



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Deireadh Fómhair / October
2021



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT p32



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT p23



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p6



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT p13



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES p2

FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information and Data Protection

2021 year to date Statistics to 21/09/2021

- 139 Freedom of Information Requests
- 9 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 Appeals to Information Commissioner

- 2 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 22 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request e.g. Gardaí.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published up to Friday, 24th September.

Brief Description	Response deadline
Selection of Operator for Kilrush Maritime Training Centre	15/10/2021
Removal of baled end of life tyres (ELT's) to a recognised facility for recycling/recovery, or other appropriate disposal method from a site in Lissycasey, Co.Clare	11/10/2021
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	01/10/2021
Kilmurry Active Travel Pedestrian Crossing, Buildout and Footpaths	11/10/2021
Quin Active Travel Pedestrian Crossing, Buildout and Footpaths	13/10/2021
West Clare Railway Greenway Section 2	25/10/2021

Chambers Ireland Local Government Awards 2021



The Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 (ELG Awards), sponsored by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by local authorities all over Ireland.

A total of 14 submissions were made in 2021 by Clare County Council and the following 8 projects have been shortlisted in the seventeenth annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021:

- Cappa Village Enhancement strategy in Supporting Sustainable Communities
- 'Not Around Us' Towards a Tobacco/Vape Free Clare campaign in Health & Wellbeing
- Share Clare Tourism Marketing 'Resource Bank' in Supporting Tourism
- Online Ethics Register in Local Authority Innovation
- Demonstration of biodiversity management in public open space/recreational areas in Sustainable Environment
- Clare Digital Smartphone Project for Older People in Age Friendly Initiative
- Restructuring of Municipal Districts to improve community and economic outcomes in Initiatives through the Municipal District
- Drain art – Ennis in Enhancing the Urban Environment.

This year, the awards will be presented via an online ceremony, hosted by Mary Kennedy on Thursday, 18th November, 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Media releases issued during September included:

- Clare Culture Night 2021 details announced
- Hazardous waste disposal opportunity for Clare householders
- Smartphone education classes for older people in Clare libraries
- Council hosts Mattress Amnesty Day
- Council supports 'Green Ribbon' campaign to end mental health stigma.

Lighting-up for good causes



Clare County Council supported a number of worthy causes by participating in lighting-up events in September. On 10th September, Áras Contae an Chláir was illuminated in orange in support of World Suicide Prevention Day 2021. On 20th September, the Áras was lit in purple to mark World Gynecologic Oncology Awareness Day 2021.

The Fuchsia Flag was flying at Áras Contae an Chláir for much of September to support veterans of the Defence Forces. Run annually by Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE), the Fuchsia Appeal raises funds for ONE's charitable objects, namely the provision of accommodation and other assistance to ex-service personnel in need. The Fuchsia emblem is a fundraising emblem, a badge of remembrance and a symbol to honour those currently serving in the Defence Forces.

Print and Graphic Design

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

Make Way Day 2021



Members of Clare Leader Forum (l-r), Martin Tobin (Chairperson) and Dermot Hayes, pictured at Áras Contae an Chláir in Ennis to raise awareness of Make Way Day 2021. Photo: Eamon Ward.

Make Way Day returned to County Clare on 24th September, 2021. Make Way Day is a campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share.

Clare County Council supported the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) in raising awareness of the campaign in County Clare and shared posts and information on social media on Make Way Day, including examples of works undertaken to improve accessibility around the county.

The Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, said: "Clare County Council is happy to work with DFI in supporting the roll-out of Make Way Day in County Clare. Make Way Day is an important campaign to increase public awareness of the obstacles and access issues experienced by people with disabilities in public spaces."

Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council. In September, the Communications Office:



- Posted 68 times on Clare County Council's Facebook page, with followers now 16,245 and 14,744 people have liked the page. Posts achieved 245,063 impressions with 6,634 engagements.



- Tweeted 57 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,229. Tweets earned 49,925 impressions and 2,273 engagements.



- Posted 8 times on Instagram, with followers now 2,246.

(Social media stats refer to 1st-28th September, 2021.)



Irish Language

September saw various translations including playground signage at the Shannon Leisure Centre and an opening plaque for Kilkee Fire Station. The Baile Líonra award, granted to Clár as Gaeilge in recognition of its Irish language promotion work in Ennis, marks a positive and hopeful step in the development of the language in County Clare.

Baile Líonra Gaeilge

Ba mhaith le Comhairle Contae an Chláir tréaslú le Clár As Gaeilge as an éacht iontach atá bainte amach acu, ná gradam Baile Líonra

Gaeilge do Bhaile na hInse, bronnta ag an Aire Gaeltachta, an TD Jack Chambers, I nGlór ar an Aoine, 24/09/2021. Táimid ag súil go mór le nasc láidir a chothú le Clár as Gaeilge, glacadh le forbairt na Gaeilge ar fud an Contae, as seo amach.

Clare County Council congratulates Clár as Gaeilge on its excellent achievement in securing the Baile Líonra Gaeilge (Irish language network) award, which was given by Minister Jack Chambers TD in glór on Friday, 24/09/2021. We look forward to strengthening ties with Clár as Gaeilge and engaging in the work of developing the language all over the county in the coming period. Photo: Eamon Ward.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Enterprise Development Officer Eligibility Exercise • Canteen Supervisor Eligibility Exercise • Environmental Patrol Warden • Senior Enterprise Development Officer Final Interviews <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Officer • Executive Engineer (Temporary Panel) • General Operative Panel 2021 • Graduate Planner • Technician Grade 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Architectural/Building • Senior Library Assistant (Open Competition) • Retained Fire-Fighter Panels (Part-time) (7 stations)
Learning and Development	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in September include:</p> <p>Course: Pre-Retirement; SLG Chapter 8 Update course; Inferno Chair Training; CPC Mod 2 Training; Confined Spaces Medium Risk; Safe Pass; Cyber Security; Water Jetting; Location of Underground Services; Temp Rd Management Design; 1st Aid Response; Children 1st; Climate Action Awareness Training; Covid-19 Refresher; Dignity at Work Designated/ Nominated Contact; Electric Vehicle Awareness Training; GDPR Training; Health & Safety Induction; Intro to Public Works Procurement; Line Rescue Refresher Course; Line Management Training of Graduates; Use of EPAWFD Application & Desktop Studies; VDU Assessment; Working at Heights Instructor Course.</p> <p>Essential Skillz Online Courses: GDPR; Manual Handling Theory; Freedom of Information; Ergowize; Working in a Covid Era</p>
Employee Welfare	<p>Employee Welfare supports are provided to staff on an on-going basis.</p>
Covid-19	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.</p>
Unions	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with Unions on various matters.</p>

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Clr Gerry Flynn, Vice Chairperson, LCDC; Bernie Haugh, Chief Officer, LCDC; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Deirdre Power, Rural Development, Clare County Council; and Paul Patton, Chairperson, LCDC.

Ministers Humphreys and O'Brien announce €139,257 for 64 local projects in Clare

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, have announced the successful projects in Clare under the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme.

The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme was launched in May 2021 with funding of €4.5m to provide small grants to local community groups across the country. Clare received an allocation of €139,257 from the Department under the programme. The key theme of this year's programme was

supporting groups as they re-open facilities which have been closed due to Covid-19. These could include facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

The Community Enhancement Programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by Local Community Development Committees, with support from their Local Authority, in each area. A full list of the successful projects in Clare is provided hereunder.

GROUP / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED by LCDC	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED by LCDC
Mullagh Sports Field Committee	€1,000.00	Clare Haven Services	€1,000.00
Kilmurry Ibrickane GAA Club	€1,000.00	Cuan An Chlair	€1,000.00
St Joseph's Miltown Malbay Ladies FC	€1,000.00	Clonbony Football and Hurling Club	€1,000.00
Connolly Tidy Townes	€1,000.00	Corofin Harps Boys & Girls Football Club	€1,000.00
Parteen St Nicholas Men's Shed	€1,000.00	Tuamgraney Handball Club	€1,000.00
Corbally United	€600.00	Kilrush Tidy Towns	€990.00

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GROUP / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED by LCDC	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED by LCDC
Shannonbanks Community Development Committee	€1,000.00	Shannon Tidy Towns	€1,000.00
Derg AC CLG	€950.00	Cora Caitlin GAA	€1,000.00
Cranny ICA	€500.00	Newmarket Celtic FC	€1,000.00
Loughraney Community Development Association Ltd	€1,000.00	College Green Association	€1,000.00
Clonlara Development Association	€1,000.00	West Clare Gales Ladies Gaelic Football Club Carrigaholt	€1,000.00
Sixmilebridge/Kilmurry Men's Shed	€1,000.00	Spanish Point Community Group	€1,000.00
Sporting Ennistymon FC	€866.00	"Miltown Malbay Development Company Limited By Guarantee"	€1,242.00
Tuamgraney Development Association	€1,000.00	Shannon Community First Responders	€1,000.00
Kilrush Community Garden/GIY Kilrush	€675.69	Gort Leamhan Roslevan Residents Committee	€1,000.00
West Clare Mental Health Association	€1,000.00	Shannon,Swimming & Leisure Club	€5,000.00
Coolmeen Tidy Town	€1,000.00	O Briens Bridge Community Group	€2,200.00
Ruan Community Childcare Ltd	€1,000.00	Feakle Community Council	€3,050.00
Kilkishen Tidy Towns	€1,000.00	Quin Playground Committee	€1,581.33
Michael Cusack's GAA Club	€1,000.00	Liscannor Development Co. Ltd	€10,000.00
Burren United School Boys & Girls Soccer	€998.98	Mountshannon Community Council	€3,000.00
Acquired Brain Injury Ireland/Clarecastle	€1,000.00	"Ogonnelloe Exchange (Trading as Ogonnelloe Community Centre CLG)"	€5,000.00
Cratloe Community Council	€1,000.00	TeachCeoil Corofin/Corofin CCE	€8,000.00
Cooraclare Community Development	€1,000.00	Killaloe Community Playground	€6,000.00
West Clare Sports & Fitness	€1,000.00	Scariff Community Council	€3,000.00
Tullyvarraga Community Hall CLG	€1,000.00	Tubber Community Hall Committee	€8,500.00
Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Centre CLG	€1,000.00	Ballynacally Development Association	€6,457.00

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

GROUP / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED by LCDC	GROUP / ORGANISATION	AMOUNT AWARDED by LCDC
Tulla Community Playground	€886.00	Miltown Malbay Community Play-ground Ass.	€10,000.00
Kilmihil Ladies Football Club	€1,000.00	Ballinruan Development Association	€4,500.00
Kildysart Currach Club	€1,000.00	Kilfenora Community Centre	€6,500.00
"Cloughleigh Residents & Developent Group & Ennis West Mens Shed"	€1,000.00	Broadford Development Association CLG	€10,000.00
Clare & District Soccer League	€1,000.00	O' Regan Park/Obair CLG	€760.00

Projects funded under National Grant Schemes

Lissycasey

Works have been completed on a project at the Ecology Park in Lissycasey to broaden its used by the entire community and to facilitate community recreation in line with current public health protocols. Funding of €20,475 was granted to support the works under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 – Accelerated Measure. The works involved the widening of footpaths and the installation of sheltered seating. The works were delivered by the Lissycasey Community Limited with assistance from the Rural Development Directorate.



Crusheen

Crusheen Community Centre Limited were granted funding of €18,630 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 – Accelerated Measure Round to carry out repairs and upgrade works to the community centre and to upgrade footpaths around the centre. Works were recently completed to same and the community group are now commencing works on a new extension at the rear of the building.



Ogonelloe

Ogonelloe Community Centre Ltd have completed works funded under the 2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. The works have enhanced the overall appeal of Ogonelloe Exchange as a civic space by expanding its use as a co-working space. This facilitates members of the local community and neighbouring communities who have a requirement for a co-working space. Funding provided was used for storage racking; bike racking, video-conferencing projector and screen, mobile desks and screens to accommodate co-working along with external grounds works. A grant of €34,800 was awarded to facilitate same.



12 O'Clock Hills

Works funded under the Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme 2020 have been completed at the 12 O'Clock Hills. Funding of €18,189 was granted under the Scheme and enabled works to be carried out to enhance the visitor experience. Works included upgrade to Belvoir Car parks, resurfacing of a number of trails, inclusion of information lecterns and the development of drone footage to promote the amenity. Further funding is being sought under the Scheme in 2021 and a decision on same is due in the coming months.



Chambers Ireland: Local Government Shortlist: 2021

The 'Share Clare' Tourism Marketing Resource Bank (www.visitclare/share.ie) in Supporting Tourism, has been shortlisted in the 17th annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021. This year, the awards will be hosted via an online ceremony, hosted by Mary Kennedy, on Thursday, 18th November, 2021.



Twinning – Exploratory talks between Otley, Yorkshire and Ennis

Councillor Mary Vickers as a member of Otley Town Council, West Yorkshire, initiated a meeting with representatives of Clare County Council's Twinning Committee to explore a potential Twinning relationship on the basis of possible cultural, social and commercial connections between Ennis and Otley.

Cathaoirleach of Clare, Cllr PJ Ryan, and Chairman of the Twinning Committee, Cllr Michael Begley, met with Councillor Vickers.

This potential twinning partnership will be explored in further detail by both sides over the coming months.

National Marketing and Promotion

- Ireland in Music – The Sights and Sounds of Ireland: Clare was in the spotlight with two key locations filmed to be broadcast on RTÉ over the Christmas period 2021.
- Locations and Artists include:
 - o Labasheeda Quay on the Shannon Estuary Way: Stockton's Wing collaborating with Emma Langford
 - o Ballycuggeran Hill Loop Walk within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands: Luka Bloom collaborating with Willzee.

Autumn / Winter Season 2021

As recommended by the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, the focus on the Autumn / Winter Seasonal marketing campaign will be to focus on the unconstrained adults of the Dublin market, showcasing Clare for off-season breaks, to include the county town of Ennis.



A three-week marketing & promotion opportunity with Sunshine Radio 106.8 is underway. Sunshine Radio is the market leaders in

Dublin for the 45, 55 and 65+ demographic. The local tourism industry has embraced this with weekly competitions, and advertising and digital campaigns.

