



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

# TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Iúil / July 2020



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# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES



Councillor Mary Howard, Fine Gael (above left) was elected Mayor of Clare at the Annual General Meeting of Clare County Council on Monday, 29th June, 2020. Cllr Pat Burke, Fine Gael (top right), was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

## Mary Howard elected Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council

Councillor Mary Howard (Fine Gael) has been elected Mayor of Clare at the Annual General Meeting of Clare County Council on Monday, 29th June, 2020.

Cllr Howard succeeds Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy (Fianna Fáil) in the role.

Cllr Howard said it was her great honour to stand before the Council as Mayor.

“2020 has already been a remarkable year for the world, for Ireland and, of course, for County Clare. Covid-19 brought us to our knees. We lost loved ones, we lost livelihoods, and we lost – for a time – our freedom to visit those we love – our families and friends.

“But what was not lost, and what shone like a guiding North Star, was our indomitable spirit, our willingness to volunteer and help others, and our overwhelming sense of community.

“This pandemic brought out the best in our towns and villages, but this is of no surprise. Throughout my life I have always been greatly impressed by the selflessness and altruism of the wonderful citizens of our county.”

Cllr Howard said that we have started to reopen and rebuild our communities – domestic, commercial and industrial.

“Repairing all of that damage, getting people back to work,

reopening our county for business, along with building on the momentum that was with us, before the virus struck: this is now our challenge. It will not be an easy one, but the restoration of our communities will be a core tenet during my time as Cathaoirleach.”

Cllr Howard said that she will be guided by her principles and her heartfelt wish to see Clare as a destination for people to come and live, to work and enjoy: “Underlying all this will be my desire to see Clare County Council support its citizens and rebuild our communities in a sustainable way that is resilient, and addresses issues such as climate change, inclusive communities and mutual respect.”

The outgoing Mayor of Clare, Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, said that she had been privileged to be Cathaoirleach. She said that when she accepted the role on February 17th last, “little did any of us know, what havoc and change was pummeling towards us all.”

Cllr Colleran Molloy added: “As the Cathaoirleach during this Covid-19 pandemic, I wish to especially commend and thank the Chief Executive and management on the excellent work undertaken to ensure continued essential services to the people of Clare by our excellent Council staff, and for the leadership exhibited in the Covid-19 Community Response Forum, which successfully facilitated the huge volunteer efforts to ameliorate the situation for the vulnerable in our community.”

Cllr Pat Burke (Fine Gael) has been elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
<b>Recruitment</b>	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Rural and Community Development Officer</li> <li>• Beach Ambassador</li> </ul> <p>The following competitions were advertised with a view to forming panels in order to fill approved vacancies as they arise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting Senior Executive Engineer</li> <li>• Acting Senior Planner</li> <li>• Professionally qualified Social Worker</li> <li>• Foreman</li> <li>• GO Driver 2</li> <li>• School Warden (Part-time), Ennis MD</li> <li>• Burial Ground Caretaker/Registrar</li> </ul>
<b>Learning and Development</b>	<p>A number of training programmes were arranged and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPC (8 participants)</li> <li>• Safe Pass (8 participants)</li> <li>• Beach Lifeguard Training on Manual Handling and Children First (25 participants)</li> </ul> <p>Online training modules were also provided to staff and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Working (30 participants)</li> <li>• PSDP (8 participants)</li> <li>• EPA National Water Event (4 participants)</li> <li>• Manual Handling (22 participants)</li> <li>• Wellbeing and Remote Working (22 participants)</li> <li>• Coping with Covid-19 Anxiety (12 participants)</li> </ul> <p>Covid-19 Induction Training has been delivered to 850 staff and is based on the Return to Work Safety Protocol and the Council's Covid-19 Response Plan.</p> <p>The recent assessment of Excellence Through People concluded that Clare County Council Human Resource Management systems and practices meet the requirements of the specification, thereby maintaining the Gold Standard Certification awarded in 2018.</p>
<b>Covid-19</b>	<p>Throughout March, April and May, the Human Resources (HR) Department liaised regularly with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on various HR-related matters, particularly those relating to Covid-19.</p>
<b>Unions</b>	<p>The HR Department continued to engage and consult with unions on various matters including the Return to Work Protocol and the appointment of Lead Worker Representatives.</p>

## Corporate Services July 2020

### Procurement

The Procurement Unit is continuing to source personal protective equipment (PPE) suppliers to meet the immediate requirements of the Council, in order to reduce the risk to employees and to ensure the continued provision of services in line with the *Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business*.

### Tender competitions

Short description	Response deadline
Software solution for Clare County Council's Housing Department	26/06/2020
Regional and Local Road Pavement Overlay Scheme 2020	06/07/2020
National Roads Pavement Overlay Scheme 2020	06/07/2020
Expressions of Interest in the provision of Housing Schemes and/or Land for Social/Affordable Housing and/or long Term Leasing of Multi Unit Developments (10+ years) to Clare County Council	10/07/2020
Civil Engineering Contractors – Loophead Lighthouse Visitor Experience, Watermain Works	13/07/2020
Proposed Housing Development (18 Nr Units) and Associated Works at Newmarket on Fergus	20/07/2020
Town and Village Renewal Scheme at Clarecastle, County Clare	24/07/2020

### Records Management

Corporate Services have commenced a Records Management project to review the storage, retention and retrieval of records across the organisation. The file storage facility at Beechpark has reached capacity and a new storage facility is being developed at Quin Road.

All records are held in accordance with the *National Retention Policy for Local Authorities*. The project has commenced with a full review of retention and storage of planning records. In accordance with the *National Retention Policy* there is a requirement to retain and archive the majority of planning files.

Records Management is working closely with the General Design team and the Planning team to maximise storage capacity of the Quin Road facility and ensure best use of file storage space at Beechpark and Quin Road while adhering to the requirements of the *National Retention Policy*. Work is also ongoing on the transfer of all file records to the ADLIB Records Management System.

### Customer Services

As part of the Council's Covid-19 response, the Customer Service team met with other service departments that operate public counters and the Health and Safety team to review requirements and plan for the next phase. Consideration was given to the means by which we deliver our services and how this could be done while protecting all those who use our facilities. We will continue to encourage our service users to use phone, email or operate online where possible. As of 29th June,

## Finance

The Restart Grant for Small Businesses is an initiative introduced by the Government. The grant gives direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to help them with the costs associated with reopening and re-employing workers following Covid-19 closures.

The grants will be equivalent to the rates bill of the business in 2019, with a minimum payment of €2,000 and a maximum payment of €10,000.

### Qualifying criteria

A business must have a turnover of less than €5m and have 50 or fewer employees.

The business must have suffered a projected 25+% loss in revenue from 1st April, 2020, to 30th June, 2020.

The business must commit to remain open or to reopen if it was closed. The business must also declare the intention to retain employees that are benefitting from the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).

Businesses should retain supporting documentation as spot-checks may be carried out to verify a declaration to this effect.

Applications for the Restart Grant can now be made online, with a closing date of 31st August.

To date there have been over 1,000 applications received by Clare County Council, with over 70% of these applications approved and paid.



the Áras is open to the public from 9:00am to 1:00pm and by appointment from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

The Municipal District (MD) office opening hours are as follows:

- Killaloe MD office, Scarriff: 9:30am to 1:00pm, and by appointment from 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- West Clare MD offices, Ennistymon and Kilrush: 10:00am to 1:00pm, and by appointment from 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- Shannon MD office: 9:30am to 1:00pm, and by appointment from 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Signage, queuing systems and sanitisation facilities have been put in place and are being monitored by members of Customer Service/Security staff.

## Freedom of Information & Data Protection 2020 Statistics to 30/6/2020:

- 88 Freedom of Information Requests
- 1 Freedom of Information Internal Review application
- 2 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- 3 Access Requests (Data Protection) – Data Subjects
- 15 Access Requests (Data Protection) – Third Party Access



## COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Office issued 17 press releases and notices during June, 2020, in relation to a range of Council activities. The Office is the point of contact for all media queries and has coordinated Council communications in *The Clare Champion*, *The Clare Echo*, *The Clare County Express* and on Clare FM and RTÉ in recent weeks. The Communications Office manages the Council accounts on social media channels and participated in the #YourCouncilDay social media campaign on 1st July, which was trending number 1 in Ireland on Twitter.

## Print Room jobs June 2020

Print Room jobs produced during the past month include the following:

- Covid-19 – posters and signage, designed, printed and laminated for IT, Library, Canteen and Health and Safety departments.
- Print and bind of the Annual Report – the report was designed and laid out in-house in the Print Room.
- Print and bind of booklets for the Fire Station, including first aid checks, testing equipment, checking equipment, fire safety, etc.
- Letterheads for Planning, Human Resources, Economic Development, Finance and Corporate Services.
- Print of all the Summer Stars material for the library, including A5 Summer Stars stamp cards, scored to fold, and A3 posters.
- Print of *The Banner Bulletin*.
- Print and bind of Clare Tourism booklets.
- Design of logo for 'Zoom Art Room' for the Arts Office. Also design and layout of the 'Zoom Art Room' application forms. A creative workshop aimed at children so logo and form are fun and colourful.
- Design and layout of information guide for Clare Older People, Rural Development. 60-page A4 document. Style based on the Clare Age Friendly Report that was designed in house last year. Aimed at a senior audience so colours and font size needed careful consideration.
- Design of the cover page, contents, inserts, appendix and layout of the Annual Service Delivery Plan for Corporate Services. Basing the style on the Annual Report for consistency.

## Irish Language Department

The Irish Language Department continues to support an Ghaeilge throughout the county. The 2019 annual report is available online and we are adding Irish language content to the website. While public events are curtailed, we are making contact with community groups and recently translated a commemorative plaque to be unveiled in Ruán later this year.

Inside the Council offices, the weekly Irish language sessions will restart in September, all welcome, with more details to follow.

Warmest congratulations to Reg and the Caint agus Comhrá conversation group, who have restarted their weekly meet-up, currently at the Food Emporium, Ennis (outside), at 11:00am each Saturday.

Tá an Oifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge ag tabhairt tacaíochta do lucht labhartha na Gaeilge ar fud an Chontae. Tá an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ar fail ar líne agus táimid ag neartú an méid Gaeilge atá le feiceáil ar an suíomh gréasáin. Fiú má tá imeachtaí srianta go leor faoi láthair, tá gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla ag leanúint ar aghaidh. Rinne an t-Oifigeach leagan Gaeilge den phlaic faoin nGabháil Bheairic Ruáin a bheidh á nochtadh I mbliana.

Beidh ranganna Gaeilge ar fáil arís I mí Meán Fómhair, (laistigh den gComhairle) seisiúin neamhfhoirmáilte dírithe ar fhostaithe na gComhairle. Fáilte roimh Chách.

Comhghairdeas ó chroí don dream Caint agus Comhrá atá ar ais ar a sheanléim gach Satharn ag an Food Emporium, Inis, (amuigh faoin spéir) ag 11am.



# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Refurbishment of public toilets at Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre



Pictured at the contract signing for works on the refurbishment of toilet facilities within the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre were (L-R): Mayor of Clare, Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy; Kevin Heneghan, Building Projects Engineer, Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience; David McLnerney, Contracts Manager, Jada Projects Ltd; Geraldine Enright, Director, Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; John Shannon, McKenna Consulting Engineers; Donnacha Lynch, Commercial Manager, Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience; and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council.

