



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Nollaig / December
2021



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FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES



Pictured in Áras Contae an Chláir on 18th November, 2021, following the announcement that Clare County Council is the winner of the Chambers Ireland 2021 Excellence in Local Government (ELG) Award for 'Initiative through the Municipal Districts (Sponsored by LGIU Ireland)' were: (front row, l-r) Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council, and Liam Conneally, Deputy Chief Executive, Clare County Council; with (back row, l-r) Senior Executive Officers, Morgan Lahiffe (Killaloe MD), Leonore O'Neill (Ennis MD), Jason Murphy (Shannon MD) and John O'Malley (West Clare MD). Photo: Eamon Ward.

Chambers Ireland Award for Council restructuring initiative

Clare County Council was shortlisted for awards under 8 categories and won a Chambers Ireland 2021 Excellence in Local Government (ELG) Award for an initiative to restructure its four Municipal Districts (MDs) of Ennis, Killaloe, Shannon and West Clare. The Council's winning entry was entitled 'Restructuring of Municipal Districts to improve community and economic outcomes.' The restructuring initiative involved the realignment of staff structures at MD level in Clare County Council to identify and advance opportunities for economic development and to improve the quality of life of communities in County Clare. Under the initiative, a senior staff member (Senior Executive Officer; SEO) was assigned to each of the MDs, and each MD was assigned to a Director of Service. The overall objectives of the restructuring were to: identify and develop sustainable solutions to enhance the wellbeing and quality of life of local communities; advance opportunities to further drive the economic performance of MDs; exploit funding opportunities to stimulate

and support local development; and ensure cross-directorate cohesion on strategies such as the County Development Plan and the Tourism Strategy. The ELG Awards 2021 took place on Thursday, 18th November. The virtual event was livestreamed to the Council Chamber in Áras Contae an Chláir, where the Cathaoirleach Cllr PJ Ryan and staff and representatives from Clare County Council were in attendance.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection 2021 Year to date Statistics to 26/11/2021

- 167 Freedom of Information Requests
- 13 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- (11 CCC reviews/2 COM reviews)
- 4 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- (2 CCC appeals/2 COM appeals)

- 6 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 27 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request, eg. Gardaí.



Clare County Council Chief Executive Pat Dowling met with Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD, Age Friendly Ireland Chief Officer Catherine McGuigan and Meath County Council Chief Executive Jackie Maguire in November to discuss age friendly housing.

Ennis Town Centre Public Realm
Regeneration Project B - Tender
competition

22/12/2021

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 November included:

- A Celebration of the Older People's Volunteer of the Year
- Chambers Ireland award for Restructuring of the 4 MDs
- Be Winter Ready Campaign
- Celebrating Tidy Towns success in Ennis
- Draft Shannon Town Centre Masterplan goes on display
- Switching on of the Christmas lights in Ennis
- Clare County Council adopts €138.7 million budget for 2022.

Register of Electors

The Revision Court is being held on Wednesday, 8th December, 2021, at 12.00 noon in the Courthouse, Ennis, for the purpose of hearing any claims, objections for the revision and amendment of the lists of voters for the County of Clare. In line with Covid-19 restrictions it will not be necessary for claimants to appear in court. Claims should be sent in writing to the Register of Electors, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare. Application forms are available on www.clarecoco.ie or www.checktheregister.ie

The County Registrar will decide on the claims lists, copies of which will be on display and sent to all Elected Members.

Claimants will be notified by post of the results of their claims.

The final Register will be published on 1st February, 2022.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published in the period from 26th October 2021 to 30th November, 2021.

| Brief Description | Response deadline |
|---|-------------------|
| The design, supply and installation of a solid Mezzanine floor with static and fixed shelving to Clare County Council | 03/12/2021 |
| Multidisciplinary Consultancy Services for the Remediation of Asbestos Containing materials in West Clare, Ireland | 07/12/2021 |
| Ennis Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration Project B Pre-qualification of contractors | 22/12/2021 |

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 November, the Communications Office:



- Posted 57 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,378, with 14,817 page likes. Posts earned 172,958 impressions with 5,571 engagements



- Posted 54 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,322. Tweets earned 41,963 impressions and 1,730 engagements.



- Posted 8 times on Instagram with followers now 2,302.

Print and Graphic Design

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

Irish Language Office

November saw the translation of a range of documents, including new signs for changing rules regarding burial sites, commemorative plaques and end-of-year events.

The Irish Language Officers Organisation (COFG) held its biannual conference, allowing Officers from around the country to discuss work plans and ideas for 2022.

FINANCE

The table below is a summary by division of the income and expenditure for the nine-month period to 30th September 2021. The result for the period is a deficit of €2.6m. Covid-19 continues to impact on the Council's finances resulting in significant

losses of income across a number of headings and additional expenditure incurred. The figures below are based on no financial supports being received from central government for these financial losses.

Revenue Account Summary - Qtr 3 to 30th September, 2021

| | EXPENDITURE | | | INCOME | | | NET |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Actual Expenditure Qtr 3 30 Sept 2021 | Adopted Expenditure Budget 2021 | % Spent | Actual Income Qtr 3 30 Sept 2021 | Adopted Income Budget 2021 | % Received | Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) |
| | €'000 | €'000 | | €'000 | €'000 | | €'000 |
| Housing & Building | 18,390 | 23,005 | 80% | 15,926 | 20,586 | 77% | (2,463) |
| Road Transport & Safety | 25,454 | 33,925 | 75% | 18,147 | 24,415 | 74% | (7,307) |
| Water Services | 9,888 | 13,404 | 74% | 9,456 | 12,869 | 73% | (433) |
| Development Management | 14,855 | 20,924 | 71% | 6,470 | 12,530 | 52% | (8,384) |
| Environmental Services | 11,743 | 15,171 | 77% | 1,877 | 2,027 | 93% | (9,867) |
| Recreation & Amenity | 8,274 | 11,167 | 74% | 600 | 1,332 | 45% | (7,674) |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 486 | 736 | 66% | 250 | 395 | 63% | (236) |
| Miscellaneous Services | 18,514 | 13,068 | 142% | 14,730 | 7,199 | 205% | (3,784) |
| Local Property Tax | | | 0% | 5,988 | 7,984 | 75% | 5,988 |
| Pension Levy | | | 0% | 0 | 0 | 0% | 0 |
| Rates | | | 0% | 31,550 | 42,063 | 75% | 31,550 |
| | 107,603 | 131,400 | 82% | 104,993 | 131,400 | 80% | (2,610) |

FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

Capital expenditure for the nine-month period was €37.6m as per the table below. Housing construction, repair and maintenance of Housing VOIDS, Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme, Shannon

Bridge Crossing and Ennis Public Realm are the main capital projects advanced during the period.

Capital Account Summary - Qtr 3 to 30th September, 2021

| | | Balance at 01/01/2021 | Actual Expenditure Qtr 3 30 Sept 2021 | Actual Income Qtr 3 30 Sept 2021 | Balance at 30 Sept 2021 |
|----|---|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 | €'000 |
| 01 | Housing & Building | 4,233 | 14,317 | 13,749 | 3,666 |
| 02 | Road Transport & Safety | 2,795 | 8,360 | 7,963 | 2,397 |
| 03 | Water Services | 0 | 945 | 945 | (0) |
| 04 | Development Management | 18,440 | 6,293 | 6,724 | 18,871 |
| 05 | Environmental Services | 742 | 998 | 884 | 627 |
| 06 | Recreation & Amenity | 1,307 | 4,638 | 3,102 | (229) |
| 07 | Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | 0 | 100 | 109 | 9 |
| 08 | Miscellaneous Services | 3,752 | 1,936 | 1,064 | 2,880 |
| | Total | 31,269 | 37,588 | 34,540 | 28,221 |

HUMAN RESOURCES

| Work Area | Update |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Recruitment | <p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part Time Caretaker (Hi Speed Broadband Hub Ennis) • Sub Station Officers (Ennis & Killaloe) • Administrative Officer (Final Interviews) • Graduate Planner • General Operative Short-listing (8 days, 5 boards) • Co-Operative Student Interviews (IT) • Canteen Supervisor • Executive Engineer (Active Travel) – Desktop Shortlisting <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Librarian (Grade 5) Panel • Sporadic School Warden Panel (Ennis, West Clare & Shannon MDs) |
| Learning and Development | <p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in November include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual Handling • Abrasive Wheels • Safe Pass • Agresso Training • Temporary Road Traffic Design Manual • Banksman • SLG 3 Day New Entrant • Ride on Roller • Electrofusion Welding • First Aid Refresher <p>Essential Skillz Online Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security • Ergowize • Fire Wardens • GDPR • Health & Safety Induction • Manual Handling • Working in a Covid Era <p>Climate Action Training undertaken to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director/SEO/SEE/SE • Grade 7 & Analogous • Grade 6 & Analogous • Grade 5 & Analogous • Grade 4 & Analogous • Grade 3 & Analogous |
| 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

Celebration of Clare's Older Volunteer of the Year 2021



L-R: Mike Hanrahan, Clare Age Friendly Ambassador, and Winner Mary O'Mara, Killaloe.

Around 60 people attended an event in the Templegate Hotel in Ennis on Thursday 4th November to celebrate with the 14 people nominated for the Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2021. The function was hosted by the Clare Older People's Council and supported by Clare County Council.

The 14 nominees from all over Clare had been invited to bring a few supporters with them and they did! The winner of the award, Mary O'Mara, was a very popular choice. They received an engraved glass trophy and a one-for-all voucher from Mike Hanrahan (Stockton's Wing), who is Clare's Age Friendly Ambassador.

Opening the event, Cathairleach of Clare, Councillor PJ Ryan, spoke of the importance of voluntary work to local communities and of how such work contributes to the resolution

of challenges faced by those communities. The keynote speaker, Dr Rose Galvin, Associate Professor at the School of Allied Health, University of Limerick and senior member of UL's Ageing Research Committee, spoke of staying active and healthy as we age and the importance of maintaining inter-generational relationships.

Clare Age Friendly Ambassador, Mike Hanrahan, congratulated the winner and all the nominees, who received a framed certificate of recognition for the fact that they had been nominated by their communities. Mike Hanrahan also praised the organisers of the event, Clare Older People's Council and commented on how important the work of the Clare Older People's Council is to the development of Age Friendly policies and practices within the county itself as the demographic changes and the number of older people increases.

National monument at Clonrush, Whitegate, safeguarded for future generations

Members of Whitegate Community Council and Clare County Council met on Friday, 19th November, in a socially distanced manner to review and celebrate the conservation works recently completed at the 12th century monastic complex in Clonrush, Whitegate. The restoration works were carried out to safeguard the church ruins, which were at risk of collapse and had deteriorated in recent years. The scheme under the Community Monuments Fund was supported by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and involves investing essential capital in valuable archaeological heritage and helping owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them for the benefit of communities and the public. The

fund was administered by the National Monuments Service of the DHLGH through the Rural Development Directorate and the Planning Department of Clare County Council.

The 12th century complex is a national monument and is dedicated to St Colmán. The main focus of the works was the ruins of the stone church but the site also contains many interesting remnants of its ecclesiastical past, including the monks' house (Tig na mBráthar), original arched entrance gate and a little, stone-roofed oratory known as Poll Cholmáin (St Colmán's Cave). The churchyard contains many fine examples of carved memorials and ironwork from the 18th and 19th centuries.



View of the recently restored Clonrush churchyard through the arched gate.

The works on the church and the archway gate were carried out by Tom Howard Building Conservation Ltd under licence from the National Monuments Service. Local historian Alfie O'Brien was key in providing local community historical input and, together with Risteard UaCróinín, the appointed conservation specialist, contributed towards a specially commissioned interpretive panel for visitors to the church ground. 'A Historical Tour of Clonrush Graveyard' by Alfie O'Brien was published following National Heritage Week and, although this publication did not form part of this Community Monuments Fund, the informative and eloquently written guide, along with the recently completed conservation work, now ensures that the site and its heritage values are safe and recorded for future generations. Also, an aerial and digital survey of the national monument was prepared by John Treacy, Burial Ground Coordinator. The project was delivered by Ruth Hurley, Senior Executive Architect with Clare County Council, who acted as the Project Manager on behalf of the Planning Department and the Rural and Community Department who were the administrators of the grant fund for the DHLGH. Councillor Joe Cooney, Cathaoirleach of Killaloe Municipal District, complimented the project and offered his every good wish to the local community on behalf of all the elected members.

Councillor Pat Burke said: "On behalf of the community of Whitegate I want to sincerely thank Clare County Council and in particular Ruth Hurley for overseeing the recent works carried out at Clonrush cemetery. It would have been impossible for the local community to carry out such works without the help of the local authority and for this we are deeply indebted.

This project has ensured that the ruins at Clonrush have been protected for generations to come."

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council, said: "This project is an excellent example of rural development whereby community, State agencies and the local authority worked together. Projects such as this are a model that could be replicated in other communities with appropriate national funding. Within the local authority the skills of staff involved in services including architectural, burial grounds unit, heritage, conservation and planning and community development wrapped around the local voluntary and parish effort in Clonrush."

Ruth Hurley, Senior Executive Architect and Project Manager, Clare County Council, said: "Many of these national monument sites remain in a delicate state across County Clare and groups like Whitegate Community Council, tending to and championing local heritage, are key in protecting our rural heritage assets and keeping community involvement in local history alive. Subtle, appropriate interventions, using a conservation approach, skilled craftsmen with professional supervision, achieves the main goal of safeguarding these national monuments for future generations. Aside from the preservation of historical and heritage value, in some instances there can be benefits to the local economy through managed tourism and heritage awareness. This project is a credit to the local community for their endeavours to safeguard the heritage site at Clonrush for future generations."

Bernadette Haugh, Acting Senior Officer, Rural and Community Department, Clare County Council, said: "This site at Clonrush demonstrates some of the diversity of the works carried out by the Directorate on behalf of rural communities and was delivered through interdepartmental cooperation with the Planning Department and the Area Offices along with key interaction with the Whitegate Community Council and Cllr Pat Burke. The sensitive conservation investment in this 12th century monastic site under the Community Monuments Fund brought together a rural community group to address their local built heritage environment. As a result, it will stand the test of time for future visitors to experience, which is a testament to all those involved."



Pictured (l-r) are: Councillor Pat Burke; Ruth Hurley, Senior Executive Architect and Project Manager, Clare County Council; Mary O'Leary, Whitegate Community Council; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Bernadette Haugh, Acting Senior Executive Officer, Rural and Community Department, Clare County Council; Alfie O'Brien, Local Historian; Tom Howard, Contractor; Risteard UaCróinín, Conservation Specialist; and Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer, Clare County Council. Photos: Eamon Ward.

Inis Cealtra - Jewel of the Lough - gathers momentum

THE INIS CEALTRA PROJECT



Inis Cealtra, Lough Derg, County Clare



A view of Mountshannon Harbour from Lough Derg



The Old Rectory to be re-purposed and extended as a Visitor Centre



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithí
Our Rural
Future



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithí agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



An Ciste um Athghiniúint
agus Forbairt Tuaithí
Rural Regeneration and
Development Fund



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The development of the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience - a landmark tourism project on the banks of Lough Derg in East Clare - has taken a significant step forward with the announcement of plans for a proposed new Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) visitor centre in the heart of Mountshannon village.

Referred to locally as the 'Jewel of the Lough', Inis Cealtra is one of the most important historical and ecclesiastical sites in Ireland, and has important links to Brian Ború, the last High King of Ireland.