International Marketing and Promotion

Ireland: County by County Travel Series: Clare

The best of County Clare has been filmed as part of the *Ireland: County by County* series. This dedicated Clare episode will air as part of the County-by-County series in the US on PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) to over 40 million US viewers. This is in preparation for the 2022 season.

Ciara Whelan, Irish TV Presenter, hosted the recording of the Clare episode, and it will feature Ennis, Shannon Airport, Dromoland Castle, Kilfenora Céilí Band, Cliffs of Moher, Burren Smokehouse, food segments, surfing at Lahinch, kayaking Lough Derg as well as iconic imagery of most other attractions interspersed throughout the recording.

Spirit of Ireland Magazine

County Clare will feature strongly with a 5-page advertorial in the latest issue of the *Spirit of Ireland Magazine*.



This magazine targets North American Tourists. The magazine is the official publication of the North American Celtic Trade Association (Nacta). Nacta brings visitors to Ireland to the value of 3.6 million annually. Nacta and Tourism Ireland works very closely and attend the four major shows in America. Tourism Ireland also gives content and imagery to the magazine. The age group we target is 30 years upwards. Nacta use the magazine as a Travel Brochure promoting Ireland. The print run for this issue is 160,000 distributing in American, Scotland and Ireland.

Visit Clare Tourism Newsletter

The Tourism Department developed a Visit Clare Tourism newsletter, the first edition of Tourism News, Views and Opportunities.



It is packed with useful information. Please note we can only send future editions of this newsletter electronically if you opt-in to receive it. The newsletter will only be sent occasionally, and you can opt-out at any time. Opting-in is essential: here is the opt-in link: www.visitclare.ie/signup required if you wish to receive future Clare Tourism newsletters.



Email addresses must be unique. For example, two people cannot sign up to 'info@mybusiness.com'

Clare County Council supports 'Green Ribbon' campaign to end mental health stigma



Through the month of September Clare County Council was encouraging everyone to show their support to end mental health stigma and discrimination by wearing the See Change Green Ribbon. Áras Contae an Chláir was illuminated green on the first weekend in September, from the 3rd to the 5th of September 2021, to highlight our countywide support of the campaign. The green ribbons were available at Customer Service in the Áras and all of Clare libraries.

Clr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said: "See Change's annual Green Ribbon campaign reminds us of the importance of talking about mental health all year round. Wearing our Green Ribbons this month provides an opportunity to talk more openly in society about mental health. This helps our communities around Ireland combat stigma and discrimination."

Karen Fennessy, Healthy Clare Coordinator, said: "Mental health is a key priority in the Healthy Clare 2019-2021 strategic plan. Under the Government's Healthy Ireland programme, communities across County Clare have been able to access funding specific to promoting mental health and wellbeing in Clare."

To learn more about stigma, visit: www.seechange.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/See-Change-Wha.pdf

World Suicide Prevention Day

On World Suicide Prevention Day, 10th September 2021, Clare County Council's Healthy Clare team, the Healthy Ireland at your Library coordinator and the HSE's Office of Suicide Prevention participated in a mental health awareness raising event hosted by the West Clare mental health association at the square in Kilrush from 11am – 1pm.



Clare County Council's Healthy Ireland at Your Library Coordinator, Frances Pender and Healthy Clare team member, Dena Mc Grath, at a mental health awareness event in Kilrush square on World Suicide Prevention Day, 10th September 2021.

Below are examples of the information that was distributed at the event:

- <https://www.facebook.com/The-Lighthouse-317715958838263>
- Peace of mind booklet - <https://ennismha.com/piece-of-mind/>
- See Change Green Ribbons - <https://seechange.ie/green-ribbon/>
- SafeTalk Training - <https://www.livingworks.net/safetalk>
- Asist Training - <https://www.livingworks.net/asist>
- Healthy Ireland Know Your Numbers - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/healthy-ireland/community-healthcare-organisations/know-your-numbers-card.pdf>

Clare County Council and the HSE launch the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Clare' Campaign during National Breastfeeding Week

Clare County Council in conjunction with the HSE launched the 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Clare' campaign on 4th October 2021, during National Breastfeeding week (1st – 7th of October).

View the Launch Video at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUOZ_xTc4Nk

The Promo Video is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvK5Yf81JHI>



WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Active Travel

Lissycasey

Works have commenced in Lissycasey to include ducting and “pots” (lighting column foundation sleeves) for additional lighting. Some work has taken place on completing footpaths in village Stage 1 & Stage 2 Road Safety Audit has required a redesign of an area of the scheme.

Labasheeda

Upgrade to sections of the footpath network in the village is completed.

Kilrush

In 2019 the West Clare MD (Kilrush LEA) commissioned a walkability study of Kilrush Town. The resulting Universal Design Walkability Audit Report was published in early 2020 and made a number of recommendations to improve “the walkability” of the public realm in Kilrush.

Works are currently underway to improve accessibility for all footpath users (improve “walkability”). Recommendations of the report (additional dropped kerbs, additional public benches, additional age friendly parking spaces etc.) are currently underway. As part of the programme of works, the Council has consulted with a number of mobility-impaired residents and with the manager of the Brothers of Charity Home in Kilrush. This will ensure that the works benefit as many residents and visitors as possible and are both mobility friendly and age friendly.



Kilrush Moore Street - Pedestrian Crossing - Dropped Kerbs & Tactile Paving



Kilrush Town Hall, Market Square - To be completed - New Pedestrian Crossing.

2021 Roadworks Programme

The Surface Dressing programme is complete and the Restoration Improvement programme is approximately 85% complete.

Pavement overlays have been completed on the N67 between Doonbeg & Kilkee, another near Quilty and one is currently approaching completion at Caherea on the N68 near Lissycasey. Drainage is completed. Works carried out from discretionary funding are completed.

2 Low cost safety schemes are at design stage and works will commence soon.

Local Improvement Schemes – 4 (of 5 allocated) schemes completed or well underway.

Hedgecutting contract along National secondary routes has been awarded & works are to commence.

CLÁR 2020

Pedestrian crossing on Carrigaholt Road, Kilkee (R487 – near secondary school) has commenced.

Another pedestrian crossing at the Strand Line, Kilkee is to commence shortly (Active Travel funding).

Irish Water

Irish Water contractors have recently completed the upgrade of the water network at –

- Mullagh to Miltown Malbay – approx. 4.5km of distribution main replaced.
- Doo Lough – approx. 1km of rising main replaced.

Both of these pipelines were laid under the public road network and both sections of the public road now require substantial reconstruction works. Reconstruction works are approaching completion on the Mullagh to Miltown Malbay section and will commence shortly on the Doo Lough section.



Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021

Works will commence on raising the Shannon Estuary protective river wall along the R-473 at Erribul and Aillroe shortly.

2020 carryover



Replacement of drainage pipework at Seafield beach has been completed.

Beaches

There are a number of Blue Flag (Kilkee, Cappagh) & Green Coast (Seafield, Quilty) and other popular beaches in the West Clare MD – Kilrush LEA. Clare County Council allocated substantial resources to ensuring that facilities at our beaches were up to a high standard, and to facilitating an Outdoor Summer for “staycationers” during the pandemic. A large volume of visitors were catered for, and the West Clare MD team kept the beaches & villages clean – working weekends (including Bank Holidays) as necessary.

North Clare Active Travel

Footpath replacement works were completed outside the Ennistymon Community Centre under the National Transport Authority (NTA) Active Travel programme.



Ennistymon Community Centre.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

The Government launched a new housing plan for Ireland – 'Housing for All' – on 2nd September, 2021. The document sets out a multiannual funding programme for 2022-2030 to deliver over 300,000 new homes including 90,000 social and 54,000 affordable house with an anticipated spend of in excess of €4bn per annum. There is also a firm commitment to ending homelessness by 2030.

This document sets the framework for the delivery of housing in the county. We have been set a target to deliver 833 new social housing units in the county over the period 2022 to 2026 as below:

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Build	200	149	153	164	167	833

The availability of land is the constraining factor for this Council in achieving the target for new build social housing units.

While affordable housing is a keystone of 'Housing for All', the criteria to qualify for funding of local authority led affordable housing is likely to mitigate against a large number of local authorities where Housing Need and Demand Assessments have demonstrated low or negligible affordability challenges. Clare County Council is currently working with consultants to compile the relevant information for Clare which will be used to assess eligibility against the criteria in any future affordable housing proposal. This work is being carried out in conjunction with the drafting of the Housing Strategy for the new County Development Plan and will be reported to members on completion.

Social Housing Needs Assessment 2021

The Council has commenced the 2021 Social Housing Needs Assessment with over 800 applicants written to seeking updated information to assess their continued qualification for social housing supports. All local authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to complete this assessment for all persons who have applied for social housing support.

The purpose of the assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support.

This Council is contacting certain applicants who have applied for social housing support prior to 30th July, 2020, to confirm that they still require social housing support. Each applicant must confirm their requirements to the Council by completing the assessment form which issued on 20th September together with a covering letter explaining the process. As part of this process they will need to submit details of income for previous 52 weeks in accordance with national social housing guidelines. Applicants

who have applied for social housing after 30th July, 2020, will not be written to as their file would have recently been assessed so there is no need for them to be reassessed or to contact the Council unless there is a change in circumstances.

Transfer applicants, HAP and RAS tenants are not included in this assessment.

We have provided all applicants with a stamped self-addressed envelope to facilitate them returning the completed form by the deadline of Friday, 1st October, 2021, to ensure that their application is included in this assessment.

All forms returned to the Council will be assessed to ensure that each applicant has a continuing need for social housing support. It is most important that forms are completed in full with all relevant information.

If an applicant no longer requires social housing support or is no longer eligible their file will be closed.

It will be assumed that applicants who do not return their Social Housing Assessment Forms are no longer interested/in need of social housing support and their file will be closed, however Clare County Council will make every effort to contact the applicant before doing this including issuing reminder letters, advertising on social media, making reminder calls where appropriate.

If there are questions regarding same please contact the Housing Department on (065) 6846572 or (065) 6846403.

Presently, the housing public counter is open by appointment only, appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service. This service is working well and is generating efficiencies for staff and customers alike.

Housing in numbers

Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; Traveller accommodation and Mortgage to Rent)		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,170	631
Shannon	624	155
West Clare	934	384
Killaloe	376	158
Inter Authority HAP		58
TOTAL	3,104	1,386

2,882 LA tenancies	1,386 HAP tenancies	201 RAS tenancies
307 leased properties	2,684 LA properties	3,572 Rent accounts

MINISTER O'BRIEN'S VISIT TO ASHLINE DEVELOPMENT

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, visited the construction site of the Ashline Social Housing Development recently. Pictured is a selection of photos from Minister O'Brien's visit.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing need by area of choice

AREA OF CHOICE	Transfer NO	Transfer YES	Grand Total
ENNIS MD			
CLARECASTLE	130	63	193
ENNIS	558	739	1297
Subtotal	688	802	1,490
SHANNON MD			
CLONLARA	18	9	27
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	79	73	152
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	62	34	96
SHANNON	137	119	256
SIXMILEBRIDGE	32	30	62
Subtotal	328	265	593
WEST CLARE MD			
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	18	30	48
COROFIN/RUAN	35	44	79
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	90	93	183
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	20	15	35
KILFENORA	7	2	9
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	48	45	93
KILMALEY	4	9	13
KILMIHIL	12	13	25
KILRUSH	66	74	140
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	23	34	57
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	46	51	97
Subtotal	369	410	779
KILLALOE MD			
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	73	91	164
KILLALOE	39	34	73
QUIN	16	14	30
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	33	24	57
Subtotal	161	163	324
Grand Total	1,546	1,640	3,186

* First area of preference only counted.

Please note these figures are correct as of 27/09/2021.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Update on Capital Programme

SHIP capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start date	Completion date
Shannon PPP	51	Complete	Q4 2019	Q2 2021 & Q3 2021
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under Construction. 6 Units – Due to compete Q4 2021 12 Units – Due to complete Q1 2022	Q3 2020	Q4 2021 & Q1 2022
Doonbeg Sites	2	Complete	Q4 2020	Q2 2021
Scarriff	18	Rev. stage 2 app. submitted to DHLGH.	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Project out to Tender	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII approved.	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Clarecastle	2	Single Stage approved by DHLGH. Contract ready to be awarded.	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Public Consultation Event Complete	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Design Team appointed.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Subtotal	275			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	4	CAS – Project completed	Q3 2020	Q3 2021
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q3 2020	Q2 2021
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Construction to commence 9 to be delivered Q4 2022 15 to be delivered Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q4 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	69	CALF Turnkey 29 units to be delivered in Q4 2021 40 units to be delivered in 2022	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2021 Q4 2022
Subtotal	121			
Total	396			

Summary of activity

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from 21.08.2021 to 24.09.2021)	47
Offers refused	1
Tenancies signed up	44
Tenancies terminated	11

Voids work programme (at end of September)	
Voids/casual vacancies	43
Acquired properties (works on-going)	12
Average vacancy period	160 days
Number voids returned to stock	3
Average spend	€21,179

Housing maintenance calls	
September	328

Estate Management

We continue to respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour with the Tenancy Enforcement Team undertaking regular routine and response calls to tenants.

	Sept	Total year to date
Call Outs	280	1,943

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing asb@clarecoco.ie. The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The TEO team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. (087) 4169496

Traveller Liaison Officer

The Traveller Liaison Officer is working closely with the team undertaking the social housing needs assessment. Gerry is available to support Travellers to complete and return the necessary documentation for the SHNA.

Private Rented inspections:

Private rented inspections remain impacted by COVID restrictions and a legacy hesitancy from tenants in permitting access to properties for physical inspections. The virtual inspection option remains open to landlords and tenants to assess compliance with Minimum Rented Standards.

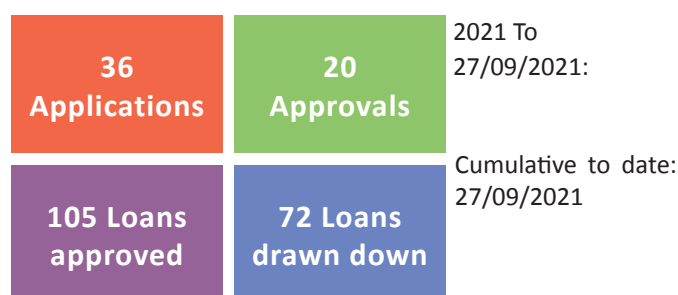
Virtual Inspections September	180
Physical Inspections September	2

Housing Grants

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	4	50,520
Housing Aid for Older People	5	31,500
Mobility Aids Grant	18	85,786
Total	27	167,806

Rebuilding Ireland home loan

Demand for the Rebuilding Ireland Homeloan remains steady with full details on eligibility criteria and loan calculator to be found on www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie



Homeless

Homeless services are an essential service and remain available. The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291.