Clare County Council has approved the commencement of work on the complete refurbishment of all toilet facilities within the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre.

County Clare contractor Jada Projects Ltd has been appointed to complete the project. Clare County Council recently signed the contract, which is valued at €208,444 ex VAT.

The improvements include a full refit of the toilets on the ground floor and first floor. The works will see the unisex model that was in place revert to separate male and female toilet facilities. It is expected that the works will be completed in July 2020.

Outgoing Mayor of Clare, Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, said: “The toilet refurbishment will be a welcome improvement to facilities at the world-class visitor attraction. With 1.6m visitors to the cliffs in 2019, it is crucially important to maintain high standards of accessibility, convenience and hygiene in Visitor Centre facilities – perhaps now more than ever, given the public health requirements to combat Covid-19.”

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, said: “These improvements will ensure facilities are of a standard that is in line with visitor expectations. This is the first full upgrade since the Visitor Centre opened in 2007, so this project is timely.”



## Launch of the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020

The Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has welcomed the launch of the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2020 on 22nd June by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring. Nationally, the fund for this year is €2 million and County Clare has been awarded €60,265. The funding scheme is due to be launched next month after consideration by the Clare LCDC on 15th July.

The CEP was launched for the first time in 2018, and was repeated in 2019. It provides grants to community groups to improve facilities in their area. In 2019, 68 projects were funded and each were targeted at enhancing facilities in disadvantaged communities across the county. While the CEP will be run in the same manner as previous years, there will be flexibility to use funding on Covid-19-related capital expenditure where this is a priority, and discretion will rest with the LCDC.



## Covid-19 Community Response Helpline

The freephone community response helpline continues to operate from 9:00am to 5:00pm seven days a week. There have been just under 900 calls to the helpline since its

## Third call for RRDF Category 1 applications now open

The third Call for Category 1 applications to the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund was made by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, on the 19th June, 2020.

The Fund seeks to provide investment to support rural renewal, strengthen and build resilience in rural communities and assist in the regeneration of towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000 and outlying area.

The primary focus of this third call is to:

- Ensure that the investment provided can act as a key economic driver for economic recovery in the post Covid-19 environment, providing an immediate stimulus to support the recovery and further development of rural economies and communities; and
- Deliver planned and sustainable regeneration in towns and villages, driving greater economic activity and foot-fall, addressing dereliction and ensuring the re-use of buildings.

The minimum request from the Fund for Category 1 projects is €500,000.

Any projects which are identified as still requiring planning or other consent(s) following the closing date for applications will not be considered.

The Council is permitted to submit a maximum of 5 applications to this Category 1 call.

The deadline for applications is 12 noon, 1st December, 2020.

commencement in early March. The operation of this helpline by Council staff has ensured a targeted, integrated and coordinated approach to the delivery of much-needed services to the more vulnerable citizens across the county during the Covid-19 pandemic.





Picture taken at the contract signing for works on the Cliffs of Moher coastal walk.

## Works commence on coastal walk at Cliffs of Moher

Clare County Council and Guerin & Considine Ltd have signed a €331,500 ex VAT contract for works on the Cliffs of Moher coastal walk. This tourism project is based on the cooperation between seven local landowners and Clare County Council/Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience, which is funding the project.

The project involves improvement to the coastal walk for approximately 1km north and 1km south of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre. These works will include resurfacing of the existing gravel path, amendment and repair of stone stiles, and repair and restoration of the existing flagstone and traditional stone walls.

The Cliffs of Moher coastal walk stretches from the trail head points in Liscannor to Doolin and now has been identified as a 'hero' product by Fáilte Ireland, with spectacular scenery and views over 18km. Since opening in 2013, the coastal walk has become a popular hiking destination.

Clare County Council recognises that sections of the walk in the 2km zone adjacent to the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre are the most visited and that these require urgent attention for safety, repairs and maintenance. On this basis, the Council engaged directly with the seven local landowners to develop a pilot project in the 2km intermediate zone. The Council is very focused on adhering to a sustainable environmental approach in line with regulations and acknowledged the input and expertise of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in this regard. The Council acknowledged the positive engagement of local landowners and the community, the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) and statutory agencies in the spirit of the Government's Department of Rural and Community Development National Walking Trail programme. The Council will invest in this 2km zone with a view to working closely to support Clare Local Development Company (CLDC), which operates the much longer

stretch of the walking trail from Liscannor to Doolin. The repair works have been identified and designed in-house by Clare County Council's General Design Office and Cliffs Engineer with close cooperation and local expertise of the seven landowners within the 2km zone of the Visitor Centre. Local contractor Guerin & Considine Ltd has commenced the work, which is expected to take five months to complete.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, thanked the Board of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd and the Elected Members of Clare County Council for their support for this emergency repairs project. Mr Dowling said: "Clare County Council's investment in a new and improved coastal walk at the Cliffs of Moher will help to reinforce the site's status as one of the most visited tourist attractions in the country. These works reflect the local authority's ongoing commitment to the development of the world-famous tourist attraction."

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council, said: "These improvements will enable us to provide a first-class coastal walk experience to visitors while contributing to the maintenance of safety standards and sustainable growth at the Cliffs."

"Visitor numbers at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience increased by 3.8% to 1,580,010 in 2019. These numbers highlight the importance of ensuring facilities such as the coastal walk are maintained in optimal condition. I want to thank all who facilitated the collaborative discussions in any way to enable the planning and implementation of this project."

Geraldine Enright, Director, Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience, said: "Covid-19 has impacted the Cliffs of Moher as it has tourist attractions all around the globe. We are welcoming visitors back again now and it is wonderful to see people enjoying the spectacular cliffs and magnificent views."

"We have been working hard to ensure the safety of our visitors and staff and have a comprehensive operating procedure in place to comply with all Covid-19 restrictions and regulations."



# Clare Tourism Strategy 2030



Pictured above and below right are members of the Clare Tourism Strategy Steering Group, including Jennifer Houillebecq and Caroline Boland from TEAM Tourism, John Leonard from Accolades Marketing, Paddy Mathews and Miriam Kennedy from Fáilte Ireland, Geraldine Enright from Cliffs of Moher and members of the Clare County Council Tourism Department.

The *Clare Tourism Strategy 2030* Steering Group met on 24th June, 2020, to ratify the submissions received following an extended period of consultation. Final consultations were held with the Elected Members and Rural SPC on 8th July, 2020. This extended consultation process reflected the changing tourism experience in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is intended that this document will now be presented to the July Council Meeting for adoption with a formal launch organised in the autumn.

The key strategic priorities of the *Clare Tourism Strategy 2030* include the following:

1. To establish a county-wide Tourism Advisory Forum to strengthen governance and act as an advisory group for Clare County Council and a spokesperson for tourism;
2. To work towards positioning Clare as a destination to be recognised nationally and internationally for its commitment to responsible tourism and sustainability;
3. To develop new and strengthen existing approaches to generating integrated and cross-sectoral discussions on tourism locally and regionally.



## Burial Grounds Unit

The Burial Grounds Unit is progressing well, with two capital projects during the month of June.

Works to extend the stock of available plinthed burial spaces has been completed in Ballycannon Burial Ground (BG) in Meelick. Work is almost complete on a similar extension project at Kildrum BG in Quin.

The works have been carried out by local contractor Syl O'Connor and extend the usable burial space in both burial grounds for at least the next five years.

Tree surgery was also carried out in the historic Kilavogher BG in Meelick, which has drastically improved lighting in the Elton Court estate which adjoins the BG.

The major extension at Illaunmanagh BG in Shannon is also underway. Works are progressing well, with the project due for completion and available for burial allocation later this year.



Work is progressing well on the major extension at Illaunmanagh BG in Shannon.



Plinth and path construction at Ballycannon have been completed by local contractor Syl O'Connor.

## Clare Tourism – marketing and promotion initiatives

Consequent on the extraordinarily challenging period for the tourism industry during 2020, Clare County Council and Clare Tourism have targeted the domestic market to *Visit Clare*, in order to support the recovery of local tourism businesses. The campaign for Clare has also aligned to the domestic marketing strategy of Fáilte Ireland.

Following on from the Government re-opening phase on 29th June, the following Strategic Marketing Plan for Clare was implemented:

- National Radio Campaign on Dermot and Dave Show, Today FM – sponsored by Clare County Council. Daily mentions of *Visit Clare*;
- National Print Media – a suite of adverts was designed and placed in the following national print media: *Irish Independent* on Saturday; *RTÉ Guide*; and *You Magazine (Irish Daily Mail)*;
- A digital marketing campaign was also launched on Rollercoaster.ie; Evoke.ie and Extra.ie in addition to a Visit Clare social media campaign with the new promotional video, 'It's all there... in Clare – Under the Gaze of Loophead Lighthouse'. This was the second video following the first 'Dream of Clare' video launched during the Covid-19 restrictions.

## IPB Pride of Place Awards 2020 – Clare entrants

Four community groups have been put forward to represent County Clare in the 2020 IPB Pride of Place Awards. These groups have been nominated thanks to their tireless efforts to promote and celebrate the best in community development in County Clare and in recognition of the selfless efforts of people in making County Clare neighbourhoods better places to live, work and socialise. The following groups will be assessed by the judging panel later in the summer:

1. Clare Youth Action has been nominated in the Community Youth Led Initiative due to its work on many charitable and civic-minded initiatives that have made substantial contributions in improving the quality of life for teens and the wider community in north Clare, and the county at large.
2. Labasheeda le Cheile has been nominated in the 0-300 Population category thanks to the work being carried out in coordinating infrastructural, tourism and amenity projects being carried out by voluntary groups and clubs in the Labasheeda community. Projects include the Napoleonic Battery at Kilcredaun, the development of cycle tracks and improvement works on the community centre.
3. Scattery Island Heritage and Development Group has been nominated in the Islands and Coastal Communities category for its work over the past eight years



4. Broadford Community Action Group has been nominated in the 300-1000 Population category thanks to its work in developing the heritage assets of the village, development of a comprehensive biodiversity plan and heritage strategy. The group has developed substantial expertise in the conservation, enhancement, fundraising and promotion of the rich heritage of their beautiful village.

The groups will now prepare a detailed submission to the judging panel before a possible virtual judging visit later in the summer. The Community Department of the Rural Development Directorate will support the groups throughout the judging process and wishes each community the very best of luck in the competition.



## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



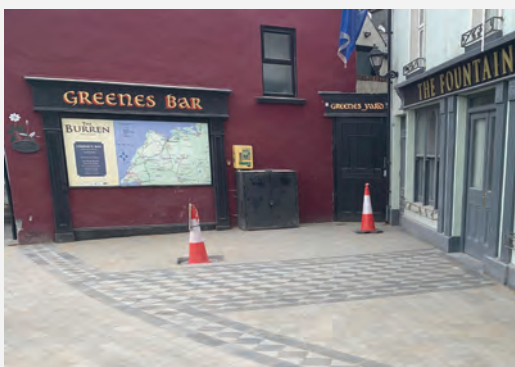
At the West Clare Municipal District AGM on 24th June, 2020, Cllr Joe Garrihy (above left) was elected as Chairman of the West Clare Municipal District. He succeeds Cllr Bill Chambers (above right).



