

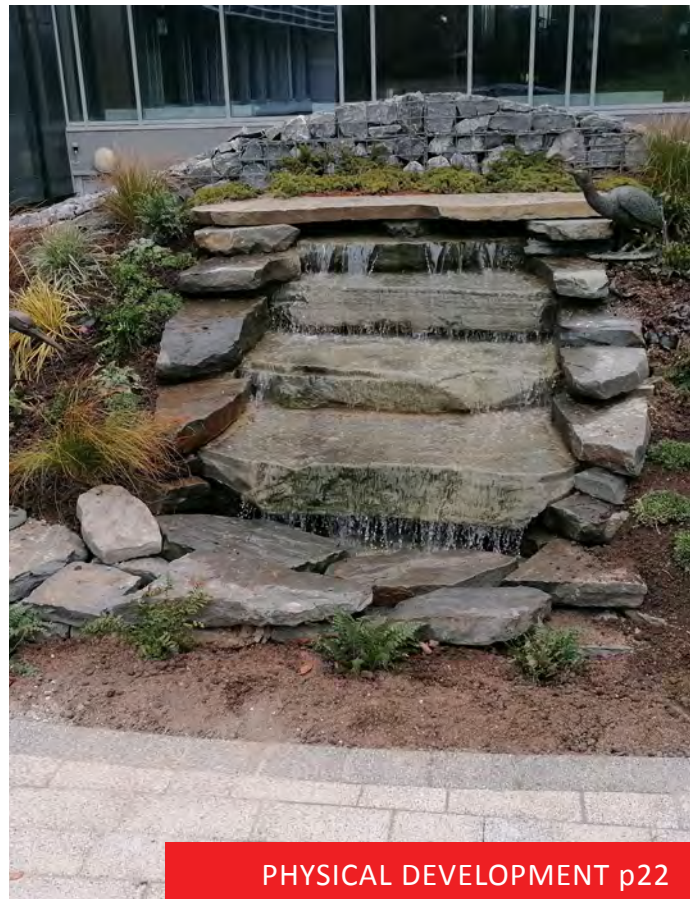


COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meitheamh / June
2021



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UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Clare Tourism Strategy

The County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 – ‘Guiding our Journey to a Vibrant New Future in Tourism’ was officially launched by Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland on 22nd April, 2021, on Clare County Council's YouTube channel.

The Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 is an ambitious roadmap for the development of tourism in County Clare post-Covid and over the next decade. Twenty-nine strategic priorities set out in the plan include working collaboratively to develop the profile, experiences and infrastructure across the county.

Developed on behalf of Clare County Council by consultancy firm TEAM Tourism, the 10-year strategy has been overseen by a Steering Group comprising the Clare County Council Tourism Department, Fáilte Ireland, Shannon Group, Shannon Heritage, Accolades Marketing and the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience.

During public consultation, the key message that was heard across the county was that tourism had to be about communities and their wellbeing. It had to be about sustainability in the truest meaning of the word. The onset of the pandemic accentuated the importance of getting the direction right. Everything was re-evaluated with a new level of rigour, which was time well spent. The aspirations of the entire spectrum of stakeholders have shaped the goals and the strategic priorities of the Strategy.

One of the key strategic priorities identified within the Strategy is to establish a county-wide Tourism Advisory Forum to strengthen governance and act as an advisory group for Clare County Council and a spokes-group for tourism. This Tourism Advisory Forum is now well established with a keen focus on Clare's recovery post the Covid-19 pandemic as well as implementation of the action plan set out within the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030.

The Strategy contains a clear focus on developing tourism as a driver for economic development and rural development and it aims to work collaboratively with local and national stakeholders to deliver compelling quality experiences that reflect and leverage Clare's unique identity, becoming globally recognised as a sustainable destination of the West of Ireland, and by spreading the benefits of tourism across the county and throughout the seasons in a way that enriches our communities.



Pictured at the Bridges of Ross to mark the virtual launch of the 'County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030' were: (l-r) Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council; and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council.

