



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

# TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

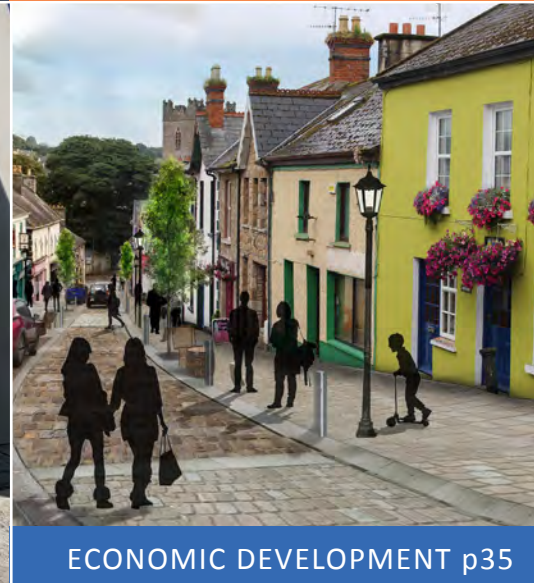
Iúil / July  
2021



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES p2



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT p12



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT p35



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p5



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT p20

# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

## CORPORATE SERVICES



### Clare County Council Annual General Meeting

The Council AGM was held on Friday, 25th June, 2021, in the Reflective Garden at Áras Chontae an Chláir. Cllr PJ Ryan (above left) was elected Cathaoirleach and Cllr Joe Killeen (top right) was elected Leas Cathaoirleach for the forthcoming year.

### Freedom of Information and Data Protection

2021 Year to date Statistics including 01/06/2021 to 24/06/2021:

- 87 Freedom of Information Requests
- 1 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- 2 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 18 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request e.g. Gardaí.

### Register of Electors Electoral Reform Bill 2020

The General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill was published on 8th January, 2021, which provides for a range of significant electoral reforms including:

- The establishment of a statutory, independent Electoral Commission for Ireland
- The modernisation of our electoral registration process

- The regulation of online political advertising in the run-up to electoral events and
- Amendments to electoral law which will assist in the holding of electoral events if Covid-19 restrictions are in place.

Details on the General Scheme of the Reform Bill can be accessed at [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie).

In preparation for the Modernisation of the Electoral Registration Process the Register of Electors Team within Clare County Council has commenced the process of carrying out a data cleansing process of the current ROE to ensure that the Register is accurate. A media campaign will be launched on our social media platforms encouraging voters to check the register to ensure their details are correct and to provide any information that is omitted, eg. date of birth, Eircode, citizenship, etc.

County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) Memorial



A memorial marking the County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) has been unveiled at Toler Street, Kilrush, County Clare, by the outgoing Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard. For more information see West Clare Municipal District on page 11.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published in June 2021.

Short description	Response deadline
Proposed Clooney Town Village Renewal Scheme	18/06/2021
Supply of Previously Owned Class B Fire Appliances	16/07/2021
Shannon Municipal District Footpath Refurbishment 2021	16/07/2021

Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Following the AGMs of the Council and Municipal Districts the Corporate Policy Group has been reformed. The members of CPG are as follows for the coming year (June 2021 to June 2022).

- Chair: Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach  
 Cllr Gerry Flynn, Chair, Social Development SPC  
 Cllr Pat Hayes, Chair, Rural Development SPC  
 Cllr Pat McMahon, Chair, Economic SPC  
 Cllr John Crowe, Chair, Physical SPC  
 Cllr Ann Norton, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District  
 Cllr Cillian Murphy, Chair, West Clare Municipal District.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Officer communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest. Media releases issued during June included: Chambers Ireland Award for ‘Connections’ project presented to Clare County Council library service; Clare Arts Office announcement of further supports for artists; and the official opening of Clare Civil Defence headquarters.

Irish language

June saw the final translation for Mother and Baby Home commemorative sculpture/plaques, along with the inauguration of County Fire and Rescue/Civil Defence HQ with respective plaques. Also ongoing signage regarding changes to dining conditions as Covid-19 restrictions shift.

Work on the draft revised Scéim Teanga is under review and online Irish language sessions are now available.

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 June:

- Posted 90 times on Clare County Council’s Facebook page, with followers now 15,909 and 14,502 people have liked the page. Posts achieved 273,793 impressions with 9,705 engagements.
- Tweeted 83 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,066. Tweets earned 76,142 impressions and 1,776 engagements.
- Posted 18 times on Instagram, with followers now 2,112.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
<b>Recruitment</b>	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during June 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Beach Lifeguard</li> <li>• Clerical Officer</li> <li>• Executive Quantity Surveyor E</li> <li>• Information Systems Technical Support Officer</li> <li>• Co-Op Student Placement</li> <li>• Assistant Water Foreman</li> <li>• Assistant Staff Officer Desktop Shortlisting Exercise</li> <li>• Retained Firefighter (Kilkee)</li> </ul> <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Engineer (Active Travel Programme)</li> <li>• Senior Staff Officer</li> <li>• Information Systems Technical Support Officer</li> <li>• General Operative Driver I</li> <li>• Environmental Patrol Warden</li> <li>• Burial Grounds / Community Playgrounds Co-Ordinator</li> <li>• Retained Sub-Station Officer</li> <li>• Library Van Driver – Attendant Driver</li> </ul>
<b>Learning and Development</b>	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in June include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children First Training</li> <li>• Climate Action Awareness Training</li> <li>• Competency Based Interview Training</li> <li>• Environment Conference</li> <li>• Cyber Security Training</li> <li>• Microsoft Word Training</li> <li>• Rhythmx Content Management Systems</li> <li>• H&amp;S Induction (Beach Lifeguards)</li> </ul> <p>With the resumption of SOLAS training this month, the following has been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe Pass Training</li> <li>• Traffic Management Briefing</li> <li>• Silky Saw pole course</li> <li>• Signing/Lighting/Guarding (SLG course) completed</li> <li>• Confined Spaces (Medium Risk)</li> </ul> <p>Essential Skillz online courses: Fire Warden Training; H&amp;S Induction; Manual Handling; and Working in a Covid-era.</p>
<b>Employee Welfare</b>	Employee Welfare supports are provided to staff on an ongoing basis.
<b>Covid-19</b>	The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.
<b>Unions</b>	The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with Unions on various matters.

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT



## Clare County Council engages with Shannon Group on Shannon Heritage sites in Clare

At the Cabinet Meeting on 29th June, 2021, it was noted that Clare County Council has engaged with Shannon Group to commence a due diligence process to consider the potential transfer by Shannon Group PLC of Shannon Heritage (Clare-based visitor attractions) to Clare County Council as a subsidiary company.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, welcomes the opportunity to engage in the due diligence process on the Shannon Heritage visitor attractions in Clare without prejudice to the outcome of the research. He thanked the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, and the Elected Members who have also supported the commencement of the due diligence process.

Chair of the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, Mr Sean Lally, welcomed the news as a very positive development for tourism in the county and for the strengthening of its visitor attraction portfolio. He noted that Clare County Council has considerable experience of operating existing visitor attractions with the assistance of two other subsidiary companies (the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre Limited and Kilrush Amenity Trust Ltd). Mr Lally added that the timing of this news is pertinent given the recent launch of the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030. Subject to this due diligence process, this very positively establishes the strategic

direction for Clare in spreading the benefits of tourism across the communities of the county.

Vice Chair of the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, Mr Maurice Walsh, also welcomed the news of both parties entering into a process of due diligence: "Given the devastating effect the Covid-19 pandemic has had on tourism in the county, bringing certainty to the future operation and development of Shannon Group portfolio of visitor attractions is vital to tourism's recovery throughout Clare. Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Craggaunowen and Knappogue Castle attract hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. This supports tourism and broader economic development in the county. The visitors they attract also helps to underpin direct access services through Shannon Airport. The role of these attractions in the future will be even more critical to the success of tourism in the county."

Chair of the Board of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd, Mr Bobby Kerr, welcomed the news from Government that Clare County Council and Shannon Group will be working together on the due diligence process to prepare for the future of the Clare visitor attractions under the auspices of Shannon Heritage. There is a lot of positive synergy between the Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty, Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Knappogue, Craggaunowen, Loophead Lighthouse

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## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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and Inis Cealtra. I wish the process and innovative thinking every success.

Chair of the Board of Kilrush Amenity Trust (Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Loophead Lighthouse), Mr Noel Kilkenny, commented

that this is wonderful news as it protects the very valuable heritage sites proven to be successful attractions and great employment for the people of Clare. With the new proposed new ownership of these sites, this will allow for a period of further stability and growth.



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## HEALTHY CLARE

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### Clare marks World No Tobacco Day 2021 with new 'Not Around Us' videos



On World No Tobacco Day, Monday, 31st May, Healthy Clare and their 'Not Around Us' campaign partners launched two new videos to promote the continued development of a tobacco free society in County Clare. The videos are part of the 'Not Around Us: Towards a Tobacco and Vape Free Clare' campaign that is being rolled out across the county.

The initiative is being led by Clare County Council's Healthy Clare team in partnership with a range of stakeholders including the HSE's Quit Mid-West team, Clare Comhairle na nÓg, Clare Children and Young People's Services Committee, Clare Youth Services, Clare Sports Partnership, Greener Clare and Healthy Ireland.

'Not Around Us' is another step towards a tobacco and vape free Clare and is in response to the Government's national target for a less than 5 per cent smoking prevalence in Ireland by 2025.

The first video explains the purpose of the campaign, encouraging organisations to sign up to being smoke and vape free: <https://youtu.be/N1YmVSzrFPY>

The second video, created by the local Clare Youth Action group in Ennistymon, highlights the supports available to those who would like to quit: [https://youtu.be/a\\_bimAgcVlc](https://youtu.be/a_bimAgcVlc)

For more information about the 'Not Around Us' campaign and to sign your organisation up to promoting smoke and vape free spaces in Clare, please visit the Healthy Clare webpage: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/healthy-clare/not-around-us-campaign/>



On 27th May, 2021, Clare County Council's Healthy Clare team organised a short Quit Smoking webinar with the HSE's Quit Mid West team for Council staff. Slides from the event can be requested from healthyclare@clarecoco.ie

Quit Mid West is a free Stop Smoking support service for anyone living in Clare, Limerick or North Tipperary. To contact the HSE's national Quit service please Freephone 180 201 203 or Freetext 50100 or visit www.quit.ie

### Clare Tourism Strategy & Tourism Advisory Forum

The LGIU (Local Government Information Unit) has documented as a best practice model the Clare Tourism Strategy process, from start to finish, to include the collaborative approach to the launch. The text for this was completed and is expected to be published by end of June.

A summarised version of this document is being published for a separate publication, the 'Go Wild' magazine.

### Burren Rocks! for European Geoparks Week

**Burren Rocks! Making sense of the Burren:**  
A series of **online (zoom)** events for European Geoparks Week. June 8th-10th 2021  
Registration required for each event. Contact: mnolan@clarecoco.ie

June 8th 19.00-19.45. Dr. Eamon Doyle:  
New fossils bring new insights into the ancient life of the Burren.

June 9th 19.00-19.45. Dr. Tiernan Henry:  
Rain, bog, sinkhole, cave, stream, sinkhole, river; the ins and outs and ups and downs of the Aille River catchment.

June 10th 19.00-19.45. Dr. Amanda Browne:  
Sand, sea and plants; the coastal dunes of the Burren and Aran Islands.

Talk for National Schools on 'Fossils of the Burren' by Dr. Eamon Doyle. Thursday 10th.11 - 11.45am

To Register: email mnolan@clarecoco.ie

**BURREN AND CLIFFS OF MOHER**  
UNESCO Global Geopark

Logos: NUI Galway, Geological Survey, NUI Galway OE Gaillimh, etc.

'Burren Rocks!' for European Geoparks Week ran successfully online this year with expert talks on hydrology, coastal dunes and geology with a special session for National Schools on the fossils of the Burren which was attended by seven national schools and 120 students.