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period Monday 23rd August to Friday 17th September 2021: 8 households exited from homeless services; of these 8 households; 5 housed in own door properties through HAP, Leasing, AHB and Local Authority Allocations, 3 discharged/self-discharged and left homeless services.

Clare HAT commenced Housing First in August 2021 and 1 household has successfully transitioned from private emergency accommodation to this new supported model. This project is the primary policy response of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address street homelessness and those with complex needs that inhibit their ability to live independently. Consequently, over the coming months, an innovative implementation group led out by Clare HAT in partnership with our colleagues in HSE Social Inclusion will be looking to better meet the needs of this cohort going forward through this project.

Homeless presentations to the 17th September 2021:	
New presentations	18
Repeat presentations	105
Total Presentations	123

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Status as of 17th September 2021:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	3	6	5	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	7	11	14	1
Clann Nua	0	11	0	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	3	0	3
TOTAL	11	61	20	9

Vacant properties

A review of Vacant Homes in collaboration with the Municipal District Offices is ongoing. A number of towns and villages are being prioritized in each MD where vacancy/dereliction is particularly high on main streets.

Following an initial vacancy assessment exercise (using available Geodirectory data, valuable elected representatives' knowledge and notifications from Vacanhomes.ie website) a number of properties have been identified to date as potential long term vacant residential dwellings. The Council is engaging with known property owners and presenting the options available to assist in bringing their properties back into use. This work is ongoing, and the following are the statistics at the present time.

Status as at 30/09/2021

	Initial Assessment	Identified as Potential *	Owner Engagement
Ennis	29	11	5
Killaloe	37	20	13
West Clare	85	40	22
Shannon	51	3	2
TOTAL	202	74	42

* Initial assessment ongoing

Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme

We are preparing for the second tranche of families to be resettled in Clare under this programme. In consultation with the agencies and the Department we are identifying properties and support services for families currently residing in reception centres in the Country.

The seven families resettled in Clare under tranche one have expressed their gratitude to all in supporting them to restart their lives following traumatic experiences in their home countries.

Active Ennis Leisure Complex



During September activity continued in line with Government guidelines, operating on a limited numbers and a restricted timetable. Activity is steady with slots at peak times full. We also welcomed back schools with an altered format to allow for social distancing (mas 8 children to a lane).

We were delighted to accommodate children with Autism who under the EVA umbrella received funding to roll out swimming lessons.

We look forward to welcoming back Ennis Swimming Club on 4th October and the change in restrictions anticipated on the 22nd October.

Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park, Active Kilrush Sports Complex & Active Ennis, Cloughleigh



All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on www.activeennis.ie Clubs and patrons are reminded to exercise continued vigilance to avoid any Covid-19 outbreaks.

To support the use of John O'Sullivan Park for all additional seating is being introduced with the bases of the bench seating installed. This will increase our compliment of seating by 6 units.

We continue with routine maintenance and upgrade works at the facilities with catch netting repairs having been carried out on nets behind goals in Lees Road & Glenina.

Any defects or operational issues can be reported by email to info@activeennis.ie

follow the link to read about our 2021 work to date: - <https://claresports.ie/working-with-minority-communities/>

Working with Minority Communities

Clare Sports Partnership (CSP) works with interagency groups such as the Traveller Interagency, Roma/New Communities and North Clare Interagency group.



The health and wellbeing of minority communities has been adversely affected by the impacts of Covid-19 restrictions.

Programmes were innovated during lockdown and are now progressing with the gradual ease of restrictions. It is worth noting that these target cohorts are among the most vulnerable to Covid-19 due to medical conditions, living conditions and slower vaccination rates.

Many barriers to exercise were encountered throughout the year such as literacy skills, language, education, self-esteem, and transport.

However, as shown by the programmes below CSP worked with other agencies to overcome these barriers and this collaborative work is very beneficial to some of our most vulnerable members of society.

This work is made possible by the ongoing support from Clare County Council, through the Community Support Fund. Please

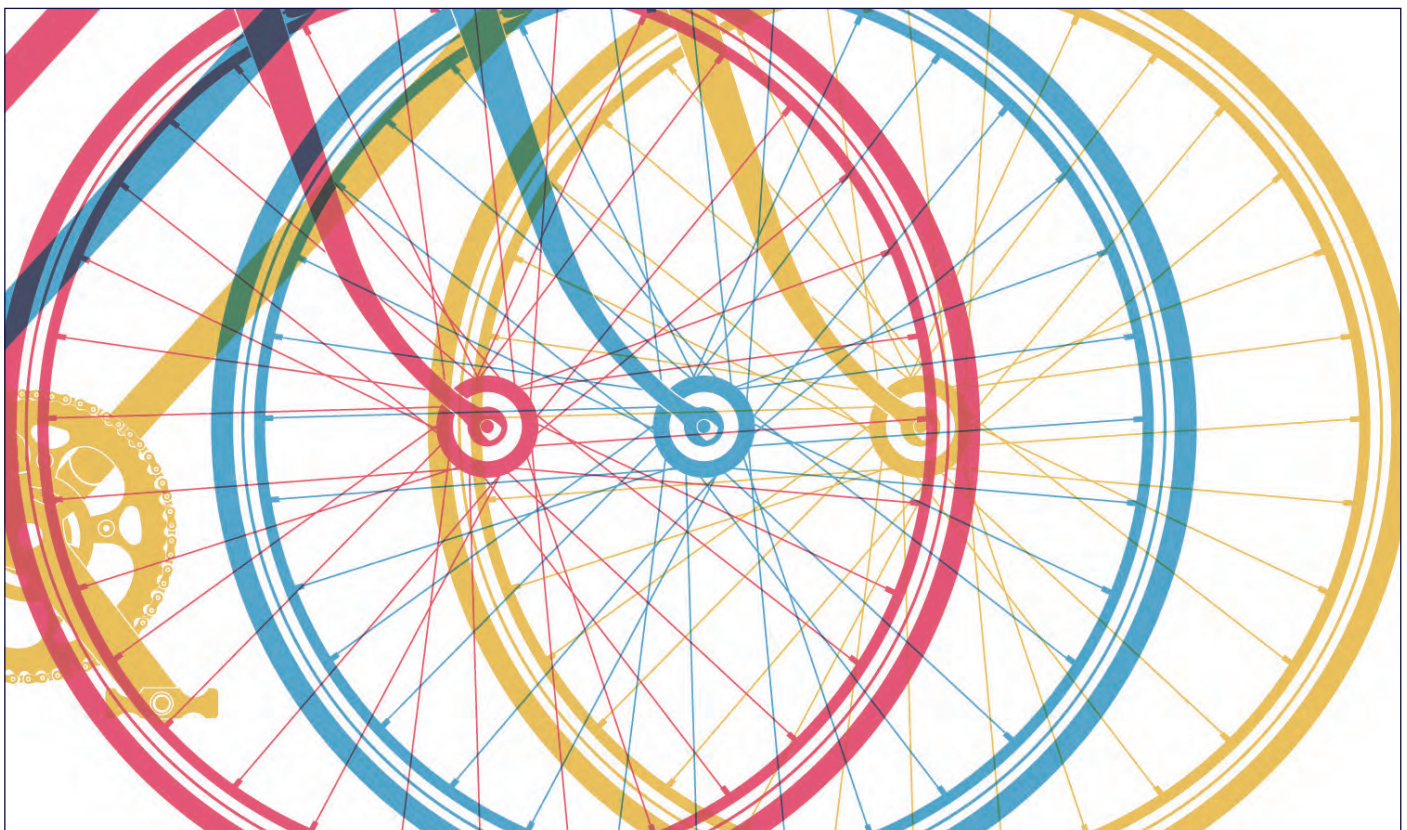
Bike Week

Clare Bike Week was to provide people of all ages and abilities with a variety of cycling events and to create awareness of Cycling as an enjoyable form of transport and physical activity. Clubs, community groups, schools and local organisations were all targeted to ensure a far reaching Clare Bike Week 2021. To achieve this vision from a cycling perspective, we worked with a diversity of individuals, schools, communities and clubs to help with the development of safe and competent Cycling as a means of transport, recreational and competitive sport.

Over the years, our cycling programmes have led to (this is not an exhaustive list):

- The education of c. 1,000 women in safe Cycling with a knock-on effect of the establishment of the Clare Ladies Cycling Club,
- Children with autism: discovering the joy of Cycling in a safe and appropriate environment.

As a partnership, we work with stakeholders to ensure that resources used for the most strategic purposes. Our growing partnership with Clare County Council is testament to that. With the various national and local policies in mind - 2018 Get Ireland Cycling Ireland Strategy Framework, National Sports Policy, National Physical Activity Action Plan, Healthy Clare. To read our report, please see <https://claresports.ie/national-bike-week-12th-to-18th-september-2021/>



CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

Clare libraries extended services to the public in September. The services included pc & Wi-Fi access, seating & use of study spaces and newspapers. All full time libraries are also providing Saturday opening hours.

Clare library service continued to provide a delivery service for library patrons (which begun during covid) and made 35 deliveries this month.

Dormant Accounts funding

Smart phone classes for older people were held in 5 libraries as part of Positive Ageing Week. Funding was provided by Dormant Accounts Funding.

Online Resources – demand continues for e-audiobooks and e-books



Marketing

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares / Retweets / Reach	Comments
	25	5369	69	325	87	28
	14	1915	66	110	76	3
	6	1522	29	325	5801	8

Right to read

Library staff are preparing certificates for Children who participated in the Summer Stars Reading Adventure. Every child that registered for the Summer Stars and read at least one book over the summer received a certificate. 1,794 certificates were issued to children in Clare in 2021. Clare Libraries had a total of 54 events during the summer, online and in-person, with a total attendance of 974 children. 7 videos posted on the Library YouTube channel had a total of 342 views.

September is traditionally a busy month for Children’s Services in libraries as we welcome students back to the library for the new school year. Library staff especially love welcoming new junior infant classes for their first visit to the library where they can enjoy a story time session and sign up for their first library card. This year classes will visit the library in pods of 6 students.

Library Programming	
Total number of live events	12
Total number of online events	9
Total number attendances at live events	123
Total number attendances at online events	155
Total number of videos posted online (across all platforms, including Facebook/YouTube/Vimeo, etc.)	16
Total number of video views (across all platforms)	450



Kilrush event on world suicide prevention day 2021

Healthy Ireland

One Healthy Ireland event was delivered online. Sean Donal O'Shea, Dementia Advisor working with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, gave very helpful advice to family members, carers and tutors on Alzheimer's and Dementia, together with the various supports which are available to people living with this condition and their families and carers. Fifteen people attended the zoom event, while many more benefitted from the presentation which was later forwarded to all who signed up.

Staff from the Lighthouse Kilrush, Healthy Clare, Clare Library & the HSE, hosted an information stand in the Square Kilrush from 11am – 1pm for World Suicide Prevention Day. A variety of information was made available to direct people suffering from mental health difficulties and their families to the various supports that are available. In addition, many businesses throughout West Clare got involved by providing information/reading material in coffee shops located in Lissycasey, Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Kilrush, Kilkee & Carrigaholt.

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland funding was provided to Ennis Book Club Festival for a TY Book Club with Sarah Moore Fitzgerald which will work with four secondary schools in Clare. Funding was also given to Oliver O'Connell for his poetry and audiovisual work on the Burren, to the Michael Cusack Centre for their Cusack Day programme and to the "Dial a Seanchai" project which will be launched on 1 October, this is a unique audio experience celebrating Irish folklore, storytelling, and song, curated and produced by Clare artist John Lillis.

Decade of Centenaries

Plans are underway for Clare County Library History Week which will run from 16-22nd October. An exhibition on the County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) will be launched in Kilrush Library, a booklet on the life of Art O'Donnell will be launched in Shannon Library and the names of all members of the Mid Clare Brigade, both Volunteers and Cumann na mBan, will be displayed in DeValera Library in Ennis. A number of online lectures will also take place.

Archives & Local Studies



Corofin Workhouse

The Archives digitisation project is continuing and the Board of Health collections are currently being scanned. A number of digitised extracts from the Corofin Poor Law Union Minute Books from 1919-1920 have been added to the Library website to give

an insight into life in Corofin Workhouse at that time. This was part of the Decade of Centenaries programme.

The Archivist has returned to the Archives section after a career break and will be based in Clare County Library HQ. Clare Roots Society donated a transcription of the Clonlea Civil Parish Death registers for 1843-1878 to Clare County Library and these have been added to the Library website. This gives a valuable insight into the area during Famine times.

Clare Arts Office

Clare Youth Theatre returned with performances at Ennis Book Club Festival and on Culture Night. The teenage group is full and a new junior group has begun to cater for demand.

A drama residency began in the Dulick Centre with 9 participants as part of the Embrace Programme for Arts and Different Abilities. 3 residencies were completed in the Dulick Centre, Clare Crusaders and the HSE Kilrush Centre working with 29 participants. The 2022 Artist in Schools Scheme was advertised. Clare Arts Office had 1123 reactions to social media posts, and posted 201 times on social media pages with a reach of 19048. 3 new artists took up residence at the Tulla Stables – Matt Purcell (music), Ann Tyson (Furniture upcycling) and Andrew Burke (ceramics). The Duala project with the Irish Traditional Music Archive launched on Culture Night and was featured in the Irish Times. Clare Arts Office organized regular music performances in Ennis, Shannon, Newmarket on Fergus, Bunratty, Sixmilebridge and Lisdoonvarna through the Live Performance Scheme. One off performances took place in Ennis and Ogonelloe whilst one musician carried out daily sessions in small towns and villages throughout the county. 26 art talks took place through the Visual Voices sessions on ZOOM and in person with older people and in day care centres countywide this month.