Having taken 41 acres on the island into public ownership in 2015, Clare County Council has acquired the Old Rectory building overlooking Mountshannon Harbour, Scarriff Bay and Lough Derg. A Part 8 Planning Application has been secured to transform the building into a mainland visitor centre, which will interpret the monastic site and its surrounds.

The recently acquired Old Rectory building will be re-purposed and extended to provide an impressive Visitor Centre scheduled to open in the second half of 2023.

The Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience is a collaborative project involving Clare County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, the OPW and National Monuments Service and National Parks and Wildlife Service. Joan Tarmey is the Project Co-Ordinator and guides an award-winning consultancy team comprising McCullough Mulvin Architects, Tandem Partners Ltd (interpretation/visitor experience designers), Tobin Consulting Engineers (quantity surveyors/project managers), Design Works (branding & design consultants) and Amion (economics & financial management consultancy).

Ennis Businesses acknowledged as Age Friendly



As part of the Ennis Age Friendly Town initiative, 14 businesses were acknowledged as Age Friendly at an event in the Woodstock Hotel in Ennis on Thursday 4th November. This initiative is part of the national Business Recognition Programme by Age Friendly Ireland who recognise that older people account for up to 50% of consumer spending. All of the Ennis businesses involved received special online training earlier this year by Orlaith Carmody, Age Friendly Ireland Business Consultant, to help them develop their actions.

Clare Age Friendly Ambassador, Mike Hanrahan (Stockton's Wing), congratulated the businesses on the actions they have implemented for their older customers. He presented each business with a framed Age Friendly Charter which the businesses will display at their premises to signal the value of the custom they receive from their older clients.

Karen Fennessy, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager

for Clare County Council said "The businesses in Ennis have really embraced this initiative by developing low cost / no cost actions to deliver great customer service to older people. They understand that the growing demographic of older people in Ireland delivers a lucrative market that is increasing all the time."

Margaret O'Brien, CEO of Ennis Chamber, stated "The Age Friendly businesses being acknowledged today are at the forefront of delivering an improved customer service experience to older people in Ennis. For the first time this year we have included an 'Age Friendly' category in our Chamber Awards held last week. I would urge other businesses to implement their actions and receive the same acknowledgment".

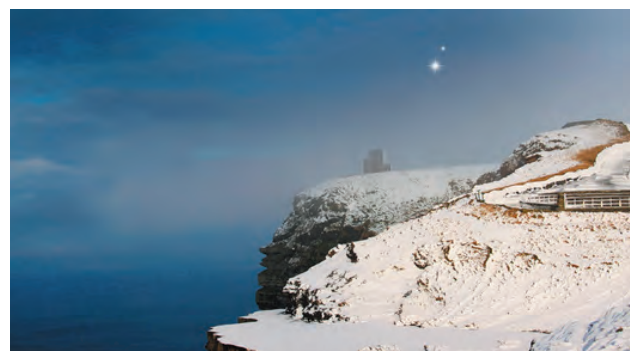
Mike Hanrahan praised the Clare Age Friendly Programme and Ennis Chamber of Commerce for developing this initiative in Ennis.

Happy Christmas from the Cliffs of Moher Experience

Clare residents will receive complimentary admission to the Cliffs of Moher Experience from the 1st to the 23rd of December. Supporting and buying local is very important, and the people of Clare are getting right behind this movement. The gift shop at the Cliffs has an extensive, locally-sourced range to help boost the Clare economy. Hampers and gift ideas are on the website and Facebook page.

The Cliffs View Café and new head chef John will delight and sustain with favourite Christmas fare – turkey and ham, mince

pies and Christmas Hot Chocolate. Find your perfect gift and complete your Christmas shopping at the Cliffs of Moher Experience.



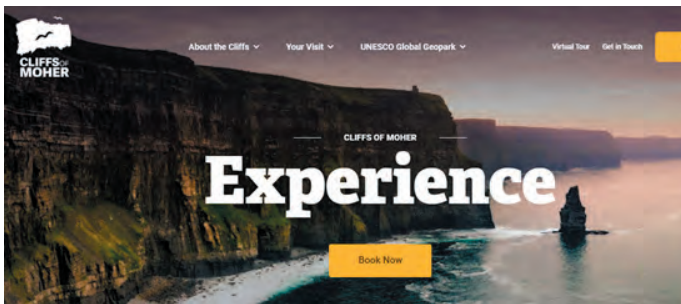
World Travel Market November 2021

The Tourism Ireland stand won best for doing business stand at the WTM with a strong attendance and participation including Cliffs of Moher Experience present. Pictured below is Minister for Tourism Catherine Martin, Cliffs Of Moher Experience Sales and Marketing Manager Melanie Lennon and Niall Gibbons, Head of Tourism Ireland.



New Website and New Brand

The new www.cliffsofmoher.ie website and brand will have a soft launch at the end of November. We take great pride in promoting the Cliffs of Moher Experience and County Clare with its beautiful landscape, fantastic attractions and award-winning accommodation.



App and Audio

Ensure you have downloaded our app and audio guide, especially if you are coming to the Cliffs of Moher Experience. With the app, there are exclusive discounts available in the café and in the gift stores. Enjoy hearing fantastic stories about the Cliffs brought to life by our staff.



The Annual or local pass

Local pass is €20 for one adult, and you can enjoy unlimited access to the Cliffs of Moher Experience all year round. Looking for a Christmas present – give the gift of a local pass.



Cliffs of Moher Newsletter

Have you signed up to our newsletter, click here so you have all news on upcoming events and what's new at the cliffs of Moher. Fill in your email at: <http://eepurl.com/htCUQn>

New Exhibition at the Cliffs

The new installation features audio-visual content focussing on “Caring for the Cliffs, The Custodians of this Landscape”. The 10 minute audio-visual depicts life around the Cliffs of Moher, its benefits to the locals and how the team manage the site day to day as custodians of the landscape. Tom Doherty, Ranger at the Cliffs of Moher and Volunteer with Doolin Coast Guard describes life in the area, working in the local quarries, his role at the Cliffs and with the Coast Guard. Tina Mulrooney, Musician and Craftwork Retailer, describes the importance of the Cliffs for local business and what it is like to operate a business at the Cliffs of Moher as well as the importance of music in the area. Finally, Mark O’Shaughnessy, Head of Operations at the Cliffs of Moher describes the team roles at the Cliffs and how the site is operated as well as key information on the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark. This Audio-Visual is further supported by content boards describing the Geopark and the principles of Leave No Trace.

Christmas Cheer

Cliffs of Moher Experience is working with local schools Liscannor NS and Mol an Óige Steiner National School to send in letters, recordings of Christmas carols and paintings of landmarks in the locality to the residents of St Dominic Savio Nursing Home in Liscannor and Ennistymon Community Hospital. In below picture Orla Hurley Manger of the Ennistymon Community hospital and Melanie Lennon from Cliffs of Moher Experience presenting goodies from Cliff View Café and gifts from the Craft and Gift store.



All Systems Geo!

The Geopark management had a busy November as they welcomed numerous visitors through their rocky doors.

Dr Eamon Doyle assisted two groups of students as they conducted their fieldwork in the Geopark. One group were the students and staff from the Earth and Ocean Sciences department in NUIG, who were in the Geopark to study the geology and the fauna of the shallow tropical sea that formed the Burren limestone 330 million years ago. The second group were from the Environmental Science and Technology unit in DCU. This group were visiting the Geopark, to look at factors that influence how to study past climate change. The rocks of the Geopark offer great insights to this.



Dr Eamon Doyle with students from UCD.

Carol Gleeson, Jarlath O’Dwyer and various members of the Burren Ecotourism Network, guided delegates from the Joyce County & Western Lakes Aspiring Geopark through several sites in the Geopark. Joyce County & Western Lakes in Galway and Mayo are in the process of applying for Geopark status with UNESCO and they gained great insights from visiting the world renowned and award-winning Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark. Carol gave a presentation to the delegates on how a Geopark is successfully managed, the significance of the Code of Practice for Sustainable tourism, and the importance of having a strong and well-managed network of businesses such as the Burren Ecotourism Network in your corner.

The Geopark team looks forward to welcoming more visitors in December. Especially a certain visitor who wears a red suit, rides around in a sleigh, and has a big black sack full of old and interesting fossils to deliver.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme Projects

Clooney

A grant of €99,000 was awarded under the Town & Village 2020 (Main) Scheme for path works in Clooney village. The project has been completed and has resulted in enhanced connectivity in the village and the creation of a greater sense of place. The works were carried out by the Killaloe MD.



Lisdoonvarna

Work has been completed in Lisdoonvarna in the community park. The works involved the creation of a public meeting space incorporating native trees, pollinator beds, seating and a heritage focal point within the Park. Funding of €25,000 was granted to Lisdoonvarna Failte to deliver the project under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 (Accelerated Measure).



Bunratty

Bunratty Local Development Association received a grant of €25,000 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 (Accelerated Measure) which enabled the surfacing of the old graveyard and church pathway, stonework to finish piers at the entrance to the graveyard in addition to the installation of information boards and regeneration of the existing entrance to the SAC area.



Inagh

Inagh Development were granted funding of €39,600 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 – Accelerated Measure to create a community multi-generational recreation space. The funding was used to create an active elderly equipped area along with site works including kerbing and paths in the park.



Miltown Malbay

Miltown Malbay Community Enhancement Group received funding of €40,000 under the Town and Village (Accelerated Measure) Scheme 2020. The funding was used to paint 34 properties in the town in addition to 4 murals. Street furniture and soft landscaping works were also carried out.



Lissycasey

Lissycasey Community Development carried out works in the Ecology Park with the assistance of a grant of €20,475 under the Town and Village (Accelerated Measure) Scheme 2020. The works involved the widening of footpaths to facilitate social distancing along with the provision of 4 combined sheltered seating structures.



Kildysart

Kildysart Village Renewal CLG were granted funding of €16,130 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 – Accelerated Measure. The funding enabled the completion of an existing shell and core building at the Quay so that it was fitted out to the highest hygiene standards as a toilet and showering block. Internal fittings, including floors, ceilings, plastering, insulation, tiling and doors were required to be installed in addition to the toilets, showers, sinks and hand-dryers.

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2021

Funding of just over €417,751 has been awarded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 for 10 projects in Co. Clare.

The scheme which provides funding for the development, promotion and maintenance of outdoor amenities such as trails, walkways, cycleways, and blueways, plays a key role in helping to develop and maintain key assets throughout the County that are utilised by locals and visitors alike. In particular, over the last 2 years, the value of these assets has become more apparent with the notable increase in the number of people using the County's walking trails, cycleways, parks and other resources.

The projects in receipt of funding are as follows:

| Measure 1 (Funding up to 20k) | Grant |
|---|----------------|
| Cahermurphy Looped Walk: Improvements to the river path near White Sands on the Cahermurphy Looped walk to make it a safer and more enjoyable walk | 20,000 |
| Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk: levelling, drainage and surfacing of up to 150lm of pathways for the accessibility of both pedestrians and emergency vehicles to all areas of the Cliffs of Moher site | 19,577 |
| 12 O'Clock Hills: To enhance accessibility to trails amenity and provide an orderly and safe parking option at our Belvoir Trailhead carpark (upper level only) by installing a tarmac surface to facilitate a one way parking system and including vehicle spacings | 20,000 |
| Ballybeg Woodland: Enhance the recreational opportunities for people with different abilities through pathway remediation, three new picnic sets including a wheelchair accessible one and new age-friendly seating | 17,899 |
| Clooney House Walking Trail: upgrade of an existing 1.4km community walking trail, which leads past historic Clooney House, and grounds | 17,592 |
| Shannon Estuary Loop Walk: Upgrade of walkway access onto the Shannon purple loop embankment at Drumgeely. | 18,000 |
| Miltown Malbay River & West Clare Railway Walk: Development of a short, looped walking trail adjacent to Miltown Malbay along the Clonbony River and along a short section of the Old West Clare Railway offering coastal and river valley scenery. | 18,183 |
| Measure 2 (Funding up to 200k) | Grant |
| Newmarket on Fergus River Walk: Develop an educational, accessible looped walking trail along the Lough Gash turlough at Newmarket on Fergus via O'Regan Park trails and connect to the Mid Clare Way. | 180,000 |
| Gortnamearacaun, Ballinruan Bog Walk: Improvements and upgrades to sections of the Ballinruan/Gortnamearacaun Looped Walk to make it safer & more accessible. | 56,500 |
| Project Development Measure (Funding up to 50k) | Grant |
| Ballyallia Lake Amenity Enhancement plan: to enable the feasibility study to be progressed to planning stage (via An Bord Pleanála) so that it is in a position to apply for future funding under ORIS Measures 2 and 3. | 50,000 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | 417,751 |

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Kilrush LEA

Active Travel

Lissycasey

Footpath works are ongoing in Lissycasey.

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.



Photographs of an upgraded pedestrian crossing near Kilrush Garda Station.



Works also include the replacement of damaged sections of footpath around Kilrush Town.



2021 Roadworks Programme

2021 Roadworks Programme is practically complete. Drainage works have been completed, but occasional emergency works are ongoing. Photos below are of drainage works carried out after a house flood.



Works carried out from discretionary funding are completed.

All Local Improvement Schemes are completed or well underway.

Hedgecutting contract along National Secondary routes has been awarded & works have commenced.

Photographs of a road repair at Cooga, near Ballynacally – on the R473.

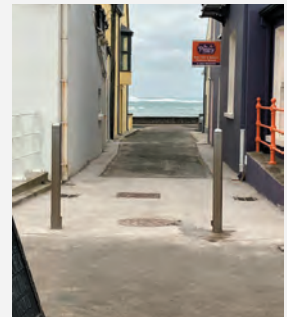


CLÁR 2020

Construction of Pedestrian crossings on –

- Carrigaholt Road, Kilkee (R487 – near secondary school),
- Strand Line, Kilkee (Active Travel funding).

– has commenced.



Irish Water

Irish Water contractors recently completed the upgrade of the water network at:

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

Reconstruction works have been completed on both public road sections. Some accommodation works – primarily drainage works where the road level was raised – has been carried out on the Mullagh to Milltown section.



Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021

Works have commenced on raising the Shannon Estuary protective river wall along the R-473 at Erribul.



NORTH CLARE

Miltown Malbay

Works are progressing on new footpaths and reconstruction of end-of-life footpaths throughout Miltown Malbay as part of the Active Travel funding. As part of the 2021 Roadworks Programme, Church Street, Miltown Malbay was recently resurfaced.

Resurfacing works were also completed of the church car park in Miltown. This was co-funded by The Ireland Funds who have a long history of supporting projects in Miltown. This is the first stage in a number of projects around the church car park that are also supported by the fund.

Roadworks Programme 2021

2021 Roadworks Programme is complete including 6 No.

Local Improvement Schemes, 2 No. Community Involvement Schemes and 2 No. Low Cost Safety projects. Hedge cutting is underway on the national secondary roads.

Ennistymon Main Street Rejuvenation

Works are progressing on the Fáilte Ireland funded streetscape enhancement project in Ennistymon. Overhead ESB cables have been undergrounded along Main Street and new decorative street lighting has been installed and switched on. The laying of new natural limestone kerbs and silver granite paving flags has commenced along with tactile paving for a new pedestrian crossing.