### Geoparks Training Programme 2021

**Digital Course on UNESCO Global Geoparks 2021**  
**UNESCO Global Geoparks and Sustainability**

**LESVOS ISLAND GREECE**  
**7-20 June 2021**

Registration: <http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/geoparks2020/>

Information - Secretariat: [mi.faber@unesco.org](mailto:mi.faber@unesco.org) | [lesvospf@otenet.gr](mailto:lesvospf@otenet.gr)

Logos: UNESCO, University of the Aegean, Natural History Museum of the Island of Lesbos, etc.

Geopark on the international stage: Our Geopark was chosen by the Global Geoparks Network as an example of best practice in sustainable tourism on the UNESCO Global Geoparks training course for new and aspiring Geoparks. It is now a mandatory requirement by UNESCO to attend this course if a territory is applying for Global Geopark status. The topic was on the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark's relationship with the Burren Ecotourism Network and the training provided to businesses under the Geopark's Code of Practice. 158 people from all around the world tuned in to hear Carol Gleeson present, with many questions and comments coming from aspiring Geoparks in Asia, Africa and South America.

### Exploring potential interpretation on Scattery Island

A site visit to Scattery Island took place on 4th June to scope possible works to provide small scale interpretation of the Napoleonic Battery. Joan Tarmey, Tourism Officer, accompanied staff from Inis Environmental and OPW to "Inis Cathaigh" to discuss possible options on this historic island.



Joan Tarmey, Tourism Officer, with Howard Williams, Inis Environmental, on Scattery Island.

**Community consultation on Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience, Mountshannon**

On 15th June, a series of consultations took place with presentations from the award-winning visitor experience consultants, Tandem Partners Ltd, on their interpretive ambitions for the Old Rectory and Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience.

Consultations commenced with the Killaloe Municipal District, followed by a second online Zoom consultation, and thirdly a face-to-face event took place in Aistear Park in Mountshannon from 2pm-4pm so that local people could contribute stories/memories. Consultations were widely promoted on social media and by Mountshannon Community Council, and all were well attended.



Joanne Dunpy Allen, Mountshannon Community Council co-chair, and Andrew Todd, Tandem Partners, along with another interested community member at the consultation event in Aistear Park, Mountshannon.

**Dermot & Dave, Today FM**

From Monday, 21st June, Clare County Council promoted five days of Clare prizes geographically offered across the county, both on their national radio show and across the Today FM social media platforms.



Clare County Council promoted Clare across three weeks of the RTÉ Guide, with an advert, native article and a giveaway.



Images of County Clare will be beamed into homes across the United States this autumn.

Ireland-based Peninsula Television filmed at multiple locations throughout the county from Tuesday to Thursday, 22nd-24th June, as part of its 'Ireland: County by County' series, which has been viewed by millions of US viewers since its launch in 2020.

The 30-minute programme will air on the Create/PBS television network and will be fronted by Irish television presenter Ciara Whelan, who is best known for hosting Virgin Media's prime-time travel series, 'The Holiday Show'.

The programme is being financially supported by Clare County Council, Tourism Ireland, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Bord Bia, National Parks & Wildlife Service and CIE Tours International. The production will concentrate on various cultural, sporting, social and heritage aspects of County Clare.



Filming commenced on Tuesday, 22nd June, with a focus on Ennis, our County Town, and Clare's international reputation as home to some of the best golf courses in Ireland. The production crew departed to Shannon Airport to highlight this key asset of the county, before taking to the fairways and greens of Dromoland Castle. The day's filming concluded with the spotlight focusing on Ennis as a centre of excellence for shopping and the production crew visiting all that Ireland's boutique capital has to offer.

Day two of the production commenced with a guided tour of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience and an on-site performance by the world-famous Kilfenora Céilí Band. The food of the Burren took centre stage during the afternoon as the production crew filmed some of the local produce on offer in the region, including that of the Burren Smokehouse and others.

The final day of filming got underway with presenter Ciara Whelan meeting John McCarthy in Lahinch, before the production concluded with a kayak tour on Lough Derg, highlighting just one of the many water-based activities on offer on the Lough Derg Blueway and across Clare.

### New Clare Age Friendly Ambassador appointed



Mike Hanrahan, lead singer of Stockton's Wing, has agreed to be Clare's Age Friendly Ambassador.

Mike is originally from Ennis and did a radio interview recently with Clare FM where he told the story of his mother's journey through living with dementia. Following the death of his mother, he recently met with Karen Meehan, founding member of The Forget-Me-Nots Choir and fellow at the Global Brain Health Institute in Trinity College.

Mike has recently penned a song, 'A River Rolls On', inspired by his mother and her journey with vascular dementia. It will be recorded with the Forget-Me-Nots Choir and other musical guests.

He has decided to devote more time to help in this area as a tribute to his mother and to those who care for people living with memory loss so feels that getting involved with the Clare Age Friendly Programme will also be a natural step in his learning.



### Visitors book world-class tourism experience at Cliffs of Moher

Clare County Council is introducing a fully integrated ticketing, booking and capacity management system at the Cliffs of Moher to further enhance the overall visitor experience for the 1.6 million annual visitors to Ireland's most popular natural attraction. Clare County Council has engaged Vivaticket to roll out the Visitor Attraction Management System (VAMS) which will enable individuals and group tours to secure their visit and experience at an available time via a booking portal allowing for improved visitor flow and a better visitor spread. The new technology also offers a range of other features aimed at delivering economic and social benefits for the wider Clare tourism sector.

Established in 1999, Vivaticket is a leading global provider of integrated ticketing software solutions to the leisure and entertainment, sport, culture and tradeshow industries. The company has over 3,000 clients worldwide, including FC Barcelona, Walt Disney World Resort in Florida, the Louvre Museum in Paris, and Ferrari World Abu Dhabi.

We are pleased to appoint Vivaticket in helping us deliver our promise of ensuring the first interaction the public has with the Cliffs of Moher is a warm welcome rather than a focus on a monetary transaction.

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## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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It is important we invest in digitalisation so that the visitor can get the most out of their visit. Embracing new technology also supports us in our mission to deliver a world-class visitor experience that manages demand and delivers back to the wider tourism sector in County Clare. The VAMS encompasses the customer journey before, during and after arrival. Our aim is to have one fully integrated system that captures and reports on all visitor engagement with the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience via the online ticketing platform, and onsite to make it easier to manage demand and capacity, deploying user-friendly, engaging, informative content to users.

This critical investment is commitment to continued development of the services provided and will allow for a range of new products to be brought to the market including bespoke nature experiences with knowledgeable guides, authentic multi-attraction experiences, accommodation

bundling, local inspired outdoor dining offerings, County Clare produced gifts, all tailored to the emerging post-pandemic market.

The VAMS is scheduled to go live this summer and coincides with the development of a sustainable long-term masterplan for the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience. Clare County Council is working, with a multi-disciplinary consultancy team led by Haley Sharpe Design, to prepare the Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040.

The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is a signature discovery point on Fáilte Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, a main Geosite of the Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark, a Special Protected Area for Birds and Wildlife and is a wholly-owned tourism asset of Clare County Council. Visit [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie) for more details.



A fully integrated ticketing, booking and capacity management system is being introduced at the Cliffs of Moher to further enhance the overall visitor experience. Pictured are (l-r): Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Cllr Mary Howard, outgoing Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Bobby Kerr, Chairperson of the Board of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd; and Geraldine Enright, Director of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience.

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## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



At the West Clare Municipal District AGM on 23rd June, 2021, Cllr Cillian Murphy (above right) was elected as Cathaoirleach of the West Clare Municipal District. He succeeds Cllr Joe Garrihy. Cllr Shane Talty (above left) was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of the West Clare Municipal District. He succeeds Cllr Cillian Murphy.

### County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) memorial



A memorial marking the County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) has been unveiled at Toler Street, Kilrush, by the outgoing Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard.

The memorial to the women who gave birth in the Kilrush-based County Nursery, the children who spent their lives there, and the infants who died there, was unveiled on Thursday, 24th June, in the presence of Council Chief Executive, Pat Dowling.

Following publication of the *Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes* in January of this year, Clare County Council apologised for its role in



the County Nursery, which was owned and financed by Clare County Council during its decade of operation, 1922-1932.

Clare County Council acknowledged, with profound regret, its role in the failure to meet the care needs of women and children resident in the County Nursery.

The Council committed to supporting local measures

as part of follow-up actions, including work in relation to memorialisation. In January, Clare County Council set up a working group to progress the development of an appropriate memorial to those who lived and died in the County Nursery.

Members of the public were invited to have their say on the memorial sculpture and wording as part of a public consultation process. The memorial includes a sculpture of a mother and baby with the inscription, “Inár gcúimhne go deo/Always remember”.

Speaking at the memorial unveiling, the outgoing Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard, said: “The *Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes*, and its findings in relation to the County Nursery, made for very distressing reading.

“As the Report made clear, Ireland was a cold and harsh environment for many people during the period of operation of the County Nursery, 1922-1932. This was especially so for women, and even more so for women who gave birth outside of marriage – and their children.

“Clare County Council has apologised for its role in the County Nursery and, today, Clare County Council offers that sincere apology again.

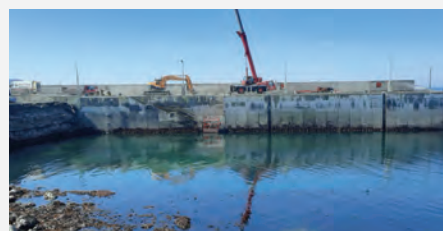
“I believe it is vital that we remember and recognise, in a tangible way, the suffering of both mothers and babies. We dedicate this memorial to the women, children, and infants of the County Clare Nursery. As the inscription on the memorial reads: ‘Always remember’. This memorial is an embodiment of our commitment to never forget.”

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, thanked the members of the working group, and all those who helped to make the memorial a reality.

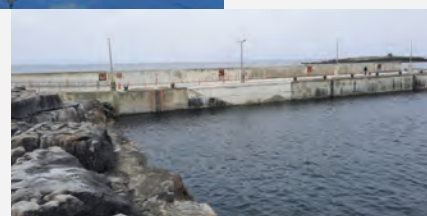
A memorial plaque will be erected to mark the site of the original County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) on the Cooraclare Road, Kilrush.

### Doolin Port

Recent works carried out at Doolin Port. Steps infilled which has increased berthing capacity and alleviated congestion at the pier, which has greatly assisted operations.



Before.



After.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSING

### Housing

School may be out for summer but demands for housing services continued at pace during June, in addition the construction programme is gathering pace with 163 housing units under construction at this time.

Staff and customers have adapted to the restrictions and the business of Housing is being delivered at pace under the ever-changing operating conditions. The housing public interface is open by appointment only, appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service. This service is working well and is generating efficiencies for staff and customers alike.

### Housing in numbers

2,059 LA tenancies	1,429 HAP tenancies	216 RAS tenancies
294 leased properties	2,659 LA properties	3,131 Rent accounts

Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District (including RAS; long and short term leasing, Traveller accommodation and mortgage to rent):		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,157	647
Shannon	604	162
West Clare	930	397
Killaloe	379	166
Inter Authority HAP		57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,070</b>	<b>1,429</b>



AREA OF CHOICE	Transfer NO	Transfer YES	Grand Total
<b>ENNIS MD</b>			
CLARECASTLE	118	55	173
ENNIS	559	752	1,311
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>1,484</b>
<b>SHANNON MD</b>			
CLONLARA	15	8	23
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	81	75	156
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	61	37	98
SHANNON	142	124	266
SIXMILEBRIDGE	36	29	65
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>608</b>

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

WEST CLARE MD			
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	22	31	53
COROFIN/RUAN	30	45	75
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	86	98	184
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	19	15	34
KILFENORA	7	2	9
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	48	50	98
KILMALEY	5	10	15
KILMIHIL	14	13	27
KILRUSH	69	73	142
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	20	36	56
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	44	50	94
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>787</b>
KILLALOE MD			
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	73	98	171
KILLALOE	40	30	70
QUIN	16	15	31
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	31	28	59
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1674</b>	<b>3210</b>

\* First area of preference only counted.  
Please note these figures are correct as of 28/06/2021.