Poetry Town Ennistymon was launched in conjunction with Poetry Ireland. The "Dial a Seanchai" Project was launched in association with glor and support from Creative Ireland. It was featured on Morning Ireland and in the Irish Times, BBC Ulster and TG4. The Arts office supported filming requests for Failte Ireland (Italian TV crew), MTV, a music video from India and a documentary from the UK as well as filming of Engine Shorts Film "Try and Touch" by Nell Hensey.

The research phase of the River Residency Project in Kildysart began. The Arts Officer did a podcast for a European network of arts educators on the development of arts in education programmes. Culture Night took place with 28 events throughout the county – 16 of which took place in person and 12 online.

Clare Museum

Clare Museum opened to the public in late August on a Monday to Saturday schedule.

Clare County Council adopted the following Museum policies on the 13th September:

- Collection Policy 2020-2025
- Loan Policy 2020-2025
- Disposal Policy 2020-2025
- Exhibition Policy 2020-2025
- Education Policy 2020-2022

In addition, the Museum’s Backlog Plan was updated and a number of documents were prepared for submission to the SPC in December. These include:

- Care of Collections Strategy
- Disaster Plans for the Museum and Beechpark Storeroom
- Strategic Management Plan and implementation plan

The Museum was assessed for the maintenance of its accreditation status, and aside from the submission of a number of documents once they become available later in the year, the museum is on course to maintain its status. Museum staff posted images of objects online during the month and plans are in place to make new videos for History Week. A number of portrait miniatures donated to the museum at the start of the year were sent

for conservation in recent weeks. These have now been returned to Clare Museum having been cleaned and with new acid-free back boards placed on them to ensure their preservation into the future. Six items were catalogued during the last month.

There were 432 visitors to the museum since it reopened in late August. Museum staff are currently working on the following: Preparing for the arrival of the de Valera car, finalizing text panels and the purchase and installation of the information screens and recording of curriculum-based videos on objects in the museum collection.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works

All surfacing dressing works and restoration improvement works scheduled for 2021 are complete with the exception of blacktop projects under contract with Lagan Asphalt Ltd. Works are being undertaken across all MDs. Works completed in the Killaloe MD include R352 Fortane, Ballinahinch Cross and R365 at Broadford. Works to be completed over the next two months include Elmhill, Clonmoney and Lisporeen.

Drainage Works

Works are ongoing regarding the Drainage Programme detailed in the SMDW 2021. Works include the remediation of the persistent flooding on the Regional Road adjacent to Scarriff Community College. A further 10 drainage projects are in preparation stage.

Footpaths

Works are complete at St Luas Villas in Killaloe and Contactors are appointed for works at Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen, Hillcrest Grove, Kilkishen and Beechwood Lawn, Bodyke. Works will begin over the coming weeks.

TVR

Clooney TVR: Works are ongoing regarding the Town and Village Renewal Contract at Clooney. The works involve

the provision of new public footpaths, pedestrian crossing, public lighting, line marking, signage, drainage works and other associated works. Killaloe MDs technical team will be overseeing the delivery of the project on the ground. Local Improvement Scheme and Community Involvement Scheme – Works is complete on the Bauroe, Feakle LIS Scheme. Preparatory works continue for the remainder LIS Schemes. Preparatory works are continuing for the Community Involvement Schemes.

Active Travel 2021: Killaloe MD Programme	
Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Design complete, tender preparation
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Design complete, tender preparation
Droomindoora	Design complete, tender preparation
Quin	Design complete, tender preparation
Clariford Park Connection	Design complete, tender preparation

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Atlantic Green Digital Basin

The Government has recently appointed Mr Colm Forde, Principal Officer as executive to Shannon Estuary Taskforce. Mr Forde has been in communication with the Council executive in relation to the terms of reference of the Taskforce and a meeting will be arranged shortly. The remit of the Taskforce is yet to be finalised, however it will lead to the realisation of the economic opportunities that renewable energy and digitalisation can bring to the Shannon Estuary and the Mid-West region.

Clare Economic Task Force

The next meeting of the Clare Economic Task Force will be held in October. Key focus areas will be the proposed launch of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy and bring this to the implementation phase together with the finalisation of the Masterplan for Shannon town. Clare County Council continues to engage with the Shannon Group, ESB, IDA and EI to align, where appropriate, with strategic objectives set out in the Clare County Development Plan, the SIFP and the above strategies.

Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy

The new Chief Operating Officer (COO) Kevin Corrigan commenced working for the Ennis 2040 Designated Activity Company on September 6th, 2021.

The COO will move into the newly refurbished offices above the Clare Museum in mid-October. A provisional formal launch date for the strategy is proposed for of October 22nd, with details to be formalised in the coming week or so.



Kevin Corrigan.

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS (SEI)

Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre

The Masterplan, which is funded by Government's Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Clare County Council, will drive the future of economic and spatial pattern for Shannon Town. The public consultation period for the Draft Plan concluded Friday, 3rd September, 2021. In total, 152 submissions were received which comprised of 97 online completed surveys and 55 individual submissions, of which 31 were received directly through the online public consultation portal and 24 individual written submissions were received by post and email.

A non-statutory summary document on the feedback received from the public consultation event is being prepared for the Shannon MD Elected Members which will brief them on the collated information retrieved from the online survey along with a summary of all submissions and observations made. Consultation will continue with the Elected Members and the Masterplan team on how best to respond to the issues highlighted, and with a view to making any necessary amendments. It is anticipated that in light of the comments and feedback from the public, that a further and final round of public consultation on the final Draft Shannon Town Masterplan will occur in November.

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan

Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, is working on 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.

Following the publication and consultation of the Draft Plan during the summer, the planning team are collating, analysing and considering the submissions to the Draft Plan with a view to informing the final document. Consultation with the Elected Members of Killaloe MD to inform the final plan, is planned during October.

Subject to agreement, it is anticipated that a final plan will be ready for endorsement by the Killaloe MD in November. It is anticipated that the Killaloe-Ballina Plan will inform the future co-ordinated development of both settlements and leverage private sector investment and a range of national and EU funding opportunities.

Roche Masterplan

Following the grant, in early February 2021, of a 10-year planning permission for the phased demolition and remediation of the Roche Facility in Clarecastle, work has now commenced on the preparation of background studies and the consideration of the scope of a future Roche Masterplan. The preparation of the Masterplan will be informed significantly by the preparation and outcome of the Draft Clare County Development Plan and the development and remediation on site. Engagement with Roche on the scope of the proposed masterplan is continuing.

Clare Maritime Economic Zone (Clare MEZ)

Following on from the application in July for under RRDF for the Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush – which it is hoped a successful RRDF outcome will be announced in October – work continues on the project. In-depth analysis of the trends and growth areas in this market, potential for competition, the types of courses which may be offered, the accreditation required and a financial plan for the establishment of Kilrush Maritime Training Centre nears conclusion and confirms the significant opportunities that currently exist.



Clare MEZ.

The SEI team submitted an observation to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with respect to the foreshore licence application for the testing of a tidal energy device by DesignPro at Cahiracon Pier. The closing date for receipt of submissions was Monday, 27th September, 2021. It is hoped a timely decision will be made by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with respect to the application. The establishing of testing of renewable energy devices such as this in Cahercon is a key objective forms a central component to the vision for maritime, renewable energy and research and development function of the SEI team.

During September, the SEI team were invited to participate in the Mid-West Renewable Energy Research and Education Cluster. Given the Offshore Floating Wind sector is the significant opportunity for economic growth the region it is important to be extremely ambitious and establish appropriate strategic plans at a national level to capture this market for County Clare and the region. The SEI team will continue to liaise with the group and work with the wider Economic Directorate to feed into this cluster over the coming months and years.

Members of the SEI team met in September with SFPC to discuss the requirements of the Port Authority with respect to the potential tendering of passengers from Cruise ships docked in the Shannon Estuary to the existing pier owned by Clare County Council at Cahiracon. The potential ability of Cahiracon pier to tender passengers to the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary in County Clare would see considerable economic benefit for West and North Clare through the provision of tours, site visits and excursions and would also achieve an objective of the Clare Tourism Strategy.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan

To facilitate the Elected Members in their ongoing consideration of the Draft Clare County Development Plan, workshops were held throughout September with both the full Council as well as a series of separate workshops with each of the Municipal Districts. In September, the following workshops for full Council and each Municipal District took place:

Members	Date
Ennis MD	Wed 1st September
Shannon MD	Wed 1st September
Killaloe MD	Thurs 2nd September
West Clare MD	Friday 3rd September
Shannon MD	Tues 14th September

Killaloe MD	Wed 15th September
West Clare MD	Thurs 16th September
Shannon MD	Tues 21st September
Killaloe MD	Wed 22nd September
Full Council	Wed 22nd September
West Clare MD	Thurs 23rd September
Killaloe MD	Tues 28th September
Full Council	Tues 28th September

Discussion on both countywide issues and those at Municipal District level will continue as workshops will continue during early October working towards finalising the draft

development prior to it being to its adoption to allow for it to be paced on public display.

As previously reported the Elected Members decided in July to avail of the provisions of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2021 to initiate the process to extend the period by up to 7 months to prepare the new Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028. A necessary consequence of this is to first extend the duration of the existing Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, as varied and in the first instance, to examine the impact of the proposed extension of duration of the existing development plan with regard to the effects on the environment and on European Sites. The Screening process for appropriate assessment and for Strategic Environmental Assessment have now been undertaken and associated Screening Reports prepared for each.

The Planning Authority is required to undertake a minimum four-week public consultation period on the proposed extension of duration which is to commence on 1st October to 29th October 2021 when observations/submissions can be made. Following this period of consultation a Chief Executive's Report will be prepared on submissions received for consideration by the Elected Members, based on the reasons for seeking the additional time to prepare a new development plan (due to the impact of Covid-19) and the environmental implications of extending the duration of the existing development plan. If the Elected Members decide to extend the duration of the existing Development Plan they may then decide to take the additional time to complete the preparation of the new Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028, which is anticipated in early November 2021.

Ennistymon Masterplan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, has appointed a multi-disciplinary team led by Helena McElmeel Architects to complete a masterplan for the town of Ennistymon. The masterplan seeks to build upon existing Clare County Council proposals in place associated with the planned new bridge crossing and the upgrading works to take place along the Main Street. The study will explore the potential of the existing townscape and its built environment in order to guide its development in a positive way. It will also comprise of a new signage strategy and streetscape enhancement plan, which seeks to improve both the visitor and residents experience. The design team presented their first interim report to the steering group in late September. This report outlined the conclusions from the first round of public consultation, which can inform the future development of the project. The next stage of the project will commence in October, where the team will initiate the design process

Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) have worked together to develop a brief for the preparation of an Enhancement Strategy for the village of Corofin. The Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the village and its proximity to the Burren through thoughtful and sensitive

interventions. The strategy will look to identify a suitable location and develop a design for a Burren National Park Visitor's Centre and Administration Facility for NPWS, provide public realm improvements through a streetscape enhancement plan and improve the tourist experience through the development of a new signage strategy. A multi-disciplinary design team led by the award-winning practice Hall McKnight Architects have been appointed. The project was initiated in August with a walk of the village, which was attended by the design team and the Council's project Team. Public consultation will commence in mid-October to include key stakeholders and the wider public to discuss their aspirations for the project. The first stage of the public consultation process is expected to conclude in November.



Corofin plan.

The Manchester Martyrs Monument

Clare County Council was successful in securing a grant from The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of its Historic Structures Fund. This capital investment fund seeks to promote the conservation of historic structures for the broader benefit of communities and the public. Clare County Council submitted an application to this fund for the repair and restoration of the Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush. This monument was erected in the heart of Kilrush Town in 1903 and is one in a series of monument built around Ireland to commemorate the memory of the Manchester Martyrs. In recent years it has fallen into disrepair, and the grant will allow works to progress on the restoration of this important cultural artefact. The tender process is ongoing and will be concluded in early October.

The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

The Council has submitted an application to the Outdoor Public Space Scheme to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. This funding stream asks us to re-imagine how we use our outdoor public spaces. Clare is a county with rich festival traditions, which are an intrinsic part of our culture and traditional way of life. This project looks to support this culture, offering new ways to diversify and enhance its experience while prompting us to consider new ways and new settings in which they can occur. The proposal seeks funding for a series of demountable outdoor structures for use during festivals and outdoor events. A decision is expected in October.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of September and also gives the year to date totals. In comparison to the same period in 2020, this is an increase in the number of planning applications received of 334, representing a substantial increase of 47% year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 276.

Planning Applications	September 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of planning applications received	127	1,043
No. of planning decisions made	112	877
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	26
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	26	280
No. of Section 5 applications	5	57
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	2	44
Submissions received regarding Compliance	17	253

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning enforcement during September, together with the year to date totals.

Planning Enforcement	September 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new complaints received	20	259
No of Files Opened	8	96
No. of Warning Letters issued	8	68
No. of Enforcement Notices served	1	24
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	2
No. of Enforcement files closed	4	29

TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

The statutory process in relation to the Taking in Charge of 3 estates commenced on 10th September, 2021, with an advertisement in *The Clare Champion*. Maps and details of the advertisement are on public display in Planning from 10th September, 2021, to 8th October, 2021, with a further 2-week period for receipt of submissions up to 22nd October, 2021. The estates are Gleann Cora Phase 2, Newmarket on Fergus, Silvergrove Phase 2, Ennis, School Lane, Mountshannon.

Remedial works were advanced on the following estates:

Housing Estate	Status
Aughanteeroe, Gort Road, Ennis	Remedial works are 99% complete.
Churchfield, Doonbeg	Works are nearing completion by the Developer who is carrying out these works in conjunction with the Taking in Charge Executive Engineer.

We continue to monitor the progress on new housing developments including those that commenced during the month of September 2021.

Bonds on new housing developments are closely monitored and the Planning Department are pursuing a number of claims on developments that have not been completed to the satisfaction of the Council.