Shannon Group Chairperson

The Minister for Transport has invited applications from suitably qualified candidates for consideration for appointment to the role of Chairperson of the Board of Shannon Group. The closing date was Friday, 4th June, 2021. The process is being run by the State Boards Division of the Public Appointments Service.

New York Clare Association

I would like to extend a thank you to Bill Lewis for all the work he did as President of the County Clare Patriotic, Benevolent and Social Association of New York City. I wish the new President, Maureen O'Neill Regan, well in her role.

Appointment of Tenancy Enforcement Officers



Clare County Council enhanced the Housing Estate Management unit by appointing three temporary Tenancy Enforcement Officers (TEOs) to support existing staff, to help address and enforce instances of antisocial behaviour in Local Authority tenancies in a more proactive manner.

Following additional funding being approved by the Elected Members for the 2021 Budget, Clare County Council enhanced the Housing Estate Management unit by appointing three temporary Tenancy Enforcement Officers (TEOs) to support existing staff, to help address and enforce instances of antisocial behaviour in Local Authority tenancies in a more proactive manner. The TEOs (Michael McDonagh, Frank Gormley and Paul Moroney) commenced their roles on 18th January, 2021. Their primary role is to:

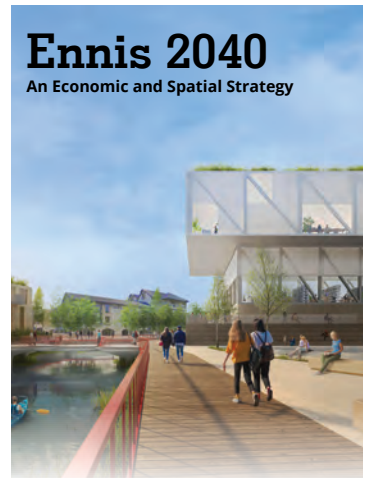
- Receive and investigate fully, in a proactive manner, as part of the team, any complaints relating to alleged failure of tenants to abide by the conditions of their letting agreements
- Work closely and collaboratively with the Traveller community and respond to complaints of antisocial behaviour, serve notices on illegally parked caravans as required and to liaise with Local Authority services and other statutory agencies, ie. Gardaí to remove unauthorised encampments within the county in accordance with the relevant legislation
- Provide support to communities in relation to antisocial behaviour of Council tenants.

The TEOs engage very closely with the Gardaí on a continued basis in carrying out their role in order to help arrive at the most appropriate solution in dealing with issues of antisocial behaviour.

To date, almost 800 separate call-outs have been carried out by the team and they have been very proactive in dealing with and trying to contain issues of antisocial behaviour in Local Authority rented stock. Each of the Municipal Districts has been briefed on the activities of the TEO team since they commenced their roles and it is proposed to keep the Elected Members continually updated in this regard. Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Tenancy Enforcement Unit can be done so by emailing asb@clarecoco.ie. The working hours of the team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council emergency phone number: 087 4169496.

Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy

Due to the impact and restrictions of Covid-19, the official launch by An Taoiseach of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy was postponed. While the Strategy itself has not been launched officially, Clare County Council continues to progress with the objectives set out in the strategy to transform our county town Ennis, enabling it to prosper as a successful, diverse and vibrant social, civic, commercial, cultural and residential centre, and further positioning Clare as a great place to live, work, visit and invest. It is planned to officially launch the Ennis 2040 Strategy with An Taoiseach as soon as possible.



Covid-19 measures in June, 2021

You may wish to note some of the changes to Covid-19 restrictions from 7th June under the Government's plan, *Resilience and Recovery: The Path Ahead*. These include the following:

Activity	Guidance
Visitors to your home	If you are an unvaccinated household you can have visitors from 1 other unvaccinated household inside your home. Vaccine bonus remains in place for vaccinated households
Sport	Outdoor sports matches can take place
Gyms and training	Gyms, swimming pools, leisure centres can reopen for individual training only
Restaurants and bars	Outdoor services can reopen
Driver Theory tests	25,000 tests per month to take place
Organised outdoor events	Maximum of 100 attendees for the majority of venues. Maximum of 200 for outdoor venues with a minimum accredited capacity of 5,000
Live events	Pilot events to take place

FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information and Data Protection

2021 year to date statistics including 01/05/2021 to 26/05/2021:

- 73 Freedom of Information Requests
- 3 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- 2 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 17 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request, eg. Gardaí

Procurement

The tender competitions opposite were published in May 2021.