### Summary of activity

Activity remains to be impacted by Covid-19 restrictions in some service areas with other services returned to 'normal' operating conditions. The detail hereunder provides a summary of activities during the month of June.

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from (25.05.2021 to 23.06.2021)	17
Offers refused	2
Tenancies signed up	18
Tenancies terminated	8

The funding of voids remains an issue as the Department of Housing has again changed the funding conditions thereby resulting in a greater exposure to this Council in returning voids to stock.

Voids work programme (at end June)	
Voids/casual vacancies	46
Acquired properties (works ongoing)	21
Average vacancy period	133 days
Number voids returned to stock	9
Average spend	€20,496

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing maintenance calls	
June	295

### Private rented inspections

\*Inspections suspended for June under Covid-19 restrictions.

Private rented inspections	
June	0

### Housing grants

Grants approved for June 2021		
Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works (€)
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	6	94,000
Housing Aid for Older People	18	89,450
Mobility Aids Grant	17	73,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>227,190</b>

The 2021 Allocation for Private House Grants has recently been notified to Clare County Council; a sum of €2,239,630 has been allocated of which €447,926 is to come from Council own resources. These grant schemes are normally over-subscribed and it is expected that 2021 will be no different.

### Rebuilding Ireland home loan

Demand for the Rebuilding Ireland home loan remains steady with full details on eligibility criteria and loan calculator to be found on [www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie](http://www.rebuildingirelandhomeloan.ie)

<b>21</b> Applications	<b>18</b> Approvals	2021 To 21/06/2021
<b>103</b> Loans approved	<b>67</b> Loans drawn down	
		Cumulative to date: 21/06/2021

### Homeless

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

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 26th May to 24th June, 2021: 5 households exited from homeless services; of these 5 households; 2 housed in own door properties through HAP, leasing, AHB and local authority allocations, 3 discharged/self-discharged and left homeless services.

Clare HAT is continuing to transition from the use of private emergency accommodation to a more supported model, particularly for single clients. We consistently look for creative ways to address the complexities of Homelessness. The Clann Nua Project in partnership with Mid-West Simon has now transitioned 10 clients to supported independent living with some initial positive results, whereby some clients have already returned to employment. They are now looking more positively towards their future beyond homeless services.

Homeless presentations to 24th June, 2021	
New presentations	23
Repeat presentations	83

Status as of 24th June, 2021				
	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	10	0	1
Cusack Lodge	3	5	5	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	7	12	11	1
Clann Nua	0	9	0	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	8	0	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>

### Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme

The assigned families are due to arrive in the county in the coming weeks, the families will be welcomed initially in Shannon with the subsequent assigned families residing in Ennis. The support services for these families are in place with agencies working together to assist the families to settle in the county.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Update on capital programme:

SHIP capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start date	Completion date
Shannon PPP	51	Under Construction: 23 Units – Due to compete Q2 2021 28 Units – Due to complete Q3 2021	Q4 2019	Q2 2021 & Q3 2021
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under Construction. 6 Units – Due to compete Q4 2021 12 Units – Due to complete Q1 2022	Q3 2020	Q4 2021 & Q1 2022
Doonbeg Sites	2	Handover due on 30th June 2021.	Q4 2020	Q2 2021
Scarriff	18	Rev. stage 2 app. to be submitted to DHLGH.	Q4 2021	Q1 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Stage 3 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII approved.	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Clarecastle	2	Single Stage approved by DHLGH. Contract ready to be awarded.	Q2 2021	Q1 2022
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Design Team appointed	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Design Team appointed.	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Design Team to be appointed on 25th June 2021.	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>275</b>			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	2	CALF Acquisition approved. Under construction – to close in 2021.	Q1 2020	Q2 2021
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	4	CAS – Project completed	Q3 2020	Q2 2021
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>30</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>			

## SPORTS & RECREATION



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

There is a sustained high demand for the pitches at these facilities with limited availability remaining. Full details on availability is available on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)

Competitive matches recommenced in June with many entertaining games taking place during the month.

### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

June saw the reopening of Active Ennis Leisure Centre following the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. Customers of the facility are delighted to be back for individual swimming and training sessions. All sessions are required to be prebooked by calling the centre on 065 6821604. We note that customers are experiencing delays and difficulty in contacting the facility, we apologise for this inconvenience however this is as a result of the current demand for services.

At this time there remains a capacity limit on the facility and no classes are yet permitted in line with Covid-19 restrictions. Full details on the activities at the centre are available on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)



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](http://www.claresports.ie)

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

### Clare County Library

Libraries Unit in the LGMA are providing a range of online training modules for library staff in June and July. The modules will cover communication, social media, community engagement management and leadership skills.

### Online Resources

E-audiobooks continue to top the online reading preference of the public with continued strong usage of the newspaper database “Press Reader”



- 157 posts
- 1,029 likes
- 234 shares
- 50 comments



- 112 posts
- 1,030 likes
- 25 comments



- 131 posts
- 397 likes
- 157 retweets
- 1 comment

1628 EBOOKS

2199 E- AUDIO BOOKS

913 E-MAGAZINES

510 ONLINE COURSES-  
MAGAZINES

7039 PRESS READER

56 TRANSPARENT  
LANGUAGES





GIF sharing table in Kilkee Library (provision of free vegetable plants to the public).

Library Programming	
Total number of online events	18
Total number attendances at online events	238
Total number of videos posted online (across all platforms, including Facebook/YouTube/Vimeo, etc.)	51
Total number of video views (across all platforms)	1,729

Library staff in De Valera and Kilkee libraries provided sharing tables as part of the Grow it Forward campaign. Tomato and other plants were passed on from those who received GIF seeds earlier in the year.

Staff continued to disperse library book bags to childcare groups throughout the county as part of the initiative to the Early Learning Centres in Clare.

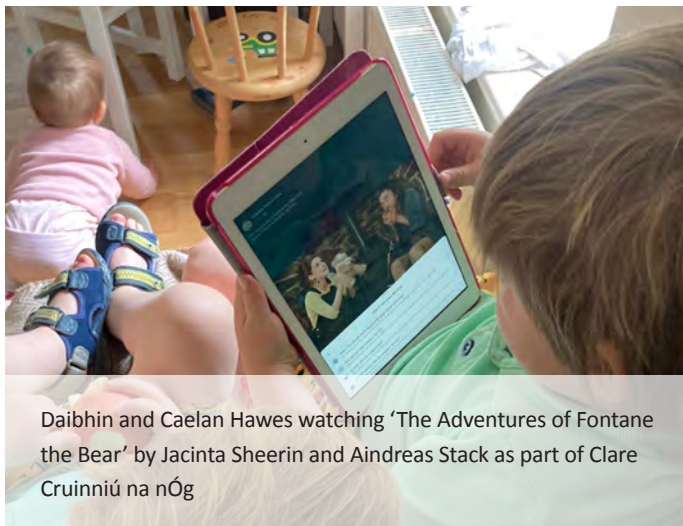
## Right to read

- Clare County Library staff attended an online workshop with storyteller and facilitator Pat Ryan as part of the ongoing "Good Books Good Companions" programme, funded by the Irish Arts Council. Staff read and discussed a range of children's fiction for ages 10 - 12 years. The aim of the programme is to support library staff across Ireland who work with children. Participants will develop skills in group facilitation with children, critical literacy as well as develop a broad knowledge of children's fiction published from the 1970s and onwards.

- The Summer Stars Reading Adventure is a national summer reading programme for children that runs from the 14th of June until the end of August. All children throughout the county are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer. Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/ eBook is regarded as having completed the programme. Children can sign up for free at their nearest library and they will receive gifts and incentives to reward their reading progress. Every child that participates in the reading programme will receive a certificate in September. Libraries in County Clare will be running a variety of programmes for children during the summer months in conjunction with the "Summer Stars Reading Adventure". Children can sign up for free to participate in book clubs, storytimes, craft workshops and creative writing groups. The National Summer Stars Reading Adventure is part of the "Right to Read" literacy initiative and was launched by Mr Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities.
- Primary school children in County Clare participated in free online workshops with Emma-Jane Leeson, author of the popular Johnny Magory series. 400 children from 6 primary schools participated in these online workshops that explored the heritage and wildlife of the Irish countryside. The workshops were provided by Clare County Library as part of the Summer Stars Reading Adventure.

## Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg festival took place on Saturday, 12th June. 25 free events were held virtually on the day. It was a very successful year with over 36,000 views on our local social media. Two Clare events were featured on RTÉ Junior television. The Speks was a sing-along blend of nursery rhymes and songs and 'The Magic of the Sea' with Fanore National School was a film telling the story of a selkie and filmed on the Clare coast with the pupils. Both pieces are now available on RTÉ Playback. All of the videos can be seen on Clare Library YouTube. A Gaelscoil student Cathal Ó Conghaile represented Clare on Cruthaim TG4 for Cruinniú. Further highlights of the programme included Scoil Cholmcille, Clouna and their story of wool, Rising Tide with Maeve Stone filmed on Lahinch Beach, the talented musicians and dancers of Inis Cathaigh Kilrush Comhaltas and Rachel Uí Fhaoláin with her intergenerational project Tríd na Glúnta.



Daibhin and Caelan Hawes watching 'The Adventures of Fontane the Bear' by Jacinta Sheerin and Aindreas Stack as part of Clare Cruinniú na nÓg

## Healthy Ireland

Two Healthy Ireland events were delivered online this month. Sonia Millar, a mindfulness teacher, delivered both workshops. The first event was for a group of sixth class children in Liscannor Primary school, which focused on 'transitioning to secondary school'. The second event was delivered to parents of special needs children, which provided tips on emotional self-help through meditation, gratitude and breath-awareness practices.

## Clare Arts Office

- Two Online Capacity Building Initiatives took place for Festivals.
- Jenny Bassett continued a Creativity Course with Clare Women's Network through the Keep Well Initiative.
- Three events of interest were listed on the Keep Well website.
- Five Zoom sessions took place with Clare Youth Theatre.
- An Artist in Schools Residencies started in Doonaha and 5 residencies were completed in Tuamgraney, Scariff, Kilrush, Sixmilebridge and Carron providing employment to 6 artists. Two artists were allocated training places on

the Teacher Artist Partnership Scheme in conjunction with the Clare Education Centre.

- Two Arts and Disability Programmes commenced with two artists and one finished.
- One online theatre event took place at Cultúrlann Sweeney.
- The Arts Office posted 25 times on social media with a post reach of 3350.
- The Arts Officer made an application in association with Teagasc to the Dept. Of Agriculture for a forestry art project and supported an application by Donegal County Council for a Climate Change Initiative.

## Clare Museum

- Refurbishment works are continuing and staff are cleaning the galleries and assisting the contractors. Staff have also been cleaning the external walls and doors and keeping the drains clear. Normal activities, such as environmental monitoring has also continued.
- 170 items were acquired this month. Staff have been taking photographs of the collection. They have also been listing three collections in the Museum and Beechpark which will assist the curator in cataloguing these items later in the year: a weights and measures collection, a collection of posters and fliers associated with Ennis and a smaller collection of objects associated with the big houses in Clare.
- The curator is currently working on the application for MSPI maintenance accreditation.
- Social media activity includes Facebook. The autograph book of Kathleen Griffin was scanned during the month with a view to placing it online. The Museum acquired a drawing by Sir Frederick William Burton, a significant Clare artist with strong Clare connections, at auction, paid for by the Friends of the National Collection of Ireland.

## Clare Local Studies & Archives

- The Manse took delivery of the photographs and newspaper cuttings files of the late Christopher Lynch (1925–2013) of Ennis. Mr Lynch made a major contribution towards the development of heritage tourism in the Mid-West Region of Ireland including principally Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Knappogue Castle and also the Craggaunowen project. The photographs and other family memorabilia associated with Clare tourism in the latter half of the twentieth century were donated to the county library by Christopher Lynch's family. Taken together with the Chef William Ryan of Shannon Airport collection of photographs, recipes and newspaper cuttings, already held in the Local Studies Centre, the Lynch collection will be an important research resource for researchers and students of economic and social development in the Shannon region.
- The Archives Service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies

library from the archives collection. The Local Studies Centre has reopened to the public and items can be viewed there. The digitisation archive programme is continuing

– the Electoral Registers are now complete and work has begun on the Board of Health records.