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding

The projects supported by Clare County Council with funding from the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 are as follows:-

1. Japanese Knotweed eradication in the areas previously surveyed by the Municipal Districts on the local roads network and Giant Hogweed from the areas identified at the uppermost part of the River Blackwater catchment.
2. Reporting and the establishment of an ongoing monitoring programme to record and mitigate visitor impacts at Fanore Dunes.
3. Support the Clare Local Development Company to undertake a Knotweed Survey, action plans, purchase of Knotweed treatment equipment and a development of an App.
4. Support the Irish Seed Savers Association to (a) undertake Site Mapping and Environmental Sensitivity Mapping at their property in Scarriff and (b) to buy and install four new log hives at the organic farm at Capparoo to (a) create a habitat for the native honeybee *Apis mellifera mellifera*, (b) to transition hives of managed bees to free living and (c) to train staff and the public in the fundamentals of honeybee management and conservation.
5. To provide up to date data on the current status of the rare and characteristic plants of the Burren and Aran Islands, to highlight the very special nature of the flora in the region and to be used as an educational resource for interested parties and the general public.
6. Support for the Shannon Town Biodiversity Fun Day as part of Heritage Week and the Shannon Local Biodiversity Action Plan development.
7. Support farmers and communities to install new ponds and the planting of orchards called the Hare's Corner being piloted by the Burrenbeo Trust with support from Clare County Council. The Hare's Corner is a new project in County Clare to help landowners make a little more space for nature – by creating mini-woodlands, ponds, and orchards on their land



Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Senator Pippa Hackett, joined members of local charity, Burrenbeo Trust, some of the local farmers, and representatives of Clare County Council and Irish Seed Savers Association to launch The Hare's Corner, a new biodiversity initiative for County Clare.

All Ireland Pollinator Plan Awards

The Heritage Officer assisted in the adjudication of Local Authority All Ireland Pollinator Plan Awards as part of the Tidy Towns Awards, where there was a large increase in the number of community groups entering the AIPP Awards in 2021. The amount of effort, quality and standard of the work by communities working for biodiversity in their own local areas is astounding and illustrates the enthusiastic adoption of action for biodiversity.

Heritage Council funding for Clare County Council Heritage Plan actions

Heritage Council funding for actions under the Clare County Council Heritage Plan supported the following projects which are now at the final stages of completion for 2021:

1. Conservation Plan and Method Statement for Hastings Cottage, Shannon
2. An update of the Heritage section on the Clare County Council website
3. Creation of a Clare County Heritage Map Viewer
4. Traveller Heritage Project.

Clare Holy Wells Project

The Clare Holy Wells project and survey is complete for 2021 and the information has been made available online (see <https://heritage.clareheritage.org/category/places/holy-wells>) and will be launched to the public in October. These web pages are not a static resource, but will develop as research on the holy wells of Clare continues.



St Coleman MacDuagh's, Holy Well, Keelhilla, Slieve Carran in the Burren.

Daoine agus Áit: Connecting Our Communities

The four Clare heritage groups, Clarecastle, Shannon, Kilkee and Scattery Island, who are members of the Clare Community Archive Network (iCAN) worked together to create a Heritage Postcard Collection under the theme of 'people & place'. Please see the fruits of their work below.



Daoine agus Áit: Connecting Our Communities postcard from Scattery Heritage Group.

Clare County Council Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines

Clare County Council Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines are at present being edited and this edition will be available on the Clare County Council internet for all to access by the end of 2021. The Biodiversity Manual provides advice and practical guidance to Clare County Council on how to implement best practice measures for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

This is not an exhaustive document and is intended to give Clare County Council an overview of the importance of biodiversity, the legislative and policy context and how Clare County Council’s work impacts on biodiversity. As the legislation, policy and guidance relating to biodiversity is constantly changing, this manual has been designed so that it may be adapted and updated over time; individual documents are provided for various procedures and these will be reviewed on a regular basis and updated as required.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Covid-19 Supports

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

- The Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an e-commerce website, has seen strong interest. In the month of September a further 4 vouchers were approved bringing the number already approved in 2021 to 109. A further 8 vouchers (€14,883) were paid out during the month which were originally approved previously. This brings to a total of 257 draw downs amounting to €587,183 in 2021.
- Online Webinars and Training: Over 125 clients registered in the month of September to partake in our range of online webinars and training courses. Events included a two-hour Start your own business programme, Women in

Business Networking Event, a Facebook Adverts Workshop, Digital Marketing Course and Bookkeeping and Taxation Programme.

- Mentoring: There were 21 applicants in September for a free 3-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, starting a business, digital marketing, Brexit and Export Development among others.

September Evaluation Committee Meeting

Our Evaluation Committee (EVAC) met on Thursday, 23rd September. The committee continued the process of meeting remotely, aided by the new Submit.com grant processing system. The May EVAC approved €131,300 in funding for four projects. The four projects were split into 3 business expansion applications and 1 priming grant.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in September, together with the totals for 2021 to date.

Transaction	September 2021	Year to date 2021
Lease of Property / Building		3
Licence to use property / building		10
Grazing Agreement for Lands	1	22
Deed of Transfer signed	1	6

Transaction (continued)	September 2021	Year to date 2021
Contract for Sale signed		3
Deed of Right of Way signed	1	2
Deed of Rectification signed		3
Allotment Agreements signed		39

Casual Trading

The Casual Trading Unit continued its progress in implementing new locations for casual trading throughout the county. The Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 for each Municipal District are available to view on the Council’s website.

Following on from the adoption of the recent Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021, Ennistymon farmers market has moved to a new location and continues to grow with the granting of two new licences at this location.

Five new licences have also been issued for the upcoming Kiltrush Horse Fair in October.

Two applications were refused, one due to the standard of presentation of trading stall and one because the trading day requested was not in accordance with Bye-Laws.

Derelict Sites

The Council welcomes the focus at national level on the numbers of vacant and derelict properties in the country and it is now well recognised that there is significant potential for re-development of such properties. This is not to say that there will not be challenges in many such properties and in dealing with derelict sites, we come across many issues to be resolved. However, with time and effort, working with owners and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and re-vitalisation of many such derelict sites.

There continues to be some positive response to engagement with owners of derelict sites and where such engagement is not happening, we are using our powers under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in September 2021 and the year to date.

During the month, five properties have been upgraded by owners and are no longer derelict. To date this year, a total of twenty-two properties have been rendered non-derelict and the co-operation of owners is appreciated. There are also a number of derelict properties currently for sale.

Derelict Sites	September 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new files opened	3	26
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	0	15
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry onto Derelict Sites Register	0	2
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	2
No of sites added to Derelict Sites register	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	5	22
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	0

This month’s photograph shows a house on Ardlea Road in Ennis, which has been completely refurbished. This shows again what can be done with existing vacant properties. It is now removed from our list of Derelict Sites.



Derelict site at Ardlea Road, Ennis.



House on Ardlea Road Ennis, reburbished 2021

Resource House, Cloughleigh, Ennis

A meeting was held recently with the Ennis Community Employment Scheme Ltd who co-ordinate the participants in the scheme and are based at the Resource House in Cloughleigh. The building is owned by the Council and licensed to the company. Their work on projects throughout the town, supported from their base, here is commendable and provides work for 35 participants, with up to 10 of them being based here. Pictured below is the Scheme Co-ordinator Míochael Guerin, Scheme Supervisor, Aidan O’Shea, Secretary of the Company, Cllr Mark Nestor, and Ailish McMahon of the Property Management unit.



SHANNON ALLOTMENTS

On 28th September, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr PJ Ryan, and the Chief Executive, Pat Dowling, visited the Shannon Allotments at Illaunamanagh. While the project was completed in 2020, there was no official opening due to the public health restrictions in place at the time. This walk-through allowed the allotment holders to showcase their harvest and the various projects completed by the Allotment Association since they were able to come back to the site. In total, there are 39 allotments of varying sizes and this was a key learning from the previous site where many allotments were only partly in use.

The Association has worked very well since the allotment site was opened and projects such as rain water harvesting and the installation of a poly-tunnel have been completed by them. The latter project was part funded under the Shannon MD community grants scheme.



Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, examining the produce at the Shannon Allotments.



Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, with Elected Members of the Shannon Municipal District, members of the Shannon Allotment Association and staff from the Property Management Unit.



Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, with Brendan Moriarity, Chair of the Allotment Association, and April O’Riordan, Secretary of the Association with Cllr Donna McGettigan and Cllr John Crowe.



Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, examining the produce at the Shannon Allotments.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Shannon Municipal District worked closely with Clare County Council’s Arts Officer, local musicians and event managers over the summer to enable the eight-week ‘Bualadh Busk’ programme. This outdoor musical performance programme ends this month and has been a huge success across the community.



Bualadh Busk.

The works programme for the year continued during September and completed the Surface Dressing Works for the Municipal District.

The new footpath from Shannon Hibernians to the Embankment Walk (Yellow Loop at Cluain Airne) has been substantially completed.



Shannon Information Board and QR code.

The information boards installed include the innovative use of QR codes which link the user to an online audio description of this Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) and the local flora and fauna – you can use the camera on your phone with the QR image above to link to the audio description. Other new information boards promoting the wonderful wildlife along the estuary are available along our walkways and more are planned.

Drainage works have been ongoing in Portdrine over the last three weeks and it is expected that these works will be completed end of week. The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) project in Parteen will be completed in early October, while the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) in Clonlara is also due to be complete in mid-October.

The footpath contract for the MD has been awarded and preparation works commenced last week with physical works to commence in early October. The grass cutting contract will continue to operate until mid-October.

The team in the Municipal District has worked with elected representatives and the community on a number of Town and Village Renewal scheme projects and a scheme in Sixmilebridge began during September, with works continuing at pace.



Cllr PJ Ryan (Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council), Tom Mellett (Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon Municipal District) and Cllr John Crowe (Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District).

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Transportation

Clare County Council's overall allocation for Roads in the 2021 Roadworks Programme is €34.5m which comprises of TII and Department of Transport grant allocations along with IPBMI and own resource allocations.

The Roadworks Programme for 2021 has been prepared as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Work for 2021 and was adopted by all four Municipal District meetings in March. Rollout of the 2021 programme of work is progressing well in all of the Municipal Districts.

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) document was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) Board during the summer of 2020. The LSMATS public consultation, to which all Members were invited, was launched by the NTA on 2nd September, 2020, and was on public display for an 8 week period up to 30th October. There were over 112 submissions during the process which the NTA have considered. A presentation was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC in February 2021. The NTA are currently reviewing the draft LSMATS document.

Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the project is to improve the public transport service provision in Clare by improving scheduling, dealing with gaps in the service and by introducing new public transport routes. Liaison and information sharing has commenced between the NTA and Clare County Council Municipal Districts and Road Design Section to support the NTA in a comprehensive rollout of the project. The local link from Kildysart to Kilrush has been rolled out as part of this project by the NTA.

Active Travel Programme 2021

Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on March 29th, 2021. The total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,986,000 and this allocation has been broken down into 28 projects which was progressed through a Grant Applications submission. Each project also requires NTA approval at the various developmental stages of the projects. To date 24 of the 28 projects have received project approval. The design, statutory processes and construction stages for the projects is at various stages of progression.

Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. The procurement process is at an advanced stage. At present 43.8% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

Airtricity are currently upgrading the street lighting on the N68 in Lissycasey where Clare County Council secured funding from the TII to upgrade the existing public lights to LED's and install additional lighting to bring the lighting levels up to current lighting requirements on the National Secondary route between Ennis and Kilrush.

Clare County Council have completed the retrofitting of all the decorative lights in County Clare where the internal lighting components were removed and replaced with LED technology to upgrade the existing decorative lights. This project reduces the impact on the environment by retrofitting these lights instead of replacing them and also achieving a reduction in energy consumption.

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
- Phone: Airtricity Utility Solutions dedicated call centre – 1850 372 772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority's website or contact number.



Road Works Programme and Operations

Road Design Office

Current Projects: October 2021

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

TII Road Safety Projects:

A progress meeting with the TII was held on the 27th August 2021.

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary and this is being progressed by the TII through their consultant. The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should incorporate Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area. The RDO are reviewing the current designs to incorporate these elements. <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrycrossaun junction design and funding has been approved by the TII. A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit is required prior to construction. The detailed design and safety folder has been issued to the West Clare MD for construction.
TII HD 17 Sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further to onsite inspections at Cranny, Crag and Parknamoney junctions, the TII have requested the RDO to progress with detailed site surveys, conceptual designs and Feasibility & Option Reports. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of the identified junctions for phase 1 is now complete i.e. Galway Border to Ballyvaughan. Revised design required for a number of these junctions i.e. New Church and N67/L50221. Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. A comprehensive traffic and pedestrian survey was undertaken in early August, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit to take place in early September and a preliminary design report is being prepared for submission to TII.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021

Currently preparing application for LCS Schemes 2022.

Road Number	Location of LCS	Description of Proposed LCS	Progress Update
R352	R352/ Corrovorrin junction, Tulla Road, Ennis	LCS to improve the traffic movements of the junction from Kevin Barry Ave onto the R352.	The design is completed. Section 38 notice advertised. Public consultation period 27 August – 27 September. The RDO in conjunction with Elected Members held several public consultation meetings with resident and community groups.
Junction of R462 & R471	Pedestrian crossing in the Square, Sixmilebridge	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point across on the R462 in Sixmilebridge.	Design is completed. Section 38 resolution adopted at Shannon MD meeting on the 29 July 2021. Construction stage commenced.
R478 / L10381	Doonagore	Improve sightlines approaching R478 from southern side L10381.	Design is completed. Landowner agreed required to set back an entrance pier and fence. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L4190-7/ L8272-0	Lismulbreeda	Warning signs and to slow down traffic on the approaches to the bend.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction. Anti-skid surface now included.
R463/ R466	O'Briens Bridge / Bridgetown Junction	LCS with new signage and lining. Improve sightlines by removing existing vegetation.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
R352	R352 Spancill Hill to Tooreen	Renew existing road lining, cut back vegetation, SLOW markings on road, 80kph repeater signs, centre and edge lining.	The design is completed. The RDO in conjunction with Elected Members held a public consultation meeting with residents and community groups. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L-3050-0	Clonlara primary school on the L3050-0	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point at the primary school in Clonlara.	Design is completed. Section 38 resolution adopted at Shannon MD meeting on the 29 July 2021. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction. Construction stage substantially completed
R476/ L5260	Kilnaboy	Improve sightline exiting the L5260 on to the R476. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Design is completed. Safety review completed. Landowner dedication substantially agreed. Progressing to Section 38 adopted at the MS meeting on the 7th September.
R465-82	Broadford National School on the R465	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School the GAA sports grounds and a housing estate	Completed
L2050	Cahill's Hill on Local road from Killmer Ferry to Cooraclare	Improved signage and a pull in area for motorists.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

L4058-2 & L4062	L4058/L4062 Junction in Feakle	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School and two housing estates	Design is completed. Safety review completed. Not progressing in 2021 further to public consultation.
R460/L1010	Lough Bunny	Improve sightlines onto the L1010 from both sides of junction. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L4611-0	L4611-0 Newpark Ennis	Provide a controlled crossing point. Where footpaths are discontinuous.	To be incorporated as part of an NTA active travel project. Not progressing as a LCS in 2021.