Cllr Cillian Murphy (above left) was elected Vice Chairman of the West Clare Municipal District. He succeeds Cllr Joe Garrihy (above right).

Some recent updates from the West Clare MD include the following:

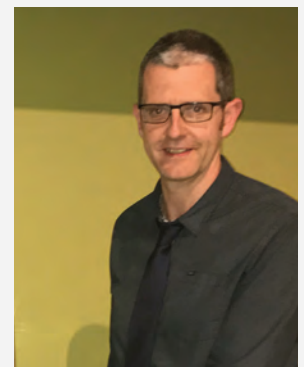
- Doolin Port reopened on 29th June, with sailing resuming and Harbour Masters re employed for the season.
- West Clare MD Office is working with Fáilte Ireland on the Developed and Emerging Destination Town Capital Investment Programme for Ennistymon. Part 8 has been submitted for this and works are progressing to ensure that a cross-departmental approach is being taken, with ongoing consultation with the various stakeholders.
- Enhancement and upgrading of Ballyvaughan paving joint venture with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
- West Clare MD is working closely with Fáilte Ireland and its consultants regarding improvement on the Wild Atlantic Way Route.
- Annual Road Work Programme is continuing after being delayed by Covid-19 restrictions. It is envisaged that all work will be completed as per programme. Road recycling works have been completed in the MD.
- Doolin works are due to be completed on the final phase of footpaths from Fitz Cross to Fisher Street, Doolin. This project has been ongoing for a number of years with new public lighting and a natural stone wall also being built.
- The Bridges of Ross improvement works have been carried out by MD outdoor staff under the Outdoor Recreation Funding programme, with works up to a value of €25,000 completed to the public pathways and public seating areas to be finished shortly.
- Improvement works to the three Beach Huts on the promenade in Kilkee are nearing completion. The design supervision and delivery of the project was overseen by the General Design department. This will see enhanced facilities for lifeguards and new public toilets positioned in a more central location for the beach.
- Public toilets were opened to the public at our beach facilities during June with Covid-19 signage and stencilling in place and an enhanced cleaning regime agreed.
- Cllr Joe Garrihy (Chairperson, West MD) thanked John Corry (Administrative Officer) for his more than a decade of combined service as Meetings Administrator to West Clare MD and Kilrush Town Clerk.



Enhancement and upgrading of Ballyvaughan paving.



Works are due to be completed on the final phase of footpaths from Fitz Cross to Fisher Street, Doolin.



John Corry.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSING

The Social Directorate held a meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee on 17th June. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber to comply with social distancing requirements. There was maximum participation (between physical and virtual presence) and a full agenda of matters was discussed by the members.

Housing Services are returning in line with the Government reopening roadmap; in this regard, the housing public counter has opened to the public from 9:00am to 1:00pm and by appointment from 1:00pm until 5:00pm. Demand for housing services remains high, with adjustments in services required to comply with Covid-19 guidelines.

We are delighted to advise the Mill Park housing development in Roslevan was completed on 26th June. The scheme was advertised on Choice Based Letting (CBL). There was significant interest in the scheme with demand far exceeding the supply. Shortlisting and interviews are completed and the allocation of properties in this scheme is imminent.

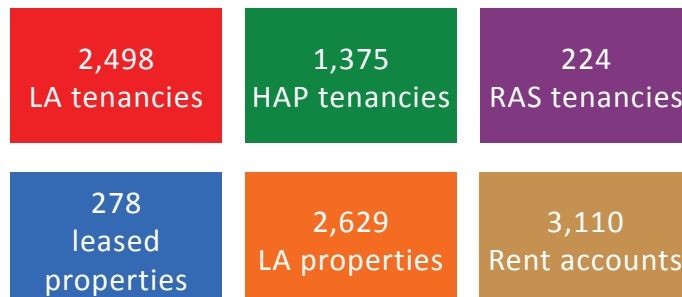


Mill Park housing development, Roslevan.

CBL is proving very popular for those on the social housing list. The number of properties available to put on the system is small, however as schemes are completed additional properties will be advertised on this platform.

### Housing in numbers

Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District (including RAS and leasing):		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,136	634
Shannon	625	145
West Clare	904	386
Killaloe	337	172
Inter Authority HAP		38
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,002</b>	<b>1,375</b>



### Summary of activity

Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact service delivery, particularly services in occupied properties. In this regard, there has been limited activity in inspections for private house grants and private rented inspections. Other business areas have returned to a new normal level of service and this is reflected in the numbers hereunder.

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (23rd May – 21st June)	16
Offers refused	2
AHB nominations	2
Tenancies signed up	13
Tenancies terminated	7

Voids work programme	
Voids/casual vacancies	43
Acquired properties (works ongoing)	22
Average vacancy period	139 days
Number voids returned to stock	9
Average spend	€24,020

Position at the end of June.

Housing maintenance calls	
June (to 25/06/2020)	376

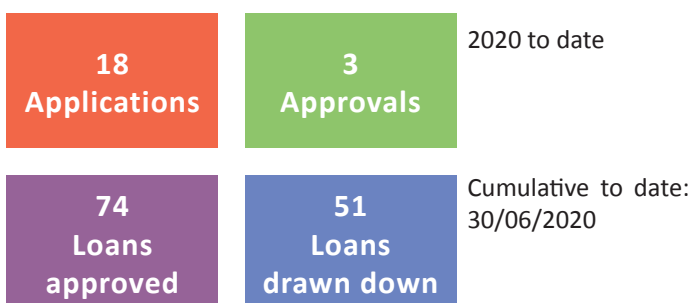
Private rented inspections	
June*	0

\*It is intended to return to inspections after 20th July, 2020.



Housing grants		
Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	4	65,750
Housing Aid for Older People	1	2,750
Mobility Aids Grant	11	55,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>126,571</b>

### Rebuilding Ireland home loan



### Homeless

We continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 23rd May to 19th June, 2020, 10 households exited from homeless services: of this 10 households, seven were housed in own door properties through HAP, leasing, AHB and local authority allocations; one self-discharged and left homeless services; and two were discharged from the service.

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) provides services to anyone who is homeless or at risk of losing their home. The HAT office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291.

Homeless presentations to 19th June 2020	
New presentations	34
Repeat presentations	112

Status as at 19th June, 2020				
	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	3	3	5	1
Westbrooke	0	14	0	1
Ashford Court	6	15	8	1
EA Families	4	5	12	2
EA Individuals	0	9	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Killaloe MD Chair, Cllr Pat Hayes.

### Killaloe MD AGM

The AGM of the Municipal District took place on Monday, 29th June. Cllr Pat Hayes was elected as Chair for 2020/2021, along with Cllr Joe Cooney as Deputy Chair.

### Roadworks Programme 2020

The programme of works is underway, with surface dressing due to be completed this week. Tenders are out for the Countywide Pavement Overlay contract and it is estimated that blacktop works in relation to this contact will commence in East Clare in the coming six weeks.

### Rural grants

The MD office has engaged extensively in the applications process for funding in the form of CLAR, Town & Village Renewal and Outdoor Recreation, with applications being lodged for all three streams.

### Covid-19

In line with the national roadmap, the public counter at the Scarriff office has reopened to the public. All services are being provided in strict compliance with Covid-19.

## Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Quilty	18	Const. recommenced 18/05/2020	Q2 2019	Q4 2020
Roslevan, Ennis	8	Completed as of 26th June, 2020	Q2 2019	Q3 2020
Sixmilebridge	2	Const. recommenced 18/05/2020	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Kilmihil	2	Const. recommenced 18/05/2020	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Shannon PPP	51	Const. recommenced 18/05/2020	Q4 2019	Q2 2021
Ashline, Ennis	40	Awaiting Stage 4 approval from DHPLG	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Milltown Malbay	27	Stage 3 approved by DHPLG. Tender process commenced.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Tulla	25	Awaiting Stage 3 approval from DHPLG. Tender process commenced.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Awaiting Stage 3 approval from DHPLG. Tender process commenced.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Scarriff	18	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Design Team Appointed.	Q4 2020	Q1 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Public Consultation Event 01/07/2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team.	Q4 2020	Q1 2022
Clarecastle	2	Single Stage approved. Tender process commenced.	Q3 2020	Q1 2021
Ballaghboy TAU	5	Design Stage	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team.	Q1 2021	Q1 2022
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>258</b>			
CAS – Cahercalla Phase 2 (Cuan an Chlair)	15	CAS Construction. Construction recommenced 18/05/2020	Sept 2019	Q4 2020
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF – Property transfer complete, CHI to commence procurement of design team.	Q3 2019	Q4 2021
Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	31	CALF Acquisition approved, Construction recommenced 18/05/2020	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	3	CAS – Stage 2 to be submitted to DHPLG	Q3 2020	Q2 2021
Sycamore Drive, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>AHB delivery</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>333</b>			



## SPORTS &amp; RECREATION

A new system is in place for booking of the Active Ennis/Kilrush facilities. All facilities are to be pre-booked and pre-paid by calling 065 6821604. It is hoped to move this to an online booking system in the near future. Full details on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)

### Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Rd

We are cautiously returning to ‘normal’ operations over the coming weeks in line with the advice from the Government and Department of Health and the *Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business*. We are now operating under the most recent guidance and will respond as guidance is amended.

Presently, there is reduced capacity in the car park at Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road, and this will be reviewed to respond to increased demand. Public toilet facilities are also available for use at this time. There is signage throughout the facility to remind users to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Active Ennis pool and gym are in the final phase of preparation for re-opening.

The facility has been deep cleaned and sanitised throughout



Active Ennis Leisure Complex.

and we are implementing a ‘people management’ system to ensure the safety of our staff and customers. This includes a pre-book/pre-pay system with limited numbers in both areas. There will not be any activity for clubs, organisations, groups, or a return to programmed activities, classes, birthday parties, summer camps presently.

All of the above is subject to review based on updated public health guidance.

## Clare local sport partnership activities continue

### Community

We have joined Limerick and Tipperary Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) to assist HSE Midwest in its ‘Take a Break’ campaign for the physical and wellbeing of their staff. This four-week pilot programme was an excellent opportunity to create awareness of our brand and the resources we can offer these potential new audiences.

### Couch to 3km programme

An outstanding 494 people signed up to take part; we have consistently had 50-75 people finishing it. Research stated that once people have signed up for a programme, regardless if they completed it, they increase their physical activity as a result.

### Clare Sports Partnership

The first-ever Banner Marathon is running for the month of June, we have 79 participants taking on the challenge of walking/jogging or running 42.2km over 30 days.

### People with disabilities/older adults

Creating opportunities through working with CARA, Age & Opportunity and Tutor John Conroy we have distributed physical activity worksheets and videos to disability organisations and Active Retirement groups.

We are also working with disability groups to create opportunities for service users to socially interact together in a group format with each other in these very challenging times.

We had planned to run a GAA Autism Summer Camp for 120 children this summer in conjunction with Clare GAA, Clare Crusaders, EVA and CEIS, but with the current restrictions we will look to create a training project for coaches and teachers to deliver physical activity post-Covid-19.

### Xcessible

We are currently undertaking the bronze level award with CARA. We completed training to deliver disability awareness training online and we hope to complete training with the board in the coming months to achieve the bronze award.