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



At the Killaloe Municipal District AGM on 24th June, 2021, Cllr Joe Cooney (above left) was elected as Cathaoirleach of Killaloe MD. Cllr Alan O'Callaghan (above right) was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Killaloe MD.

**Clooney TVR Project:** Design works are completed and tenders were returned in the week ending 18th June. Tenders are being adjudicated on with a view to beginning works onsite in the coming months. The works involve the provision of new public footpaths, pedestrian crossing, public lighting, line marking, signage, drainage works and other associated works.

**Traffic Management & Road Safety Lining:** Works to refresh junction lines took place over the last month in the MD. Also, Killaloe MD installed new lining and signage at O'Briens Bridge to aid Traffic Management.

**Active Travel 2021:** Design works are ongoing for multiple projects in relation to the Active Travel grant including Tulla, Dromindoora and Quin. These projects will provide new and upgraded infrastructure in these villages as well as increasing connectivity within the villages. Section 38 Traffic Calming notices are currently advertised in relation to new Pedestrian Crossings at Kilmurray and Feakle. These will come before the Members in the coming weeks for consideration.

### Amenities

Ballycuggeran – Additional Junior lifeguards have been added to the roster at Ballycuggeran in response to the expected increase in numbers due to the 'Outdoor Summer'. Additional resources will be utilised at the location throughout the Summer months. There has been an addition of 4 extra Portaloos to the site to address issues at busy periods. Mountshannon has now Lifeguards posted for the Summer months.

### Schedule of Municipal District Works

Surface Dressing operations started 21/06/2021 and will continue for 3 weeks approximately. Restoration Improvement – Approximately 5 roads projects have been completed. The remainder of the roads have been prepared and restoration works will be completed over the coming months. The Regional Road Tender awarded to Lagan Asphalt and works on resurfacing of Roads in MD will commence in early July.

### Broadford CLAR Project

Civil works are complete at Broadford including new Pedestrian Crossing, footpath upgrades and lighting.

### Footpath upgrades

Significant footpath upgrade works commenced on 22nd June in St Luas Villas, Killaloe. Works will continue for a number of weeks.



New Broadford Bicycle Maintenance Stand.



Surface Dressing 2021 – Killaloe MD.

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Strategic Transportation

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

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

### Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) document was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) Board during the summer of 2020. The LSMATS public consultation, to which all Members were invited, was launched by the NTA on 2nd September, 2020, and was on public display for an eight-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. The NTA is 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.

### 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. Each project requires approval from the NTA through a Grant Applications submission. To date, 20 of the 28 projects have been approved. Design for the projects is progressing.

### 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 tenders for the contract and the consultants are currently in review stage. At present 41% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the

current maintenance contract.

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

- Internet: Direct reporting on our website – [www.airtricitysolutions.com](http://www.airtricitysolutions.com)
- Phone: Airtricity Utility Solutions dedicated call centre – 1850 372 772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority's website or contact number.

### Road Works Programme and Operations

#### Road Design Office – Current Projects: June 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 13th May, 2021.

Project	Progress update
TII HD15 sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li><li>• 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.</li></ul> <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Derrycrossaun junction design and feasibility report is completed and has been submitted to the TII for approval. Principal project approval received from the TII in January 2021. Design Feedback has been received from the TII and these amendments have been incorporated in the detail design. The detail drawings have been resubmitted to the TII for final approval. Gateway 1 letter issued. Funding has now been approved and the project code issued.</li></ul>

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TII HD17 sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 &amp; Option Reports.</li> </ul> <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topographical surveys of the identified junctions for phase 1 is now complete, ie. Galway border to Ballyvaughan. Revised design required for a number of these junctions, ie. New Church and N67/L50221.</li> <li>The revised design for Minster Place, Kilkee, has been approved by the TII. The RDO has revised costings separating the active travel components of the project as requested by the TII, the feasibility report reflecting this is being prepared for submission to the TII, the revised feasibility report has now been submitted to the TII.</li> </ul>
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R463/ R466	O'Briens Bridge / Bridgetown Junction	LCS with new signage and lining. Improve sightlines by removing existing vegetation.	Survey completed. Design phase is completed.
R352	R352 Spancill Hill to Tooreen	Renew existing road lining, cut back vegetation, SLOW markings on road, 80kph repeater signs, centre and edge lining.	Survey completed. Design ongoing.
L-3050-0	Clonlara primary school on the L3050-0	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point at the primary school in Clonlara.	Survey & Preliminary Design is Completed. Feedback from TII and Shannon MD received Final Design being progressed. Currently at Section 38 stage.
R476/ L5260	Kilnaboy	Improve sightline exiting the L5260 on to the R476. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Survey completed. Design phase is 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.	Survey completed.
L2050	Cahill's Hill on Local road from Killmer Ferry to Cooraclare	Improved signage and a pull in area for motorists.	Survey completed. Design phase is completed.

### Low-cost safety schemes 2021

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.	Survey is completed. Design complete, waiting on approval from TII.
Junction of R462 & R471	Pedestrian crossing in the Square, Sixmilebridge	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point across on the R462 in Sixmilebridge.	Survey & Preliminary Design is Completed. Feedback from TII and Shannon MD received Final Design being progressed. Currently at Section 38 stage.
R478 / L10381	Doonagore	Improve sightlines approaching R478 from southern side L10381.	Survey completed. Design phase is completed.
L4190-7/ L8272-0	Lismulbreeda	Warning signs and to slow down traffic on the approaches to the bend.	Survey completed. Design phase is completed.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

L4058-2 & L4062	L4058/L4062 Junction in Feakle	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School and two housing estates	Survey is completed. Preliminary design is complete. Currently at section 38 stage.
R460/L1010	Lough Bunny	Improve sightlines onto the L1010 from both sides of junction. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Survey completed. Design phase is completed.
L4611-0	L4611-0 Newpark Ennis	Provide a controlled crossing point. Where footpaths are discontinuous.	Survey to be completed.

Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	NTA have assessed proposed locations. Six new bus shelters (Kilkee, Lisdoonvarna, Crusheen, Newmarket on Fergus, Limerick Rd Ennis and Westbury) and upgrading five existing bus shelters in Shannon. NTA have approved funding and the contractor is being appointed. Works to commence in early June. Works have commenced in Kilkee, Lisdoonvarna and Crusheen.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.</li> </ul>
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 MD's. Cycle lane and road line marking form the Clare Inn Roundabout to Clonmoney is substantially completed.
Circular RW 09/2020 – Climate Change Adaptation Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. The 2021 remaining elements 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 process is ongoing.
Cycle counts	Ongoing monitoring of cycle counts at four locations in Ennis and one in Lahinch.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced 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.

### Other projects

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	<p>Wheelchair accessible bus stop on Bothar Linne, Shannon Town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design is completed and issued to the Shannon MD.</li> <li>The project received €30,733 in NTA funding.</li> <li>A Preliminary Safety and Health Plan have been issued to the Shannon MD. Works commenced in late November. Works well underway with the remainder to be completed in 2021.</li> <li>Works have recommenced as Covid-19 restrictions have now lifted restrictions. Bus shelter structures have been erected, works on kerbs and slab are ongoing.</li> </ul>

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. Detailed project applications have now been substantially lodged with the NTA. Design and statutory process progressing.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	A Specific Improvement Grant Application for R352 (Henchy's Cross) upgrade was submitted to the Department of Transport on the 18th November 2020 in order to progress the project to the next phase. The Department of Transport has allocated €100,000 in February 2021 for specific improvement works. A revised design is progressing through preliminary design.
Circular RW 06/2021 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021	A funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport (DoT) on 26th March, 2021. Funding of €699,350 has now been approved.

- Finnor Beg Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence July
- Ardnacraa Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence July
- Lough North Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence July
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed. Contractor appointed
- Furror Upper Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed. Contractor appointed
- Cloghaun Beg Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued. Tenders returned and being assessed
- Honan's Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued. Tenders returned and being assessed
- Dereen Bridge: Topographical survey completed week commencing 24th May. Repair options currently under review
- Ballynacally Bridge: Tender issued
- Cahircon Bridge: Tender issued.

### Other Bridge Works

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

## 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 June to discuss possible repair works. Meeting held National Monuments not in favour of repair solution
- Stonepark Bridge: Works to commence early July, road closure required for 5 week duration
- Smithstown Bridge: Complete bar snagging. Due for completion by mid-June
- Ballyalla Bridge: Delayed with water levels and Covid restrictions. Works recommenced 15th March. Complete bar snagging. Due for completion by mid-June
- Sragh Bridge: Initial investigation carried out 16th March. Structural investigation completed Atkins Consulting currently carrying out assessment of bridge. Topographical survey completed
- Corlea Bridge: Contractor on site due for completion in 2 weeks. Works complete bar snagging
- Pollagoona Bridge: Contractor appointed works to commence when Corlea Bridge is complete.
- Derrynacaw Bridge: Contractor appointed works to commence when Corlea Bridge is complete.
- Latoon Masonry Bridge: Design ongoing- tender drawings issued for review. Screening complete, progressing to tender stage.
- Derrycon Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June
- Cloonolia Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June.

## Health and Safety

During the past month the Health and Safety Team continued to provide support and guidance in the format of Covid-19 risk assessments to the Crisis Management Team and all Departments of Clare County Council in the delivery of essential services and in accordance with the Governments National Framework for Living with Covid-19. The Clare County Council Covid-19 Response Plan was revised and updated in June in accordance with the Government Covid Work Safely Protocol and LGMA High Level Local Authority Covid-19 Work Safely Health and Safety Guidance.

The Health and Safety Team continued to progress their Schedule of Workplace Risk Assessment and Safety Statement reviews and have recommenced their Programme of Safety Inspections in accordance with the revised CCMA Local Authority Services Framework issued on 7th April on the staggered easing of restrictions.

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 during the months of May and June. In total 133 staff have been trained to date across 20 training sessions in compliance with Covid controls. Monitoring of the revised Traffic Management Guidance will commence from 1st June.

### General Design

#### Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Sixmilebridge: Tender submissions received 17th June. Tender report to be completed before the end of this week. Proposed/estimated start date for works on site, mid-July to August.

Barefield: Phase one tender drawings nearing completion, cost/budget estimate to be completed. Section 38 to be published week 26. Preliminary masterplan design in process.

Corofin: Preliminary masterplan design in process.

#### Quin Road Campus

The Minister of Defence and Foreign affairs, Mr Simon Coveney, in the presence of Local and National Elected Representatives, Clare County Council Officials, members of the Clergy and notable guests in the Gardaí and National Civil Defence, officially opened the Clare Civil Defence garage, training and administration office at Quin Road Campus Building at Quin Road Business Park on Tuesday, June 8th.

The General Design Office of Clare County Council acted as the Designers, Design Team Leaders, Assigned Certifier, PSDP on the project with Carmel Greene, Project Leader, from its inception to completion of the works and in concert with Moloney Fox

Consulting Engineers (Mechanical & Electrical), P. Coleman & Associates Engineers (Structural) and AECOM Quantity Surveyors. The main contractor that successfully completed the works was Jada Kelly RAC JV, supported by a host of specialist sub-contractors; most notably O'Keeffe Electrical and Kelly RAC for the electrical and mechanical installations respectively.

In addition to the Civil Defence facilities, the Campus also includes Training and Office Facilities, a Records Management File Repository with Administrative Offices, Environment Section Store Rooms, Ennis Digital Hub along with Welfare Facilities.

#### Fencing

- Old quarry entrance, Gaurus – 2m high Nylofor fence and gates erected
- Derelict house, Claureen roundabout – Post and rail fence painted and chain-link mesh wire attached. Clean-up complete.



#### Mapping

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass - ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Separate Lease and Sub-Lease maps prepared - new licensed area for O'Briensbridge Community Group (playground and gym).