Other Projects 2021

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	Funding of €182,000 was secured from the Department of Transport (DoT) for the implementation of the EuroVelo route signage in County Clare. Procurement is completed and the signage installation is near completion. Consultation with community groups has commenced to identify optimal locations for map boards and cycle stands. Marketing and promotion of the route is being progressed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Construction works are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	The NTA have approved funding for 6 new bus shelters (Kilkee, Lisdoonvarna, Crusheen, Newmarket on Fergus, Limerick Rd Ennis, and Westbury) and upgrade works for 5 existing bus shelters in Shannon. The contractor has been appointed and construction works commenced in early June. Bus shelter civils works are complete in Crusheen, Lisdoonvarna, Kilkee, Ballycasey, Oakwood, Opposite Oakwood and Fergus Roundabout. The bus shelters in Drumgeely are currently under construction. Works have started in Westbury and the site compound is in place at the Radisson Blu. The bus shelter in Newmarket on Fergus is due to commence in October 2021.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. • Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
LIS Applications	240 applications reviewed
Circular RW 10/2020 - Active Travel Measures Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. Active Travel Carry Over List – Surveying and designs have initiated in conjunction with the MD's. Cycle lane and road Line marking from the Clare Inn Roundabout to Clonmoney is completed, additional cycle signs have yet to be installed by the contractor. Refurbishment of the masonry bridge at Latoon has commenced.
Circular RW 09/2020 - Climate Change Adaptation Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. The remaining elements carried over into 2021 is near completion.
Circular RST 04/2019 Safe Overtaking Width for Cyclists Signs	Clare County Council received an allocation of €29,350 from the Department of Transport for the provision of safe overtaking width signs for cyclists. Installation is being progressed through the MD's and this process is ongoing.
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2021. Collaboration with IT & GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
NTA Active Travel Circular (2021)	Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on March 29th, 2021 and the total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,986,000. 24No Detailed project applications have been approved by the NTA the NTA. The Design, statutory processes and construction stages of these projects are at various stages of progression.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	A Specific Improvement Grant Application for R352 (Henchy's Cross) upgrade was submitted to the Department of Transport on the 18th November 2020 in order to progress the project to the next phase. The Department of Transport has allocated €100,000 in February 2021 for specific improvement works. The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for comment.
Circular RW 06/2021 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021	A funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport (DoT) on the 26 March 2021. Funding of €699,350 has been approved. Projects progressing.



New bus shelters and cycle lanes.

Bridge Rehabilitation

2021 Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €687,000 for 30 bridges

- AA Screening: Consultant appointed, Screening report to be issued by 30th April, 2021. Report issued 2 bridges to proceed to NIS stage
- Bunratty Bridge: Meeting National Monuments 14th of June to discuss possible repair works. Meeting held National Monuments not in favour of repair solution. Repair options been explored
- Stonepark Bridge: Works complete
- Smithstown Bridge: Works complete
- Ballyalla Bridge: Works complete
- Sragh Bridge: Initial investigation carried out 16th March. Structural investigation completed Atkins Consulting currently carrying out assessment of bridge. Topographical survey completed
- Corlea Bridge: Contractor on site due for completion in 2 weeks. Works complete bar snagging
- Pollagoona Bridge: Works Complete
- Derrynacaw Bridge: Works Complete
- Latoon Masonry Bridge: Design ongoing- tender drawings issued for review. Screening complete, progressing to tender stage. Tender completed Contractor appointed and works commenced
- Derrycon Bridge: Works complete
- Cloonolia Bridge: Works complete
- Finnor Beg Bridge: Contractor appointed works 90% complete
- Ardnacaraa Bridge: Contractor appointed works 90% complete
- Lough North Bridge: Contractor appointed works 90% complete
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed Contractor appointed
- Furror Upper Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed Contractor appointed
- Cloghaun Beg Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued Tenders returned and being assessed Works started in September, works 80% complete
- Honan's Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued Tenders returned and being assessed Works started in September, works 80% complete
- Dereen Bridge: Topographical survey completed week commencing 24th of May. Repair options currently under review Design on going tender to be issued early September
- Ballynacally Bridge: Tender issued Contractor appointed works commenced
- Cahircon Bridge: Tender issued Contractor appointment ongoing

Other Bridge Works

- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed. Consultant appointed. Design complete tender to be issued 27th September, environmental issues to be resolved.
- Clarecastle Bridges: Currently carrying out re-inspection of bridges on the R458 in Clarecastle for Roche decommissioning. Inspections complete awaiting report
- Moanagh Bridge: Emergency repair works completed, other work to be completed when water levels reduce. Rubble removed from riverbed during low flow as agreed with Inland Fisheries.
- Killestry Bridge: Malachy Walsh & Partners appointed as designers, design completed and tender advertised on e-tenders. Tenders returned and assessed appointment ongoing. Contractor appointed due to start 2nd week of October
- Wooden Bridge Springfield: Survey to be carried out, meeting to be arranged with Waterways Ireland when Covid restrictions are lifted.
- Check condition of bridges notified by MDs.
- Currently preparing application for 2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Grant



Latoon Bridge works - before repair.



Latoon Bridge works - during repair.

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 Governments National Framework for Living with Covid-19.

The Health and Safety Team continued to progress their Schedule of Workplace Risk Assessment and Safety Statement reviews and their Programme of Safety Inspections in accordance with the revised CCMA Local Authority Services Framework.

Clare County Council has adopted the LGMA/LASOG Traffic Management Guidance Manual and training on its use and implementation has been delivered to Traffic Management Designers and Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks Cardholders by the Health and Safety Team. Monitoring of the revised Traffic Management Guidance commenced from 1st June with focused Inspections of Traffic Management arrangements at Roadworks. Additional Training on Traffic Management Design was delivered to a group of Technical Staff in September.

General Design Office

Scattery Island Battery – Scrub Removal

A site survey was carried out to determine the extent of work required to remove the bramble scrub within the vicinity of the Battery including the access track to allow the facility be opened up as a visitor attraction.



Scattery Island

Foothpath Extension at Cappahard Lane

Published on eTenders 6th August 2021. Works due to commence 27th September 2021 with an expected finish date end of November 2021. Neville Civil Works Ltd have been awarded the contract.

Shannon Heritage Due Diligence Project

Planning history underway on Shannon Heritage Sites.

Mapping

- Preparation of Land Registry maps for Springfield Flood relief scheme.
- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass - ongoing

- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Issue maps prepared for Council meeting - land transfers at Laghile, Cratloe
- Issue map prepared for Council meeting - land transfer at Lakyle, Whitegate
- Issue map prepared for Council meeting - land transfer at Sixmilebridge Credit Union

Design

- Pound Street, Kilrush - Fence, gate and turning area design layout finalised. Project to be overseen by Physical Development (Environment)

Surveys

- Fence lines marked via GPS on Killaloe Bypass, as per request from Capital Projects

Beechpark Machinery Yard Buildings Assessment

A condition survey was carried out on the existing buildings located on the Machinery Yard site. A cost estimate for requisite repair works was subsequently prepared based on the findings and requirements necessary.



Beechpark Machinery Yard Buildings

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Barefield - JF Building & Civils was appointed as main contractor and works began on site on the 20th September.

Corofin - topographical survey scheduled, preliminary proposals ongoing.

Sixmilebridge - Coir Infrastructure Appointed as main contractor. Construction works started in August 2021 and are progressing in accordance with the approved programme of works.



Sixmilebridge TVR Scheme

PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

With the relaxation of some of the Covid-19-related restrictions, a number of onsite inspections and face to face meetings took place during September. Most notably were on site meetings with the Consultants, Contractor and OPW in Springfield as well as very productive workshop with our TII Engineering Inspector and the TII Regional Manager held in Kilrush at the end of the month. Furthermore, briefings to the Kilrush Electoral Area Councillors on the Public Consultation phase of the Kilrush to Kilkee Section of the Greenway Project as well as an update by PMO staff to an IFA group in relation to same took place during September.

The key updates are as follows:

Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building

Preliminary layouts of the proposed Visitor Services building have been completed involving inputs from cross directorate workshops. The use of third-party lands for the purpose of car parking is still being reviewed further to the ruling out of certain lands in the area due to ecological sensitivities. The use of existing parking areas will also be optimised to ensure that the parking requirement necessary to support this development is achieved. A cross directorate workshop dealing with the project is scheduled for October 14th next.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

Members will be aware that work is substantially complete on this project in line with the expected programme. The remaining works involving fencing, landscaping and works around the pump station have now been completed. Work is currently on going on the construction of the maintenance track and this is expected to be completed next week. Handover meetings and information regarding the future operation and maintenance of the infrastructure are now being organised. It is intended to organise a drill for the deployment of the pumps shortly under the direction of the consultants and the contractor. In parallel, the OPW and their Consultants are working separately on producing maps detailing the benefitting areas of the scheme for the information of the Insurance Industry.

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

Following the Oral Hearing in June, we are still awaiting the An Bord Pleanála decision regarding confirmation or otherwise, of the CPO. A decision is expected from An Bord Pleanála in the coming month and this will inform our next course of action in relation to the overall project.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

An independent Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been completed and reviewed. A meeting with the Reports Author is scheduled for the coming week to identify if certain

elements of the works to restore the existing pathway and optimise its use for pedestrians and cyclists can be progressed in advance of carrying out more extensive environmental assessments which will be required as part of the overall Waterways Irelands proposed Greenway/Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff. Related to same, Invasive species monitoring and control is ongoing.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Further to publishing the Main Scheme Works tender documents in early August, the PMO project team facilitated a site walkover with the shortlisted contractors on the 13th of September 2021. Tender queries are also being managed by the PMO team ahead of the October 29th tender return deadline. Following review and assessment it is expected that the Contract will be awarded in Q1 2022 and that construction on site will commence shortly thereafter subject to Department approval.

The advance works contractor, Coir Infrastructure Ltd are programmed to return to site in the coming weeks to complete some additional fencing & site clearance works. The ESB are progressing the necessary electricity diversion works at pace with the intention of being fully complete by year end and in advance of the main works contract commencing. Similarly, Eir are also progressing diversions of critical telecommunication infrastructure affected by the scheme works design.

Archaeological site works have concluded, and items of interest revealed during the excavation works are currently being sent for detailed testing and carbon dating analysis. This will assist the Archaeological Contractor in accumulating the necessary detail for the final reports and public presentation which is expected to take place early in 2022.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

JBA are continuing their assessment of the wave overtopping damages following review of the 'Wave & Water Level Study' issued by the RPS Coastal Team. Some additional storm scenarios have been requested by JBA.

A kick-off meeting was held with the successful tenderer for the Ground Investigation contract. Health & Safety documents, traffic management plans, permits etc. are currently being compiled with a view to commencing works in early October. Access arrangements to private lands is currently ongoing.

CCC/OPW have issued comments on JBA's Hydraulic Report. The comments will be incorporated to the final report which will issue on completion of the coastal section of the report. Further CCTV and some additional threshold surveys have been instructed near the Kilkee Bay Hotel to enhance the Atlantic

Stream model. JB Barry's have completed structural surveys of the existing walls along the Victoria and Atlantic Streams to advise on their suitability for inclusion as flood defences and their Report on same is expected in the coming weeks.

The project newsletter detailing progress on the scheme and upcoming works will be published on the project website at www.kilkeefrs.ie along with associated scheme literature and our information video.

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

We await the final LSMATS Report from the National Transport Authority (NTA), following which, we would expect to hear back from the Department of Transport further to our submission of the Project Appraisal suite of documents to them last November. If favourable, we will be able to progress to the next stage of development.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

As advised last month, application to seek a Judicial review of the Part VIII permission approved by the Council at the September 2020 meeting, is currently before the Courts and due for hearing in late October 2021. We are hopeful of an early favourable resolution and once reached, we will be in a position to carry out the necessary Geotechnical Investigations to inform the detailed design and engage further with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

The Members will be aware of the necessity to retender these works. Following the re-advertisement for Contractors, a number of submissions were received in September. These are currently being assessed after which we will seek the approval of the OPW to appoint the successful Contractor. A funding allocation for the works has been provided so it is hoped that we can commence the works at the earliest juncture subject to Landowner agreements being finalised.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

Phase Two (Options Selection) continues to be progressed. This three stage phase has seen the completion of the Preliminary Options Assessment and the Project Appraisal Matrix stages. The scheme consultants Fehily Timoney/Clandillon Civil are now progressing with Stage 3 – Selection of a Preferred Option.

The observations received from the various project stakeholders have now been assessed and considered in relation to the final preferred option selection (Stage 3). The scheme consultants will carefully consider and evaluate all submissions received prior to concluding Phase Two and following identification of a Preferred Option it is intended to brief the Councillors prior to the Public Consultation phase which is anticipated to take place later in 2021.

Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) will progress following the selection of a Preferred Option, based on both

technical and environmental inputs, to a stage where sufficient levels of detail exist to establish land-take requirements, to identify and mitigate Scheme impacts, and to progress the scheme through to the Statutory Processes Phase 4. Phase 3 is expected to progress up to mid-2023.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd are shortly due to commence the site investigation works contract. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process. Bi-monthly co-ordination meetings with the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Project Team are ongoing to ensure constraints and Health and Safety impacts from investigatory survey works currently progressing from either project are managed as they are progressed independently of each other. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed through our scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie.

N85 Upgrade at Kilnamona

At our recent meeting with the TII Inspector and Regional Manager, we impressed upon them the importance of getting this project moving again. The necessary funding allocation has been provided which will enable the appointment of Consultants to commence the design process at the earliest juncture.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)

The tender process in respect of the appointment of Engineering Services for a final remediation plan will proceed in October 2021 following completion and review of tender documents. In the interim, the sites, having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA, are routinely monitored by Council staff.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The Project Steering Group led by Clare County Council and including the Office of Public Works and Shannon Airport Authority continues to meet with our Consultants RPS Consulting Engineers, online each month.

