applications pending assessment.
- Online Webinars and Training: 312 clients registered in the month of November to partake in our range of online webinars and training courses. All of these webinars were provided free of charge to applicants.
- Mentoring: There were 40 applicants in November for a free three-hour mentoring session, where a member of the LEO Clare mentoring panel is assigned to an applicant to mentor them in areas ranging from financial review to starting a food business to digital marketing, among others.
- Micro Finance Ireland (MFI) loans: LEO Clare continues to provide this popular loan facility in conjunction with MFI for eligible businesses. Clients can also avail of mentor support to assist with completion of applications.
- Brexit supports: LEO Clare has launched our online and press campaign encouraging clients to prepare for the impacts of Brexit. We continue to support clients in this regard, including ongoing free mentoring and training. Our next phase of customs training schedule has gone live this month.

We continue to provide our range of grant supports (including Feasibility, Priming and Business Expansion and our TAME grant for micro-exporters) to eligible businesses.

As new supports are announced, these will be advised through our social media channels, website and in local media.

November Evaluation Committee Meeting

Our Evaluation Committee (EVAC) met on Tuesday, 3rd November, for their fifth meeting of the year. The committee continued the process of meeting remotely, aided by the new Submit.com grant processing system. The November EVAC approved €134,140 in funding for three projects. The projects included a Feasibility Grant application and two Business Expansion Grant applications.

Shop Local – Click for Clare

Clare County and Council and the Local Enterprise Office will run a series of promotional campaigns aimed at encouraging people to shop local in the weeks leading up to Christmas. In conjunction with the *Clare Echo*, and in support of all our clients who have availed of the Trading Online Voucher scheme, we have launched a 'Click for Clare' campaign. This initiative has resulted in the creation of a directory of local Clare businesses that have an e-commerce website. To date almost 150 Clare businesses have joined the directory, which is neatly arranged and categorised under location headings across the county for ease of navigation online.

We are also running advertising in *The Clare Champion* providing tips on how the community can shop local and support our local economy, we are supporting Ennis Chamber in the promotion of the Clare Gift Card and also working in partnership with Clare FM to promote the Shop Local campaign with the *Morning Focus* programme throughout November and December.



Tech Disrupt 4.0

LEO Clare, in association with LEO Limerick, is currently running a pilot programme to encourage new technological ideas based on the principles of Industry 4.0 (including robotics, virtual reality, data, etc). Expressions of interest were sought from interested parties and individuals in the Limerick and Clare areas. Six successful applicants will receive support to the value

of up to €25,000 to help create and launch their ideas.

Over 30 initial responses were assessed and the 20 applicants who successfully progressed to the next round have since attended a series of online webinars and one-to-one advice sessions with representatives from Jaguar Land Rover and Dell, among others. The competition is ongoing, with the six winners due to be announced in mid-December.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Facilities management

Significant works have taken place in Áras Contae an Chláir during the month as we continue to ensure that the workplaces and arrangements for staff and elected members meet the requirements of the Council’s response plan and the national and HSE guidance on Covid-19. Improvements have been put in place in the meeting rooms in the Housing Department. Further works on external paving and the upgrade of CCTV in the Waterpark Campus are planned for the next month. The lighting-up of the Áras for the Christmas period is also scheduled.

Property transactions

The table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in October, together with the totals for 2020 to date.

Transaction	November 2020	Year to date 2020
Lease of property/building	0	4
Licence to use property/building	1	9
Grazing agreement for lands	0	18
Deed of transfer signed	1	7
Deed of rectification/assent signed	1	3

Casual trading

During November 2020, the level of casual trading activity was much reduced due to the need for compliance with the Covid-19 restrictions. There were no new licences issued during November. Work has commenced on the renewal of licences for the year 2021.

Derelict sites

During November 2020, a number of site inspections took place as part of a review of the sites and properties on the Derelict Sites Register. There has been a positive response to some of the engagement with owners of derelict sites, some planning applications for new development on such sites are expected and some works have been completed or are planned by owners to render sites non-derelict. The team is focused on engaging with owners to develop solutions for bringing sites and properties back into economic use. The level of activity in this area will take account of the current economic situation due to Covid 19 and the resources of the team while trying to address complaints from the public. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in November and the year 2020 to date.

Derelict Sites	November 2020	Year to date 2020
No. of new Complaints	0	19
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	0	0
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry onto Derelict Sites Register	0	0
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0
No. of files closed/property removed from Register	2	3
No. of Compulsory Purchase Orders	0	0

Atlantic Economic Corridor funding for hubs

Payments will be made shortly to seven hubs in Clare, following an allocation of support funding from the Western Development Commission for digital/enterprise hubs along the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) to help them implement measures to reopen in compliance with public health guidelines as the economy recovers from the impact of Covid-19. The total funding provided is €30,793.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

As we reach the end of this exceptional year the team in the Shannon Municipal District are pleased that the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the year is substantially complete with overlay works at Meelick village, Derryfadda, Srawickeen and Sixmilebridge having been recently finished.