#### Kilrush Mother & Baby Home Memorial

Works completed, unveiling of the memorial was held on Thursday, 24th June.

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## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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Considerable progress was made across a range of projects during the month of June with a number of significant milestones achieved. The main updates are as follows.

#### Cloughaninchy Coastal Protection Works

Clare County Council are progressing negotiations with landowners. However, and despite the Council's best endeavours, certain landowners are not engaging with us. It should be emphasised that the project cannot proceed without all landowner consent.

#### Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building

A cross directorate workshop was held during the month, at which the design consultants Bucholz McEvoy presented concept layout options. This review phase is ongoing, with particular emphasis on ensuring that the internal spaces and facilities meet the primary operational and tourism needs. Car parking and access options are being assessed in parallel taking cognisance of ecological mapping recently updated as part of

the preliminary design stage with the use of third-party lands being considered as well as optimisation of existing parking areas.

#### Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme

This scheme is substantially complete and has been delivered on time and within budget. A number of small items remain to be addressed and these will be done when river conditions and environmental windows allow.

#### Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

The Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme is practically completed at this stage. The final part of the scheme involving the construction of the pump station is now completed along with the associated section of sheet piling. All the sluices have been installed and the outfalls connected to the river. The contractor has landscaping, fencing and other minor elements of work remaining. In the event of a flood event, the scheme is now fully operational to deliver the designed protection level. The overall



project, despite significant difficulties due to the poor ground conditions, has been delivered within programme.

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

An Bord Pleanála convened the Oral Hearing to hear evidence on this proposed project on 9th and 10th June, 2021. The Council's Engineering and Planning Briefs of Evidence were presented to the Inspector by the project team consisting of Clare County Council in conjunction with the Mid West Regional Road Design Office and Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. Landowners affected by the scheme were also permitted to make submissions and give their evidence. The An Bord Pleanála Inspector will now consider all submissions and make his recommendation to the Board as to whether the CPO should be confirmed or not. We await the outcome of their decision which is expected in late September/October time.

### **Errinagh Canal bank walkway**

While we await the restrictions imposed by the nesting season, Clare County Council has undertaken a review of the construction aspects and screening requirements to ensure that potential impacts on the immediate environment are controlled to an acceptable level. Appropriate Assessment is being carried out and consultation with the NPWS will determine the earliest construction start date. In June, the Invasive species monitoring programme continued, and spraying was carried out on all new growth within the works area.

### **Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass**

A significant milestone for this project was achieved in early June when Ministerial approval was confirmed by the Department of Transport to proceed to Stage 2 of the tender process. This now gives us the green light to issue Tender documents to the 6 pre-qualified candidates from Stage 1 of the process. These include, in no particular order, BAM, Roadbridge, Wills Brothers, John Cradock Ltd, Farran/Sorensen and Sisks. The project team are now preparing the final tender package and it is expected that tender documents will be published via the eTenders platform by the end of July 2021. Subject to Department approval it is envisaged that the Contract will be awarded by year end and that construction on site will commence in Spring 2022.

In the interim, the advance works contract has now reached substantial completion with site clearance, fencing, utility diversions and critical boundary treatments all completed in recent weeks. The ESB are progressing some additional necessary diversion works over the summer in advance of the main works contract. The additional areas of Archaeological works identified in Ballyvally, Killaloe have now been fully resolved with the excavation and recording of findings completed. Backfilling works of this area is scheduled for next week which will conclude the Archaeological site works. Final reports and public presentation on the findings are expected later in the year following testing and carbon dating analysis.

Arbitration hearings re-commenced on 14th June and three cases were heard during that week while we now await the

decision of the Arbitrator. In parallel, a number of other Landowner cases have been finalised by agreement.

### **Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme**

RPS Coastal are approximately halfway through the 'Wave & Water Level Study' and now have a completed model which is currently being tested using multiple storm and weather scenarios. Some initial results will be obtained from this to-wards the end of July with the final report to be issued in early August.

The tender competition for the Site Investigation Contract closed on Friday, 18th June, 2021. Five tenders were submitted which are currently being assessed. A letter of intent will be issued to the successful contractor in early July following receipt of the relevant approvals. A further Hydraulic Workshop is planned for mid-August following receipt of results from the 'Wave & Water Level Study'.

Information on the project can be accessed through our online information video and associated information literature available on the scheme website [www.kilkeefrs.ie](http://www.kilkeefrs.ie)

### **Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)**

We await the finalisation of the LSMATS Report by the NTA following which, we would expect to hear back from the Department of Transport further to our submission of the Project Appraisal suite of documents last November. If favourable, we will be in a position to progress to the next stage of development.

### **Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)**

Members were previously advised of a third-party application to seek a Judicial review of the Part VIII permission approved by the Council at the September meeting. The case is still currently before the Courts, but we are hopeful of an early favourable outcome. Thereafter, we will be in a position to carry out the necessary Geotechnical Investigations which will inform the detailed design and allow us to engage further with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

### **Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme**

The closing date for submission of tenders from Contractors has now passed. These are now being considered and assessed following which, it is hoped to appoint a Contractor in the coming weeks. In parallel, we are continuing negotiations with affected landowners and assuming agreement, it is hoped to commence works in late August.

### **N19 Shannon Airport Access Road**

Phase Two (Options Selection) is currently ongoing which is a three stage process and includes Stage 1 – Preliminary Options Assessment; Stage 2 – Project Appraisal Matrix and Stage 3 – Selection of a Preferred Option.

The Stage 1 - Preliminary Options Assessment has been completed. Work continues to progress in relation to finalising the Stage 2 (Project Appraisal Matrix) for the scheme which involves the assessment of the potential impacts of the options,

and their relative success in achieving the project objectives, under the headings of engineering, environment and economy.

The Project Team are currently assessing the observations received from the various project stakeholders: Shannon Airport, Shannon Commercial Properties, National Transport Authority, TII's Intelligent Transport Systems Department, Future Mobility Campus Ireland, Clare County Council's Fire & Building Control Department, An Garda Síochána and TII's Structures Department. These observations will feed into the final preferred option selection which is expected to be completed in Q3 2021.

Following identification of a Preferred Option it is intended to brief the Councillors at this stage prior to the Public Consultation phase which is anticipated to take place in late Q3 2021. Bi-monthly co-ordination meetings with the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Project Team are ongoing to ensure constraints and Health and Safety impacts from investigatory survey works currently progressing from either project are managed as they are progressed independently of each other. Further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed through our scheme website, [www.shannonaccess.ie](http://www.shannonaccess.ie)

### **N85 Upgrade at Kilnamona**

A meeting has been arranged between the PMO and the Mid West Regional Road Design Office (MWRRO) for early July in order to progress this important project. Following which it is expected we will be in a position to appoint Technical Advisors for the project in the coming weeks to commence the design process.

### **Piers and Harbours**

Work is progressing well on the delivery of a number of Harbour Development and Marine Leisure Schemes across the county at Ballyvaughan, Doolin, Seafield, Doonbeg and Carrigalholt. Works have been completed at Doolin Pier consisting of the construction of additional berthing space along the new pier for the Aran Island Passenger Ferries. This work has allowed the passenger ferries to utilise the full extent of the pier resulting in increased safety and efficiency.

### **Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)**

Tender documents in respect of the appointment of Engineering Services for a final remediation plan have been prepared and are under-going internal review prior to publishing in the coming weeks. In the interim, the sites having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works, are routinely monitored by Council staff. New signage has been ordered in recent weeks to replace the earlier signage following deterioration due to the weather. Moreover, we continue to liaise with the EPA and take their direction in this regard.

### **Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme**

The Project Steering Group led by Clare County Council and including the Office of Public Works and Shannon Airport

Authority and Commercial Properties continue to meet with our Consultants RPS Consulting Engineers, online each month.

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

- The Geophysical Survey field work is now complete with some minor snags outstanding. Processing of the survey data is well advanced and draft deliverables are expected in early July.
- The Topographical Survey is also progressing well with the surveyors concentrating on channel sections and the existing embankment survey. Threshold surveys commenced this week and a portion of draft deliverables have now been submitted for review.
- The Sewer Network Survey is ongoing and progress is being made on the CCTV element of the works. CCC and our consultant RPS continue to liaise with the contractor in addressing the issues encountered thus far, such as buried MH covers, heavy siltation and general lack of access to the culverts.
- The Site Investigation contractor mobilised to site in late June. Drilling works are ongoing on the Shannon Airport Authority East Embankments. SAA expect to appoint a contractor for their maintenance works on the East and West embankments in the coming weeks.

A Virtual Consultation for the scheme was launched in mid June for 2 weeks where the public very invited to access the relevant scheme information online through a link on the project website. Nesting bird surveys have also been carried out over recent weeks. The Constraints Study Report has been drafted by the consultant and will be finalised and issued after the public consultation.

### **Spanish Point Coastal Protection Scheme**

The main works have been completed with some minor improvement works such as fencing and local landscaping remaining to be done once the busy summer season is over.

### **Springfield, Clonlara FRS**

Members will be aware of the additional works that were re-quired in Springfield. The Hydrogeologist's report on groundwater flows in the Springfield area has now been completed by the specialist consultant and submitted to Clare County Council. A further report by the Scheme Consultants Byrne Looby on the Hydrogeology report and its implications for the scheme has also now been completed and submitted to Clare County Council only this week. The report examines and interprets the findings of the hydrogeology report and makes recommendations on same. The report and recommendations are currently being carefully considered by Clare County Council and the Office of Public Works, following which we will be clearer on the way forward and be in a position to inform the Residents and Members more fully. This will be done at the very earliest juncture.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

### West Clare Railway Greenway

Following assessment of Tenders received in the recent competition for the appointment of Consultants, Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers were formally appointed for the Kilrush to Kilkee Section at an outdoor signing in Moyasta in the past week or so. The Consultants will now commence working on Route Options and Constraints with a view to a preferred route emerging. This exercise will require extensive public consultation and engagement with affected landowners and interest groups. It is hoped after an initial data gathering phase, we will be in a position to hold a Public Consultation Day in early September.

In parallel, the PMO are preparing tender documents

for a further element of the overall Greenway, the Ennis to Ennistymon Section. It is hoped to be in a position to appoint Consultants for that Section in the next number of months.

### White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works

Site Investigation works were recently carried out which will inform the optimum design and these are currently being reviewed. Following which, a Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) will be carried out to determine the best option for the scheme. In parallel, engagement with the relevant stakeholders and landowners is continuing.

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during June:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training.

recently been carried out at Shannon, Killaloe and Kilkee Fire Stations.

### Fire Station Projects

Refurbishment and general maintenance works have

### New Class B Fire Appliance

An order has been placed for a new Class B Fire Appliance. The expected delivery date is 2022.

### Fire & Building Control Activities

Fire and Building Control Section Main Activities	May 2021	June 2021 (up to 29.06.21)	Year to date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	61	61	393
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	7	2	26
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	9	2	26
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	3	1	14
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	3	2	19
Number of Commencement Notices Received	38	29	202
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	1	8

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



## Clare Civil Defence

### Official Opening of Clare Civil Defence Headquarters

Minister Simon Coveney, Minister for Defence and Foreign Affairs, officially opened the new Clare Civil Defence headquarters on Tuesday, 8th June, 2021. The ceremony was attended by Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard; Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Pat Dowling; elected members of Clare County Council; Clare Oireachtas members; the Secretary General of the Department of Defence, Ms Jackie McCrum; and the Principal Officer of the Civil Defence Branch, Ms Emer Dalton. A large cohort of the 82 active volunteer members of Clare Civil Defence were also in attendance.

The new facility at the Quin Road Campus in Ennis is a state of the art, purpose designed building that will be utilised by more than 100 Civil Defence volunteers from around the county and includes training facilities, office accommodation, records management centre, storage and garage.

The acquisition and redevelopment of the headquarters was funded by Clare County Council and supported by the Department of Defence and illustrates the confidence in and support of the volunteer members by both. The work carried out by the members throughout the pandemic further illustrates the commitment and sense of community spirit inherent in the organisation. Clare Civil Defence are extremely grateful and proud to be operating out of the new Civil Defence Headquarters and they look forward to many years of serving Clare County Council, Principal Response Agencies and the wider communities of County Clare.

### Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Clare v Kilkenny hurling match and Clare v Mayo football match in Cusack Park.



Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Board with their blood donation clinic in St Joseph's Doora Barefield GAA Club.
- Members provided transport for patients to hospital appointments in Ennis and Limerick.

### Members Training & Professional Development

- Members took part in first aid training and first aid refresher training.
- Trainee coxswains resumed training on the River Fergus.
- Members attended a Search Responder Course which included a night time search between the hours of 1.00am to 4.00am.
- Members attended AFS training on the use of fire hoses and pumps.
- Emergency Medical Technicians attended a Clinical Placement Development night on ECG recognition.

## ENVIRONMENT

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### 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 current restrictions will affect our output in terms of inspections, interaction with the public, businesses, contractors and other agencies.

### Water and Scientific Services

#### Water Pollution Complaints

A total of 75 complaints (incl. Section 4 licensed sites, wastewater and agriculture) have been received and investigated to date in June 2021. Enforcement notices/letters have issued where required under the Water Pollution Acts and the Good Agriculture Practice for the Protection of Water Regulations 2017 as amended.

#### Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS)

Tobin Consulting Engineers on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications are undertaking a research investigation in relation to Rural Water Services. The scientific team completed a questionnaire and provided information with respect to DWWTS inspection procedures in Clare County Council and also provided information on our experience of the DWWTS grants system including its strengths and weaknesses. To date, 8 DWWTS inspections have been completed as part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Inspection programme.

#### Planning referrals from Planning Department

The EPA recently published a revision to the Code of Practice for Single Houses, the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2021 Code of Practice, Domestic Waste water Treatment Systems (Population Equivalent  $\leq 10$ ). All planning applications received after June 7th 2021 will be assessed based on this revised code.

To date, 242 reports relating to single house developments have been prepared and submitted to the Planning Section. 204 forestry reports (includes applications for planting, felling and forestry roads) which were referred from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have been examined and recommended conditions submitted in order to ensure that mitigation measures are taken to protect water quality in sensitive locations.

#### Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans

South Western Regional Water Framework Directive (WFD) Operational Committee meeting was held on 23rd June. The publication of the 3rd Cycle draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is imminent, followed by a six-month public consultation period. The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) has engaged RPS Group to develop and host

virtual consultation rooms (accessed through new waters and communities website). Consultation rooms will open approximately 2 weeks after the plan launches and will remain open through the public consultation process. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) aims to publish the final plan near the end of 2021.

### Laboratory & Technical Support

#### River Monitoring Programme 2021

Clare County Council is required to collect 295 river water samples in 2021. The calendar for sampling was agreed with the EPA in December last with the sampling spread evenly over the 12 months. The sixth round of sampling was completed during the month of June.

#### 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 Service Level Agreement. The level of monitoring required is agreed with Irish Water and is based on the population served. The monitoring is spread evenly throughout the year with all analysis results forwarded to IW in the agreed format.

#### Wastewater Treatment Plants

Laboratory Staff in conjunction with Area based Technicians monitor all Licensed and Certified discharges for compliance with their discharge limits. In Clare, monitoring varies from monthly to twice yearly, based on population served. Monitoring is spread throughout the year and continued in June.

#### Historic Landfills

The process of applying for a Certificate of Authorisation for Whitegate Historic Landfill has continued with two rounds of analysis results received from the contracting laboratory. These analysis results will form the basis of any proposed remediation. Clare County Council should be in a position to apply for the Certificate in early autumn.

#### River Monitoring Programme 2021

The Environment Section has completed the sixth round of river water sampling in June. Our sampling programme has been agreed in advance with the EPA.

#### Bathing Waters

The bathing water season commenced on the 1st June with all fourteen designated bathing areas sampled and monitored as per the requirements of the Bathing Water Regulations. As June draws to a close, we can report that all areas have returned Excellent status results. Analysis results and beach profiles can be viewed on [www.beaches.ie](http://www.beaches.ie). This web site is updated hourly throughout the bathing season.

### Gardening

In June, our gardening team planted pollinator friendly and perennial flowers interspersed with vibrant species that showcase our commitment to a more sustainable planting regime. Planned works for the team are ongoing which include the maintenance of these summer beds. The gardening team have also begun cosmetic maintenance works at Shannon town hall.

### Waste Management

#### Doora – Forestry

The Doora historic landfill site is currently being considered for a forestry-planting programme. Teagasc and the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) are currently considering the merits of the project with initial consultation positive.

#### Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Final design for works at Ballyduffbeg landfill site have been agreed with our Consultant and a Specified Engineering Works report has issued to the Environmental Protection Agency for final approval. Tender documents for a works contractor will be loaded on E-Tenders shortly.

### Waste Enforcement

#### Anti Litter Capital Infrastructure Grant

Clare County Council has been awarded €125,000 under this grant funding scheme, to assist with Litter Management during the peak summer season of 2021 and to provide longer-term beneficial impacts.

Supports for community groups e.g. Tidy Towns can also be provided from this funding. The purchase of supplies i.e. litter pickers, bags and PPE to support affiliated groups.

A local social media Anti-Litter Awareness campaign has been produced featuring prominent local sportspeople, including a local Olympic athlete, giving a positive message to protect and enjoy our communities together.

#### Facilitation of an Outdoor Summer Grant Scheme - €94,000 Allocation

Clare County Council has received an allocation of €94,000 under the "Facilitation of an Outdoor Summer" grant scheme. As per circular Fin 10 2021 this scheme is not intended to be overly prescriptive. The criteria for claiming under this scheme are as follows:

- Provision and Maintenance of Public Amenities e.g. provision of public toilets at locations where there were none
- Signage that will facilitate outdoor activities and leisure in compliance with public health guidelines at sites around the country
- Allocation can be used for the provision and ongoing maintenance of whatever additional facilities local authorities decide are needed in the summer period.

To date the Municipal Districts have purchased signage, hired public toilets, hired contract cleaners, and provided extra staffing resources at popular visitor sites throughout the county.

All associated expenditure incurred over and above the normal

costs is being tracked and will be claimed under this Grant Scheme.

#### Liaising with Business Owners in Relation to Litter Management

In response to the opening of outdoor dining, the Awareness Campaign advising food/beverage retail businesses of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act has been extended to Ennis. A total of 57 Ennis businesses have been engaged with.

#### Dog Fouling

Four audio warning devices have been installed in the following locations:

- Lee's Road Amenity Park, Ennis,
- Lahinch Promenade,
- The Pollock Holes, Kilkee
- Tulla village.

These devices deliver the audio message advising dog owners to clean up after their dogs to avoid a €150 fine. These devices were funded by the Anti-Dumping Initiative Funding 2021.

#### Notifications of Controlled Burning

The Enforcement Team have received 8 notifications of controlled burning from farmers in June. Notification Numbers have issued to all applicants. The notification numbers are used in correspondence with the Fire Service.

#### Waste Management Bye Laws

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to investigate ongoing illegal dumping in various locations throughout the county using the tools available to them such as the Waste Management Bye Laws. In June to date, 28 Waste Management Surveys were carried out under the Waste Management Bye Laws.

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

In total, 3 Section 55 Notices, 1 Section 9 Notice (Notice requiring the removal of litter) and 2 Section 14 Notices were issued in June, instructing the landowners to carry out various tasks to clean their sites. These are being monitored and appropriate action will be taken where necessary.

We have received, 8 complaints relating to litter in June. A total of 40 complaints relating to waste have been received in June and are currently being investigated.

We have issued 5 litter fines in June to date, based on evidence found by the Environment section in illegally dumped waste.

#### Beach Bye Laws

The Clare County Council Beach Bye-Laws 2021 were adopted at the June Council meeting and will come in to effect on 15th July, 2021.

#### Beach Bye Law Patrols

The Community Wardens have begun patrolling the beaches at weekends. The wardens will patrol the various beaches at weekends throughout June, July, and August to check for compliance with the Beach Bye Laws.

## WATER SERVICES

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### 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.

### 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 25th May to 24th June 2021. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 10 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Emergency Work Order was received during the timeframe
- 382 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 202 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 47 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 38 accounted for unplanned works for water outages and burst water mains. 3 accounted for planned works and the remainder 6 notices were for leak repair, step testing and leak detection works.

#### Water Operations

A number of outages occurred in the Hermitage, Tobartaiscan, Ruan and Corofin in the Mid Clare Area.

In West Clare, a number of outages in water supply due to the aging asbestos pipe network occurred in Alva, Tullabrack, Cooraclare and Doonmore, Doonbeg. A number of outages

occurred in the general Miltown Malbay area due to works on the Mullagh Miltown Malbay Capital Project and outages at Rineen and The Hand.

In the South East Clare area, a number of outages occurred in the vicinity of O'Connor's Cross, Larkin's Cross and Ardnacrusha areas. In the Shannon Area, there were outages in Choill Mhara Estate in Shannon due to mains rehab works and repairs on the Sixmilebridge to Cratloe watermain.

#### Water Conservation

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

In June, the Leakage Find Crews continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in Ennis (Tobartaiscáin, Clon Road) and Shannon (Smithstown & North Freezone) District Metering Areas (DMAs).

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in East & West Clare with leaks repaired in Killaloe DMA and Kilkee East DMA. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Newmarketon-Fergus and Knockera DMAs.

#### Wastewater Operations

On Saturday, May 29th, there was a break on the sewer rising main in Kilkee at a location some distance away from the previous weeks incident. Flows were diverted and there was no environmental impact. Repairs were carried out and the rising main was restored to full service.

Capital maintenance work has been completed at Doonbeg wastewater treatment plant in May. Part of this work included the installation of a fine air bubble diffused aeration system which has been operational during the month of June.

## Irish Water Capital programme Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant Interim upgrade

The upgrade works are complete. The treatment capacity of the plant is now 28,500 PE and the discharge to the Shannon estuary is compliant with the discharge licence. Irish Water has issued the commissioning certificate to the contractor. The contract provides for one year operation by Response Engineering Ltd (Ward & Burke).

## Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant near Skagh Point, a rising main and upgrade of the ex-isting Francis St pumping station are proposed in Kilrush. The Notice of Entry is to be issued to the landowners shortly by Irish Water. Construction is scheduled to commence by early September 2021 with completion by 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 Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant.

It is planned to go to tender shortly and works are programmed to start in January 2022.

## Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer are proposed for Liscannor. A Notice of Entry has been made and possession of the CPO'd land was taken by Irish Water in June. Construction is to commence by early September 2021 with completion due in early 2023.

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

## Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water are reviewing the route and site selection report following withdrawal of the previous CPO. Following Irish Water's approval of the site and route, the environmental, land acquisition, planning and archaeology reports and documentation will be prepared. A revised programme is to follow.

## Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main is planned for Kilkee. A revised route and site selection report is due in July. Once agreed by Irish Water, the environmental, land acquisition, planning and archaeology reports and documentation will be prepared. Following planning approval, construction it is anticipated to commence by mid 2024 with an 18 month programme. A relining contract for the two existing rising mains is being considered by Irish Water and is currently under investigation.

## Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Upgrades of wastewater treatment facilities for Ennistymon and Lahinch are required as both existing plants do not meet the emission limit values required by their wastewater discharge licences. This project is in the current Irish Water Capital Investment Programme. Mott McDonald Consulting Engineers produced a draft Feasibility Study Report for various options including combining Ennistymon and Lahinch treatment at one new plant. Irish Water is currently considering the impact of the proposed discharge on the Inagh River before a decision is made on the Feasibility Study Report.

## Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. A foreshore licence and discharge licence review will be required. Some additional site investigation is required near Latoon. Design is ongoing. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged in late 2021. Construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by early 2024.

## Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to upgrade the existing Kilfenora wastewater treatment plant, reuse the existing treated effluent rising main to the current discharge point and construct a new percolation area at this site. Planning compliance documentation is to be completed and submitted to Clare County Council before construction commences. Construction is planned to commence by the end of August 2021 and be completed in early 2023.