Art Project – Vandeleur Café



Clare Youth Services Kilrush Garda Youth Diversion Project, funded by the European Social Fund, and Kilrush Youth Project, funded by TUSLA and Clare Local Development Company, recently engaged ten young people in an art programme. This programme offered the young people the chance to engage in a creative process of making art to improve a young person’s physical, mental and emotional well-being. The completion of an art board is an achievement in itself, and enhances feelings

of self-worth and satisfaction of the accomplishment of a job well done.

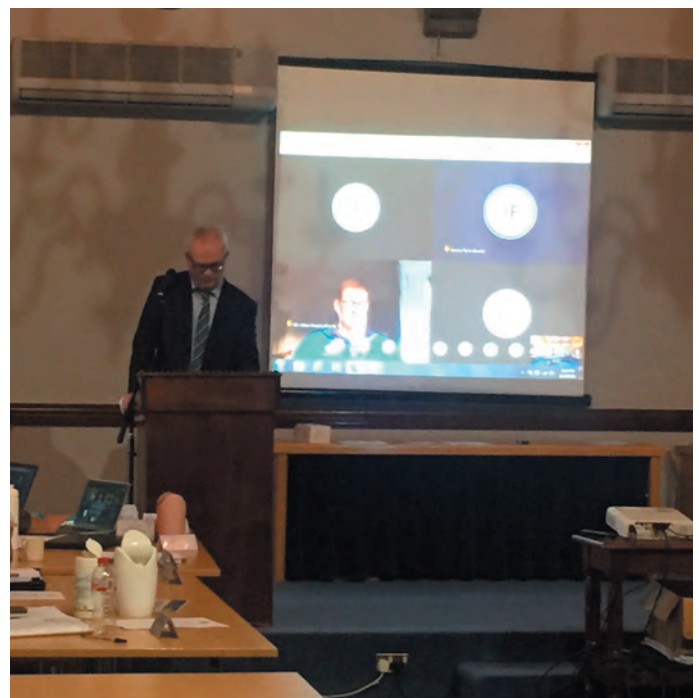
The process of creating an art board is lengthy, and involves dedication from all involved. Each young person had to speak about what they desired to complete, and then research their ideas. This opened a dialogue and discussion with each young person and focused them on what they were creating. The finished pieces were born from the young people’s individual ideas, and sentiments, which further solidified their pride in their finished pieces.

The finished pieces were recently on display to the public in Vandeleur Gardens Café Kilrush. This exhibition allowed the young people’s families, friends, teachers, funders, and the general public, the opportunity to see the results of their hard work and dedication. All young people involved in this programme are immensely proud of their work.

Clare County Council's West Clare Municipal District office was delighted to be able to assist this young peoples art programme and enjoyed seeing the art on display thanks to the kind support of the Vandeleur Gardens Café. John O’Malley, Senior Executive Officer, West Clare Municipal District, commented: “It was wonderful to be able to play a supporting role in this initiative. I really enjoyed seeing the artwork on display and wish to commend the young artists for their effort. West Clare Municipal District are committed to working with Kilrush Garda Youth Diversion Project and Kilrush Youth Project on similar future projects.”

Renewed Clare Rural Development Strategy

The Clare Rural Development Forum held a workshop on 3rd November 2021 to discuss the Draft Review of the Clare Rural Development Strategy. A renewed Strategy will be considered in early 2022.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

November traditionally is one of our busiest months with budget, claims and renewed focus on completion of projects and delivery within the calendar year. November 2021 was no different in spite of Covid-19, renewed restrictions and remote working.

The Council is tasked to prepare a Housing Delivery Action Plan to identify delivery of new social and affordable homes in Clare over the lifetime of Housing for All. At the time of this report the Housing Delivery Action Plan is at draft stage and all members will be briefed on the plan before the Council meeting in December. This is a non-statutory plan and is merely a collation of data for the Department to ascertain the gaps in overall housing delivery under Housing for All.

We continue to deliver all services albeit this remains under constant review. The housing public counter remains open from 9am to 1pm and by **appointment only in the afternoon**. Appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service.

Social Housing Needs Assessment 2021

The 'census' date for the 2021 Social Housing Needs Assessment was the 17th November 2021. We are working on completion of the summary form which is to be returned to the Department on or before the 15th December.

The purpose of the Assessment was 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 exhausted all efforts to contact applicants in advance of closing files. In addition files were closed if an applicant no longer required social housing support or was no longer eligible.

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

Housing in numbers:

| *Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent): | | |
|--|------------------------|-------------|
| | Social housing* | HAP |
| Ennis | 1,171 | 623 |
| Shannon | 655 | 151 |
| West Clare | 931 | 369 |
| Killaloe | 374 | 154 |
| Inter Authority HAP | | 62 |
| TOTAL | 3131 | 1359 |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2,629 LA stock tenancies | 1,359 HAP tenancies | 198 RAS tenancies |
| 309 Leased properties | 2,726 LA properties | 3,514 Rent accounts |

Housing need by Area of choice:

| AREA_OF_CHOICE | Transfer NO | Transfer YES | Grand Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| ENNIS MD | | | |
| CLARECASTLE | 124 | 63 | 187 |
| ENNIS | 507 | 737 | 1244 |
| Subtotal | 631 | 800 | 1431 |
| SHANNON MD | | | |
| CLONLARA | 16 | 10 | 26 |
| MEELICK/PARTEEN/ WESTBURY | 65 | 67 | 132 |
| NEWMARKET-ON- FERGUS | 56 | 33 | 89 |
| SHANNON | 116 | 112 | 228 |
| SIXMILEBRIDGE | 27 | 29 | 56 |
| Subtotal | 280 | 251 | 531 |
| WEST CLARE MD | | | |
| COORACLARE/DOONBEG | 18 | 31 | 49 |
| COROFIN/RUAN | 40 | 41 | 81 |
| ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH | 79 | 87 | 166 |
| KILDYSART/ BALLYNACALLY | 16 | 15 | 31 |
| KILFENORA | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| KILKEE/CROSS/ CARRIGAHOLT | 39 | 45 | 84 |
| KILMALEY | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| KILMIHIL | 6 | 14 | 20 |
| KILRUSH | 56 | 78 | 134 |
| LISDOONVARNA/ BALLYVAUGHAN | 17 | 33 | 50 |
| MILTOWN MALBAY/ MULLAGH/QUILTY | 43 | 49 | 92 |
| Subtotal | 323 | 405 | 728 |

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

| KILLALOE MD | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| FEAKLE/SCARIFF/ WHITEGATE | 61 | 93 | 154 |
| KILLALOE | 38 | 36 | 74 |
| QUIN | 13 | 14 | 27 |
| TULLA/KILKISHEN/ BROADFORD | 26 | 23 | 49 |
| Subtotal | 138 | 166 | 304 |
| Grand Total | 1372 | 1622 | 2994 |

* First area of preference only counted.

Please note these figures are correct as of the 30/11/2021.

Summary of activity

| Housing allocations | |
|---|----|
| Offers issued (from 19.10.2021 to 25.11.2021) | 33 |
| Offers refused | 0 |
| Tenancies signed up | 21 |
| Tenancies terminated | 14 |

| Voids work programme (at end November): | |
|---|----------|
| Voids/casual vacancies | 42 |
| Acquired properties (works on-going) | 12 |
| Average vacancy period | 132 days |
| Number voids returned to stock | 10 |
| Average spend | €40,602 |

| Housing Maintenance calls: | |
|----------------------------|------|
| November | 327* |

* to the 25th November

Estate Management

The Tenancy Enforcement Team continue to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants to manage and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour.

| Oct to date | Total year to date | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|
| TEO Call Outs | 346 | 2,730 |

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 has endeavoured to ensure all Traveller housing applicants included in the Social Housing Needs Assessment have been contacted and their files updated.

Where efforts to contact applicants have failed these files are closed.

Private rented inspections

In November the Council met with the Department in relation to private rented inspections, the meeting was to ascertain how the sector can increase inspections of private rented properties. The reality is that inspections of private rented properties continue to be 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. We continue to work with the tenants and landlords to deliver additional private rented inspections.

| | |
|---|----|
| Virtual Inspection Invitations November: | 40 |
| Physical Inspections: November | 7 |

Housing grants

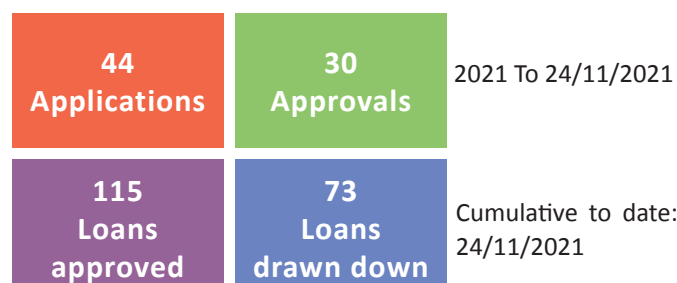
Grants Approved for October 2021:

| Grant type | Number of approvals | Value of works € |
|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability | 3 | 45,400 |
| Housing Aid for Older People | 6 | 23,000 |
| Mobility Aids Grant | 4 | 17,200 |
| Total | 13 | 85,600 |

To date a total of 411 grants have been approved to a value of €3,075,614.

Local Authority Home Loan

Demand for the Local Authority Home Loan remains steady with full details on eligibility criteria and loan calculator to be found on www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie



Homeless

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 16th October to 19th November 2021: 2 households exited from homeless services as discharge/

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

self-discharged and left the homeless services.

Homeless presentations from 16th October to 19th November 2021:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| New presentations | 16 |
| Repeat presentations | 93 |
| Total presentations | 109 |

Status as of 19th November 2021:

| | Families | Adults | Dependents | Providers |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Laurel Lodge | 0 | 12 | 0 | 1 |
| Cusack Lodge | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| Westbrook | 0 | 16 | 0 | 1 |
| Ashford Court | 7 | 11 | 13 | 1 |
| EA Families | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| EA Individuals | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 50 | 19 | 9 |

Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme

This programme is currently stalled due to the availability of properties to accommodate the second tranche of families who are due to be resettled in Clare under this programme.

We are continuing to work with the agencies in supporting the families already settled in Clare and in seeking initiatives to fast track the process of resettlement other families.

Vacant properties

Clare County Council is continuing to review vacant homes in collaboration with the Municipal District Offices. A number of towns and villages are being prioritized in each MD where vacancy/dereliction is particularly high on main streets.

The Vacant Homes Unit is continuing to seek ownership details on a number of properties that have been identified as potential long term vacant residential dwellings in each MD. A notice seeking ownership information has been put up on 4 vacant properties. In addition, work is progressing on assessing vacant properties where owners are engaging. The Capital Team has carried out site inspections on 2 potential properties this month.

Status as at 29/11/2021

| | Owner Engagement | Site Inspections |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ennis | 2 | |
| Killaloe | 4 | 1 |
| West Clare | 3 | 1 |
| Shannon | 2 | |
| TOTAL | 11 | 2 |

Update on capital programme:

| SHIP Capital | No. approved | Current stage | Start Date | Completion Date |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| 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. | Q3 2020 | Q1 2022 |
| Scarriff | 18 | Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII being prepared. | Q2 2022 | Q3 2023 |
| Roslevan, Tulla Rd. | 8 | Stage 4 approved by DHLGH. Contract doc's being prepared. | Q4 2021 | Q4 2022 |
| Doonbeg Lands | 8 | Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII under Judicial Review. | Q2 2022 | Q2 2023 |
| Clarecastle | 2 | 4 Stage application to issue to DHLGH. | Q1 2022 | Q4 2022 |
| Drumcliff Rd. Ennis | 26 | Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII lodged. | Q2 2022 | Q4 2023 |
| Sixmilebridge | 15 | Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. | Q3 2022 | Q4 2023 |
| Ennistymon | 30 | Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. | Q3 2022 | Q4 2023 |
| Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA) | 5 | Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team | Q3 2022 | Q3 2023 |
| Subtotal | 222 | | | |

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

| | | | | |
|---|------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland) | 22 | CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission | Q4 2021 | Q2 2023 |
| Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association) | 4 | CAS – Project completed | Q3 2020 | Q4 2021 |
| Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid) | 2 | Part V | Q3 2020 | Q1 2022 |
| 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 Q3 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 | Q1 2021 Q3 2021 | Q4 2021 Q4 2022 |
| Limerick Road, Ennis | 18 | CALF Turnkey - construction to commence | Q1 2022 | Q2 2023 |
| Subtotal | 139 | | | |
| Total | 361 | | | |

SPORTS & RECREATION



are reminded to exercise continued vigilance and comply with COVID restrictions.

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



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Activity at the complex continues in line with Government guidelines. There is consistent demand for slots and as restrictions permit capacity is increasing to cater for this demand.

We welcomed back the Swimming club in November and are endeavouring to reactivate the swimming lesson programme at the facility. At this stage and given the COVID reality it will be January 2022 at the earliest (subject to COVID restrictions) when lessons resume.

Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park, Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road, 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

Clare Sports Partnership

Clare Sports Partnership continue to work with clubs and the community in the active participation in sport in the County. For further details on activities please check out www.claresports.ie

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

13 Clare libraries resumed opening in the evenings in November and 32 home deliveries were made month to date, bringing year's total of deliveries to 5,825 year to date.

Dormant Accounts funding




TTRS is a learning software distributed by Clare Library service and funded by DAF funding. Almost 1,000 licences have been issued to primary, secondary and adult students throughout the county with 17 teachers attending an information session on TTRS with library staff this month.

Online Resources – e-audiobooks continue in popularity, followed by e-books.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1,391 E-Books | 2,195 E-Audiobooks | 726 E-Magazines |
| 224 Online courses | 2075 Press Reader | 41 Transparent Languages |

Marketing

Social media stats for November.

| | New Followers | Total Followers | No of Posts | Likes | Shares/Retweets/Reach | Comments |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|-----------------------|----------|
|  | 42 | 5433 | 98 | 614 | 175 | 32 |
|  | 20 | 1948 | 87 | 279 | 108 | 13 |
|  | 24 | 1560 | 70 | 717 | 16007 | 47 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of live events | 29 |
| Total number of online events | 3 |
| Total attendances at live events | 168 |
| Total attendances at online events | 12 |



Little Library Book bags in Kilmihil Community Playschool

Right to read

The Right to Read programme continues with the implementation of phase two of the Little Library Book Bags scheme in November. The scheme sees hundreds of bags of quality picture books, fiction books and reading resources gifted to childcare settings throughout County Clare. Phase one of the scheme was in May 2021 and proved very popular. In phase two, the scheme has been extended to after school settings, homework clubs, Direct Provision Centres and Family Resource Centres. In total 200,000 children across Ireland will receive reading material as part of the scheme. In Clare over 250 bags of books have been gifted to childcare settings. The scheme supports early language and literacy development. It provides the building blocks for early care settings to create a dedicated reading space and establish a culture of reading with the children. Clare Library staff also provided the care settings with their own library card and read stories and talked to the children about books and reading when delivering the bags.



Job skills workshop in De Valera Library

Work Matters

Clare County Libraries are providing a series of Job Skills Workshops in 5 library locations – Shannon, Ennis, Kilrush, Scariff and Ennistymon. Working in small groups in a supportive setting, Jayarel Consulting explored various topics with the participants which were aimed at helping people return to the

workplace with confidence. Local groups, secondary schools and the general public benefitted from the practical and motivating sessions, providing a solid foundation for future development and growth. Funding was provided by the Dormant Accounts Funding.