The current status of the third-party surveys for the scheme is as follows.

- Some minor snags on the final Geophysical Survey report are currently being closed out by the project consultant, RPS.
- The majority of draft deliverables from the topographical survey have been issued to RPS and are currently under review. Airside access was agreed with SAA recently which allowed us to complete the outstanding surveys in the airport. The topographical survey on sections of the golf course has also been completed recently following liaison with Shannon Golf Club. The Bathymetric survey of the Inis Macnaughton Reach is now complete.
- The pump tests have now been completed in all three

pumping stations. Draft data from the tests will issue in early October. Flow monitors and rainfall gauges continue to record data from the multiple locations within the scheme study area. The original 5-week monitoring period has been extended to capture suitable rainfall events. Draft deliverables for the CCTV element of the contract have been issued to RPS and are currently under review. A small number of pipe runs not captured to date is planned for early October.

- Site investigation works continue to progress as planned. Specialist Crews from the UK have successfully completed their portion of the works. The final element, which involves the installation of inclinometers has commenced and will be completed in the coming days. A full-time geotechnical resource has been in place to monitor the works since commencing on site. Laboratory testing of samples is ongoing.

Shannon Airport Authority have appointed a contractor for their embankment maintenance works. The contractor has recently mobilised to site and works are now ongoing to the eastern embankment. RPS have recently issued the Constraints Study report which is currently under review. The initial Virtual Consultation event is now closed. As always, information on the scheme can be accessed on the project website at www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com

Spanish Point Coastal Protection Scheme

The design and detail of the last remaining elements of this project which include some fencing and some local landscaping are being finalised and will be completed at the earliest juncture. Springfield, Clonlara FRS – Work is now well advanced on the project. As the Members will be aware, the scheme will provide protection for 18 properties in the area, and involves the construction of a flood protection embankment, land raising, penstock/sluice valves, pump station and associated works at the townlands of Springfield, Cappavilla North, Cottage and Illaunyreagan, Clonlara, Co. Clare. We are working closely with the OPW Direct Labour Section who are constructing it on our behalf under the supervision of Scheme Consultants, Byrne Looby & Partners. To date, the compound has been set up, site fenced off, site access roads have been constructed/upgraded and temporary reinforced haulage roads have been constructed through the site. Temporary twin culverts have been installed along the Illaunyreagan stream. Twin 0.6m diameter culverts have been installed along the western stream along with 4 no. pre-cast headwalls. HDPE flap valves have been installed on the downstream headwalls. The first and second lift of the construction of the embankment has been completed over 50% of the scheme. A traffic management plan is in place to ensure that the material to construct the embankment is delivered to site in a safe and efficient manner. There have been some issues with debris on the public roadway and the road sweeping and cleaning operations have been increased to combat this. An archaeologist was on site to monitor the excavations. Overall, the project is progressing well but is heavily dependent on

weather conditions given the location and nature of the works.

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilree to Kilrush)

The first formal public consultation on the West Clare Railway Greenway (Kilrush to Kilree section) took place between September 13th and October 4th 2021. In addition to being available on the Councils website, physical displays of the study area and all possible route options were erected at the Libraries in Kilrush and Kilree, as well as at the Aras in Ennis. With the conclusion of this phase, Clare County Council and the design team will carefully review all comments, queries and suggestions received from members of the public. Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have completed initial ecology walkover studies which will further inform constraints and next steps regarding winter monitoring. PMO staff were invited brief a IFA gathering of 5 West Clare branches and attended by the County Chairman Tom Lane as well as a Munster and National IFA representative, during which the public consultation phase and the overall project was reviewed. Public Meetings with all Landowners and other interested parties will be facilitated as the project progresses. Indeed, we at all times welcome the views of the public as we move towards the next steps of selecting feasible route options, and ultimately finalising on an emerging preferred route.

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)

Tender documents in respect of Engineering Consultancy services for the second section of the West Clare Railway Greenway project were finalised during September and have been published on Etenders. Submissions are due for return in October 2021 following which, it would be hoped to secure the necessary Dept/TII funding to appoint Consultants in the next number of months.

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works

Consultants for Clare County Council are continuing to develop the design and detail for the scheme with a view to moving the project to the planning stage as soon as possible.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during September:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Theory Course
- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Practical Training Course
- 1 Day Course – Training on Electrical Vehicles, Nenagh Fire Station
- Working at Heights Instructor Course
- Line Rescue & Confined Space Training.

Official Opening of Kilkee Fire Station by Councillor PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council

Kilkee Fire Station was officially opened on Wednesday, 29th September, by Councillor PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, following redevelopment works.

Kilkee Fire Brigade, consisting of 9 personnel, provide direct fire cover to an area of almost 200 sq km and a population of approximately 4,000 people and also provide backup to other brigades where necessary. The original station was built in the mid 1960s and apart from a small extension, there had not been any significant redevelopment of the building before now.

These upgrade works included an extension to the rear of the building to include a New Drying Room, BA Servicing / Compressor Room, Male & Female Showers with Disabled Access and Lecture Room and Kitchenette on a new First Floor. A new heating system was installed with electric storage heaters throughout. All electrical, alarm & alert systems were extended with the fire panel relocated next to the entrance. Two new insulated roller shutter doors were installed and the existing cavity walls were pumped with insulation.

The cost of the works of over €620,000 was funded by the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The project was co-ordinated for the Fire Service by Tom Burke, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Kieran Greene, Assistant Chief Fire Officer. The Project Team included Tomás McKenna Consulting Engineers, Custy Construction Ltd and McLoughlin & Associates Quantity Surveyors.

Handover of four Volkswagen four-wheel-drive Transporters

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service currently operates a four-wheel-drive vehicle in each of its 7 Fire Stations. These four-wheel-drive vehicles have proved invaluable at a wide range of incidents, particularly Wildland Fire-fighting, Road Traffic Collisions, Medical Assists and Swiftwater Rescue Incidents. In February of this year, Clare County Fire & Rescue Service received Capital Grant Aid Funding to purchase 3 Standard and 1 Crew Cab Volkswagen Transporter Vans at an overall cost of €244,000 to replace older similar vehicles in Shannon, Ennistymon, Scarriff and Kilkee Fire Brigades. These vehicles were handed over to Clare County Council on Thursday, 28th September 2021.



Fire Service vehicles.



Pictured cutting the ribbon at the official opening of Kilkee Fire Station on 29th September, 2021, is Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council (centre), with (l-r): Cllr Cillian Murphy, Cathaoirleach, West Clare Municipal District; Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development, Clare County Council; John Garvey, Station Officer, Kilkee Fire Brigade; Adrian Kelly, Clare Chief Fire Officer; and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Aug 2021	Sept 2021 (Up to 28.09.21)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	57	32	592
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	6	2	55
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	10	8	52
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	1	2	28
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	2	9	34
Number of Commencement Notices Received	29	32	297
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	0	9

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

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- “Cycle Against Suicide” Charity Cycle
- Memorial Charity Cycle in East Clare.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Board with their blood donation clinics in Ennis.
- Members of the Drone Team travelled to Athea, Co. Limerick to assist Limerick Civil Defence with the search for a missing person. The team provided aerial support for the search.
- Members travelled to Dublin in order to have some of the Clare Civil Defence vehicle fleet updated with new decals.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Members of the Boat Crew carried out training on the River Fergus.
- Members successfully completed a Manual & People Handling course given by Clare Civil Defence’s Manual & People Handling Instructor.
- A multi-discipline (Emergency Medicine, Swiftwater Crew, Search & Rescue Team, Boat Crew & Drone Team) exercise was held in order to practice and assess skills by the various disciplines. The exercise proved extremely

successful with all of the objectives set out by the exercise organisers completed by the various teams.

- A training session was held for members who are hoping to commence an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Course in October. The members will sit a pre-course exam at the Civil Defence College in Roscrea on the 2nd October. Success in this exam will ensure a position on the EMT course.
- Senior members of Clare Civil Defence carried out interviews for potential recruits to Clare Civil Defence. The unit will be taking on eighteen new recruits for the Recruit Basic Training (RTB) course for 2021/2022. The RBT will commence on 4th October.



ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19

To date, all essential services in the environment section have continued uninterrupted. The proposed lifting of certain restrictions will permit more normal return to operations including community clean ups, school awareness campaigns, site inspections by external agencies and the completion of capital works programmes.

Environmental Awareness

Environmental Campaigns

During September, we promoted a number of environmental messages highlighting the key themes to achieve a clean waste free local community.

Campaign detail	Promotion details
Introduction of soft plastic to the household recycling bin. Promotion of www.mywaste.ie national campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert x 2 @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare social media post
Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Reducing chemicals in the home also promoted as part of this initiative - Greener Living Guides made available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media release Clare County Council web page The Clare Echo Green Clare page article @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare social media post Coverage on Clare Herald, Clare Echo, Clare Champion social media and web platforms
Single Use Plastic elimination survey for festivals and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> @GreenerClare social media post Clare Green festival groups notified
National Spring Clean and Clean Coast - Clare 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clare Echo Green Clare page article
Erection of temporary signage without permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare social media posts
Dog owner responsibility. All bags are litter even compostable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clare Echo Green Clare page article

Supports for voluntary community clean ups

The table shows the breakdown of Waste Transfer Station free passes provided for voluntary community clean ups for the year to date.

Waste Transfer Station free passes provided

Event	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Tot.
Clean Coasts						1	4		5
National Spring Clean			27	23	3	3	4		60
Voluntary Clean Up	1	2	6	2	2	3	4	3	23
Total Free Passes	1	2	33	25	5	7	8	7	88

So far in 2021, 39 communities were also supported through the provision of litter pickers, bags, hi vis vests, as required. In total, 170 communities in Clare signed up to the An Taisce National Spring 2021.

Community Environment Action Fund (CEAF)

The Department of Environment Climate and Communications (DECC) hopes there will be an opportunity for community groups to complete CEAF funded projects carried over from 2019 (no funding allocated in 2020 or 2021). The DECC has decided to extend the project completion date to the end of December 2021 with the intention of rolling out the next CEAF scheme in early 2022. Altogether, 73 community-based projects received funding in 2019. Of those 49 projects (67%) are completed and we are awaiting the completion of a further 24 (33%).

Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

The Table below summarises the work of the Scientific team to date in 2021:

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	September	2021 to date
Planning applications (Domestic)	65	370
Planning applications (Large Developments)	1	5
Planning applications (Forestry)	22	252
Planning applications (Agriculture)	9	11
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	24	35

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	0	8
Pollution complaints received	16	115
Warning & advisory letters issued	0	10
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	6

A number of pollution incidents were investigated by the team in September. The aim of the inspections are to both investigate the source of the pollution incident but also to prevent the pollution contaminating the surrounding environment.

An example of this was a recent oil pollution incident in Shannon. Booms were installed to prevent oil flowing downstream and creating a much greater incident, which negatively affects water body quality and soil quality.



Oil boom in Shannon.

Laboratory & Technical Support

Drinking Water Monitoring

Clare County Council is required to sample and analyse all public water supplies including public supplied Group water schemes as part of the Irish Water Service Level Agreement. The level of monitoring required is agreed with Irish Water and is based on the population served. Clare County Council also undertake unscheduled monitoring when issues arise.

River Monitoring Programme 2021

The Environment Section has completed nine rounds of River Sampling to date. Our sampling programme has been agreed in advance with the EPA.

Bathing Waters

The bathing water season ended officially on the 15th of September. All 14 designated bathing areas were monitored on a weekly or fortnightly schedule since the end of May. The bathing water quality in County Clare has maintained excellent status throughout the season. Where water quality was

temporarily lower than this, restrictions were put in place and notices provided. Analysis results and beach profiles can be viewed on www.beaches.ie. This web site is updated hourly throughout the bathing season.



Ballycuggeran.

Gardening

The planting of perennial and pollinator friendly species in public spaces has been substantially complete for the season and the Gardening team reverts to poly tunnel planting and general maintenance work. The ongoing maintenance of our re-designed public planted spaces will continue throughout September and beyond.

The first phase of planting for Spring 2022 was completed in September in the gardening depot poly tunnels.

The Gardening Team met with Shannon MD to design a planting scheme for the front of the MD building. A draft design will be issued to the MD for approval before planting commences.



Tunnel planting.

Clearance works have been completed at the Drumbiggle Public Park throughout September with perennial planting expected to commence shortly. This will give the Park a more diverse planting scheme, in keeping with the general upgrade in the Ennis Town planting throughout 2021.

Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Following the recently published tender for the closure restoration and aftercare management plan for the closed landfill at Ballyduffbeg, Inagh on e-tenders.gov.ie, a tender assessment was completed and Priority Construction Ltd were deemed to have submitted the Most Economically Advantageous Tender. They have now been awarded the contract involving capping of the exposed liner on site along with creation of an integrated constructed wetland area and all other associated site works. Site works are due to commence shortly.



Inagh Landfill

Forestry at Ballyduffbeg, Inagh

The pulp and brash remaining on the forest floor following the recent tree felling has been extracted and is ready for mulching in the coming weeks. This will be done by Flaherty Forestry and removed off site. Planting of replacement trees will take place next spring.

Bring Banks

The seasonal bottle banks located at White Strand, Miltown and White Strand, Doonbeg will be removed as normal at the end of September. These will be reinstated at the start of the Summer Season next year.

Glass tonnages collected at bottle banks for the year to date have shown an increase of approx 6% when compared with the same period last year. Tonnage comparison can be seen in the table below.

Year	2020	2021
Bottle Banks - Glass Tonnages Collected January - September	2,071 tonnes	2,198 tonnes

Waste Enforcement

Amnesty Days

In September, we ran a Hazardous Waste Amnesty day at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. This event was well advertised and aimed to provide the public with an environmentally friendly method to dispose of their hazardous waste items such as oils, chemicals, herbicides, pesticides, paints and medicines. This event was free to the public and was funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021.



Hazardous waste.

September also saw the announcement of an upcoming Mattress Amnesty Day which will take place in early next month at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. The event will give householders the opportunity to dispose of their mattresses responsibly and for free.

Liaising with Business Owners in Relation to Illegal Advertising Signage

On-going engagement with businesses in relation to illegal signage is being carried out. Businesses were written to, advising them of their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. A social media campaign outlining Clare County Councils advertising temporary signage policy will be released by the end of September.