## Quin Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

This project aims to provide additional capacity and treatment capability by constructing a new wastewater treatment plant on the existing site while maintaining the operation of the existing plant during the construction period.

All construction works are now complete at the plant. The plant is now receiving full flow from the village and is treating effluent to a higher standard than the original plant. Process optimisation is being carried out by the contractor. The plant has successfully completed its testing phase. Final snagging works are being completed.

## Remedial Action Lists Upgrades

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

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



- Ballymacravan WTP – 30th January 2023.

Designs for New Doolough and Corofin plants are currently being progressed with Bally-macravan to follow. Construction of a new rising main between the New Doolough and Old Doolough Water treatment plants has now commenced. This main will facilitate the future decommissioning of the Old Doolough water treatment plant.

### Mullagh / Miltown Malbay Pipeline

These works involve the replacement of 4.7km of existing substandard water supply pipe-work which was identified to Irish Water as requiring replacement.

The contractor is continuing works onsite with all 4.7km of main now constructed, service connections completed and the main tested and live. Works remaining to be completed include construction of two water meter chambers and decommissioning works on the old watermain.

### 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 electricity substation. The works are currently at tender stage. It is anticipated that works will start on the upgrade this year.

### 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, 50 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 331 assets, 203 have now been transferred to Irish Water.

The 128 assets remaining to be dealt with are divided into the following four categories:

- Pending – 15 assets are being prepared for transfer to Irish Water. These consist of assets which need further investigation or have not been agreed for transfer with CCC/IW. Some of these assets will have to be subdivided by map/plan. Once a con-sensus has been reached on the remaining assets with both Irish Water and Clare County Council, a CE order will issue thereafter.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) – This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities – 4 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 – At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- 3rd Party/Unregistered assets – 109 have been identified as 3rd Party Registered or unregistered lands. In order to transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with the PRAI in the Council's name. These will then be transferred to Irish Water. A test case is currently being progressed in conjunction with the Irish Water legal team which will inform how these 109 can be progressed in the most expedient manner. The Asset Transfer team has prepared a further 15 reports to be submitted to Irish Water in this category.

### Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) the Feenagh GWS (Sixmilebridge) and Tullaheer GWS (Doonbeg) mains rehab projects have now been completed with the new mains operational bringing to a close long standing issues with leak-age and pressure in the affected areas. In total 4.6km of mains were installed in Feenagh GWS with 4.75km of mains installed in Tullaheer. Works on the Teerovannan GWS have also been completed with the replacement of service fittings throughout the scheme. Ballinruane GWS (Mountshannon) is currently at the end of the tender process for the replacement of 1.9km of mains and it is hoped to appoint a contractor in July. Works on the Mountrivers Group Sewerage Scheme (Doonbeg) are due to commence in July with necessary upgrade works to the existing pumping station and sewer to be completed. The aforementioned works are being completed under Measure 5 of the Programme which is the 'Transfer of Existing Schemes into the Public Network'. Funding under this measure is granted at 100% of the value of the works.

Under Measure 2 of the programme (Water Quality) works are due to commence in early July on the Carrowcore GWS (Ogonnelloe) and Leitra GWS (Boston) to address long stand-ing issues with a view to removal of Boil Notices that are currently in place. Funding under this measure is also granted at 100%.

Teerovannan GWS and two sections of the Kildysart-Coolmeen GWS were submitted for Taking in Charge in June and this now brings the number of GWS's submitted by the Clare Rural Water Programme awaiting Taking in Charge to 15. The temporary suspension for Taking in Charge of GWS's by Irish Water remains in place and is a great source of frustra-tion for this office and all the affected schemes.

The assessment and processing of grants under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' is continuing under the Rural Water Programme with the uptake of grants continuing to be significant with a total of 48 applications received to date in 2021.

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

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



At the Ennis Municipal District AGM on 11th June, 2021, Cllr Ann Norton was elected as Mayor of Ennis Municipal District. Cllr Paul Murphy is Deputy Mayor.

### Ennis Public Realm Works



Paving on Parnell Street is now complete from Carmody Street as far as Cabey's Lane. Civil work has commenced to the pedestrian section of Parnell Street from Chapel Lane heading towards Cabey's Lane. Paving works are following closely behind. To date, 12 out of the 21 lanes and bow-ways are now

substantially complete with works still ongoing in Old Friary Lane, Bindon Lane and Fahy's Lane.

### Tree removal – Wood Quay

The tree (twin stemmed, Horse Chestnut) was found to have a catastrophic fracture between its main limbs following examination by Ennis MD staff and a tree specialist. A decision was made to remove the tree in the interest of public safety. The tree and its stump have been removed.

### Public consultation – Proposed part VIII O'Connell Street and Barrack Street (part)

An online public consultation was held from June 17th – June 30th. Members of the public were provided with the opportunity to browse all maps, documentation and provide feedback through the Council's 'Your Say' platform. There were zoom calls held over three nights for businesses, various groups and all members of the public. The design team attended all these providing an overview on the proposed plans and answering questions. Drawings are also available for viewing at the Ennis Chamber offices.

### Clarecastle Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Work on the Clarecastle T&V Renewal scheme commenced on Tuesday, June 8th, and is progressing well. Footpath paving, drainage and limestone kerbing is ongoing in the vicinity of the Castle café and Kate O'Reilly's pub. The next phase will see similar works in the vicinity of Powers pub, before moving on to the carpark and finally the road carriageway adjustments.



# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Atlantic Green Digital Basin

Government have nominated Michael Noonan TD to chair the Shannon Estuary Taskforce. The remit of the Taskforce is awaited, however it will lead to the realisation of the economic opportunities that renewable energy and digitalisation can bring to the Estuary and the Mid West region. Clare County Council awaits further communication.



### Clare Economic Task Force

The next meeting of the Clare Economic Task Force is in July and will include a presentation from Mr Pat Keating, CEO of the SFPCo on the development potential of the Shannon Estuary. Clare County Council continues to engage with the Shannon Group, ESB, IDA and EI to align, where appropriate, with strategic objectives set out in the Clare CDP, the SIFP and our economic strategies.

### Ennis Data Centre

Over the past months the Council's Planning Department, Roads, Environment and other sections have engaged with the Data Centre applicant, Art Data Centre Ltd, in detailed pre-planning discussions. The 1.3msqft Data Centre application is due to be lodged with the Council in July 2021 and in parallel a gas-powered generation station application will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála under the SID process.

### Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy

Over the past month, a number of briefing sessions were held to update Elected Members on the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy, the Ennis 2040 Strategic Development DAC (Designated Activity Company) and a proposed loan facility to deliver key objectives set out within the strategy. At the June meeting, a resolution was passed to approve a €10m loan facility to Clare County Council to be drawn down as

appropriate by the Ennis 2040 Strategic Development DAC for the development of strategic sites. Ministerial approval is awaited. In addition, it was proposed at this meeting that, following the resignation of Cllr Mark Nestor from the Ennis 2040 DAC Board, that Cllr Johnny Flynn and Cllr Ann Norton would take positions on the Board to be appointed at an EGM to be held in July.



The appointment of the Chief Operating Officer (COO) role to lead the Executive Team for the Ennis 2040 DAC is in process. It is hoped that the DAC COO will take up the position in September 2021.

An official launch of the Ennis 2040 Strategy is planned over the coming weeks.

### Clare Skills Mapping

Clare County Council has recently engaged the services of Irish technology company Abodoo to map the skills and talent for Clare. Using the anonymised data from the talent mapping platform will enable Clare County Council to identify future employment opportunities and position Clare as an attractive location for enterprise, remote working and inward investment. To date, almost 300 people have registered on the platform.

As a follow-up to the initial soft launch in February 2021, an Abodoo Skills Mapping Digital Marketing campaign went live on 21st June, 2021, for three weeks to encourage those living and/or working in Clare or those wishing to move to Clare to register on the platform.

The below summarises key elements of the campaign:

- A dedicated landing page was set up under the Economic Development section of the Clare County Council website which gives an overview of the initiative, a promotional video and guidance on how to register. More details: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/economic-development/clare-skills-mapping/default.html>
- Social media content – a range of sponsored posts are currently running through June and July targeting relevant individuals/skills across key sectors to encourage people

to sign up and broaden our reach.

- Promotional Eemails and social media tags were circulated both internally and through various partners including the Chambers, Skillsnet, IDA, Enterprise Ireland and third-level

institutes etc. to share across networks.

- Advertising – An ad and editorial piece ran in the *Clare Echo* in June to promote the initiative and drive people to the online platform as part of an integrated campaign.



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUILDING YOUR CAREER IN CLARE?**  
If you live or work in Clare or would like to, we want to hear from you!

Register for FREE on the Abodoo Skills Map today! Visit: [www.abodoo.com/clare](http://www.abodoo.com/clare)

Abodoo connects residents to employers hiring remotely or on-location. And helps Clare County Council identify the skills and talent in Clare to guide and attract future investment and businesses.

COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Register at: [www.abodoo.com/clare](http://www.abodoo.com/clare)



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BUILDING YOUR CAREER IN CLARE?**

Sign up on the Abodoo Skills Map today.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE AND WORK HERE?**

Register your skills here



## STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS

### **Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre**

This Masterplan, which is funded by Government’s Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Clare County Council, will drive the future economic and spatial pattern for the centre of Shannon Town.

Following the presentation and receipt of feedback from the Elected Members of the Shannon MD on the working draft of the Masterplan, engagement with a number of targeted stakeholders continued in June.

Discussions and positive engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the context of their funding commitment under URDF took place in June. The progress on the plan, the emerging concepts, levels of engagement and, in particular, the potential for the plan to leverage a range of funding opportunities and private sector development and investment were welcomed by the Department.

Following the consideration of all inputs and any consequent changes to the working draft it is anticipated that a public consultation will take place online in July. The exact nature, timing and format of the public consultation will be agreed with the Elected Members of Shannon MD.

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

Following the meeting of the Chief Executive, Director of Economic Development and the Law Agent with the UL Interim President and her team, work has continued by both teams on the SDZ DAC legal arrangements. In the coming months, further engagement between the partnership will take place to prepare for the making of an application to Government to seek the designation of the UL South Clare SDZ. The focus for now is to complete the DAC establishment, to make the SDZ application and to ensure the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and its Core Strategy and Housing Strategy provides the policy basis for the development of the SDZ.

### **Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Tourism and Mobility Plan**

Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, are working on the preparation of a Town Enhancement, Tourism and Mobility Plan for Killaloe-Ballina. The Plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe and Ballina, providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements.

At a briefing to the Elected Members of the Killaloe MD from the Senior Planner and the consultants on 19th May, the

Members gave constructive positive feedback and a Draft Plan has been prepared. On 30th June, a joint briefing on the Draft Plan to the Elected Members of Killaloe MD and Nenagh MD took place, reflecting the levels of collaboration on the project between the project team and the Elected Members of both Local Authorities.

In addition, a number of targeted stakeholder meetings with statutory agencies have taken place in recent weeks.

Following consultation and endorsement by both Killaloe and Nenagh MD draft Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility plan will go on public display in July for public consultation. It is anticipated that a final plan will be in place by end of the year and will inform the future coordinated development of both settlements and leverage private sector and a range of national and EU funding opportunities.



### **Roche Masterplan**

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

### **Clare Maritime Economic Zone (Clare MEZ)**

The recent positive announcements regarding Moneypoint and other developments along the Shannon Estuary have added focus to the significant potential the maritime industry has in terms of economic, social and rural development of County Clare. Such developments reflect the vision and policy support of the Elected Members and Executive as set out in the current Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the SIFP for the Shannon Estuary and will be further expanded upon in the new Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028. Clare County Council, through the Economic Directorate, is committed to translating this vision into a socio-economic

project and leading the establishment a Maritime Training Centre facility. There are numerous advantages, both for the project and for the area, if such a maritime training centre was located in West Clare.

Currently the focus is on seeking funding from a range of funding sources and schemes whilst also at the same time creating

the most advantageous property solution required to develop such a specialised facility. Subject to the achievement of funding streams and a property solution together with the procurement of a suitable maritime operator with extensive knowledge of this sector, the project could be open for training in late 2022/early 2023.