Healthy Ireland

Irish Sign Language (ISL) is Ireland's third official language and is estimated to be used by as many as 45,000 people on a regular basis. Clare Library is facilitating an 8 week online Basic Irish Sign Language course, in November and December. This 8-week ISL Basic course is taught by fully qualified ISL teachers and will give participants a foundation in the language. The lessons will focus on the participant's understanding of ISL as well as their ability to sign basic vocabulary and sentences, and there will be a certificate of attendance issued by the Irish Deaf Society upon successful completion of the course. Eight people have signed up for the course and there is a waiting list of 28. This is a "Healthy Ireland" at your Library event.

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland funding was provided for Music Generation's Musicale festival, Sparks Youth Film Festival in East Clare, Creevagh Arts and Archaeology for their symposium on Lickeen Lake, Aoife Barrett for her Raheen Community Hospital arts project, Kilnamona Development Association for their programme of creative events, Ruairí McKiernan for his Creative Souls of Clare podcast and Louise O'Connor for her Music As... podcast. glór received support for their Visual Arts workshops and secondary school workshops on the Deliver documentary and the Arts Office received funding towards their upcoming Wall Candy art project. Creative Ireland will also support the upcoming Ennis Drama All-Ireland One Act Finals in December.



Ennis Drama All-Ireland One Act Finals

Decade of Centenaries

History Week was successful with over 2,500 views of the history videos uploaded on the Clare County Library website. The most popular lecture was by Rita McCarthy on the Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) followed by Dr Joe Power's 'Civil War in Clare'. The Clare Nursery exhibition is now on view in DeValera Library until 10th December.

Funding was provided to commemoration and historical groups for their projects - the East Clare Memorial Committee for the installation of information boards in Tuamgraney, Lough Graney Association for their Currakyle Ambush commemoration, Joe Ó Muircheartaigh for his Brigades at War documentary, Glenwood Memorial Committee for their commemorative publication and to Brian Spring for his Primary School Resource Pack on the War of Independence in Clare.

Archives & Local Studies

The digitisation project continues to digitise the Board of Health and Public Assistance Records dating from 1915. The Roger Casement Collection has also been digitised. An inventory of recent acquisitions is being updated. Work continues on the processing and production of a descriptive list of 19th-20th Century School Roll Books (c.200 volumes) from Co. Clare. Many volumes need cleaning and are fragile. They will need suitable storage and in many cases conservation to ensure their preservation. Work is also continuing on updating the Poor Law Union descriptive lists to ISADG standards. Each month the Archives Service continually deals with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies library from the archives collection. Queries are also being dealt with through e-mails and phone. Many queries stem from outside of Ireland and therefore the digitisation of our collections and creation of an accessible platform is more important than ever.

The Local Studies Centre has added new online sources for the study of County Clare in the early seventeenth century (the patent rolls of James 1st, c.1603-1624) and for the nineteenth century (the Dunboyne Newspaper Cuttings, 1824-1878) to the library website. This will facilitate wider access to these resources held in the county collection in Ennis.

Clare Arts Office

Phase 1 of the Local Live Performance Scheme has ended. 300 people were employed on the scheme for almost 750 days. Phase II was announced with 36 events taking place countywide in November and December. Over 3,200 calls were made to the Dial a Seanchaí hotline including more than 600 international calls. There were more than 6,500 thousand "likes" and "clicks" on social media channels and over 256,000 impressions on Twitter. Two artists began working with 15 people in the Dulick Centre and Brothers of Charity while 7 artists completed projects with 64 people in the same organisations through the Embrace Programme for Arts and Different Abilities. Inagh National school commenced a drama residency this month with 15 children participating while 24 students in Kilmurry NS completed a visual

arts residency through the Artist in Schools Scheme.

The Arts Office supported filming requests for 3 international productions in Clare including a documentary on Richard Harris which shot in Kilkee for a day. Three exhibitions took place in Scariff, Ennis and Kilkee. Culturlann Sweeney in Kilkee recommenced its monthly film club.

Clare Youth Theatre continues to meet regularly in glór. The teenage group is full and a small number of places are available in the new junior group. The junior group in Kilkee in partnership with the Limerick Clare Creative Youth Partnership concluded for the year, a theatre trip to glór took place this month. Clare Arts Office posted 145 times on social media receiving 189 comments. There were 529 reactions to posts, and our social media pages has had a reach of 6,418 generating 1,730 likes, 14 events /posts were added to www.clarearts.ie and a further 11 events were added to the Council website.

Clare Museum

A total of 290 items have been accessioned to the collection year to date. Most of these are new additions to the collection. This is due to a continued surge of donations that began in 2020. The Museum has continued to receive donations of collections in November, one collection comprises of 100 GAA match

programmes from the 1970s to recent times. Text for photographs of items is being finalised for inclusion on the Museum website. This will also provide material for the Museum’s social media platforms. The curator has been in contact with the director of the Clare Education Centre to explore how the Museum and the centre could work to deliver online workshops on various collections. It is hoped to trial it shortly and if successful, will allow the museum to reach into classrooms all over the county while maintaining social distance.

The museum has been asked to partner with the Hunt Museum in Limerick on a “Cruinniú na nÓg” project in 2022. The project will be led by the Hunt Museum and will require the museum facilitate workshops on pottery making for young people – this will be done in the Museum space in the Tourist Office. The Museum promoted videos for History Week during late October, some of which featured items from the museum. These were promoted on the museum’s Facebook page.

A new temporary exhibition had been set up in one of the showcases. It features the 56 medals won by Willie Keane, the Kilkee athlete, during the 1970s and 1980s and are on loan to the museum from the family. Following discussions with the archaeologist and in light of the pandemic restrictions and other commitments, the museum has postponed the continuation of

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Scarriff Office

Killaloe Municipal District has reopened its public counter in line with Government guidelines.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

The Restoration Maintenance Programme and Restoration Improvement Programme for 2021 are complete. We are working on identifying routes for inclusion in the 2022 programmes.

Lagan Asphalt completed works on behalf of the Council at Elmhill, Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen and Beechwood Lawn, Bodyke.

The integration of footpath contracts with Blacktop contracts at estates such as Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen and Beechwood Lawn, Bodyke have resulted in significant upgrades in infrastructure in these areas.

Drainage Works

Works continue regarding the Drainage Programme detailed in the SMDW 2021. Notable works carried out in November are St Mary's Church, Ogonnelloe drainage & Merriman Court, Flagmount.

Killaloe MD is currently working on a drainage project at the Railway bridge Crusheen.

Footpaths Improvement and Replacement works

at St Luas Villas, Killaloe; Canal Bank, Killaloe; Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen; Beechwood Lawn, Bodyke are complete with works ongoing at Hillcrest Grove, Kilkishen and Merriman Court, Flagmount.



Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen – Upgrade November 2021.

its Creative Ireland project until the spring.

CLAR

Clare County Council are carrying out significant infrastructural upgrades at Broadford which included kerbing, drainage and footpath work. This is aimed at providing upgraded connectivity within the village connecting schools and shops. This work continues on from the safety works carried out by Killaloe MD in Broadford last year.

Town & Village Renewal

Clooney TVR: Works at Clooney TVR contract have concluded. The works involves the provision of new public footpaths, pedestrian crossing, public lighting, line marking, signage, drainage works and other associated works. Killaloe MDs technical team oversaw the delivery of the project on the ground. An overall investment of €170,000 has been made in this local community.



Clooney Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021

Local Improvement Scheme works at Bauroe, Feakle; Cappabane; Ballyminogue and Cappanapeasta are complete.

Community Roads Scheme works at Oatfield and Carrownakilly are also complete.

Active Travel 2021: Killaloe MD Programme.

| Project | Status |
|--|---|
| Tulla footpath remediation | Contract Award Stage |
| Tulla connection to athletics grounds | Going to Tender – December 2021 |
| Droomindoora | Design complete, Tender preparation |
| Quin | Contractor In place. Works to commence in early 2022. |
| Clarisford Park Connection | Design complete, tender preparation. |
| Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths | Contractor in place. Works Commenced. |

Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2021

Killaloe MD have submitted a proposal under the above scheme to upgrade existing access infrastructure at Twomilegate including the provision of new Part M compliant accesses to the amenity and new universally accessible picnic areas. Adjudication on the submission will take place over the coming weeks.



Platforms for Growth Water Service Providers Building - Twomilegate

Killaloe MD working with General Design and the Tourism section are working towards the submission of a Section 177AE Planning Permission for the proposed development at Twomilegate. It is envisaged that Planning will be lodged in January 2022.

Killaloe Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan

Killaloe MD have worked closely with the Planning section of Clare County Council over the last 12 months towards the compilation of the Killaloe Ballina Enhancement Plan. This plan was presented and endorsed by the Killaloe MD elected members at the November Area Meeting.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Ennis 2040

Following the successful launch of the Ennis 2040 Spatial and Economic Strategy in October, the Chief Operating Officer has moved into the Ennis 2040 offices over the Clare Museum. A lease is being entered into with Clare County Council. A recruitment process is ongoing for additional positions required to deliver the programme. Individual sites are being evaluated and business cases are being developed with a view to starting procurement of sites in early 2022.

Ennis 2040 provides a comprehensive framework for the sustainable development of the town and the region. Its growth will be based on the '10 Minute Town' concept with the Town Centre at the heart of a highly accessible and revitalised Ennis – the focus for retail, residential, commercial, educational, leisure and cultural growth.

Electronomous: Future Mobility Campus Ireland Showcase

The global mobility and automotive community gathered online and in-person at the Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI) event on Wednesday 3rd November to learn, share, collaborate and discover cutting edge solutions making waves in the connected and autonomous space globally through a series of demos, tours, keynote presentations and panel discussions. The event in Shannon was streamed worldwide online with many international attendees logging in virtually.

During the event, Director Economic Development, Liam Conneally got the opportunity to promote the benefits of locating businesses in County Clare and during the course of the event, representatives from the Council were on hand to deal with more specific requests.

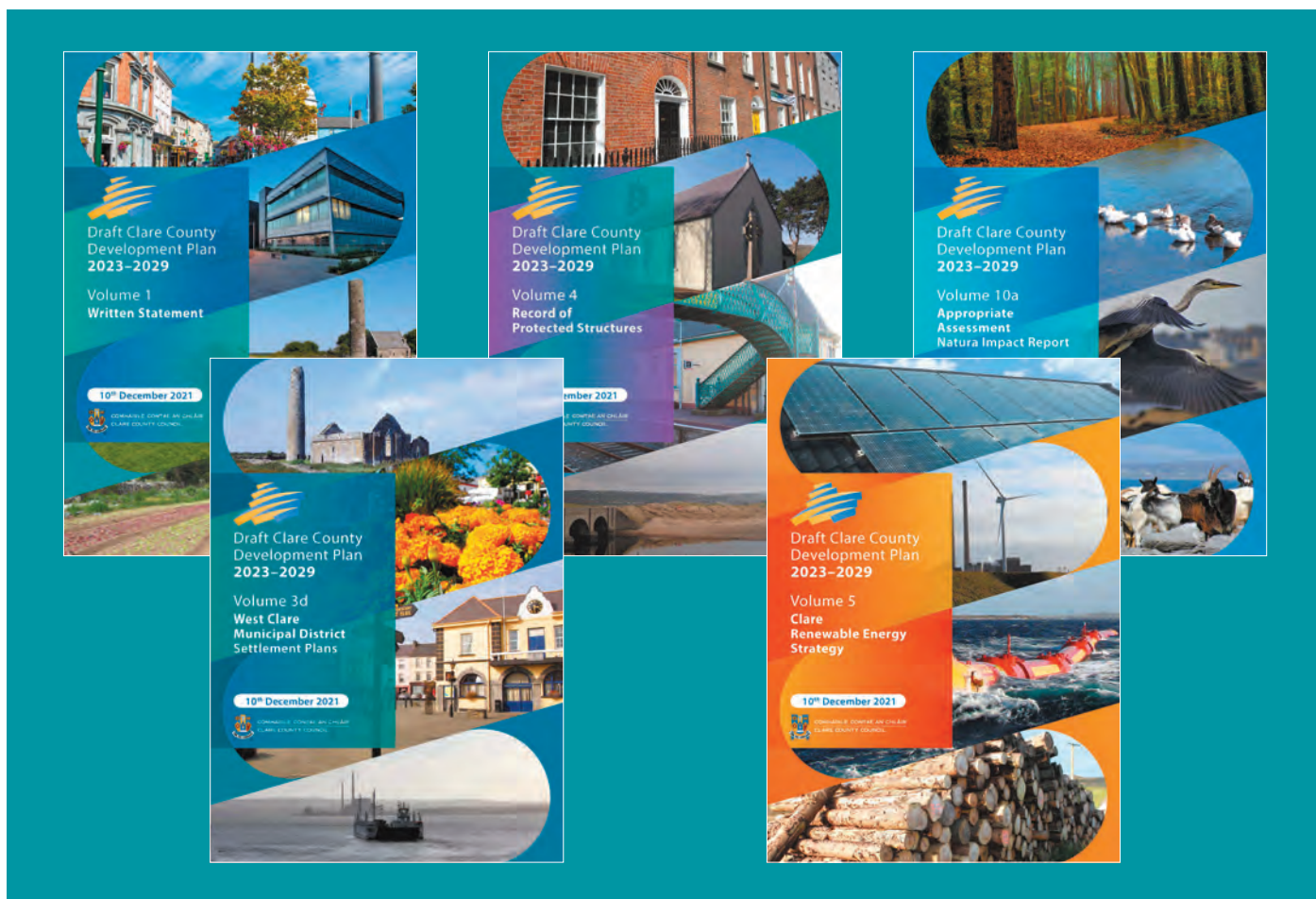
Due to the success of the event, it is already scheduled to take place again in Shannon in 2022.



Atlantic Green Digital Basin

The Council awaits further information on the work of the Government Shannon Estuary Taskforce and in particular the anticipated role of local authorities on same. It is intended that the Taskforce 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. The Council's executive met with the ESB to understand their commitment to the development of off-shore wind energy generation and the use of Moneypoint to convey the energy into the national grid.

FORWARD PLANNING



Clare County Development Plan

Following a series of workshops with the elected members, the process of consultation concluded with a final workshop with full Council on 30th November. This was the culmination of a process whereby the proposed amendments requested by the elected members as a result of their consideration of the pre-Draft Clare County Development Plan were compiled for their final approval and incorporated into the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, ahead of it going on public display.

At a Special Council Meeting held on 30th November 2021, the Elected Members agreed a resolution to amend the pre-draft plan and for it to go on public display for a 15 week period of public consultation. The Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 consists of 10 volumes as follows:

Volume 1 – Written Statement

Volume 2 – County Maps

Volume 3 – Written Statements and Settlement Maps for each of the Municipal Districts:

- Volume 3a – Ennis Municipal District
- Volume 3b – Shannon Municipal District
- Volume 3c – Killaloe Municipal District
- Volume 3d – West Clare Municipal District

Volume 4 – Record of Protected Structures

Volume 5 – Clare Renewable Energy Strategy

Volume 6 – Clare Wind Energy Strategy

Volume 7 – Clare Retail Strategy

Volume 8 – Clare Housing Strategy

Volume 9 – Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary

Volume 10

- Volume 10a – Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report
- Volume 10b(i) – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 10c(ii) – Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report
- Volume 10c – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

The Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will be on public display from Friday 10th December 2021 to 28th March 2022 (inclusive), during which time written submissions and observations can be made. Consultation events are planned for various locations around the County during late January and February 2022 (subject to Covid-19 restrictions not being in place), including Lisdoonvarna, Clonlara, Kilkee, Clarecastle, Kilmihil, Tulla, Killaloe and Ennis. These will be promoted through local media, the PPN and local community networks.