### Audit of facilities/clubs in Clare

We are undertaking a preliminary audit of sports facilities/clubs in Clare at the moment. Part of this remit is to look at accessibility within facilities.

### Facilities audit

We are currently working through the different parishes in Clare and recoding the facilities available within each.

### Covid-19 Return to Sport grant

Funding assessed and re-allocated to assist clubs with the return to sport. This grant is to be used for the purchase of essential cleaning supplies etc. and is a one-off grant to a max of €100 per club application. Details on [www.claresports.ie](http://www.claresports.ie)

## CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, ARCHIVES

### Clare County Library

Eight Clare libraries continued to provide a Contact and Collect service to the public, which began on June 8th. There have been 499 collections to date in June.

	Klrush and Kilkee	Ennis	Shannon and Sixmilebridge	Ennistymon and Milltown Malbay	Scariff	Total No of collections
<b>Week 1 08 June</b>	41	54 (219)	23 and 12	19 and 3	22	162
<b>Week 2 15 June</b>	39 and 29	90	35 and 36	42 and 27	39	337
						<b>499</b>



In total, 526 deliveries have been carried out since the service started.

	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

Clare County Library also added a number of resources to the Clare Library healthy Ireland page: [http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/healthy\\_ireland\\_library.htm](http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/healthy_ireland_library.htm). These included yoga for children, mindfulness and wellbeing videos for families.

### Delivery service to those cocooning

The demand for this service dropped in June as restrictions started to ease and the new Contact and Collect service provided another alternative service. There were 113 deliveries in June with a total of 526 deliveries having been carried out since the service started.

	No of deliveries	Items Issued
02 June	40	392
08 June	41	2,242 *
15 June	32	2,067 *
	<b>113</b>	<b>8,379</b>

\*Combined total

Over 8,000 items have been borrowed by both the delivery and contact & collect service since the end of April.

### Online resources

Access to online resources has increased monthly since the start of the year.

### Marketing

Clare County Library had the following activity on social media in May.

	Posts	Likes	Shares/retweets	Comments
<b>Facebook</b>	300	2,257	1,268	143
<b>Twitter</b>	255	499	300	13
<b>Instagram</b>	254	1,309	44	42

### Summer Stars 2020

Clare County Library's annual summer reading programme for children, Summer Stars, began on 15th June with additional online activities for all who sign up. Readers will be able to include e-books and e-audiobooks as part of the Summer Stars reading experience. There will also be regular Summer Stars posts on Clare Library's social media channels and there will be fun learning activities in the coming weeks for children to join as part of Summer Stars 2020. There will be words of encouragement from some favourite authors, readings by Clare library staff and a story competition called "An Unexpected Adventure".



## Library Capital Programme

Construction continues on site with sub-structure work nearing completion.

## Clare Arts Office



View of Mullaghmore by Áine Carey from Brothers of Charity Online Photography.

Two online exhibitions took place with Brothers of Charity and Inis Artists.

55 events were listed on the “Covid-19/In This Together” section of the website, highlighted with a radio interview.

The per cent for art commission for Cuan an Chláir re-opened with drone footage used for the first time in lieu of a site visit for artists. The Arts Office provided assistance with filming locations for a German film shooting in Kilkee in July. Three events were commissioned for Cruinniú na nÓg in the areas of early years dance, youth theatre and rap music.

Held a Zoom seminar with local festivals on the challenges they are facing and attended an Arts Council Zoom session looking at festivals nationally.

Re-opened the artists’ studios and welcomed a new artist to the EASI studios.

## Clare Museum

The recently acquired cannon ball continued to generate interest with both media and the public in June. The curator carried out interviews on TG4 and Clare FM regarding the cannon ball.

The museum curator also placed a number of photographs of objects from the museum collection on the Clare Museum Facebook page including one featuring the cannon ball. It received 138 likes and reached 12,000 people.

The museum continued its preparations for re-opening. Signage, cleaning materials and PPE are being obtained and it was hoped to re-open the museum in Phase 3 after 29th June. A temporary exhibition on the 1914 Clare Hurling team is being replaced by an exhibit of materials relating to Clare during the War of Independence.

Cataloguing the collection has continued – a total of 194 items have been catalogued so far this year. The total catalogue

## Cruinniú event: ‘My Nature’



Cruinniú na nÓg, Ireland’s national day of creative activity for children and young people, took place on Saturday, 13th June. A total of 21 events took place in Clare.

The most popular event was ‘My Nature’, a film by Jacinta Sheerin where seven young children from West Clare talked about nature in their area. The video reached 10,832 on Facebook and one comment said it was “so great to have unmediated children’s opinions”. All videos can still be accessed through the Creative Ireland Clare Facebook page and at: <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/>



The cannon ball, Clare Museum.

now stands at 2,956 items.

The loan agreement for the collection borrowed from the National Museum expired recently and the National Museum has temporarily renewed the loan until August, pending an inspection.



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION



Funding of €182,000 recently allocated by Minister Shane Ross will extend the EuroVelo cycling route into County Clare. Pictured at Doonagore Castle, which is on the EuroVelo 1 route, are (l-r): Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development, Clare County Council; Noel Mulconroy, Technician, Clare County Council; John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Clare County Council; Catherine Earley, Senior Executive Technician, Clare County Council; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, immediate past Mayor, Clare County Council; Kieran O'Callaghan, Executive Engineer, Clare County Council; and Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Clare County Council.

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

Work is ongoing on the Roadworks Programme for 2020 with significant progress being achieved in each area under the Restoration Improvement, Restoration Maintenance, Drainage and Discretionary Maintenance grant categories. Work is also progressing on the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) approved for 2020.

### Strategic Transportation

#### Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) is being developed at present by the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the strategy is to cover all modes of land transport to 2040. A number of meetings have been held with the consultants, NTA, TII and Limerick City and County Council.

The draft LSMATS document was presented to the NTA board on 1st May, 2020. They are now in the process of finalising the draft report and executive summary, the SEA ER and AA NIS, and the outstanding background documents – options development and modelling.

The Physical Development SPC met on 19th February to specifically discuss the draft LSMATS in advance of it going on public display. It has been further agreed with the NTA that a

workshop with the SPC will be held (post-Covid-19 restrictions) when the draft strategy is prepared and that all Clare County Council Elected Members be invited to attend same. Following on from this it is anticipated that the public consultation phase will commence.

### 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 statutory procedures, procuring the necessary design, and managing the carrying out of the construction works for the project within County Clare.

Also at the 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, the RMO is close to having the contract documents for Region 1 completed and it is presently proposed to publish the tender by the end of July with a contractor to be appointed and on site before the end of the year.

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

- Internet: Direct reporting on our website – [www.airtricitysolutions.com](http://www.airtricitysolutions.com);



- Phone: Airtricity Utility Solutions dedicated call centre – 1850 372 772;
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority’s web-site 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.

Project	Update – June 2020
EuroVelo 1	Funding of €182,000 has been secured from DTTAS for the development of the entire EuroVelo route in County Clare. Drawdown is by November 2020. The allocated funding will cover procurement of signage, mapboards, bike racks and self-service bike repair stands, it will not cover installation by external contractors. MDs have been contacted to confirm if they have capacity to do the installation works. This will determine type of tender and final costs of works.
Knockanean NS	Road Improvement scheme – design drawing and land maps prepared and issued to Ennis MD. Cost estimate prepared.  Knockanean NS draft Mobility Management Plan 2020 has been reviewed and comments issued to the Planning Section. Road Design Report submitted to Planning Department in relation to planning permission application, permission has been granted with conditions.
TII HD 17 Sites	For the N67: 1. Topographical surveys of identified junctions for phase 1 now complete, ie. Galway Border to Ballyvaughan. Design and Feasibility Report for phase 1 progressing.

### Low-cost safety schemes – monthly progress

Project	Update – June 2020
R463 junction at Westbury	Proposal to upgrade the existing signalised junction to MOVA system and add additional exit lane from the Westbury estate. The draft design is completed and is awaiting approval from the TII. AA screening is completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently advertised for Section 38 to go before the Elected Members at the July Shannon MD meeting. This is dependent on concluding the consultation periods in advance.</li> <li>• Design submitted to Shannon MD for comment.</li> <li>• Limerick City and County Council have agreed to carry out a Road Safety Audit.</li> </ul>
R352 Hurlers Cross Junction	Topographical road survey completed and initial contact with land owners initiated. Survey of adjacent lands to be carried out. Horizontal and vertical alignment design ongoing.

L2034/L2032 Moanmore Crossroads on the Kilrush to Doonbeg road	Topographical survey completed and initial contact with land owners initiated. Hedge clearance completed, final design to be completed.
R474, Mahonburg	Area office contacted, site survey to be completed and final design to be carried out.
R483 Cree Bridge	Area office contacted, site survey to be completed and final design to be carried out.

### Other projects – monthly update

Project	Update – June 2020
Larkins Cross/ Gillogue Bridge Specific Improvement works	Traffic signals at Larkins Cross <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design is now complete with modifications based on feedback from TII.</li> <li>• AA screening is completed.</li> <li>• Currently advertised for Section 38 to go before the Elected Members at the July Shannon MD meeting. This is dependent on concluding the consultation periods in advance.</li> <li>• Limerick City and County Council have agreed to carry out a Road Safety Audit.</li> </ul>
Round 4 Clare Noise Action Plan	Traffic surveys for Round 4 local roads have been completed. A number of regional roads, not completed, will be carried out at a later date subject to Covid-19 restrictions being in place. GIS boundary shape files have been sent to the EPA and also Limerick County Council for roads in south-east Clare.
Roche API Site – Traffic and Transport aspects	Liaison/meetings with Roche and its consultants, Aecom, are ongoing. Construction traffic management proposals issued by Aecom and are currently under review.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Wheelchair accessible bus stop on Bothar Linne, Shannon Town: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design is completed and has received NTA approval.</li> <li>• Costing and application forwarded to NTA. NTA has assessed and funding has been granted for this project (€30,733).</li> <li>• A Preliminary Safety and Health Plan is being prepared.</li> </ul>
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	List of proposed locations has been forwarded to NTA. Further to recent communications the NTA is assessing proposed locations.
Road Schedule and Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dealing with requests from Municipal Districts for searches through old road schedule paper mapping to establish if certain roads are/were in public ownership – ongoing basis.</li> <li>• Roads have been updated. RMO has been contacted regarding changes that CCC cannot approve. These will be added once approved.</li> </ul>
Cycle Lanes	Identification and mapping of all cycle lanes in County Clare. Existing lanes in Ennis and Shannon mapped, work in progress to map the remainder.

## 2020 Bridge Rehabilitation monthly progress – June 2020

- Carrownisha Bridge: Repair works completed June, 2020.
- Sixmilebridge Bridge: Design is progressing, tender to be issued in early July.
- Bunratty Bridge: Survey completed, material testing ongoing, design to follow test results.
- Gilloge Bridge: Construction works are programmed to start week commencing 29/06/2020.
- Breaghva Bridge: Repair Works completed June 2020. Some snags outstanding.
- Stonepark Bridge: Design ongoing.
- Kilmacduane East Bridge: Repair Works 90% complete. Due for completion 01/07/2020.
- Carron Bridge: Emergency repair works 90% complete. Due for completion 01/07/2020.
- Agouleen Bridge: Contractor to be appointed.
- Stackpools South Bridge: Tenders returned contractor to be appointed.
- Carrowduff Bridge: Tenders returned, contractor to be appointed.
- Smithstown Bridge: At tender stage.