Brief Description	Response deadline
Operation and Management of Supported Temporary Emergency Accommodation at Laurel Lodge, Ennis, Co. Clare, under the auspices of Clare County Council (Clare Homeless Action Team)	09/06/2021
Provision of Services for Generator and UPS Maintenance Services at Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience	14/06/2021
Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme	14/06/2021
Sixmilebridge Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare	17/06/2021
Site Investigation Works - Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme	18/06/2021

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 May included:

- Clare marks world No Tobacco Day 2021 with new 'Not Around Us' videos.
- Ennis MD extends welcome as Summer 2021 promises unique experience
- Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards for County Clare
- New social housing development for Ennis
- Statement by Cllr Mary Howard, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, in response to Aer Lingus announcement on Shannon
- Mid-West Councils work together to realise full potential of green energy economy
- Covid-19 (Coronavirus) service update: 7th May, 2021.

Irish language

Bealtaine saw the first draft of the revised Scéim Teanga completed, along with ongoing translations, notably the final version of the Euro Velo boards and a number of grant

application forms. The online Irish language sessions continue. All feedback welcome.

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 May, the Communications Office:



- Posted 62 times on Clare County Council's Facebook page, with followers now 15,798 and 14,425 people have liked the page. Posts achieved 202,000 impressions with 10,900 engagements.



- Tweeted 62 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,019. Tweets earned 87,000 impressions and 2,150 engagements.



- Posted 16 times on Instagram, with followers now 2,067.

FINANCE

Expenditure across all divisions for the first quarter of the year was €31.98m (24% of the annual adopted budget) with income coming in at 23% of budget for the year at €30.34m.

The table below gives a summary of the income and expenditure by division outlining the overall result for the period an excess of expenditure over income of €1.64m. The deficit in Qtr 1 was mainly as a result of reduced income from Tourism , Parking and Sports and Recreation and increased expenditure incurred in ICT arising from the demands presented by remote working.

Revenue Account Summary – Qtr 1 to 31st March 2021

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET
		Actual Expenditure Qtr 1 31 March 2021	Adopted Expenditure Budget 2021	% Spent	Actual Income Qtr 1 31 March 2021	Adopted Budget Income	% Received	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
		€'000	€'000		€'000	€'000		€'000
A	Housing & Building	6,073	23,005	26%	5,207	20,586	25%	(866)
B	Road Transport & Safety	6,221	33,925	18%	3,010	24,415	12%	(3,211)
C	Water Services	2,808	13,404	21%	2,659	12,869	21%	(149)
D	Development Management	4,146	20,924	20%	1,296	12,530	10%	(2,850)
E	Environmental Services	3,746	15,171	25%	541	2,027	27%	(3,204)
F	Recreation & Amenity	2,517	11,167	23%	138	1,332	10%	(2,379)
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	142	736	19%	74	395	19%	(68)
H	Miscellaneous Services	6,332	13,068	48%	4,907	7,199	68%	(1,425)
LG	Local Property Tax			0%	1,996	7,984	25%	1,996
PL	Pension Levy			0%	0	0	0%	0
RA	Rates			0%	10,517	42,063	25%	10,517
		31,985	131,400	24%	30,345	131,400	23%	(1,640)

Capital Account Summary – Qtr 1 to 31st March 2021

		Balance at 01/01/2021	Actual Expenditure Qtr 1 31 March 2021	Actual Income Qtr 1 31 March 2021	Balance at 31/3/2021
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
A	Housing & Building	4,233	1,138	1,278	4,373
B	Road Transport & Safety	2,795	1,910	1,915	2,800
C	Water Services	0	532	532	(0)
D	Development Management	18,440	1,182	1,065	18,324
E	Environmental Services	742	121	168	788
F	Recreation & Amenity	1,307	1,515	1,021	814
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	0	0	0	0
H	Miscellaneous Services	3,752	1,029	377	3,100
	Total	31,269	7,427	6,357	30,199