Ennistymon Masterplan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon plan and the Design team presented initial ideas to the steering group. The design process will continue into early 2022 and will involve further public consultation.



Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continued in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. A design team led by Hall McKnight Architects were appointed and there was a good attendance at the first public consultation event held in October. The public consultation process continued over November with engagement via an online portal, and targeted stakeholder engagement. The first stage of the public consultation process is expected to conclude in December.



The Manchester Martyrs Monument



With grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Historic Structures Fund for the repair and restoration of the Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush, the successful tender was submitted by Mid-West Lime Ltd and they have been appointed to carry out the repair works on site. The works are expected to commence in December.

The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

With funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the process to procure a multi-disciplinary design team was initiated in November, and will conclude in early January. The delivery of the project will support communities across the county in delivering their cultural offering while enhancing the experiences of those visiting the towns and villages in a Covid-19 compliant manner.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the November 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 368 representing a substantial increase of 40% year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 295.

| PLANNING APPLICATIONS | November 2021 | Year to date 2021 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| No. of planning applications received | 136 | 1275 |
| No. of Planning Decisions made | 112 | 1063 |
| No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála | 2 | 26 |
| No. of pre-planning enquiries received | 24 | 332 |
| No. of Section 5 applications | 6 | 68 |
| No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000) | 2 | 50 |
| Submissions received regarding Compliance | 42 | 343 |

Planning Enforcement

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

| PLANNING ENFORCEMENT | November 2021 | Year to date 2021 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| No. of new complaints received | 16 | 288 |
| No of Files Opened | 3 | 106 |
| No. of Warning Letters issued | 7 | 92 |
| No. of Enforcement Notices served | 3 | 27 |
| No. of Legal Cases initiated | 0 | 2 |
| No. of Enforcement files closed | 8 | 48 |

TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

Two estates were taken in charge during November 2021.

- **School Lane, Mountshannon** on 10th November 2021.
- **Gleann Cora (Ph 2)**, Newmarket on Fergus on 16th November 2021.



Gleann Cora

The Statutory Process in relation to the Taking in Charge of three estates commenced on 26th November 2021 with an advertisement published in the Clare Champion. Maps and details of the advertisement are on public display in Planning Department from 26th November 2021 to 24th December 2021, with a further two week period for receipt of submissions up to 17th January 2022. The estates are **Churchfield, Doonbeg, An Cregg Ard, Lahinch and Dergview, Scarriff**.

| Housing Estate | Status |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Churchfield, Doonbeg | Some minor outstanding works are being completed by the Developer. |
| Shanballa, Lahinch Road, Ennis | A schedule of works required to bring this estate to Taking in Charge standard continues to be prepared by the Taking in Charge team. |

We continue to monitor the progress on new housing developments throughout the County.

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Conservation Plan for Hastings Farmhouse, Shannon
 Hastings Farmhouse, located in Shannon Town and in the ownership of Clare County Council was a traditional thatched farmhouse with mud/cob wall construction which has fallen into a ruinous condition. On foot of funding secured from the Heritage Council and match funding from Clare County Council a Conservation Plan, Structural Assessment Report, Specifications and Method Statements for Hastings Farmhouse has been prepared where options have been proposed with regard to the site. Engagement with the Duchas na Sionna and other stakeholders will continue over the coming months where future plans for the site will be determined.

Heritage Information on the Clare County Council Website

On foot of funding secured from the Heritage Council, updated heritage information, including natural, built and cultural heritage has been prepared on behalf of Clare County Council and will be provided online in the coming weeks.

Clare Heritage Map Viewer

The final report from this project has laid out a roadmap for the development of a dedicated Clare County Heritage Map-Viewer. Public consultation and a scoping exercise was undertaken through radio, print and social media, to ascertain the level of interest and identified user-needs; identified mappable resources in digital and non-digital formats. This map-viewer if developed further (an upgrade the current Burren GeoparkLIFE Map Viewer model) would be a unique mapping resource in Ireland, leading the way in promoting, preserving and publishing data on all aspects of County Clare's heritage. This project was a cross department project between the Planning Department and the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark team.

Traveller Heritage Project

With funding from The Heritage Council and Clare County Council, a Traveller Heritage Project which explored the importance of heritage to Traveller families in the Ennis area has been completed. This arose from a successful kayaking project run in collaboration with The Burren Outdoor Education and Training Centre (BOETC) and Scoil Chríost Rí, primary school. Key stakeholders, who actively collaborated in this project were the Traveller dads and the families, The Burren Outdoor Education and Training Centre (BOETC), Family Liaison Officers at Scoil Chríost Rí and at Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) and the Clare Heritage Officer. The project involved visiting heritage sites by walking and/or kayaking to the sites and exploring the surrounding areas. Heritage site visits took place to Knockalough Lake to explore the crannog there, to Holy Island on Lough Derg, to the Ballyhee Cutting, to Quin Abbey and using the 'Pilgrim Path' which begins at the Cathedral in Ennis via 'The Rocky' on to St. John's Well near to

Killone Abbey. The project funding enabled 48 parents and 48 primary school children, who had never been to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, to do so and promoted greater heritage awareness. Facilitated by tutors from the Burren OETC, this particular initiative positively engaged families in educational trips with their children and allowed for an intergenerational aspect to the activities, as grandparents came along on these trips.

Clare Holy Wells Project

The Clare Holy Wells project and survey is now complete for 2021 and the information is available online, see <https://heritage.clareheritage.org/category/places/holy-wells>

The information on 237 Clare Holy Wells is provided with associated maps and will be added to as research on the Holy Wells in County Clare continues. The next phase of the project will aim to raise awareness of local Holy Wells in the community and in making them more accessible to the public.



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

Tidy Towns Local Authority Pollinator Awards 2021

Not only did Ennis Tidy Towns win Ireland's Tidiest Town Award 2021, Ennis also won the Large Urban Centre Award, Sustainable Development Goals Award, Climate Action and Air Quality Awards and Water and Communities Award. Ennis is again for the third time running the winner of the South West & Mid West region All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Award.

Ennistymon entered for the awards again this year along with first time entrants from Shannon, Kilrush, Doonbeg, Labasheeda, Knock and Kilmurray McMahan, which illustrates the interest in and further success of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan approach.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Shannon Tidy Towns have just completed the Shannon Local Biodiversity Action Plan, while the Cratloe community are about to begin the process of developing a Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Heritage Capacity Fund 2022

The Heritage Capacity Fund 2022 is now open for applications until Tuesday 11th January 2022 at 5pm. The new Fund aims to build the capacity of organisations, with a demonstrated national relevance, working in the heritage sector by providing funding towards their core costs in developing and strengthening the skills, processes, and resources that heritage organisations need to survive, adapt and thrive following the Covid-19 pandemic.

Community Monuments Fund

The Community Monuments Fund provides investment in Ireland’s archaeological heritage. Part of this funding is prioritised for local authorities, private owners and custodians and community groups for the care, conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of archaeological monuments. The Community Monuments Fund has 3 Streams:

- **Stream 1** will offer grants **up to €85,000** aimed at essential repairs and capital works for the conservation and repair of archaeological monuments
- **Stream 2** will offer grants of **up to €30,000** for development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports that are aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.
- **Stream 3** will offer grants of **up to €30,000** for enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments (including COVID 19 public health measures).

Details on the funding call area available at [Circular CMF2022 - Community Monuments Fund 2022](#) Application Form CMF/A must be completed fully and returned by the Local Authority (or State-funded organisation) to cmf@housing.gov.ie by close of business on Tuesday 1 March 2022.

Conservation and built heritage

We are delighted to welcome our Architectural Conservation Officer, Bláthmhac O Muirí, who has commenced employment with Clare County Council in the Planning Department.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS), Historic Structures Fund (HSF) and Community Monuments Fund (CMF) for 2022 were launched by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with details published on the Clare County Council website. The submission deadline for the BHIS and HSF in 2022 is January 24th 2022.

In 2021, nine projects funded under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) totalling €72,000. Under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) three projects funded, totalling €94,129. These projects included Oatfield Church Sixmilebridge, Manchester Martyrs’ Monument Kilrush and St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Enterprises that were approved funding over the last twelve months are now starting to drawdown that funding and invest in the future of their businesses. To date, funding to the value of €649,331 has been released for investment.

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme remains an important funding stream to facilitate Clare enterprises to develop an eCommerce website, with funding of €582,798 accessed to date.

LEO Clare continued to see strong demand for online training support offering during the month. The main topics of interest to Clare enterprises were Digital Marketing, Start Your Own Business programmes, Retailers workshop and a “Women in Business Network” meeting with special guest Derval O’ Rourke.

During November, our mentoring programme was utilised by 17 local businesses who were provided with one to one support in areas such as finance, start ups and marketing.

Click for Clare / Look For Local

After an incredibly successful run in 2020, Click for Clare returned in 2021. Run by The Clare Echo in conjunction with Local Enterprise Office Clare/Clare County Council, the campaign will connect thousands of physical and online shoppers with businesses in County Clare.

Click for Clare is free of charge for local businesses. The list of businesses will benefit from an 8-week marketing campaign.

Those who signed up for Click for Clare will be added to an interactive business directory which has been available on The Clare Echo website since November 16, 2021. The listing will be marketed extensively via online and print and will be regularly shared across social media channels. This will run alongside a comprehensive editorial and social media campaign in the vital weeks leading into Christmas and the January sales.

Our #Look For Local campaign will be launched by An Cathaoirleach in early December.

Student Enterprise Awards Launch

Ireland's largest student enterprise programme was launched on November 10th in what is now its 20th year. An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices to encourage entrepreneurship in secondary schools, the Student Enterprise Programme has seen over 300,000 secondary school students take part since it first began.

The enterprise education initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw over 29,000 students from

almost 500 secondary schools across the country take part in 2020 / 2021 with similar numbers expected to be involved this year.

The students will compete across three categories, Junior, Intermediate and Senior and judging takes place virtually via electronic submissions. Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show sales of their service or product.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

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

Enquiries to the Property Management Unit on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc have continued to increase this year which is indicative of increasing levels of activity in the property market in County Clare generally.

The renewal letters for the Shannon allotments will be issuing shortly. In addition, the advertisement for the letting of lands will be published in early January 2022.

| Transaction | November 2021 | Year to date 2021 |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Lease of property/building | 1 | 4 |
| Licence to use property/building | 1 | 11 |
| Grazing agreement for lands | 0 | 22 |
| Deed of transfer signed | 3 | 12 |
| Contract for Sale signed | 0 | 3 |
| Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed | 0 | 3 |
| Deed of Rectification / Variation signed | 1 | 6 |
| Allotment Agreements signed | 0 | 39 |

Casual Trading

There were low levels of activity in November on Casual Trading. The following licences were issued, one for Killaloe Farmer's Market, four for Kilrush Horse Fair held in November and two for Ennis. We are currently working on the renewal of the annual licences for 2022.

Derelict Sites

The Council welcomes the focus at national level on the 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 dealing with derelict sites as we come across many issues which need 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.

One photo shows work underway on a property, which hopefully will be returned to a refurbished housing unit in 2022. The second photo shows works on a group of unfinished properties that have been derelict since 2006, following continued engagement with the owners by the Derelict Sites team.



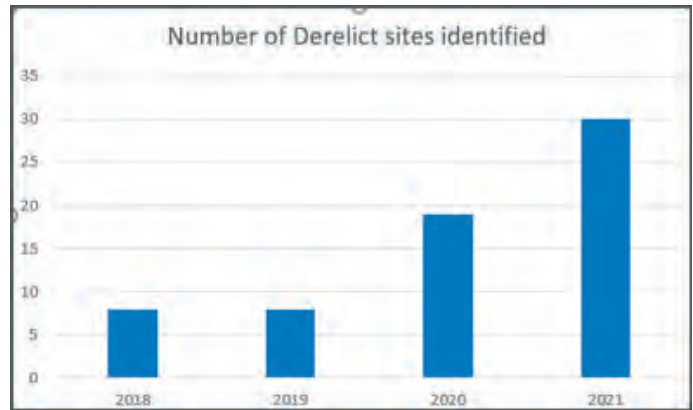
The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in November and the year, 2021, to date.

Four Notices were served on derelict properties, three of which were done by erecting notices on the sites, where the owners could not be engaged with through normal correspondence channels. The owners can make submissions to the Council within 21 days and after that the sites will be entered on the Derelict Sites register.



| | | |
|--|---|----|
| No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict | 0 | 2 |
| No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register | 0 | 25 |
| No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO) | 0 | 0 |

The following chart shows the increasing levels of activity in this area, with a significant increase in the number of properties being assessed by the Council in 2020 and 2021, compared to previous years 2018 and 2019.



| Derelict Sites | November 2021 | Year to date 2021 |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| No. of new files opened | 0 | 30 |
| No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register | 3 | 18 |
| No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register | 0 | 2 |

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The final elements of the Shannon Banks footpath upgrade project were installed early in November. This project was funded by the NTA through the 'Active Travel' programme and the works were delivered by the team in the Shannon Municipal District.

Works carried out by our teams to deliver accessible bus stops at the Town Hall in Shannon were also reviewed by local Councillors during the month. The Municipal District Team are working with the Transportation Team to deliver 7 bus stops across the District with five being installed in Shannon Town, one at the Radisson Blu Hotel, one in Westbury and one in Newmarket on Fergus. The team in Shannon delivered two of the accessible stops as part of their ongoing works.



We can report that the Municipal District has substantially delivered the Roads Programme for 2021, with overlays in Parteen being completed during the month.

The NTA Active Travel footpath project for Meelick took a step forward during the month with the preliminary design being completed and referred to the NTA for approval for the next step. The Ballycasey footpath concept drawing has also been completed and it too will be referred to NTA for approval to next stage under the Active Travel fund.

Works being funded under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) in Cratloe, Newmarket-on-Fergus and Clonlara have allowed for the provision of Driver Feedback Signs while a contractor was appointed to work alongside our own crews to unblock gullies and drainage pipes throughout the MD for the months of November and December. Our own crews are also carrying out winter maintenance roles for this month.

A Footpath Contractor is continuing works in the Drumgeely area of Shannon Town, which will continue for the remainder of 2021. Additional Parking spaces have been delivered through this contract which were funded through GMA.

The Grass cutting contract has been completed for the year and a number of sites in Newmarket on Fergus and Shannon were cleared of bonfire materials following Halloween. The Sixmilebridge Town and Village Renewal project is progressing and is now on phase 6 of 7 and is on schedule for completion in December.

On a final note, the Shannon Town Park was awarded the Green Flag Award during the month, one of four parks in Co. Clare to achieve the standard. Pictured are Cllr Flynn and Cllr McGettigan. We look forward to lighting our Town Park during the Christmas Festive Season.



Strategic Projects

Draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement, Tourism & Mobility Plan

Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, have completed the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan for the twin towns Killaloe-Ballina. Within the settlement statement for Killaloe, one of the objectives is “to work in co-ordination with Tipperary County Council to progress the development of Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements”.

This Plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements for Killaloe and Ballina, providing a clear vision for them as linked settlements. Specific measures, designs and schemes will promote the towns’ complementarity, and create an overall focus on their joint strengths and opportunities in terms of functionality and aesthetics.