## General Design Office Quin Road Campus

Phase 2 is in its closing stages of works with the Civil Defense Garage completed and entered onto the Building Control

Register. Works are now near completion on the Records Management Centre and the Environment Section’s storeroom. It is anticipated that the project will be ready for full handover in mid-July.

### Kilkee lifeguard and changing huts

Construction works on the Kilkee beach huts resumed on Monday, 18th May, and are due to be completed by the end of June.

## 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 accelerated phased re-opening plan.

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 its schedule of workplace risk assessment reviews and programme of health and safety inspections.

# FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

## Recent training courses

The following brigade training courses were held during June, 2020.

- All essential training has recommenced, including drill nights, following suspension period during Covid-19.
- Bronto Operator Refresher Course.

## Ennis Fire Station redevelopment works

Since Gildoc Ltd returned onsite following the shut down period for Covid-19, ground works are now at an advanced stage and the necessary relocation of services is now complete.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	May 2020	June 2020	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	83	88	526
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	7	4	47
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	3	16	51
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	7	6	41
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	7	6	33
Number of Commencement Notices Received	32	35	183

Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	2	0	14
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(Note: In the June Monthly report, the May figures related to 1st -20th May 2020 due to timing of report)

## Clare Civil Defence

### Operational duties

Civil Defence provided the following operational duties:

- Members provided transport for a patient to a doctor’s appointment.
- Members delivered meals to elderly and vulnerable persons in the Shannon area. They also delivered medicine and groceries as part of an initiative supported by both the HSE and An Garda Síochána.
- Members delivered food to frontline staff in Shannon.
- Members presented food donations to the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for distribution to families in need. The food was donated and collected by volunteer members of Clare Civil Defence.
- Members travelled to Naas, Co. Kildare, to collect PPE from the OGP for Clare County Council.
- Senior members and instructors attended a meeting to discuss and formulate a training schedule for a “Return to Training” plan for the volunteer members of Clare Civil Defence.



## CAPITAL DELIVERY/PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

A number of significant project milestones were achieved in a number of our major capital schemes during the month of June, as detailed in the updates below.

### Pedestrian/cycle to and from UL

Funding for the proposed works has been secured and permission from the local landowners/leaseholders has been agreed. We are currently reviewing our design in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and any changes necessary will be incorporated. We are also consulting with the College authorities in terms of the precise detail of linking on to their campus. Members will be aware that the Wildlife Act currently restricts the cutting of vegetation, hedges and trees during the nesting season from March 1st to August 31st and, therefore, it is proposed to commence these works in early September.

### Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

In line with the Government roadmap and public health advice, work has now fully resumed on the flood relief scheme. The headwall and the pipe work to the swallow hole at St Flannan's College have been completed and reinstatement works are ongoing. The public road at College View has been resurfaced and relined and is now fully open. Accommodation works are ongoing at the Tobartescain section. The construction of the piling platform along the Fergus River is practically completed and work will begin on the riverbank defences shortly. The works are programmed for completion in April 2021.

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

Clare County Council has published the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) notice to acquire the necessary lands for construction of the proposed new inner relief road at Ennistymon. The CPO notice was published on Thursday, 18th June, 2020, in local and national media as well as on the Council's website. A copy of the order, the deposit map and advert are available to view at both the Ennistymon Municipal District Office and Council HQ in Ennis. Statutory notices were sent out to all affected parties within the scheme boundary which totalled 133 owners, reputed owners and occupiers. Submissions can be made to An Bord Pleanála up until September 18th next after which the Board will make its decision. It is expected that it will take a minimum of six months for the Board to decide on the matter.

### Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

The Project Steering Group led by Clare County Council and comprising representatives from Tipperary County Council, RPS Consulting Engineers and the Department of Transport Inspector continue to meet virtually, most recently on Friday, June 19th. A number of the Advance Works contracts have been identified and will be procured in the coming months with works commencing in September and October of this year. These include site clearance, archaeology and fencing



Chief Executive Pat Dowling signing the order for the compulsory acquisition of land for the Ennistymon Inner Relief Road (Blake's Corner) project. Also pictured (l-r): Director of Service Carmel Kirby, Executive Engineer Grainne Reddan, MWRDO Administrative Officer Mairead O'Donovan and Senior Engineer Sean Lenihan.

and will focus on critical seasonal elements to be completed ahead of the main contract award. A number of technical and procurement issues have now been finalised and the Suitability Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) was published on eTenders on Wednesday, July 1st.

This process will allow for the prequalification and shortlisting of suitable contractors to tender for the works which we intend to publish in late summer 2020 with tenders due in by the end of December 2020. Following the tender assessment phase, we would expect to award the contract in early spring 2021, subject to Department approval. The main construction period is expected to take three years thereafter. Concurrently, landowner agreements continue to be progressed via video and tele-conference and only if necessary by means of face-to-face site meetings.

In line with the Government's Return to Work protocols, advance works in relation to bat box erection has now been completed and bat roost construction is scheduled to commence in the coming week.

### Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

Significant progress was achieved throughout June. CCTV and topographical survey contracts were awarded towards the end of the month with work on the ground due to commence in early July. RPS have been appointed to carry out the Coastal Data Study which is required as part of the scheme's coastal protection investigation. Preparation works have commenced to locate a new gauge in Kilkee Bay in order to advise the Coastal Study.

It was intended to hold a public consultation day but, due to Covid-19, we have had to review how we engage and consult with the public and key stakeholders. We are looking at alternative ways of engaging via social media and through the use of video.

### Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

The project team comprising Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council and ROD/AECOM continues to meet virtually on a fortnightly basis to complete the works required by the Department of Transport to finalise the Project Appraisal Plan. We were extremely fortunate to have the necessary traffic counts completed in late February before the fall-off in traffic volumes due to Covid-19 which allow us to complete the modelling required for the appraisal. Following easing of the Covid-19 restrictions, our environmental consultants were able to carry out a number of necessary walkover surveys in recent weeks.

We continue to engage with the Department of Transport and with the TII with a view to closing out the phase 2 (Option Selection) Preliminary Business Case for the scheme later in the year.

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### Whitstrand, Miltown Malbay

Following OPW approval to progress the design for this project, a meeting was held between PMO staff and our consultants to develop this project to planning stage subject to conditions. A scope of work has been agreed and a proposal is being prepared.

It is intended submit an application for permission for the preferred option by the end of December 2020.

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### Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

The Part VIII planning application for the road element of this project was submitted on 4th June. In regard to the housing element, a number of options are being examined to determine the appropriate housing mix and density for the site.

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### Asbestos Remediation Programme

We are currently reviewing the final draft of the Phase 2 Report which details what permanent remediation measures may or may not be required. Following this exercise, the report will be submitted to the EPA for its consideration and approval. This information will also be communicated to the relevant stakeholders. Thereafter, the necessary measures will be implemented at phase 3. In the meantime, the areas in question continue to be monitored.

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### N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The project team of Clare County Council, Midwest Regional Road Design Office, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Shannon Airport Authority, Fehily Timoney and Associates and Clandillon Civil Consulting continues to meet and a number of workshops are planned with the stakeholders that have particular information to input.

Work continues in compiling the options information required and works has now progressed to Phase 2 – Options Selection to determine the preferred option. In parallel, discussion continued with representatives of the Shannon Group (Airport and Commercial Properties) regarding the lands necessary and the identification of services impacted. The procurement of non-intrusive utilities surveys is expected to commence shortly, however the appointment of the traffic survey specialist has

been put on hold due to the impacts associated with Covid-19. The procurement of this element will be deferred to a later date when traffic volumes return to normal.

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### Shannon Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Another significant milestone was reached in June with the approval from OPW to appoint the scheme consultants. The Council issued a Letter of Acceptance to RPS and a project start-up meeting and contract signing is now being arranged for mid-July. Project team meetings will occur monthly thereafter. The initial work will include data collection and review and the preparation of tender documentation for the relevant site surveys required to advance the design.

Where seasonal constraints don't prevent, baseline environmental surveys will be carried out at an early stage. A site visit with RPS, CCC, the OPW and SAA is also being arranged to take place later in July.

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### Spanish Point Minor Works Scheme

The OPW requested clarification on this project and a response is currently being prepared by Clare County Council and our consultants.

When finalised, it will be submitted to the OPW for review and subject to their approval, we expect to be allocated the necessary funding to allow us to move to the planning and construction stage.

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### Springfield, Clonlara

Clare County Council has completed all the planning documents and drawings and is now in a position to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for permission to construct a flood relief scheme at Springfield, Clonlara, Co. Clare. The necessary public notices will be published and plans and details will be available for public inspection and comment. The draft application is currently with the OPW for review and subject to their approval, it is expected that we will be in a position to lodge same the week ending July 17th next.

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### West Clare Railway Greenway

Good progress has been made in completing Phases 0 and 1 (Scope and Pre-Appraisal/Concept & Feasibility) of the entire West Clare Railway Greenway, with our consultants AECOM due to finalise the reports and drawings in the coming fortnight. Members will be aware that we have two separate funding applications submitted to central Government and these are the Department of Transport Carbon Tax Fund and the Department of Rural Affairs RRDF Fund.

Success in either will allow us to progress the scheme, either in whole if successful under RRDF, or the section between Kilrush and Kilkee initially, if awarded the necessary funding under the Carbon Tax Fund. The next phase of the project will involve the statutory consents phase of development, namely planning permission, environmental impact assessment and detailed design.

It will also involve extensive engagement and negotiation with the various landowners impacted by the scheme proposal.



## ENVIRONMENT

## An Taisce Green Schools Programme



In June a further five schools were awarded the An Taisce Green Schools Flag for 2020. This now brings a total of 35 schools from across Co. Clare having received a first (Litter and Waste Flag) or a renewal flag for either Energy, Biodiversity, Travel, Water or a Global Citizenship theme. A general media release was issued to congratulate and acknowledge the successful schools.

## Covid-19

In mid-March the coronavirus Covid-19 spread to County Clare and since then has affected the services provided by the Environment Section. Early in the outbreak the Environment Section developed a Business Continuity Plan that would enable us to continue to provide the community with essential services such as waste management, pollution incident management, monitoring and sampling, where required, of water and wastewater systems. A list of essential services was identified and appropriate resources allocated to ensure continuity. As we enter Phase 3 of the easing of the restrictions we are returning to pre Covid-19 work activities that had been suspended.

## Environmental Awareness

## An Taisce National Spring Clean and Clean Coast 2020

National Spring Clean 2020 commenced on 8th June, 2020. There are currently 143 community and voluntary groups from Clare registered with An Taisce. To date, 33 free passes to one of Clare County Council waste transfer facilities has been issued to community groups from across the County.

An Taisce Clean Coast 2020 groups are also being supported with the provision of free passes to a Clare County Council waste transfer facility.

## Illegal dumping and littering

During the month of June a media campaign focused on illegal dumping and bogus waste collectors. In addition to social media newspaper adverts were placed in *The Clare Echo*, *Clare County Express* and *Limerick Post*. Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, participated in a Clare FM *Morning Focus* interview also.