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during May 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Officer Final Interviews • Technician Grade II • Executive Technician • Traffic/Litter Warden Final Interviews • Beach Ambassador • Employability Clare • Environmental Technician Grade 1 • GO Driver 2 • Ganger. <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retained Fire-fighter Panels – Kilkee, Kilrush & Shannon • Assistant Staff Officer • Executive Quantity Surveyor.
Learning and Development	<p>Online training programmes/webinars/information sessions held in May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security Training • Microsoft Outlook Training • Microsoft Teams Training • 2021 Code of Practice Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems Webinar • Temporary Traffic Management Training • EPA Webinar • Film Commission Fundamentals • VDU Assessments • Online Public Engagement Consultation Training. <p>With the resumption of SOLAS training this month, the following has been provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SafePass • Traffic Management Briefing Sessions • ESDS Level 2 Category B Driver & Category C Driver Training. <p>Essential Skillz online courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security • ErgoWize • Manual Handling • Working in a Covid-Era • GDPR • Managing H&S • H&S Induction. <p>The application process for the Clare County Council 2021/2022 Continuing Education Scheme opened.</p>
Employee Welfare	Employee Welfare supports are provided to staff on an ongoing basis.
Covid-19	The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.
Unions	The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with unions on various matters.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

RTÉ Today Show: Outside Broadcast

On Wednesday, 26th May, Dáithí Ó Sé broadcast part of RTÉ's popular afternoon *Today* programme from Ennis, County Clare.

Dáithí met with the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard; John McCarthy from Lahinch Surf Club; Harry Hughes from the Willie Clancy Summer School; and John Burke and Aoibhin Garrihy from The Armada Hotel at Spanish Point.

Dáithí also meet local food producers, Siobhan Ni Ghairbhith from

St Tola Goat Cheese and Patricia Farrell from Wilde Irish Chocolates. Dáithí also met All Ireland champion hurler, Anthony Daly, and Clare camogie star, Orlaith Duggan, while he completed a hurling challenge with Clare senior hurler David McInerney and up-and-coming St Flannan's hurler, Paul O'Connell.

John Lynch of the renowned Kilfenora Céilí Band also featured and spoke about the collaboration with Clare County Council on "Clare My Heart, My Home", and six members of the band played out the show.



WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

A memorial garden and sculpture marking the County Clare Nursery (Mother and Baby Home) will be completed in Kilrush later this summer. Members of the public have been invited to have their say on the proposed memorial sculpture and wording.



Memorial Stone Garden progress, May 2021. Wall height from 1.7m to 0.7m accommodating a quiet reflective space that is open to the natural environment.

Background

The County Clare Nursery, which was owned and financed by Clare County Council, housed unmarried mothers and their babies, as well as orphaned and abandoned babies, from 1922 to 1932.

Conditions during the nursery's 10-year existence were extremely poor as the building was in a bad state of repair. The mothers who lived there were also described as neglected, with no proper clothing or comfort of any kind. An estimated 330 children were born here during the nursery's 10-year existence.

Following the publication of the *Final Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes* in February 2021, Clare County Council issued a public apology for its role in failing to meet the care needs of the former residents. Clare County Council expressed its commitment to memorialising the former residents of the site. A memorial garden is being established in Kilrush.

Public consultation

The County Clare Nursery Memorial Working Group invites members of the public to make written submissions in relation to the proposed memorial sculpture and wording. Submissions can be made in writing by email to memorial@clarecoco.ie or by post to Memorial, Clare County Council, Kilrush Town Hall, Kilrush, Co. Clare, on or before 5.00pm on Thursday, 10th June.

Please note that a video promoting the public consultation is being promoted on all Clare County Council social media channels. In addition, advertisements have been placed in the *Clare Echo* and *Clare Champion* newspapers for Thursday, 27th May.



Pictured with Cllr Mary Howard, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, are members of Clare's African Irish community, planting a tree as part of the 2021 Africa Day celebrations to symbolise the deepening roots of those living in County Clare.