Central to all future developments is the permitted Killaloe Bypass, Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme, which will provide a western bypass for Killaloe town, a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon.



Tourism is critical to the economy of Killaloe–Ballina and with national tourism initiatives in place such as Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and Clare County Council’s Tourism Strategy, the rationale was to provide a plan that would allow for both towns and their amenities to be development, managed and marketed in a coordinated manner at both national and international levels.

Strong community consultation was facilitated in preparation of the plan since it went on public display first on 9th July 2021. A live webinar was held on the 21st August 2021 with the design team presenting an overview of the Draft Plan to the public and providing feedback to the question and answers session after.

The Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan

comprises a number of key elements, including:

- i. A Sustainable Mobility Plan/Strategy.
- ii. A Place Making and Public Realm Design Strategy.
- iii. A Tourism and Heritage Strategy; tourism and heritage play a significant role in the local economy of both Killaloe and Ballina.
- iv. Site Specific Interventions that will encourage an increase in commercial activity on the Main Street in Killaloe and in Ballina. Public realm enhancement, traffic management, car-parking and pedestrian connectivity to the town centres from the residential, educational, community, public spaces and tourism facilities will be considered in this context.

A total of nine potential opportunity sites are identified within the Plan for Killaloe. In particular, it is proposed that the Bridge will be pedestrianised thus allowing for the transformation of the junction at the Bridge and where Royal Parade meets with the R436, creating a new enhanced shared public space.

Main Street Killaloe will benefit from public realm enhancement works, while the proposed restoration of the historic disused Courthouse to be used as a multi-purpose community space are some of the opportunities presented within the Plan

that will reinvigorate the town area.

The plan from inception to delivery spanned a 2 year period which concluded with the Final Plan being endorsed by the Elected Members of Killaloe MD on the 10th November 2021 and the Elected Members of Nenagh MD on the 18th November 2021. It was decided by the Killaloe MD Elected Members to have the Plan noted and endorsed by the full council at its next meeting on Monday 13th December 2021, and with Tipperary County Council doing so also.

Draft Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

The Draft Shannon Town Centre Masterplan is on public display since Monday 22nd November 2021 up to 4:00 p.m. Monday 20th December. This is the second and final round of public consultation before the Plan is finalised early next year. The first round of public consultation took place from July to September. The feedback received during this public engagement has informed the final draft of the plan.

The Masterplan sets out a clear strategic framework for the renewed development of Shannon Town Centre, providing for a shared vision for its future development. The Masterplan proposes to unlock development potential in Shannon Town Centre and guide its built and economic development.



Among the proposals set out in the draft Masterplan is the development of a 'One Shannon Hub' in the town centre, which will have multiple daytime and night-time uses, the creation of a New Street, a new Town Square and creation of an Innovation Campus. The plan will seek to influence and deliver real change for Shannon Town in order to make Shannon a more attractive destination in which to live, work and do business.

It is envisaged that the improved Main Street will be an innovative take on the traditional main street of Irish towns and will contribute to a sense of place for Shannon. It is proposed to improve and make the existing R471 road passing through Shannon Town Centre more pedestrian friendly, while continuing to provide for car and bus routes.

Shannon Town Square will underpin a new identity for the town centre as a focal point for the community. The new Town Square will expand on the existing square with its chapel and will be fronted by a multi-purpose civic and cultural building and at the proposed One Shannon Hub. One Shannon Hub will be a place with multiple uses to ensure day time and night time activity. Taken together with the proposed Innovation Campus in the town centre, these projects will provide a significant opportunity to create a vibrant Shannon Town Centre.

The Masterplan makes provision for a range of high-quality urban town centre living areas, enhancement of connections to the estuary and preservation and enhancement of the amenity of the Town Park, as well as an implementation roadmap for its delivery.

The Masterplan is at the concluding stages of development. It is intended following consultation that the Masterplan will be adopted in January 2022 and an application for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) will be made to Government in the new year for implementation of a projects in the plan.

Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

Enterprise Ireland requested that a Business Plan be prepared for this project to provide an analysis of the trends and growth areas in this market, potential for competition, the types of courses which may be offered, the accreditation required, a financial plan for the establishment of Kilrush Maritime Training Centre and an operating model. The now Plan has been finalised and issued to Enterprise Ireland as part of the overall funding application under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) for the establishment of the Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush.

This has allowed Clare County Council/Clare MEZ DAC to commence with the Expressions of Interest process for a preferred partner to operate the facility. This will be done under the Competitive Dialogue process and the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation.

The importance of obtaining a suitable maritime operator with extensive knowledge of this sector is paramount and will require significant time and effort by the SEI team in terms of procurement. The Expressions of Interest process for a potential operator resulted in 11 entities requesting access to the EOI documents. Subsequently, 4 entities submitted an Expressions of Interest for which 3 have now been qualified to proceed to Stage 2, the competitive tender by negotiation stage. It is envisaged that this 2nd phase will commence in Q1 of 2022.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Transportation

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

The 2021 programme of work is substantially complete in all of the Municipal Districts.

Elected members were requested to submit Restoration Improvement proposals for consideration for a 3 year non-national roads programme on 6th August 2021. Applications are currently being prepared for the 3 year non-national programme for Restoration Improvement projects for submission to the Department of Transport. A 3 year programme is also being developed with TII for overlay projects on the existing national secondary road network.

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 during 2021 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 are 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 ongoing and a preferred bidder for the Design Build Works contract has been identified. At present 46% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

Airtricity have upgraded the street lighting on the N68 in Lissycasey where Clare County Council secured funding from the TII to upgrade the existing public lights to LEDs 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 has, in 2021, 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: November 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 October 15th 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"> Due to commence construction shortly by West Clare MD. |
| 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 has been initiated and a preliminary design report is being prepared for submission to TII. The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility is being developed. |

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021:

- Application for 2022 LCS Schemes 2022 submitted to the Department of Transport

| 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 resolution completed. Construction near completed |
| 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 near completed. |
| 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. Delivery is postponed until landowner agreement is finalised. |
| 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. Construction stage near completed. |
| 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. Construction stage commenced. |

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| 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. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction. Construction stage near completed. |
| 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 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. Construction stage near completed. |
| 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. Construction stage near completed. |
| 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. Construction stage near completed. |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, Drumgeely, Fergus Roundabout and Westbury. Works are progressing at Radisson Blu. The bus shelter in Newmarket on Fergus is delayed due to supply chain issues with the NTA's Bus Shelter supplier and will now commence in Q1 of 2022. |

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

| | |
|--|---|
| 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. Refurbishment of the masonry bridge at Latoon is completed. Construction of cycle lane connectivity under M18 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 |
| 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. 24 No 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. The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The project will continue into 2022. |
| 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 near completed. |

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
- 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. Works complete bar snagging
- Derrycon Bridge: Works complete
- Cloonolia Bridge: Works complete
- Finnor Beg Bridge: Contractor appointed. Works complete
- Ardnacaraa Bridge: Contractor appointed Works complete
- Lough North Bridge: Contractor appointed Works complete
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed Contractor appointed. Contractor on site. Works complete
- Furror Upper Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed Contractor appointed. Contractor on site. Works complete
- Cloghaun Beg Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued Tenders returned and being assessed Works started in September, works 80% complete. Works

complete bar snagging

- Honan's Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued Tenders returned and being assessed Works started in September, works 80% complete. Works complete bar snagging
- Dereen Bridge: Topographical survey completed week commencing 24th of May. Repair options currently under review Design on going tender to be issued early September Contractor appointed works commenced. Works 90% complete
- Ballynacally Bridge: Tender issued Contractor appointed works commenced Works 90% complete
- Cahircon Bridge: Tender issued Contractor appointment ongoing Works 90% complete

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. Tenders returned and being assessed. Proceeding to NIS
- Clarecastle Bridges: Currently carrying out re-inspection of bridges on the R458 in Clarecastle for Roche decommissioning. Inspections complete awaiting report
- Moanangh 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, Contractor liaising with landowners due to start end of October. Contractor on Site
- 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.
- Application for 2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Grant submitted to the Department of Transport

Health and Safety

During the past month the Health and Safety Team revised the CCC Covid Response Plan to Rev 6 following recent announcements by the Government regarding Covid 19 and continued to provide support and guidance to the Crisis Management Team and all Departments of Clare County Council on the implementation of the relevant control measures.

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. An Internal H&S Audit of the Clare County Council Occupational Health & Safety management System was commenced in November 21

and will be concluded December 21.

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 the 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 with training in Traffic Management Software scheduled for November 21. The new traffic management system is mandatory from December 31st, 2021.

General Design Office

Surveys

- CPO and APE lines set out via GPS on Killaloe Bypass, as per request from Capital Projects

Property Assessment report

- Vacant house – The Old Rectory, Mountshannon. Acquired by CCC as proposed visitor centre for Inis Cealtra.



The Old Rectory, Mountshannon

Mapping

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass – ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Revision of way-leave drawing for storm water lines, Miltown Malbay

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Barefield - JF Building & Civils was appointed as main contractor and works began on site on the 20th September and are progressing in accordance with the approved programme of works. Works to conclude mid December 2021.

Corofin - Topographical survey started and to conclude by December 2021.

Sixmilebridge - Coir Infrastructure appointed as main contractor. Construction works started in August 2021 and are progressing in accordance with the approved programme of works. Works to conclude mid December 2021.

Parteen - Topographical survey concluded, preliminary design proposals ongoing.

The Lane, Cappahard, Ennis

Works on the new footpath at The Lane, Cappahard, part of the Active Travel Programme 2021, are nearing completion and are due to finish in the coming weeks.

Works included the upgrading of the surface water network, new kerbing, footpath, new boundary wall, new public lighting, landscaping and tactile surfaces to the pedestrian crossing.



CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

As we approach the end of the year, the PMO can look back with satisfaction at having achieved several significant project milestones over the past year. The main items include completion of the Spanish Point Coastal Protection Works; the appointment of Consultants for the Kilrush-Kilkee section of the West Clare Railway Greenway project; Ministerial approval to publish the tender for the Killaloe Bridge and Bypass project; An Bord Pleanála Oral Hearing for the Blakes Corner project; substantial completion of the Ennis South Flood Relief scheme along with significant progress across a number of other projects which will be further advanced in the new year. The key updates are as follows.

Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building

Options for long-term parking are currently being evaluated with specific reference to road access and ecological mapping. The finalisation of this next step will inform the optimum design proposal for consideration by the Project Team as we develop our plans in preparation for submission to An Bord Pleanála later in the new year.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

Work is substantially complete, and the scheme is now fully operational. A full-scale drill took place to replicate the deployment of pumps in the event of a flood and highlighted a number of minor issues which have now been addressed. Some snagging items remain to be done, the Quin Road entrance area and the reinstatement of the public footpath, the most critical of these. Work is continuing in consultation with the OPW and our consulting engineers on the finalisation of a series of updated flood maps which will detail the benefiting areas and inform the Insurance Industry as required.

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

Members will be aware that we are awaiting the An Bord Pleanála decision regarding confirmation or otherwise of the CPO following the Oral Hearing which was held in mid-June. A decision was expected before year end which will inform our next course of action in relation to the overall project. Having checked with the Board, I am advised that the Inspector expects to discharge the report in the coming weeks after which, it will then move to the Board for a final decision.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

Members will be aware of Waterways Ireland's proposed Greenway/Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff which will include extensive environmental assessment as part of that project development. In advance of same, our project proposed to fast track a section of that along the existing canal bank trail. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for same has now been concluded which will support us in identifying what elements of the works can be done as an interim measure to restore the existing pathway for the many pedestrians who continue to walk it for exercise and recreational use.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Four tender submissions were received via the eTenders platform on the 3rd of November 2021. On the 15th of November the Tender Assessment Board convened in the Buttermarket Building to complete the review and quality assessment of the submissions received.

Following this assessment, the scheme consultants RPS have now progressed with the quantitative assessment of the submitted tender prices. Several clarifications have been raised with the preferred tenderer and following acceptable responses to the queries raised the Tender Assessment Report will be finalised

which will recommend the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT). This will be forwarded to the Department in the coming week and subject to Department review and Ministerial Approval, it is envisaged that the contract will be awarded in early 2022 with works expected to commence on site in the Spring 2022.

Other works ongoing in parallel include:

- The remaining electricity diversion works continue to be progressed by the ESB and its contractors with traffic management and power outages being co-ordinated with all affected residents and landowners. The envisaged end of year programme completion of these critical utility diversion works remains.
- The advance works contractor, Coir Infrastructure Ltd are programmed to return to site early in the new year to complete some additional fencing & site clearance works, which will conclude their contract with us.
- The detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works continues and the results from which will assist in the preparation of the final reports and public presentation in early 2022.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

The Steering Group met in early November and followed up with a site visit thereafter. Work continues on the Initial Options Assessment for the Victoria and Well Streams whereby the consultants assess all the options and identify a preferred option that is technically, environmentally and economically viable.

Some delays to the wave overtopping modelling have occurred due to model instability. JBA are currently working closely with RPS Coastal to resolve this. Site Investigation works commenced on November 17th with numerous trial holes and inspection pits carried out within the scheme area. JBA have completed the first phase of wintering bird surveys in the Kilkee area, and these surveys will be ongoing for the next three to four months. Progress on the scheme and upcoming works is also available on the project website at www.kilkeefrs.ie alongside associated scheme literature and our project information video.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

This matter is still before the Courts following a challenge to the Part VIII approval for the road element of the proposal. We await the outcome of same which will inform our next steps in advancing the project to the next stage of development.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

Negotiations continue with a key landowner, following the successful conclusion of which, we would expect to be able to commence the works on site at the earliest juncture. If agreement cannot be reached, we will have to consider what

alternative options may be possible. If there isn't a technically, environmentally and economically alternative, the proposed scheme may not progress, and the status quo will remain.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The Public Display of the Preferred Option for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme went live on November 22nd last and will continue until Monday 6th December 2021. Council and Oireachtas Members were briefed beforehand. The purpose of this non-statutory public display is to inform the public and stakeholders of the Preferred Option developed for the project, the work undertaken to date and the programme for advancement of the project. This preferred option will be further developed as part of the next stages in the development of the project. The public display event provides an opportunity for feedback to be submitted, which will inform the further development of the project in the next stages.

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 have recently completed the first phase (slit trenches) of the site investigation works contract. Following the Wintering Birds season the second phase is scheduled to commence early April 2022. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process.

Clare County Council values the opinion of the community on this project and welcomes feedback from the public and interested parties. The Feedback received will be considered by the project team as part of the next stages. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie

Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)

Part VIII Planning approval in respect of O'Connell Street was recommended following consideration by members at the November Meeting. This is a significant step for the overall project and is key to commencement of works in 2022. The detailed design process (including preparation of tender documentation) for O'Connell Street as well as previously approved works in Barrack Square, Old Barrack Street, High Street and O'Connell Square continues. With regard to procurement, documentation has been issued on etenders portal for submissions from interested contractors for consideration for shortlisting for tender process. Contractor submissions are due by year-end following which evaluation and shortlisting will be completed in January 2022.