## FORWARD PLANNING

### Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Pre-Draft Development Plan 2022-2028 was issued to the Elected Members on 16th June. This is the next step in Stage 1 in the preparation of the Draft Clare County Development Plan.

The preparation process on the plan to date is set out below:

Progress to Date	
Plan Making Process Commenced	18th September 2020
Public Consultation Period	18th September to 16th November 2020
194 Submissions Received	
Chief Executive Report Issued to Elected Members	15th January 2021
Members' Directions Received	25th March 2021
Pre-Draft Plan Issued to Elected Members for their consideration.	16th June 2021

The Draft Development Plan comprises the following volumes:

- Volume 1 Written Statement
- Volume 2 Maps
- Volume 3a Ennis Municipal District - Settlement Plans
- Volume 3b Shannon Municipal District - Settlement Plans
- Volume 3c Killaloe Municipal District - Settlement Plans
- Volume 3d West Municipal District - Settlement Plans
- 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 (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary
- Volume 10a 16th June 2021 Appropriate Assessment – Natura Impact Report
- Volume 10b(i) Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report
- Volume 10b(ii) Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report–Non Technical Summary
- Volume 10c Strategic Flood Risk Assessment



To assist the Elected Members in their consideration of the Draft Plan, four workshops (ie. one per Municipal District) have taken place since 16th June. A minimum of 15 further workshops will be held with the Elected Members prior to their formal consideration of the Draft Plan in late July/early August. These workshops will comprise three workshops for each of the Municipal Districts and three workshops with the full Council.

In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) following the formal consideration of the Draft Plan by the Elected Members, it will proceed to public consultation in mid-August.

### Ennistymon Masterplan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, has appointed a multi-disciplinary team led by Helena McElmeel Architects to complete a masterplan for the town of Ennistymon. The masterplan seeks to build upon existing Clare County Council proposals in place associated with the planned new bridge crossing and the upgrading works to take place along the Main Street. The study will explore the potential of the existing townscape and its built environment in order to guide its development in a positive way. It will also comprise a new signage strategy and streetscape enhancement plan, which seeks to improve both the visitor and residents experience. The design team commenced initial public consultations in June and set out an outdoor stall in Ennistymon, where members of the public came to discuss their visions for the future enhancement

of the town with the design team and representatives of Clare County Council. This event was supplemented by written and online surveys and a kids' art competition was organised in local schools. The Design Team also consulted with the West Clare MD Councillors at the end of June. The outcomes and observations obtained from the first round of public consultations will richly inform the design process, which is due to commence in July.

### Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) have worked together to develop a brief for the preparation of an Enhancement Strategy for the village of Corofin. The Corofin Enhancement Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the village and its proximity to the Burren through thoughtful and sensitive interventions. The strategy will look to identify a suitable location and develop a design for a Burren National Park Visitor Centre and Administration Facility for NPWS, provide public realm improvements through a streetscape enhancement plan and improve the tourist experience through the development of a new signage strategy. Tender evaluations have been completed and the full appointment of a Design Team is expected in early July.

### The Manchester Martyrs Monument

Clare County Council was successful in securing a grant from The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of its Historic Structures Fund for the repair and restoration of the Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush. This monument was erected in the heart of Kilrush Town in 1903 and is one in a series of monuments built around Ireland to commemorate the memory of the Manchester Martyrs. Clare County Council has appointed Architectural Conservation Professionals (ACP) to complete the tender documentation, and it is envisaged that tenders for the repair and restoration of the monument will be sought in July.



## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of June 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 255, representing a substantial increase of 58% year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 225.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	June 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of planning applications received	143	686
No. of Planning Decisions made	112	541
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	15
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	19	201
No. of Section 5 applications	5	38
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	12	31
Submissions received regarding Compliance	33	188

The graph below shows the trend in planning applications received for the first six months of 2021 and the corresponding periods in 2020 and 2019.



During the month, a number of significant planning applications were received for the following development proposals:

Planning Ref No	Location	Description of Development	Applicant
P21/576	Tullyvarraga, Shannon	Construction of Primary School	BoM Gaelscoil Donncha Rua
P21/664	Ballymaley, Ennis	Construction of 24 No. 4 Bedroom detached	EKO Integrated Services Ltd
P21/663	Drumbiggle Road, Ennis	Construction of 46 residential units	EKO Integrated Services Ltd
P21/599	Drumbiggle, Ennis	Construction of 58 residential units	Leadlane (Drumbiggle Ltd)
P21/639	Roslevan, Ennis	Construction of 7 residential units	Padraig Howard



## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	June 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new complaints received	22	213
No of Files Opened *includes complaints received in	10	65
No. of Warning Letters issued	13	50
No. of Enforcement Notices served *issued in April (2)	2	18
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	1
No. of Enforcement files closed	2	24

## TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

Fort View estate, Creggaun na Hilla, Clarecastle, was taken in charge at the Ennis Municipal District Meeting on 11th June, 2021.

Remedial works are continuing on the following estates:

- Woodstock View and Woodstock Hill, Shanaway Road – Remedial works are ongoing – approximately 75% complete.
- Garran Percy French, Kilkee – Remedial works are 95% complete, there are a few minor issues to be finished.
- Clochan na Mara/Blackthron Drive, Liscannor – landscaping works are nearing completion.
- Aughanteeroe, Ennis – Jada Projects Ltd were the successful contractors appointed to carry out remedial works in this estate. They commenced works on Tuesday, 29th June, 2021 and the time frame for completion is four to six weeks approximately.

Tender documents are currently being prepared for remedial works on a number of estates which are scheduled to go to tender in July 2021.

We continue to monitor the progress on new housing developments with the addition of those that commenced during the month of June 2021 and are in ongoing contact with the Developers and their Engineers regarding their progress.

## HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2021

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved funding of €102,908 towards four projects under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2021. The approved projects are as follows and are due to be completed by mid October:

1. Templemaley Church
2. Clonrush Burial Ground
3. Kilfenora Cathedral
4. Kilkerrin Battery.



## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

### Covid-19 Supports

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

- **The Trading Online Voucher Scheme**, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an e-commerce website, has seen strong interest. In the month of June a further 10 vouchers were approved bringing the number already approved in 2021 to 91. The focus is ensuring the funding approved in 2020 and early 2021 is released to successful applicants and a further 18 vouchers (€43,124) were paid out during the month." This brings to a total of 213 draw downs amounting to €446,468 in 2021.
- **Online Webinars and Training:** Over 40 clients registered in the month of June to partake in our range of online webinars and training courses. Events included a two hour Start Your Own Business programme, Cyber Security and an Instagram Reels Workshop.
- **Mentoring:** There were 25 applicants in June for a free three-hour mentoring session, where a member of the LEO Clare mentoring panel is assigned to an applicant to mentor them in areas ranging from financial review,

starting a food business, digital marketing, Brexit and Export Development among others.

### June Evaluation Committee Meeting

Our Evaluation Committee (EVAC) met on Tuesday, 15th June. The committee continued the process of meeting remotely, aided by the new Submit.com grant processing system. The May EVAC approved over €225,653 in funding for seven projects. One project was a Feasibility Study, Two Priming Grants, Three Business Expansion Grant applications and one Agile R&D Fund.

### Grant Supports

Local Enterprise Office Clare accepted 64 applications in the month of June for the recent Small Business Assistance Scheme Phase II. The Closing Date for application is July 21st.

### LEO Clare Promotional Campaign

Local Enterprise Office Clare have concluded a month-long promotional campaign through local media. The campaign showcased businesses across the county who continue to open back up after the Covid-19 pandemic. Businesses included Blackbird Jewellery, Wix and Wax, Creative Clay, Thinking Toys and Cad Ma Designs.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Refurbishment works to County Museum building

Construction work is well underway on the refurbishment of the County Museum building, which involves investment in the museum offering by increasing the museum space to incorporate the de Valera 1947 Dodge car, improving the space for the tourist office to make it more inviting and improvements to the upstairs areas with new offices and an upgrade to the meeting room. The Council is liaising with Fáilte Ireland in this project, which should be completed by August. The museum and tourist office are closed to the public during the construction period.

This project shows the importance of investment in our existing buildings, particularly those at key locations in town centres. This project will breathe new life into the County Museum building and increase footfall in the town centre.

### New Connected Hubs Platform created by Western Development Commission

Clare County Council is one of 10 counties engaged in promotion of the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC). Hubs in Clare are now available for viewing and booking on the national digital hubs platform, connectedhubs.ie, where people access and book space in hubs all over the country.

### Facilities Management

A significant upgrade to the canteen in Áras Contae an Chláir has been completed this month to include an improved servery area which is more accessible for all.

### Property Transactions

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

Transaction	June 2021	Year to date 2021
Lease of property / building	0	2
Licence to use property / building	2	9
Grazing Agreement for Lands	2	21
Deed of Transfer signed	1	5
Contract for Sale signed	0	3

Deed of Right of Way signed	0	1
Deed of Rectification signed	1	2
Allotment Agreements signed	0	39

### Casual Trading

The draft Casual Trading Bye-laws 2021, for each Municipal District were on public display up to 14th June and a number of submissions were received. In the last week of June, meetings of each Municipal District were held and 2021 Bye-Laws have been adopted in each Municipal District, some with modifications following consideration of submissions. The new Bye-Laws are being made available to view on the Council’s website.

We are now contacting those people who expressed a wish to trade in some of the new casual trading areas and it is likely that early decisions will be made on those applications.

Seven new Casual Trading licences were issued during the month, five for Kilrush Horse Fair, one for Killaloe Farmer’s Market and one for Kilkee.

### Derelict Sites

A cross-directorate meeting was held with other Directorates to assess options for focusing on rural regeneration with a focus on vacant and derelict properties and in particular their re-use for housing purposes. There continues to be some positive response to engagement with owners of derelict sites and where such engagement is not happening, we have commenced serving notices under the legislation. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in June 2021 and the year to date.

Derelict Sites	June 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new Complaints / new files opened	2	32
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	2	10
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry onto Derelict Sites Register	2	2
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	2	2
No of sites added to Derelict Sites register	2	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Register	0	14
No. of Compulsory Purchase Orders	0	0

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Shannon Municipal District was held on Friday, 18th June. Cllr John Crowe was elected Cathaoirleach with Cllr Michael Begley being elected Leas Cathaoirleach. They were congratulated by all in attendance. The outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat McMahon, took a few minutes to reflect on his year during these exceptional times, the challenges facing Shannon International Airport and the critical role of local government into the future.



Cathaoirleach Cllr John Crowe



Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Begley

### Works Programme

During the month of June works commenced on the upgrade of the Shannon Banks riverside footpath which has been funded under the NTA Active Travel measures. The works are being carried out by the crew in the Shannon Municipal District and the project will renew and improve accessibility along this route.

The Bus Shelter upgrade programme also commenced during the month with a number of shelters in Shannon Town are being upgraded, with our teams carrying out the enabling works. This programme is being funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland and one of the old bus shelters is being upcycled by a local community group.

The Shannon MD office worked with the Transportation Department on the upgrade of cycle lanes between Latoon and Clonmoney during the month. This Active Travel project will provide a vital connection in the linking of Newmarket on Fergus and Shannon Town.

The tender for the Town and Village Renewal Project for Sixmilebridge closed on the 17th June, with the assessment currently underway.

The publication of the Section 75 notice to close the road outside Durty Nelly's in Bunratty has assisted in the successful re-opening of this popular restaurant.

### Community Events

A local production company, MUSE, ran a very successful open theatre event between the 18th-20th June in the Shannon Town Park. This event was well organised by the group and well supported by the community. The Shannon MD was delighted to be of assistance in the lead up to the event.

The team in the Municipal District continued its engagement with a range of community groups throughout the month to progress schemes such as the Town and Village Renewal in Sixmilebridge and Bunratty, anti-litter programmes in in Shannon and Sixmilebridge and Cyclability/Walkability audits in Shannon Town.