## Community Environment Action Fund

In June, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) advised that the completion date of projects has been extended from 31st August, 2020, to 31st December, 2020. The DCCAE has advised that it will revisit the date for the commencement of this year's programme 2020/2021 later in the year when there is more clarity on the situation as regards the phased reopening of the country in the context of Covid-19.

## Greener Clare media campaigns

The following were also promoted in June using Clare County Council and/or Greener Clare social media channels:

- Local Authority Waters Programme online community training with Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Water Community Officer. Also promoted on *The Clare Echo* Green Page.



## Gardening

Preparation and planting of summer bedding flowers were completed during June. While the prolonged dry spell created difficulties for young plants, the break in weather and heavy rain showers were very much welcomed by the gardening team. Ongoing assistance was provided to various Municipal Districts, in particular with maintenance works completed at

Shannon Town Wetlands, and additional planters supplied to assist in the pedestrianisation of Ennis Town Centre.

As part of the ongoing efforts to highlight and promote biodiversity and pollinator friendly species in public places, an increased number of flower beds have been planted using suitable plant species during 2020, with plans already in place for continued improvements in 2021.

- MyWasteIrl Greener Living Guides and Household Waste Services.
- An Taisce Blue Flag and Green Coast awards.
- EPA's Green Enterprise Innovation Fund 2020 for a Circular Economy. Also promoted through the Local Enterprise Office network and social media channels.

programme during Covid-19. A review of the inspection plan will take place at the end of June and if required the EPA has agreed that a mid-year review can be completed. As of June, we are on target with our inspection plan.

## Laboratory & Technical Support River Monitoring Programme 2020

Clare County Council is required to collect 295 river water samples in 2020. The calendar for sampling was agreed with the EPA in December last with the sampling spread evenly over the 12 months. After the suspension of sampling in April due to Covid-19, the river sampling programme resumed in May and has continued in June.

### IW SLA

Clare County Council is required to sample and analyse all public water supplies. The level of monitoring required is agreed with Irish Water and is based on the population served. Monitoring had previously been limited to essential operational and investigative analysis only. Compliance monitoring has now been added with changes in practices to ensure social distancing as per Government guidelines.

### The Clare Echo Green Clare Page

The Clare Echo resumed printing in June and with that so did our sponsorship of the Green Clare page through Clare County Council's Greener Programme. During June, adverts for MyWaste.ie Household Waste Services, Bogus Waste collectors and Stop Food Waste were placed on the Green Page. Articles by journalist Cian O Broin included an interview with a recently awarded Green School (St Joseph's Community College, Kilkee), Shannon Wetlands Project and an Ennis Tidy Towns biodiversity competition.

### Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

In total, there are 5,557 inspections planned for the year. We have had a focused effort on maintaining our inspection



### Group Water Schemes (GWS) and Small Private Supplies

Clare County Council is the Competent Authority for regulating private water supplies and undertakes in excess of 270 samples from these supplies each year. Monitoring is spread throughout the year. Sampling of private commercial supplies recommenced in June after being suspended since mid-March due to Covid-19 restrictions.

### Wastewater treatment plants

Laboratory staff in conjunction with area-based technicians monitor all licensed and certified discharges for compliance with their discharge limits. In Clare, monitoring varies from monthly to twice yearly, based on population served. Full monitoring of discharges has resumed with the shortfall from April to be made up from June until the end of the year. There will be no allowance made for reduced sampling due to Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the shortfall has been made up in June with extra ambient river samples taken to replace those missed in April. This has significantly added to the laboratory work load this month.

### Bathing waters

Bathing water sampling commenced on 25th May, with four sampling runs completed by the end of June. June was a busy month with a bathing water prohibition put in place in Ballyallia as a result of significant surface water runoff after a thunder storm increased bacterial levels above acceptable limits. The lake water quality recovered quickly with bacterial levels returning to the normal “excellent” category within a few days.

With predicted high levels of rain forecast on the weekend of June 20th and 21st, prior warning notices were put in place at five bathing areas – Kilkee, Doonbeg, Spanish Point, Miltown Malbay and Lahinch – to advise the public of potential short-term pollution from surface water run-off into the bathing area.

To date, except for Ballyallia for a few days, all bathing water has maintained “excellent” quality.

### Unregulated historic landfills

In preparation for application to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (COA), a second suite of analysis of surface waters adjoining the old Kilrush landfill was undertaken in June to augment the analysis previously undertaken in mid-May.

### Water and Scientific Services

#### Water pollution complaints

A total of 50 complaints (Section 4 licenced sites, wastewater and agriculture) have been received to date in 2020. Enforcement notices/letters were issued where required under the Water Pollution Acts and the Good Agriculture Practice Regulations 2017 as amended. Further inspections will be carried to ensure that actions recommended in the notices are carried out.

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

The Council has been notified of three new pieces of legislation have been introduced by the DHPLG on June 4th which will increase the eligibility for the Domestic Waste Water

Treatment System (DWWTS) grants. Relevant staff in the section will be attending on-line training course given by the DHPLG on 24th June.

A total of 39 inspections are required in 2020. Of those, five inspections have been carried out in Ballycullinan catchment and the other inspections are now due to re-commence as we enter Phase 3 of the lifting of Government restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19.

### Planning referrals from Planning Department

Compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Single Houses 2009 is achieved through inter department referrals of planning reports. To date this year, 62 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, eight forestry applications have been processed.

### Lake Sampling Programme 2020

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

### Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan

The EPA sent characterisation queries to each county in May based on findings of EPA Water Quality Report 2015–2018. All of the queries have been responded to by CCC on the due date of 8th June.

A South Western Regional Operational Meeting was held on 23rd June to discuss significant pressures on water quality in each county and proposals for Areas for Action (AFA) for the third cycle. Proposals for additional AFA for the next cycle must be submitted to the EPA by 30th June.

Sampling of surface water sites in the Ballycullinan catchment was carried out on 24th June. In total, 28 “review” sites will be sampled for physio-chemical analysis on 29th and 30th June. The data will be used to determine if the sites are “at risk” of not meeting the WFD objective.

### BallyduffBeg Waste Landfill Licence Monitoring Requirements

The EPA has approved a request to reduce frequency of monitoring of dust, noise and suspended solids at different locations on the site, this will reduce monitoring costs as data collected over a twelve year period show that that most data collected is well below licence limits for the facility.

A weekly update on green waste processing at the Central Waste management Facility (CWMF) was submitted to Cré (Composting Association of Ireland).

This feeds back to the Government on how Covid-19 is affecting processing.

### Waste Management

#### Bring Banks and Textile Banks

An additional seven Bring Banks have been added at various locations across the county to help cater for the increased usage.

### Doora Landfill

Works on the Ennis Men's Shed group site have continued into June and progressed well. Site clearance along with the erection of fencing and connections to water supply, ESB and waste water are ongoing.

A tender has been put out in June for the improvement to the existing public pathways within Doora Landfill. Funding for these improvement works was granted through the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

### Enforcement

#### River Fergus annual clean-up

The annual clean-up of the River Fergus took place on 25th June. This event is organised by Ennis Sub Aqua Club in conjunction with Ennis Tidy Towns and supported by Clare County Council. The clean-up successfully removed litter, making our river a cleaner, safer, healthier habitat for fish and wildlife.

#### Beach bye laws/dog fouling

A "Responsible Dog Owner Awareness Campaign" was carried out on the morning of 24th June at the Pollock Holes, Duggera, Kilkee, a popular swimming resort. Members of the Waste Enforcement Team met dog walkers and informed them about the importance of responsible dog ownership and compliance with the beach bye laws at beaches at this time of year. The response from the public was positive. Signage and stencils have been placed at this and all beach locations at this time.

The Community Wardens continue to patrol the beaches at weekends, enforcing the beach bye laws.

#### Inter-agency checkpoints

This month Clare County Council again linked in with An Garda Síochána to set up a Waste Enforcement Roadside

Checkpoint within the Killaloe MD. As well as checking contents of vans, vehicles were stopped and drivers informed of the procedure to follow if they become aware of illegal dumping in their local areas.

Further inter-agency checkpoints will be carried out in each Municipal District in the coming months.

#### Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to respond to waste and litter-related complaints with a total of 122 complaints relating to litter and waste received in June, of these complaints 70 have been closed already.

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to investigate ongoing illegal dumping in various locations throughout the county and to put measures in place to combat this.

A total of nine litter fines were issued in June. The fines are still within the allotted timeframe for payment and we will continue to monitor this to ensure compliance.

### Energy

The quarterly meeting of the Energy team was held in June and of the 33% energy saving based on a 2009 baseline to be met we are currently on 16% with further savings to be achieved. There will be a focus on water energy in the coming quarter to identify further savings.

It was highlighted at the meeting that the public lighting contact document will issue shortly and letters of award to be issued by year end.

Additional energy saving projects are being developed and will be considered in due course.

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## WATER SERVICES

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### Annual Service Plan

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a challenging time for the delivery of essential front-line water services across the county.

The Water Services Department of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. The monthly key performance indicators (KPIs) continue to be monitored by all of the water services teams to achieve required targets. We are currently on budget under our Annual Service Plan with Irish Water and with a KPI compliance rate of 91%.

### Water conservation

In June, the Find Crews continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in the Ennis (Gort Road) and Shannon areas (Aidan Park, Kilmurry).

The Find and Fix Crew concentrated activities in east Clare with a number of leaks found and repaired in O'Briensbridge, Broadford and Killaloe district metering areas.

### Water & 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 13th May, 2020, up to and including 18th June, 2020. The figures do not, however, reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint /issue.

- 19 Customer Complaints were dealt with to date
- 1 Emergency Work Orders during the timeframe
- 353 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 125 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 58 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period

### Water operations

There was a major burst on the asbestos watermain on Friday evening, 19th June, on the Gort Road, Ennis, adjacent to the



industrial estate. Sections of pipe were replaced and supply was restored that evening.

There were further outages on the Doolough to Miltown/Cooraclare watermain which caused severe disruption to the surrounding areas. Clare County Council water services staff provided assistance in restoring supply to the Group Schemes in the Miltown supply zone.

## Waste water operations

The annual de-sludging programme for WWTPs and pumping stations is now underway.

There was a significant burst on the wastewater Industrial Rising Main Line in Shannon near Pumping Station No 2 on 19th June, 2020. There was no disruption to service as flows were diverted to the domestic line and the industrial line was back in service on Monday, 23rd June.

## Irish Water capital programme Shannon Waste Water Treatment Plant interim upgrade

This contract was signed with IW and Ward and Burke on 20th December, 2019, and the contract commenced on 1st January, 2020, with a one-year construction period. Construction work was on programme up to the Covid-19 site shut down on 30th March, 2020. The site has now reopened. A revised programme has been received from the contractor indicating that works will be completed in February 2021.

## 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 was 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 due to take place in July at the Frances St Pump Station site, the new WWTP site and along public roads. Construction is expected to commence mid 2021 with completion late 2022.

## Clarecastle agglomeration upgrade

Under Irish Water's UTAS the waste water collected at Quay Road pumping station will be diverted via a new waste water pipeline to Clareabbey WWTP. The expectation is to go to Gate 3, the construction stage, in Q4 2021 and to be completed by Q1 2022.

IW expects to issue a tender for the full project before the end of 2020.