Notifications of Controlled Burning

The Enforcement Team have received 15 notifications of controlled burning from farmers in September. Notification Numbers have issued to all applicants. The notification numbers are used in correspondence with the Fire Service.

Waste Management Bye Laws

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to investigate ongoing illegal dumping in various locations throughout the County using the tools available to them such as the Waste Management Bye Laws. In September, 9 Waste Management Surveys were carried out under the Waste Management Bye Laws 2018.

Initiation of Legal Proceedings

A total of 5 cases were referred to Clare County Council's solicitors in September to initiate legal proceedings for breaches of Waste Management legislation. In each case, the persons guilty of the offence, have been written to and served Notices requesting them to comply with legislation. In each case they have failed to engage with the process.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

So far, 2 Section 55 Notices have been issued in September, instructing the landowners to comply with a schedule of requirements. These are being monitored and appropriate action will be taken where necessary.

The Environment Section received 2 complaints relating to litter in September. A total of 50 complaints relating to waste have been received in September and all are being investigated with appropriate enforcement action to follow.

A total of 10 litter fines were issued in September to date based on evidence found by the Environment Section in illegally dumped waste.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Section of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement and the 2021 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water. All protocols and working procedures relating to Covid 19 are being adhered to in the delivery of the service. The operating expenditure cost to date is currently 1% below forecast.

Water Services Operations

Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 20th August to 22nd September 2021. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 35 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Emergency Work Order was received during the timeframe
- 469 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 174 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 42 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. Of these 36 accounted for unplanned works for water outages and burst water mains and reservoir interruption. A further 4 accounted for planned works for ESB outage, RAL Clarifier upgrade works and the remaining 2 notices were for mains flushing and low water pressure.

Water Operations

In the Mid Clare Area, outages occurred at the following locations in Ennis; Station Court, Carmody Street, Tobartescain, Sandfield, Hermitage and Lissane. In the Carran Supply Zone,

due to the extended period of dry weather, water was tankered to supplement the supply. In addition, at Carran, borehole cleaning and yield tests were undertaken to improve the raw water source.

In West Clare, Area Operations are facilitating the RAL Upgrade project at New Doolough WTP. This involves network distribution management while flows are restricted through the water treatment plant. Unplanned outages in water supply due to water main bursts occurred in Bansha, Doonmore, Kilrush, Tullabrack, Quilty, Turlough, Newquay, Rineen, Attycristora and Ballingaddy. There was an unplanned outage at Old Corkscrew Hill reservoir due to a telemetry failure.

A number of outages occurred in the East Clare Area in Killaloe, Tulla, O'Briensbridge, Meelick, Shannon, Craggaunowen, Cratloe, Kilkishen and Castlequarter. Area Operations crews are undertaking reservoir bypass mains and valve replacement works, to facilitate future cleaning and maintenance works, whilst maintaining continuity of supply to consumers.



New Doolough RAL Upgrade.



The sod was turned on the new Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant recently. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the pier in Liscannor.

Water Conservation

The 2021 leakage reduction target for Clare County Council is to achieve a 1.2MLD average leakage saving. This 1.2 MLD reduction is the equivalent demand of supplying circa 3,200 housing units.

In September, the Leakage Find Crews continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in Ennis (Cloughleigh & Tobarteacháin) and Shannon (Aidan Park & North/South Free zones) District Metering Areas (DMAs).

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in East and West Clare with leaks repaired in Whitegate and Kilrush DMAs. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Scariff Town and Bellharbour DMAs.

Wastewater Operations

A rising main break occurred on the storm rising main in Kilkee on the 17th September. It was successfully repaired by the West Clare Operations Team without any disruption to service or negative environmental impact.

Ongoing operational issues were addressed in the Lackyle WTP by the provision of a supplemental aeration unit. It is hoped that this will improve matters in the short to medium term. A funding application was submitted to the Department of Housing and Local Government under a National Taking in Charge programme to resolve two sites in the Ardnacrusha area. This application is currently under consideration by the Department and an outcome is awaited.

Irish Waters Access to Heights & Egress Programme (AHEP) is continuing in Clare. This includes works at wastewater treatment sites and improvements such as new stairs, ladders in plants, guarding and chamber covers with fall arrest.

Irish Water Capital programme Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

The new scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant near Skagh Point, a new rising main, additional storm storage and upgrade of the existing Francis St pumping station. Works are anticipated to commence on site in December. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Completion of the scheme is due in mid-2023.

When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near Skagh Point.

Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

This scheme consists of a new pumping facility at Quay Road and new rising main from Quay Road to connect to the Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant inlet.

Tenders have been issued to an Irish Water Framework and are due back in mid October. Construction works are programmed to start on site in January 2022.

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor wastewater treatment plant project has commenced on site and EPS is the main Contractor. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing out-fall. Works involving the construction of pipelines on roads will be undertaken in the off peak season so as to minimise disruption and temporary traffic management will be required during these works. The pumping station when completed will be surrounded by fencing which will be screened from the surrounding

area by native planting of Holly, Hawthorn, Blackthorn and wild roses. Completion is due in early 2023.

When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the pier in Liscannor.

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water's design team are producing a revised route and site selection report following withdrawal of the previous CPO. The report will be issued to Irish Water at the end of September 2021. It is planned to use the existing outfall west of the village. Following Planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in early 2024 with completion in autumn 2025.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. A revised Route and site selection Report has been prepared and Workshop 2 was held on the 6th of September. Consultants for Irish Water will seek to do ecological walk over surveys of the various option sites in the coming weeks. A follow up workshop will be held in October to agree the findings of the Route and site selection Report and at that stage, a proposed site will be known. Once agreed by Irish Water, the environmental, land acquisition, planning and archaeology reports and documentation will be prepared. Following planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by late 2023 with completion in early 2025.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The draft Feasibility Study Report studies various options including locations for a new plant in each town or a new combined plant which would serve both towns. Irish Water is considering the impact on the Inagh River of any proposed discharge, before a decision is made on the Feasibility Study Report.

Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. Additional storm storage capacity is also likely to be required at the treatment plant and the design process is ongoing. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged in late 2021 /early 2022. Following planning, approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The project is in the lead-in period at present and works will commence on site in November. The wastewater treatment plant will be upgraded and a new percolation area will be constructed. Demolition of some elements of the existing plant will be required. Improvements to the existing network are also planned, the extent of which will be determined by surveys of

the existing sewers. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.

Quin Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

This project aims to provide additional capacity and treatment capability by constructing a new wastewater treatment plant on the existing sitewhile maintaining the operation of the existing plant during the construction period. Construction has been completed and the plant is operating successfully. It will now be operated under an operate and maintain agreement for a period of 12 months by the contractor, during which any operational issues will be examined and resolved before passing back into the operation of Clare County Council.

Remedial Action Lists Upgrades

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

- Corofin WTP – 30th November 2021
- New Doolough WTP - 30th February 2022
- Ballymacravan WTP – 30th January 2023

Design for Ballymacravan water treatment plant is underway. Construction of a new rising main between the New Doolough and Old Doolough Water treatment plants is now complete. This main will facilitate the future decommissioning of the Old Doolough water treatment plant. Construction works at Corofin and New Doolough Treatment plants have commenced.

Mullagh / Miltown Malbay Pipeline

These works involve the replacement of 4.7km of existing sub-standard water supply pipework which was identified to Irish Water as requiring replacement. These works were completed in July 2021 and final reinstatement to be completed by the Kilrush Municipal District.

Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

Work at this location includes the construction of a new inlet works and screens, and a new storm tank. The inlet works will provide improved screening of materials coming into the plant to both protect and optimise the downstream treatment process to improve discharge standards. The stormwater tank will allow capture of flow during rainfall events for later treatment through the plant. The work will also involve the construction of a new ESB substation. The works are currently at tender stage. It is anticipated that works will start on the upgrade this year.

Ennis Drainage Area Plan

This project involves the gathering of all available data on the wastewater network in Ennis and surveying and monitoring of flows in the network. This information will be used to build a hydraulic model of the network. The hydraulic model can be used to model future growth in the town and accurately identify

where upsizing of pipework/pumping infrastructure might be required. It will also be used to identify where groundwater is infiltrating into the network adding unnecessary additional loading. It will allow Irish Water to have confidence in obtaining the best outcome for euro spent on network improvement. It is expected that this project will commence before end 2022.

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 51 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 330 assets, 203 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 127 assets remaining to be dealt with are divided into the following four categories:

Report prepared / Pending (16 assets)

These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed. At present there are 17 assets under further query and 12 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.

National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (33 assets)

This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities- 13 assets are with the NSPO for agreement for transfer or to ascertain or if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved Irish Water will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.

Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets)

At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.

Outstanding assets to be transferred (78 assets)

These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. In order to transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with

the PRAI in the Councils name. These will then be transferred to Irish Water. Irish Water are examining new routes to register assets for which inadequate evidence is available to allow the PRAI to carry out a first registration in the Councils name.

Rural Water Programme

Works continue under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) with the completion of the Ballinruane GWS mains upgrade set to commence prior to month's end. Works on the Mountrivers Group Sewerage Scheme (Doonbeg) commenced in July and are due for completion. The aforementioned works are being completed under Measure 5 of the Programme which is the 'Transfer of Existing Schemes into the Public Network'. Funding under this measure is granted at 100% of the value of the works.

Under Measure 2 of the programme (Water Quality) significant works have been completed on the Leitra GWS (Boston) treatment plant to address long standing water quality issues. New pumps have also been provided as part of the works. Works have commenced on the Carrowcore GWS with the replacement of their existing reservoir and upgrade to treatment and automation. Funding under this measure is also granted at 100%.

Feenagh GWS and Tullaher GWS were submitted for Taking in Charge in September bringing the number of GWSS's submitted by the Clare Rural Water Programme awaiting Taking in Charge to 15.

The Rural Water Scheme has been contacting Group Water Supply Schemes with a view to compiling a funding application ahead of the Department seeking bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme. To date there has been significant engagement with a number of publically sourced GWS's with a view to progressing Taking in Charge through funding under the Programme.

The assessment and processing of grants under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' is continuing under the Rural Water Programme with the uptake of grants continuing to be significant with a total of 83 applications received to date in 2021.

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

Outdoor dining in Ennis

Ennis was identified as a prime location to benefit from the Fáilte Ireland 'Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme'. Ennis Municipal District worked with Fáilte Ireland to maximise potential projects which could be covered under this grant, whilst ensuring that we were responding to the challenges associated with the pandemic, supporting the recovery of the tourism and the hospitality sector as well as being future-proofed.

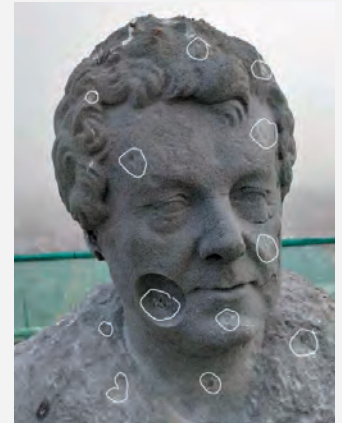


EMD collaborated with Ennis Chamber to identify three outdoor dining zones, Abbey Street, Lower Parnell Street and Francis Street. The Templegate plaza was recognised as an important access point into the town and thus a project to improve this area was included also. Road closures were put in place to facilitate evening and weekend outdoor dining. Festoon lighting was erected, branded parasols and wind-breakers as well as outdoor furniture were secured, creating vibrant and safe outdoor dining zones. Storage containers were purchased and installed in Abbey Street and Francis Street to enable eligible businesses to store furniture. Outdoor planter boxes became a major feature in town, with flowers blooming as the outdoor dining season ramped up. There are some very positive outcomes for all users of the town centre and we are very proud of the strong levels of engagement with the hospitality sector throughout. This project has provided food for thought, in how we can reimagine our urban spaces for the enjoyment of all.

Project activity

Daniel O'Connell monument

Conservation works are ongoing on the Daniel O'Connell monument with scaffolding expected to remain in place until the middle of October. Following closer examination of the cloak area and the head of the figure, it was established that it will require considerably more pinning and stitching than originally planned.



It is difficult to see where the drilling and stitching has taken place, as the filler is the same finish as the stone.



The sealing of the cracks has just commenced (above left). The holes in the face are being left as found.



The vertical cracking is very evident after cleaning (left). The new lightning protection is visible in this image also. One of the longer pins is visible in this image.

Ballyallia Loop Walk

Ennis MD staff have completed the 'Loop walk at Ballyallia Lake'. This project was partly funded under the 2020 Town & Village Renewal Scheme. The 7.5km. recreational walk starts and finishes at Ballyallia Lake. A safety assessment carried out by Ennis MD staff required that walkers travel in a clockwise direction, facing the approaching traffic and will be protected

by driver feedback signs, which warn the driver that walkers are ahead. Hedge trimming was carried out along the route by Ennis MD staff to provide for pedestrian safety. There are five interpretative panels along the route displaying information on the following topics; the lake, crannogs, the migratory birds, the special protected area, the Drumcliff Cemetery, the Round Tower, the Ballyhee Bridge, the Ballyhee Cutting and Templemaley Church. Age-friendly seating has been installed along the route.



Clarecastle - Town and Village Renewal Scheme

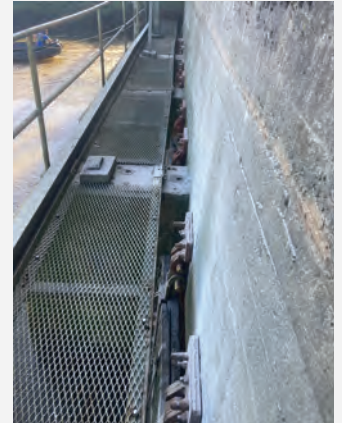
Works associated with the town and village renewal scheme in Clarecastle, which have been broken down into four phases, are progressing well. Activities include footpaths, drainage, kerbing and paving. The enhanced streetscapes are now evident in the village.



Tidal barrage in Clarecastle

Works have been carried out to the tidal barrage in Clarecastle. Three doors were replaced and several improvements made to other elements of the structure including hinges, link pins and door jams.

Work programme



The restoration improvement programme is ongoing in the district with recent overlay works carried out in Summerhill, Mill Road and Clarecastle.