Some site investigation works along the route of the project are required to inform detailed design drawings. It is expected that these will be completed in January 2022 following the conclusion of the Christmas period. Some short-term road closures will be required, and these will be carefully scheduled over coming weeks following consultation with key stakeholders and due process with regard to road-opening licencing. The Design team and Clare County Council are liaising with Utility Companies and other Stakeholders in the interests of streamlining the construction schedule and ensuring that future utility needs are accommodated where possible. All going well, Construction is expected to commence in 2022 further to consultation with business owners and the public, as engagement with key stakeholders and interested parties will be key to the success of this project.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)

Tender documents have been published on Etenders for the appointment of Technical Advisors for the final remediation of all sites. Submissions are due back early December 2021, following which evaluation will be completed. In the interim, the sites, having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA, continue to be routinely monitored by Council staff.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

RPS are now in receipt of approx. 90% of deliverables from the third-party surveys which has allowed their modelling team to progress this element of the design. The hydraulic assessment and modelling tasks will be ongoing into late Q1 of 2022 with the finalised Hydraulic Report expected to follow thereafter. CCC and OPW have returned comments on the draft Constraints Study which is currently being updated by RPS Consulting Engineers.

Following completion of the ground investigation works, the RPS geotechnical team have considered some high-level early options for the main coastal embankments. A site visit involving CCC, OPW, SAA and RPS is planned in December to review these options on the ground. RPS ecologists continue to carry out Wintering Bird surveys within the scheme area. Maintenance works on the airport embankments will be ongoing for the remainder of the year. As reported previously, progression of works immediately after Christmas will be dependent on weather conditions at that time. As always, information on the scheme can be accessed on the project website at www.shanontownandenvironsfrs.com

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

Work is currently suspended on the scheme due to poor weather and ground conditions with the expectation to resume onsite in the Springtime. During this interim period, a contractor has

been appointed to carry out ground water monitoring and has begun work on site. We are currently examining the tender submissions for the appointment of a geophysical survey contract and a recommendation is due shortly.

The roadway has been cleaned and damaged edges have been repaired. However, there remains a small number of areas outstanding and these will be dealt with in the coming weeks.

Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Limerick City & County Council in conjunction with the OPW are progressing the implementation of the Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme. As this scheme incorporates parts of Clare including Westbury, Shannon Banks and Gillogue, Clare County Council are assisting Limerick City and Council on the project. A presentation was given to the Members of Shannon Municipal District recently by the consultants RPS to update them on progress.

Interested members of the public are invited to log in to the virtual consultation event on the project website at www.flood-info.ie/limerickfrs The purpose of this early-stage consultation is to give individuals an overview of the project, to offer the opportunity to engage with the project team, to tell their experiences of flooding in Limerick City & Environs and offer their views on how the scheme should progress. The virtual consultation room includes information on the project and currently identified environmental constraints that may influence the scheme design. A Project Newsletter is available for viewing and/or download and a Feedback Form is also available for completion. Due to current Covid-19 risks, this Public Consultation is being held virtually via the project website above, however, if people are interested in an in-person consultation, they can contact the project team by email at Limerickfrs@rpsgroup.com and this will be arranged. The Virtual Consultation Room will be available for a 4-week period from 18th November until 17th December.

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

Following the conclusion of the first Public Consultation phase, the various submissions received along with environmental aspects were considered and used by the Design Team to develop the various proposals that might be possible and to eliminate unsuitable routes that aren't. Developing this further, the Design Team have prepared a number of possible routes and the emerging preferred route, and these will again be placed on Public Display as part of a second Public Consultation exercise to be held in January 2022. This will again present an opportunity for interested parties to review and comment on the various proposed routes and the emerging Preferred route. Winter Surveys are ongoing and given the environmental significance of the area, a meeting was held with the NPWS in November 2021 with further engagement and discussion to

follow as the design is developed and ecological data is gathered. As always, we would welcome comments and suggestions from members of the public and all affected Landowners, as we move towards developing a preferred route to take to the Statutory Consent stage.

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)
Tender submissions in respect of Engineering Consultancy

services for the second section of the West Clare Railway Greenway project have now been received. The necessary assessment of same is ongoing and the Tender Assessment Report will be finalised shortly. Subject to TII approval and the availability of funding, it would be hoped to appoint the successful Consultant early in 2022.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during November:

- Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course held in Clonmel
- Water Awareness Courses held in Ennis, Ennistymon, Shannon & Scariff.

Interagency Exercise held in Ballyryan, the Burren

Clare County Fire and Rescue Service took part in an Interagency Exercise on Saturday, 20th November, at Ballyryan. Participating agencies included the Irish Cave Rescue Organisation (ICRO), Irish Coast Guard and An Garda Síochána.

The Coast Guard's R115 Helicopter and IRCO Rescue Rigging equipment were used in the exercise to refresh all participants of safety measures and techniques that may be required if carrying out rescues in the area. Successful integration between agencies and their procedures is always a primary objective of any interagency engagement and this was successfully achieved on Saturday.



Clare Firefighters join in Everest Challenge for charity

Five firefighters from Clare County Fire & Rescue Service joined colleagues from all over the country to climb the equivalent height of Mount Everest to fundraise for children’s cancer charity Aoibheann’s Pink Tie. Station Officer Graham Touhy (Killaloe), Firefighters Noel Blackwell (Ennistymon), Michael O’Leary (Ennis), Danny Keller (Ennis) and Sub Station Officer Joe Cross (Ennistymon) were amongst those who took on the 8,848m ascent at Nenagh Fire Station. The event was organised by National Retained Firefighters Association (NRFA) in association with Aoibheann’s Pink Tie.

Clare County Fire & Rescue Documentary - Clare FM’s Atlantic Tales

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service were featured on Clare FM’s Atlantic Tales on Sunday 7th November. The documentary was compiled by Pat Flynn of Clare FM and consisted of a number of interviews with various personnel throughout the Service. The programme provided a snapshot of the Fire Service in County Clare and the people that work in it.

| Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities | Oct 2021 | Nov 2021 (Up to 29.11.21) | Year to Date |
|--|----------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Number of Emergency Calls Attended | 96 | 56 | 754 |
| Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received | 7 | 3 | 66 |
| Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted | 5 | 8 | 65 |
| Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Number of Disability Access Certificates Received | 3 | 3 | 36 |
| Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted | 1 | 2 | 37 |
| Number of Commencement Notices Received | 37 | 29 | 368 |
| Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints | 1 | 1 | 11 |

(Note: In the November Monthly Report, the October figures related to 1st to 22nd October due to timing of report)

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- County football final in Cusack Park
- County hurling final in Cusack Park
- Ladies intermediate football matches in Doonbeg and Carran
- Munster Club hurling match in Cusack Park.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members participated in a missing persons search at the request of An Garda Síochána
- Members of the Drone Team and Boat Crew participated in a missing persons search along the River Fergus at the request of An Garda Síochána. The search was stood down after 6 hours when the missing person was located safe and well.
- Members provided administrative assistance at a blood clinic for the Irish Blood Transfusion Service in the Auburn Lodge Hotel in Ennis.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Clare Civil Defence EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) students participated in a central training day organised by the Civil Defence Branch through Microsoft Teams. EMT students from Limerick and Tipperary Civil Defence also attended the training.
- Clare Civil Defence EMT students participated in a local training session for practical training elements of the EMT course. The training was conducted by instructors from Clare and Limerick Civil Defence.

ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19

The “Covid-19” pandemic continues to impact operations in the Environment section but our adaptable business continuity planning mitigates the effects. To date, all essential services in the environment section have continued uninterrupted. The 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

Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme 2021

During November, an application was made to the Department of Environment Climate and Communications for €20,000 under the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme 2021. This funding covers 70% of anti-litter project costs delivered during 2021. Clare County Council make up the remaining balance of €8,571 which covers 30% of all project costs. Projects delivered include:

- Community clean up packs provision of litter pickers; gloves, bags, Hi Vis
- *Your Dog-Your Walk-Your County* Dog littering campaign – a collaboration with Limerick, Cork County and Tipperary Local Authorities
- Green Dog Walker Campaign
- Anti-Litter campaigns-print and social media including weekly Clare Echo Green Clare page adverts
- Blue Flag and Green Coast Beach - social media video campaign
- Halloween bonfire campaign - social and print media
- VOICE Ireland Picker Pals initiative - sponsoring

participation of 10 Clare schools

- Leave No Trace.

Picker Pals - Anti-Litter Schools Initiative

There are currently 34 Clare Schools participating in this initiative. Of the 34 enlisted 24 are funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Clare County Council funded the remaining 10 schools through the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme 2021. This programme will run from October throughout the year. Children get two books, and the classroom gets the famous Picker Pack with all the equipment required to go on a litter-picking adventure, from home. There are also 6 episodes of Picker Pals TV with environmental learning, fun and special guests.

An Taisce Green Schools programme

During November, An Taisce Green School Webinars were held across all themes including Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship. Thirty-five Clare schools participated in the initiative.

In addition to the webinar our Environmental Awareness Officer is hosting Green School meetings across all the themes during November and December. This is an additional support to teachers whose schools are registered under the Green Schools programme.

Environmental Campaigns

During November, we promoted several environmental messages promoting good environmental practice in terms of good waste management practices and climate action.

| Campaign detail | Promotion details |
|--|--|
| Solid fuel and Clean Air Campaign This Department of Environment Climate and Communications grant funded campaign focused on improving air quality in homes and communities by thinking 'ABC' - Be the difference. Breathe the difference. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert and article • Clare Champion advert • Clare County Express advert • Web page updates • @ClareCoCo social media – 196 video views • @GreenerClare social media – 878 video views |
| Food Waste in public spaces Increase awareness around leaving food waste in public/ green spaces for birds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert • Targeted social media advert via @GreenerClare social media – 10,500 reach |
| Local Authority Waters Programme events Promotion of the LAWPRO events in support of the public consultation for the River Basin Management Plan | Social media promotion of the following events -@GreenerClare @ClareCoCo: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Clare PPN Webinar on the 17th November 2021: Help Protect Clare’s Rivers and Lakes 2) The Communities Caring for Waters Conference will be held online again this year on Saturday 20th November |
| ERP Free Recycling Events at Ennis Mart and Kilrush Mart for waste electrical equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert • Targeted social media advert via @GreenerClare social media – 10,500 reach |

Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific team to date in 2021:

| Water Enforcement Scientific Team | November | 2021 to date |
|--|----------|--------------|
| Planning applications (Domestic) | 59 | 423 |
| Planning applications (Large Developments) | 1 | 11 |
| Planning applications (Forestry) | 12 | 264 |
| Planning applications (Agriculture) | 1 | 18 |
| Inspection of Section 4 licensed premises | 7 | 50 |
| Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan) | 0 | 19 |
| Pollution complaints received | 7 | 145 |
| Warning & advisory letters issued | 1 | 11 |
| Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases) | 0 | 6 |

Presentations to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

The Environment section arranged for 2 presentations to be given at the November meeting. The first presentation was on the 3rd cycle of the draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2022-2027. The presentation gave an insightful overview of the purpose of the RBMP and the benefits that Clare would receive from its implementation.

The 2nd presentation was on the new Environment Protection Agency (EPA) 2021 Code of Practice for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS). The presentation highlighted the value of good site assessment and highlighted how the EPA have provided for new technologies to be used in the design of DWWTS's while maintaining protection of water bodies from pollution.

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.

Small Water Supply Schemes

Clare County Council is the regulatory authority for small private supplies, which are linked to commercial or public facilities. These include hotels, schools and food producers. Currently, the Laboratory monitors twenty such supplies with monitoring based on supply volume and spread throughout the year.

Bathing Waters

Clare County Council has 14 designated bathing areas, which are monitored through out the bathing season from June to mid-September. Monitoring data has been submitted to the EPA for collation and the professional Bathing Water Classifications for 2021 have been complied. This data will be forwarded to the European Commission for final approval. As can be seen from the Table below, all 14 bathing areas should retain their Excellent Quality status.

Group Water Schemes

Clare County Council is the regulatory authority for both public and private group water schemes. Monitoring is based on the population served by the scheme and is spread throughout the year as required. There are 60 schemes currently being monitored, with this number reducing as some public schemes have been taken over by Irish Water.

| Type | Number of samples or inspections to date in 2021. |
|------------------------|---|
| Group Water Schemes | 250 |
| Section 4 Licences | 67 |
| Rivers | 284 |
| Small Private Supplies | 45 |

River Monitoring Programme 2021

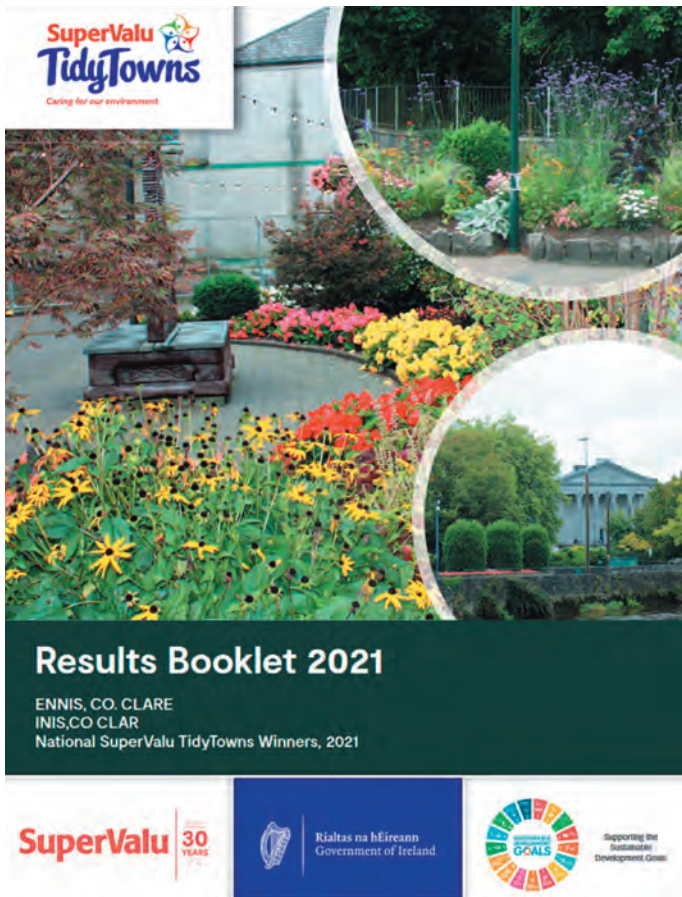
The Environment Section has completed eleven rounds of River Sampling to date. Our sampling programme has been agreed in advance with the EPA.

Private Waste Water Treatment Systems.

Clare County Council is the regulatory authority for private wastewater treatment systems, which have a discharge licence under Section 4 of the Water Pollution Act. The discharge from these systems goes to either groundwater or surface water and in most cases are linked to commercial activities such as industry or tourism. Each system is required to be sampled and monitored a number of times per year depending on licence requirements. As of now there 50 active licences in County Clare.

**Gardening
Tidy Towns**

In light of the recent news that Ennis has been awarded the title of Ireland's tidiest town we are delighted to have played a part in this most prestigious award. The Environment section Gardening team have developed a programme of planting perennial and pollinator friendly species as part of our annual work programme.



Gardening works have started at the Drumbiggle Public Park where we are creating pollinator friendly planted areas in compliance with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025. Compost produced from the Central Waste Management Facility (CWMF) Inagh has been rotavated with existing soil in Drumbiggle and will act as a soil conditioner. This use of a product that was once a waste also promotes the circular economy of reuse.

Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Works are progressing well on site. Liner repair works are nearing completion along with the construction of the base of the new Integrated Constructed Wetlands area. Installation of a surface water geo-composite layer and soil capping layer will begin shortly.