## 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 (to determine ground conditions and locate utilities) is due to take place in July at the WWTP site, the pump station site and on public roads. 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. The Landowner/Way leave/CPO and the detailed design process is ongoing. Objections/submissions relating to the CPO are being worked on at present with no date for an oral hearing set as yet. A planning application is expected to be lodged in January 2021. The expectation is to go to construction late 2021 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. The next stage is the drafting of a Project Brief to be issued to the Design/Build Contractor. A planning application is expected to be lodged in late 2021. 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. Further work on constraints mapping and site/route selection will be incorporated into the final Feasibility Study Report. A programme of works will then be produced.

## 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. In the next phase of the project site investigation, ecological studies, licences, wayleaves and planning application documents will have to be undertaken/prepared.

## 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. Land owner negotiations are ongoing. Construction is due to commence June 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, 50 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 182 have now been transferred to IW.

The remaining 143 assets are broken down as follows:

- Pending – 18 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, ie. 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 – one asset has gone to the PRAI to be subdivided
- 3rd Party/Unregistered assets – Of the 143 assets 120 have been identified as 3rd Party Registered lands (103) and Unregistered Lands (17).

Surveys are underway on 3rd party assets. Irish Water’s Legal Team has made recommendations on a pilot report submitted on an unregistered asset and the options for first registration are being considered.

### Non-service level agreement works

We have completed our works to the old Ennis Town water treatment works at Gortaganniv, Kilmaley. The works

involved removing the old earthen dam, filling in the filter beds and other ancillary drainage and fencing works.

### Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme contractors have been appointed for upgrade works on the Dough GWS (Lahinch) and Castlequarter Ballinphonta GWS for the installation of booster pumps. These works are to be completed under Measure 5 of the programme with a view to progressing the schemes for transfer to the public water network. Raheen GWS have completed upgrade works with the installation of water meters for increased management of water conservation.

In June, Clare County Council submitted the Rhynagonnacht – The Quay Group Water Scheme to Irish Water for Taking in Charge. This now brings the total number of schemes awaiting transfer to Irish Water to 12. It is hoped that these 12 schemes will be accepted by Irish Water in the coming months.

On 4th June, The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government published the new conditions for the ‘Grant for the Improvements to a Private Water Supply to a House’. The Grant has been altered significantly with the provision of three strands of the grant, namely:

(a) 85% of the approved costs for well rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum grant of €3,000

Or

85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum grant of €5,000;

(b) 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the Local Authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in Regulation 4(2) of the Drinking Water Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or ultra violet treatment.

A grant under these regulations shall not be paid where the total cost is less than €750.

The provision of the new grant conditions has seen a substantial increase in the submission of new applications with 15 new applications this month.

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



Priority parking spaces enable vulnerable members of the public to park in close proximity to Ennis Town Centre.



Cllr Paul Murphy was elected Mayor of Ennis at the AGM of Ennis MD on 11th June, 2020. Cllr Mark Nestor is Deputy Mayor.

### Temporary Covid-19 Town Centre Mobility Plan update

Work continued during June on the Temporary Covid-19 Ennis Town Centre Mobility plan in collaboration with our stakeholders group. Additional measures were introduced to facilitate business operations and to support vulnerable persons who need to access the Town Centre, while enabling compliance with physical distancing and other essential public health measures.

These measures included:

- 'Click and Collect' parking spaces have been provided to assist the broadening remit of courier/delivery services. These spaces have a maximum 15-minute time limit, to facilitate the collection of purchases from business. Four spaces are located in the Abbey Street Carpark near Brewery Lane, and a further four spaces in Friar's Walk Carpark (near Clare Museum).
- Priority parking spaces have been provided to enable vulnerable members of the public to park in close proximity to the Town Centre. These spaces are subject to the standard time limits and 'Pay and Display' charges will apply.
- Other visual changes around Ennis aimed at refreshing the appearance of the town were implemented in the Town Centre and at Bank Place. Planters with spring flowers have been put in place to complement the visual appeal of Ennis.
- A Street Furniture licensing workshop was held on 10th June with businesses to offer guidance and to assist with the application process. The workshop was very well attended with a number of applications currently being assessed by Clare County Council. Clare County Council also announced the waiver of fees for street furniture for the remainder of 2020.
- Ennis Municipal District made an application for funding to the National Transport Authority for the costs of implementing the measures to date, as well as for longer-term, more aesthetically pleasing measures. The funding application was successful, with retractable

bollards, signage, additional planters, and cycling stands ordered, and due to be installed in July and August.

- The University of Limerick in conjunction with Ennis Municipal District has set up an Intelligence Unit, commencing 1st July for approximately five to six weeks, to explore how to improve the aesthetics of the town and look at how to reenergise Ennis and encourage visitors into the town.

### Town and Village Renewal Scheme Clarecastle Phase 3

The main objectives of the scheme are to 1) provide a safe area for pedestrians and other vulnerable users to walk 2) provide a safe route for vehicular traffic to travel through the Village provide a safe environment for the community to come together.

The works is to the Main Street through the Village as well as to the side roads and adjacent carpark. The works shall involve:

- Narrowing and realignment of the existing carriageway using limestone kerbing.
- Provision of uncontrolled crossing points including all dished kerbs and tactile paving.
- Lowering of carriageway and footway levels.
- Provision of kerbing and Tactile paving.
- Re-configuration of existing carpark.
- Extension of existing footway paved areas.
- Provision of Street furniture (seating, bollards, railing and sculptures)
- Provision of all associated signage and road markings.
- Provision of additional storm drainage.
- Provision of landscaped areas. Raising/Lowering, adjusting and connecting to existing utility apparatus.

### Greenlawn, Lissane, Clarecastle

Works were undertaken which will resolve a long-term flooding issue for four properties in the area and ensure that valuable resources will not be required for temporary pumping operations in times of extreme weather events. Works included approximately 150m of new 300mm storm drainage and cleaning of 250m of open drainage.

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The Clare Economic Taskforce held its first meeting on 26th June. Pictured above are Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, Noel Kilkenny, Clare Economic Taskforce Chair, and Liam Conneally, Director of Service, Economic Development and Planning, Clare County Council.

## Clare Economic Taskforce

On 26th June, the Clare Economic Taskforce held its inaugural meeting at Áras Contae an Chláir. The Chief Executive has convened the Taskforce, comprising public and private sector leaders, to inform and guide him in the deployment of appropriate economic measures that will stimulate job creation in County Clare. The group is chaired by Mr Noel Kilkenny, retired Ambassador. The objectives of the group are:

1. To identify the immediate priority actions required to maximise our local/regional economic potential.
2. To develop future resilience in our local/regional economy. The Taskforce will progress medium/long-term

projects/actions.

3. The Taskforce will examine how County Clare as part of the Mid-West region can facilitate and enable de-centralised employment opportunities.
4. The Taskforce will examine how national, EU and international capital investment opportunities can underpin Clare's future economic growth.
5. The Taskforce will build economic confidence in County Clare and the Mid-West region.
6. The Taskforce will open business and political communication channels to assist all sectors of the County Clare economy.

Updates on the work of the Taskforce will be presented at regular briefings to full Council.

## Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI)

The Council is a partner in Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI). This project has recently been funded by Enterprise Ireland to build a Test Bed for future mobility in the Shannon Free Zone.

This is an exciting project which has great potential to increase economic activity in County Clare and the Mid-West Region. FMCI is made up of many multi-national and SME companies on the Western Seaboard as well as Clare County Council and Limerick City and County Council.

## AEC Hubs Outreach Scheme 2020

The Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) has recently announced the roll-out of a Hubs Outreach Scheme 2020. The scheme is co-ordinated by the Western Development Commission and is designed to aid the reopening of enterprise hubs by providing them with financial support to comply with Covid-19 public health guidance. The scheme will fund up to 90% of the cost of measures up to a maximum of €5,000 per project and is open to hubs that were operational on 1st March, 2020. Contact has been made with the hubs that may be able to benefit from this funding.



## STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS

### Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Plan

The draft plan will be presented to the project steering group on 7th July and in advance of that presentation, final revisions are being made to the Draft Plan. It is envisaged that the Plan will be put on public display by the end of July 2020.

### University of Limerick/South Clare – Strategic Development Zone

Documentation to commence the establishment of a Designated Activity Company (DAC) is nearing completion and the preparation of the application to seek the designation of the UL South Clare SDZ by the new Government is underway.

### Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre

This masterplan is funded under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Clare County Council. In February 2020, an Integrated Design Team (IDT) of spatial and economic consultants (BDP and McCabe Durney Barnes) were appointed to prepare this plan for Shannon Town.

The purpose of the masterplan is to plan for the economic future and spatial pattern for the centre of Shannon Town. On completion, later this year, the masterplan will unlock the town's development potential and guide, market and stimulate its development into the future. The masterplan will plan Shannon Town's growth potential, the use of under-used, derelict and vacant sites in the area, and develop the potential of key sites at the entrance points to the town. Crucially, the masterplan will be based on an Economic Viability Assessment.

The focus this month is on focused stakeholder engagement with key stakeholders. A number of background and baseline Economic appraisals have taken place.

On 26th June the Shannon Municipal District Members were briefed on the preparation of the Town Centre Masterplan and inputs from the Members have been taken into consideration as part of the plan process.

### Roche (Clarecastle) Masterplan

The Council is working with Roche management to masterplan the future use of the Clarecastle site.

On the 24th June, 2020, Roche Ireland Ltd lodged a planning application for its site at Clarehill, Clarecastle, and the planning reference number is P20-420. The application includes for the phased demolition of buildings and structures on the site and the phased remediation of areas of the site.

The application relates to a development which comprises or is for the purposes of an activity requiring an Industrial Emissions License (IEL), an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). A decision is due on the application by 18th August, 2020. The application

can be viewed on the Council's website or at the customer services desk of the Planning Department.

### Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan

While the commencement of this project was delayed due to the Covid-19 restrictions, work has now begun. On 24th June, Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, commenced the preparation of a Town Enhancement, Tourism and Mobility Plan for Killaloe-Ballina.

The Plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe and Ballina, providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements.

Specific measures, designs and schemes will promote the towns' complementarity, and create an overall focus on their joint strengths and opportunities to increase the perception of them being as one town, in terms of their functionality and aesthetics.

The Plan is being prepared by a design team led by consultants Downey Planning & Architecture in collaboration with Curtin's Consulting Engineers Limited, CAAS Limited and MESH Conservation Architects. It is expected to take approximately six months to prepare. The Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement, Tourism and Mobility Plan will comprise a number of components, including:

- A Sustainable Mobility Plan/Strategy, which includes a comprehensive modelling and forecasting of traffic volumes, directions and flows (post-construction/operation of the Killaloe bypass), traffic and car-parking analysis of the towns.
- A Place Making and Public Realm Plan/Strategy and Street Furniture Design Guide (lighting/surface treatment), which will provide an analysis of the towns with a particular focus on the town centres.
- A Tourism Strategy. Tourism plays a significant role in the local economy of both Killaloe and Ballina.
- Identification of initiatives which will encourage an increase in commercial activity on the Main Street in Killaloe and in Ballina. Public realm enhancement, traffic management, car-parking and pedestrian connectivity to the town centres from the residential, educational, community, public spaces and tourism facilities will be considered in this context.
- Identification of a green infrastructure network and enhanced connectivity between the green spaces within the towns, for example development of walking routes including riverside walks.