All surface dressing works have been finalised. Projects which received funding under the Active Travel scheme are complete including renewal of pedestrian crossing infrastructure at the R471 in Sixmilebridge and at St Finnachtas School Sixmilebridge and a new section of footpath in Meelick village.



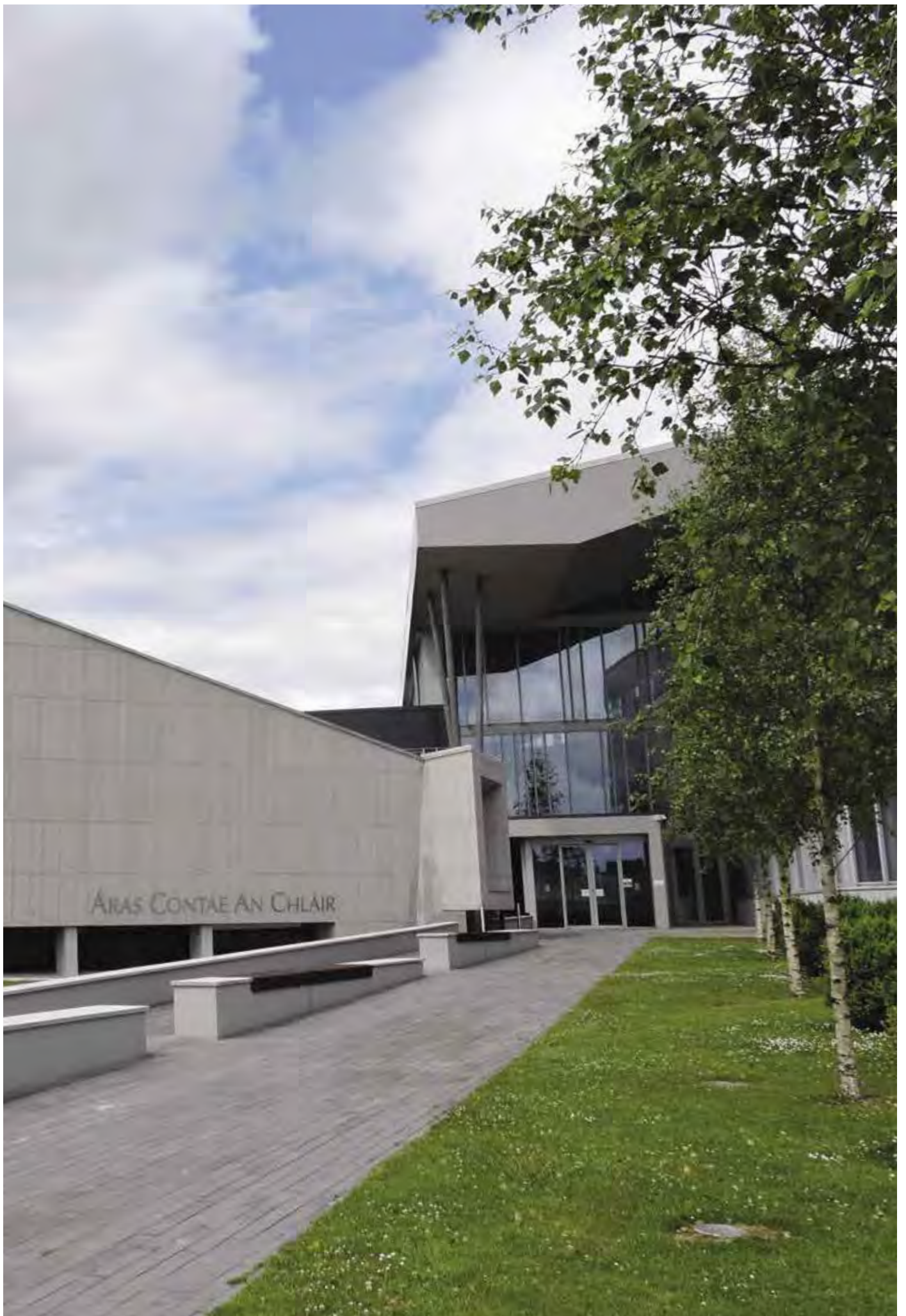
Pavement Overlay Works at Rosmadda.



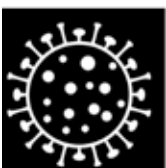
New footpath and road drainage installed in Meelick village.

Finalisation of the junction improvement works at both the Westbury and Larkins Cross junction will take place in the coming days.

The district footpath remediation contract for 2020 is approximately 85 per cent complete with the remaining works to be completed by year end. Works are currently underway to renew the footpath between Newmarket-on-Fergus and Latoon to provide residents with a new route for recreational use.



ÁRAS CONTAE AN CHLAIR



Coronavirus
COVID-19
Public Health
Advice



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
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