Doora Landfill Mens Shed Group

The official opening of the Ennis Mens Shed Group New Premises at Doora Landfill took place on Thursday 25th November. The Environment Section have worked closely with the group over the last 18 months setting up a new suitable area for the group. There is now a large indoor social space and canteen, a new workshop, polytunnel and outdoor garden area at the site.

Doora Landfill Pathways

Cutting back and mulching of pathways along the Doora Fairy Trail took place during November. This will enhance the walkways and ensure that maximum width is available to all users of the trails.

Waste Enforcement

Water and Community Award

The SuperValu Tidy Towns awards include a category for "Water and Community". Ennis also took home a winners prize in this category for The River Fergus in the South West and Mid West region. This award follows the successful clean-up of the Fergus in recent months by Ennis Tidy Towns, Clare County Council, Ennis Sub Aqua Club and Clare Civil Defence. Well done to all involved.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) PLAN

In line with the RMCEI plan, the Waste Enforcement Team continues to carry out planned inspections. During November, the target areas were Solid Fuel Retailers, Specified Vehicle Importers, Waste Tyres and Suspected Major Packaging Producers. In addition to this, 2 Waste Facility Permit Inspections were also carried out at Tullagower Quarries and Corofin Car Dismantlers in November.

Solid Fuel Inspections

Businesses in the Low Smoke Zones were inspected by the Community Wardens for compliance with the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations. Inspections both of premises and of delivery vehicles are currently ongoing. An advert was placed in the Clare Echo which will increase awareness of the regulations that apply within Low Smoke Zones in Clare. The overarching aim in this regard is to improve the quality of Air in the Specified Areas.

End of Life Vehicles

Suspected importers of Specified Vehicles throughout Co. Clare have been written to and inspected over the past twelve months, under the End-of-Life Vehicles Regulations. The purpose of this engagement was to inform the importers of the requirement to join the approved body, ELVES. At this stage several letters have issued and on-site inspections of each premises have taken place.

Legal proceedings will now be taken against confirmed importers who have still not joined ELVES or confirmed that they are participating in a satisfactory manner in a national collection scheme for the recovery of end-of-life vehicles. The file is currently with our legal team to initiate a prosecution

Tyre Regulations

During November businesses selling tyres were inspected for compliance with The Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2017.

These Regulations ensure that tyres placed on the market can be tracked until they are discarded and processed for recycling and/or recovery. In accordance with the Regulations, a person who supplies tyres (or waste tyres) are legally obliged to join the collective compliance scheme operated by the approved body, Repak ELT. Of the businesses inspected to date in the county, there is currently a 100% compliance rate.

Suspected Major Producers of Packaging

Under the *European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014*, as amended (S.I. 282), businesses who place more than 10 tonnes of packaging on the Irish market and have a turnover in excess of €1 million must either register with Clare County Council or register with the approved body, Repak Ltd.

So far, 8 businesses have been written to in November to determine whether they met the criteria to join the above scheme. Follow-up inspections, both online and in-person have also been carried out in November to monitor compliance.

Waste Facility Permit Inspections

Waste Facility Permit (WFP) Inspections were carried out at Tullagower Quarries and Corofin Car Dismantlers to ensure compliance with their WFPs.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter related complaints in November. A total of 124 complaints relating to litter and waste were received in November. All of these will be followed up and appropriate enforcement action taken if required.

Fines and Directions issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, As Amended and Litter Pollution Act 1997, As Amended. A total of 5 Notices were issued under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act in November. We also issued 4 litter fines in November, as a result of evidence found in waste.

Innovation Funding

The Environment section has secured funding of up to €60,000 under a recently announced Innovation funding programme to develop a Software system and purchase IT equipment to improve efficiencies in how we collate information during on-site inspections. It is expected that design of the system will be rolled out in the coming months. This should assist in increasing the number and quality of Environmental inspections completed.

Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team

Staff from the environment section attended an annual Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team (SEA-PT) training exercise in Renville Bay, Galway. This onsite training prepares us to manage an incident of a major oil spill on our coast or inland waters.



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 still currently 1% below budget.

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 21st October 2021 to 24th November 2021. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 19 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 357 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 186 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 33 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. Of these 25 accounted for unplanned works for water outages/ burst water mains, 3 for planned works for leak repairs/ ESB outage and 5 for step testing and water mains flushing.

Water Operations

In the Mid Clare Area, outages occurred at the following locations:

- Tobertaiscain Ennis (x 2 for period) – Burst Watermain
- Hermitage Ennis – Burst Watermain & Valve installation
- Gort Road & Gort Road Industrial Estate/Aughanteeroe – Burst Watermain (x2 for period)
- Clancy Park – Ennis – Meter Install
- Knocknamana – Clarecastle – Burst Watermain
- Bridge Court – Tulla Road – Burst Watermain.

In West Clare Area, the following outages occurred:

- Old Doolough WSZ – Coore x 3, Alva x 3; Spanish Point Road, Rineen and Cloonbony
- New Doolough WSZ – Kilferagh; Knocknagaroon, Tullabrack and Mountrivers

In North Clare Area, there were outages at Ennistymon Bridge; Gleninagh; Ballyvaghan, Kilshanny and Liscannor.

A number of outages occurred in the East Clare Area as follows:

- Clonmoney Reservoir cleaning ongoing
- Burst at Barrys Shop and on 15-inch main in Corbally
- Burst Between Barrys shop and Ardnacrusha Gate and 2 number SEC ESB Headrace bridge
- Burst in Bunratty
- Burst in O Briensbridge x 2, O'Callaghans Mills
- Burst Clonlara Main Street.

Water Conservation

In November, the Leakage Find Crews continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in the Ennis (Gort Road, Tobertaiscain and Hermitage) and Shannon (Clonmoney Reservoir & Shannon Town) District Metering Areas (DMAs).

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in East and North Clare with leaks repaired in Scariff DMA. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Drumellihy Doonbeg DMA.

Wastewater Operations

A rising main break occurred on the storm rising main in Kilkee. It was successfully repaired on 15 November by the West Clare Operations Crews without any disruption to service or negative environmental impact.

EPA's Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring (ORM) carried out sampling audits on 01 November at Doonbeg, Kilmurry Ibrickane and Inagh WWTPs.

Site investigation works including a CCTV condition survey to facilitate the rehabilitation of 2 no. 375mm rising main pipes in Shannon was successfully completed in November. The survey will allow the internal condition of the pipes to be assessed and inform whether re-lining or full replacement will be required.

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. Construction works are anticipated to commence on site in mid 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 were returned on the 21st of October and the project is at award stage now. Construction works are programmed to start on site in early 2022 and the project is programmed to be completed within 9 months. Temporary traffic management will be required at various times on Quay Road and on the R458 northwards to the Killadysert Road junction area.

Liscannon Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannon wastewater treatment plant and the new pumping station has commenced. 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 outfall. At the wastewater treatment plant hydrostatic testing of the sludge tank and backfilling around the primary settlement and storm tanks took place in late November. The effluent pump station and sludge pump station structures were constructed. At the pump station site, construction of the emergency storm storage tank has commenced. The Contractor EPS, as part of their engagement with the Community, have displayed artworks by pupils from Liscannon National School with themes of sea swimming, submarines, sea creatures and the Cliffs of Moher, on the panels around the site in John P Holland Park.

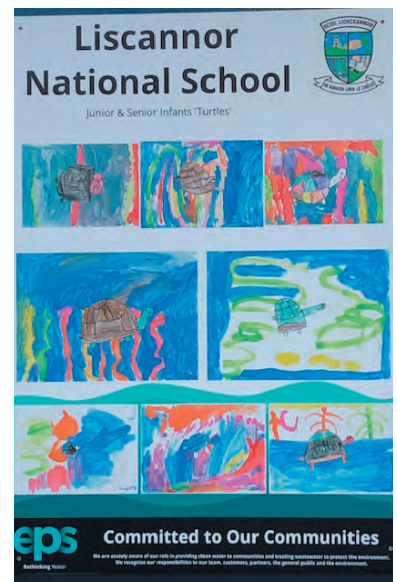
Completion of the scheme is due in early 2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the pier in Liscannon.

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water’s design team have produced a draft route and site selection report. The draft report was issued to Irish Water and Workshop 2 was held on the 14th of October. Revisions are being made to the report. The next stages involve the production of land mapping, topographical survey, draft site layout drawings and pre-planning discussions. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Following on from the planning process and 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 conducted an ecological walk over survey of the various WWTP option sites and rising main routes. A follow up workshop 2 was held on 11th October to agree the findings of the Route and site selection Report. Landowners were contacted by Irish Water and issued with letters in relation to topographical surveys and these surveys have taken place. The next stage in the scheme is production of land and wayleave drawings and then contact will be made with landowners again. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall. Following on from the planning



process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by late 2023 with completion in mid 2025. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The draft Feasibility Study Report investigates various options including locations for a new plant in each town or a new combined plant which would serve both towns. Irish Water's Consultants are currently revising the draft report to take into account low flow data for the Inagh river, and the design and cost implications of additional treatment requirements to cater for lower flows. IW will then consider the impact on the Inagh River of any proposed discharge and all risks associated with the various site options, before a decision is made on the Feasibility Study Report recommendations.

Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped 400mm diameter 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. The design process is ongoing. The majority of the rising main route is along the R458 with the final sections along the motorway service road north of Dromoland east roundabout and a land parcel owned by Clare Co Co. Pre planning discussions will be held between Irish Water and Clare Co Co. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged during Q1 2022. Following planning, approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

Construction works commenced on site on the 12th of October starting with the building of the site compound and placing of temporary fencing.

A temporary wastewater treatment plant has been installed on site to cater for flows during the construction phase. The storm storage tank and control building are being retained for incorporation into the new treatment plant. Improvements to the existing network are also planned, the extent of which will be determined by surveys of the existing sewers. It is anticipated this CCTV survey work will take place before Christmas and temporary traffic management will be needed at various locations in Kilfenora. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.



Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

Ward and Burke Construction Ltd have been appointed by Irish Water to undertake the Clare Remedial Action List (RAL) Upgrade contract. The project includes for the upgrade of three plants currently on the Environmental Protection Agencies remedial action list.

1. New Doolough Water Treatment Plant – This plant is the regional treated water source for West Clare covering the large geographical area in the county and the third largest plant by volume produced. The project will modernise the treatment technology at the plant which will allow it to achieve the desired quality of output during events which cause high turbidity in the source. Works are underway at the plant. Critical works on the initial processes were recently completed in co-operation with ESB Moneypoint in order to ensure no disruption to customers and no knock on impact to the electricity generation capacity. The intended completion date is June 2022.
2. Corofin Water Treatment Plant – this plant provides water to the town of Corofin. The project will modernise the treatment processes on site which will enable production of water to the desired standard during high turbidity events in the source lake. Works are currently underway with intended completion date of June 2022.
3. Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant – this plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. The project will modernise the treatment processes at the plant as well as bringing the plant production capacity to the required level. Design work is ongoing and it is expected that construction will commence early in 2022.

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. This project is currently at tender award stage.

Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed:

1. Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross, Athlunkard - replacement of 1,034m of 375/300mm trunk main with a 450mm diameter main- expected to start Dec 2021
2. Toberteascain, Ennis – replacement of 75/125mm main with 180mm diameter main and replacement of

public side services has commenced in late November 2021.

3. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush – replacement of 1847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main– 80% completed.
4. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór –at design stage
5. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage.

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 before year end.

Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. A flow study is currently underway which will be compared to the desktop assessment of current population equivalent being treated by the plants. The output of this stage of the project is a feasibility study report which will inform the decision on the most appropriate option to develop capacity in the plants. This report is due mid-2022.

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 the DAP project will be tendered before year end with works commencing in 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/ Internal Query (28 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 21 assets under further query and 7 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (40 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 (59 assets) –These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Council records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with the PRAI in the Council's 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 Council's name.

Rural Water Programme

Investment in Group Water Scheme and Group Sewerage Scheme upgrade works continue under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 which is coming to its completion. Works on the Ballinruane GWS are currently progressing and shall be completed in early 2022 with the replacement of 1.9km of mains. Works on the Mountrivers GSS have recently been completed and the scheme shall be submitted to Irish Water for consideration for taking in charge. Mains replacements works on the Dough GWS (Spanish Point) are currently out to tender and it is hoped to appoint a contractor prior to year's end. All of the above works fall under Measure 5 of the Programme which is for the transfer of schemes to the public network and is funded at 100%. Only 5 schemes awarded funding under the programme remain without works completed – Ballycar GWS, Quilty Seafield GWS, Clohanes GWS, Doonmore GWS and Ranaghan GWS.

The Rural Water Scheme continues to work with GWS's with a view to compiling a bid submission to the Department when sought for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme. The Rural Water Programme has met with a number of GWS's who responded to an invitation to submit bids for Taking in Charge Funding Applications and continues to develop detailed

bids on their behalf. Privately sourced schemes have also been contacted in respect of the structuring of their bids for upgrade works.

11 GWS's submitted to IW for Taking in Charge by the Rural Water Programme have progressed to the public network in late October bringing the total number of schemes advanced to the public network in Clare in 2021 to 14. The most recent schemes to progress are Ballard GWS (Miltown Malbay), Carrigerry GWS (Newmarket on Fergus), Caherkine GWS (Newmarket on Fergus/Quin), Castlequarter Ballinphonta GWS (Cratloe) , Danganella East GWS (Cooraclare), Deerpark GWS (Sixmilebridge), Dough GWS (Lahinch), Erinagh Lisduff GWS (Clonlara), Lemenagh GWS (Kilfenora), Noughaval Kiltan GWS (Kilfenora), Teerovannan GWS (O'Callaghan's Mills).

Four further schemes await taking in charge by Irish Water.

A significant number of grants continue to be assessed as part of the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme with applications now surpassing 100 for 2021. This represents a significant increase in applications over the past 3 years.

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

Switching on the Christmas lights in Ennis 2021



Christmas officially began in Ennis on November 26th, when the Christmas lights were switched on by Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Cllr Ann Norton assisted by members of the Clare Crusaders team, under the watchful eye of Santa. The event was shared online at 6pm with over 6k views across our social media platforms over the weekend. During the virtual event, Cllr. Norton along with members of the Executive and the CEO of Ennis Chamber extended season's greetings to all and invited locals and visitors into the town to experience the festive season. Their message also included an appeal to shop local and support local jobs, in addition to presenting the programme of events for 'Christmas in Ennis'.



Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced Ennis, Co. Clare, as Ireland's Tidiest Town for 2021

Ennis Tidy Towns plays a central role in our community and Ennis Municipal District continues to strongly support this community group of volunteers who have inspired others to achieve the highest standards when it comes to protecting and enhancing our environment. Following this phenomenal achievement, Ennis Tidy Towns committee extended their gratitude to the gardening and Environment Sections and all the outdoor staff who work with them on a daily basis to achieve their objectives. Ennis Municipal District is committed to working with community groups like the Tidy Towns to enhance our environment and make it a safe, clean and greener place for all to enjoy.



Town & Village Renewal Scheme - Barefield

This project funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 is nearing completion. Locals and visitors will benefit hugely from the footpath/cycle path linking both ends of Barefield village.



2021 Low Cost Safety Scheme

Works to regulate parking and install a roundabout on the Tulla Rd. /Corrovorrin junction have advanced during Q4.