On 29th June, the Elected Members of Killaloe MD were briefed on the project.

## FORWARD PLANNING

### Review of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023

The Planning Authority is set to commence a review of the *Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023* in September 2020. This is a two-year process and the new Plan, when completed, will span the period 2022-2028.

The drafting of a new County Development Plan is a statutory requirement for the Planning Authority and in the coming months a series of workshops will be rolled out for Elected Members and key staff involved in the plan-making process. During the month of June staff have been involved in collating information and preparing working papers on key topics in advance of these workshops.

### Cappa Enhancement Strategy

The Planning Section and Helena McElmeel Architects have prepared an Enhancement Strategy for Cappa, Kilrush,

focusing on its connection to the sea, the pier and the beach. It is anticipated that the Strategy will be finalised in the coming weeks.

### Street Furniture Guide

As part of the county's emergence from the Covid-19 restrictions, and to assist hospitality businesses, the Planning Authority has prepared Street Furniture Guidance to assist applicants in preparing their Section 254 licence applications.

The Planning Department is also working closely with businesses that wish to have on-street furniture which will add vibrancy to our towns and villages.

As a further support measure, all fees for Section 254 licences are being waived.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

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

Development management	June 2020	Year to date 2020
<b>Planning applications</b>		
No. of planning applications received	90	439
No. of planning decisions made	83	387
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	24
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	26	132
No. of Section 5 applications	7	24
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications	2	21
Submissions received regarding compliance	42	148
<b>Planning enforcement</b>		
No. of new complaints received	21	81
No of files opened	9	56
No. of warning letters issued	13	68
No. of enforcement notices served	3	8
No. of enforcement files closed	19	36



## TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge team are continuing to progress remedial work contracts on a number of housing estates, as outlined in the table below. It is planned that all these contracts will be completed before year end.

Estate	Update regarding Remedial Works
Inchicronan, Crusheen	Remedial works recommenced on 18th May, 2020, and are nearing completion.
Mount Clare, Claremount, Clarecastle	The appointed contractor is due to commence remedial works on 29th June, 2020.
Craglands/Crag Ard, Ballynacally	The contractor commenced remedial works on 15th June, 2020, and are nearing completion.
Manor Grove, Ardnacrusha	Remedial works commenced 2nd June, 2020, and are nearing completion.
Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus	A contractor was appointed and remedial works commenced on 25th June, 2020.
Gort na mBláth/Rathban/Lios Ard, Tulla Rd, Ennis	The appointed contractor commenced remedial works on 21st May, 2020, these works are substantially complete.
Woodmount, Ennistymon	Remedial works commenced on 8th June, 2020, and are nearing completion.
Dun Aras/Cluain Alainn/Dun Aras Ave/Ballycasey Ave, Shannon	A contractor was appointed on 10th June, 2020. Remedial works are to commence on 6th July, 2020, with a completion date of 4th August, 2020.

The statutory process in relation to the Taking in Charge of a further seven estates commenced with an advertisement in *The Clare Champion* issue dated 26th June, 2020, four estates in Ennis Municipal District and three in Shannon Municipal District.

## HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN)

In the absence of the planned launch of the Clare iCAN in collaboration with Shannon, Clarecastle, Kilkee and Scattery Island heritage groups due to be held on 24th March, the groups are using the iCAN Google Groups forum to stay connected and to share information and ideas. It is intended to reschedule the Clare Heritage launch to drive publicity for the website and the groups want to record or livestream the event when it can take place.

Recent online discussion took place with the Clare iCAN group members on topics such as the Clare Holy Wells audit, project ideas for Heritage Week, biodiversity and the Clare Swift survey.

Final editing is complete on the community heritage banners which have eye-catching designs and the individual group banners are about to go to print.

Further training requests from groups include using iMovie and historian skills and how to create a timeline on the website and also how to merge images taken of a place over the course of time to show changes in the town/landscape.

Following on from the success of the *Our Irish Women* project in 2018/9, network projects are being considered with a view to hosting an exhibition. Themes that have been discussed previously are *Our Hidden Heritage* or *Women and the War of Independence* – focusing on local women contributing to or impacted by this conflict. Another suggestion is *Women and World War 1* which is relevant at the moment, with the Decade of Centenaries programme.

The Clare iCAN groups in Shannon, Clarecastle, Kilkee and Scattery Island heritage groups continue to develop their websites and remain active on social media. The website may be viewed at <https://heritage.clareheritage.org/>

### All Ireland Pollinator Plan

The Heritage Officer continues to implement the Pollinator Plan within the Council and assist with biodiversity initiatives. Pollinator Plan resource material and *Gardening for Biodiversity* publications are being made available to the public on request.

### Funding applications to the Heritage Council under the Clare Heritage Plan 2017-2023

#### 1. Clare Holy Wells Audit

Michael Houlihan is carrying out the survey of County Clare Holy Wells, with assistance from another surveyor. The resulting comprehensive data base of information on the

location and condition of Holy Wells in Clare will include a focus on the less well known or un-recorded Holy Wells or those not in present use. The audit will raise awareness and knowledge of the rich heritage associated with Holy Wells and their settings.

## 2. Demonstration sites for biodiversity management

Frances Giaquinto, ecologist, is undertaking the preparation of plans for implementation of best practice in biodiversity management in Clare County Council-owned public sites in the county. Site survey and habitat mapping is almost complete and consultation will now take place with the Municipal Districts and relevant community groups.

## The County Clare Swift Survey

This survey is underway and to date a low number of nest sites have been confirmed in towns and villages, including Ennis, Kilrush, Quin, North Clare, Whitegate, Scarriff, Killaloe and Tuamgraney. The survey will continue until August when the birds will be making their outward-bound migration to Africa for another year.

BirdWatch Ireland and Clare County Council want to get local communities and residents involved by recording and reporting the presence of Swifts in local urban areas.

For more information, see: [http://www.clarecoco.ie/your-council/\[news\]/clare-swift-survey-2020-to-take-place-this-summer.html](http://www.clarecoco.ie/your-council/[news]/clare-swift-survey-2020-to-take-place-this-summer.html)

## Biodiversity Resource Manual for all Local Authority staff

Clare County Council Biodiversity Gap Analysis has been finalised and is now being circulated for input. The Biodiversity Resource Manual and associated Environmental Practice guidance is being drafted, with anticipated roll-out of staff training in the autumn.

## Heritage Week

Communities, families and local groups across Clare are invited to explore heritage for National Heritage Week. As a result of the ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19, events and gatherings have been modified this year. Rather than focusing on the organisation of in-person public events, local heritage groups and organisers, families and communities are being invited to develop projects around this year's theme of 'Heritage and Education'. This approach is designed to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge. Expressions of interest and ideas should be submitted to [www.HeritageWeek.ie](http://www.HeritageWeek.ie) in June and July. Projects should be completed in time for National Heritage Week when they will be showcased in formats such as online talks or exhibitions, video, podcast, slideshow presentation or blog, media coverage or a dedicated website or moderated social media account, or by small, restricted social gatherings. All projects submitted will be considered for a Heritage Week Award.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

### Covid-19 supports for business

LEO Clare continued to support our local businesses through the month of June. A very high uptake of these supports included:

- The Business Continuity Voucher scheme closed on 15th May with just under 400 applications. LEO Clare has now finalised the initial assessment of all applications and agreed funding with the applicants.
- The enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website has seen strong interest. To date, we have received 230 applications of which 105 applications have been approved so far. We continue to assess applications and progress to approval as quickly as we can. The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has provided additional funding to meet demand.
- Almost 430 clients registered in the month of June to partake in our range of online webinars and training courses, including webinars on digital marketing and on steps to take to reopen cafes, restaurants and retail outlets. All of these 17 webinars were provided free of charge to applicants.
- Over 60 applications were received in June 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.

- After a slow start we are seeing an increase in applications for a special Covid-19 support loan from Micro Finance Ireland. MFI is providing loans of up to €50,000 to businesses affected by the current crisis. These loans are interest free for the first six months and businesses who apply through LEO Clare can avail of an interest rate of 4.5% for the remaining duration of the loan.

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 that apply.

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

### June Evaluation Committee Meeting

Our Evaluation Committee (EVAC) met on Thursday, 25th June, for their third meeting of the year. The committee continues to meet remotely and the process has proven to be a success.

The June EVAC approved €96,480 in funding for seven projects. This included €39,980 in funding for four Feasibility Grants.



## CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Two Section 57 declarations were issued in June to permit works to protected structures.

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) approved funding of €35,000 for one project for County Clare under the Historic Structures Fund 2020, namely

RPS No. 702, the O’Connell Monument, Ennis. This project will be managed by the Ennis Municipal District team.

The DCHG also approved funding of €60,000 towards eight projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020. All applicants have been notified of the grants awarded and the conditions of same.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Quin Road Campus

Work resumed on this major project on 18th May and to date, all the Government and HSE requirements are being met on site. While the restrictions delayed the completion of phase 1 of this project, work is now continuing apace and a completion date of the second phase is in sight. The Civil Defence Officer has taken up occupation and the Project Team and contractor are working to complete the fleet garaging area for Civil Defence by early July, with a view to having all of the Civil Defence operations on site as soon as possible. The last phase of the project is the Records Management Centre and tender documents for this are being prepared.



Quin Road.

### Refurbishment of beach huts at Kilkee

Work resumed on this project on 18th May and there is a great sense of excitement in Kilkee as the potential of these historical structures is being maximised. The provision of an accessible public toilet at the centre of the beach is a great addition for all beach users. A solar panel was gifted to the Council and has been installed on the lifeguard hut, thus providing a sustainable source of hot water. The work has been aided by the great weather and it is hoped that works will be completed in very early July.



Kilkee beach hut refurbishments.

### Casual trading

Following on from the lifting of Government restrictions under Covid-19, casual traders re-commenced trading towards the end of May. As advised by Government, traders have been made aware of their obligations to social distance etc. Due to the fact that no events are currently taking place, no new casual trading licences have issued at this time.

### Property transactions

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by the Property Management Unit in June this year, together with the totals for 2020 to date. The levels of activity are less than normal due to the restrictions imposed.

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

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Over the past month, the team in the Shannon Municipal District (MD) have been preparing to 're-open' our services in line with our organisational plan. The Shannon MD Office opened to the public on 29th June – opening times to the public are now 9.30am – 1:00pm, with an opportunity to meet MD staff in the afternoon by appointment. Social distancing and other measures such as hand sanitisers are in place at the office.

The team has been working on preparations for the roadworks programme, such as the completion of traffic management plan and drainage works, and the surface dressing programme across the MD is due to commence in the coming weeks. Works are on-going or have been completed in Ardnacrusha, Meelick, Parteen, Sixmilebridge and Westbury. Resurfacing and maintenance works are underway at the Shannon Playground and Town Park. A public consultation period is currently open in respect of Section 38 applications for works at the entrance to Westbury and Larkin's Cross (<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-closures/>).

On 30th June, the Shannon MD AGM was held in the Oakwood Hotel in Shannon where social distancing compliance could be facilitated. Cllr Pat McMahon (FF) was duly elected Cathaoirleach of Shannon MD while Cllr. John Crowe (FG) was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.



Cllr Pat McMahon, Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District.









Coronavirus  
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