Africa Day: 25th May, 2021

Africa Day is the annual commemoration of the foundation of the African Union, which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 25th May, 1963.

It is celebrated around the world and is an opportunity to appreciate and mark the African continent's diverse history and heritage while acknowledging its cultural and economic potential. The community of people of African descent in Ireland is itself diverse and diffuse. According to the 2016 census, Ireland was home to people from 50 African countries.

This year, in the absence of a live event, Clare County Council, in collaboration with the Association of Nigerian Community in Clare and the Clare Immigrant Support Centre, created a video event which can be viewed on Clare County Council's YouTube channel. The video contains a wide variety of content sharing the African Irish culture here in Clare.

To commemorate the day and to signify the deepening roots of African Irish communities in County Clare, a tree was planted at the Waterpark Campus in Ennis.

The video production is sponsored by Irish Aid. Through this digital approach, Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs hopes to highlight the vibrancy that members of the African community bring to Ireland, including their own individual talents, crafts, skills and other contributions, which would previously have been showcased at in-person events.

The video event was shared through Clare County Council's social media channels and received over 600 views between Facebook and YouTube.

Joint Policing Committee

The Clare Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was held online on 12th April, 2021. JPC members from the Council, Gardaí, community, Oireachtas, and Elected Members attended, along with press and public. Chief Superintendent Sean Colleran presented a comparison of crime statistics from 2020 and 2021, noting that some of the figures were lower due to impact of Covid-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions. Garda Siobhan Madden gave a presentation on the Garda Victim Support Office (GVSO), and outlined the services available, which focus on supporting victims of crime. The GVSO works with partner agencies, State, public, and the voluntary sector to help victims with the Garda process and with legal and court related requirements. Garda Madden outlined the process on the Garda Pulse system and how information is shared and provided to victims. The presentation was welcomed by JPC members and a suggestion made to find ways to make this information available to the general public in print, on social media, and translated to different languages.

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience earns designation as Great Place to Work organisation in 2021

The Great Place to Work® is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience and relations. Certification in Great Place to Work is a significant achievement which is based on an employee trust survey, employees completed in March with a response rate of 90 per cent.

The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience achieved the benchmark of 65 per cent on the trust index associated with the survey. The survey was extensive and anonymous and looked at the workplace experience of the employee. A culture brief was completed and submitted including details of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience programmes and practices. By meeting this benchmark, The Cliffs

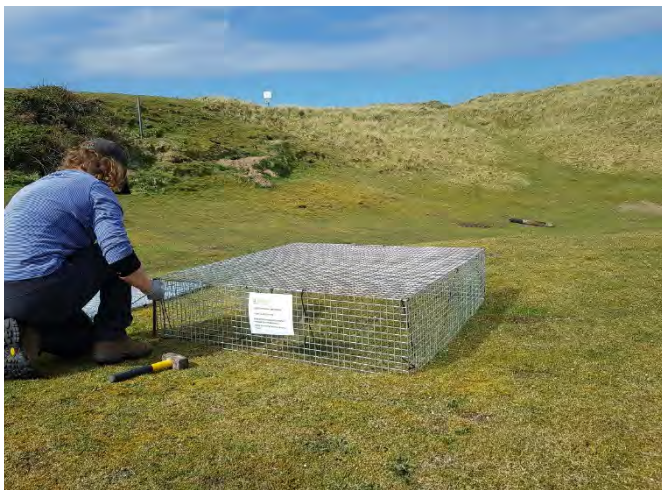
of Moher team have the opportunity to move forward and gain additional recognition by achieving the Best Place to Work accolade. It is a fantastic achievement in a very challenging year for the organisation. It reflects the continuous hard work in strengthening the connection with staff and the recognition of an inclusive and rewarding culture. Taking care of people translates to taking care of visitors and employees and the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience takes pride in taking of both.



The Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is now a Great Place to Work certified organisation and now officially one of Ireland's best workplaces!

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience is open daily to visitors from 2nd June – 31st August, 8am-9pm, outdoor dining, picnics and gift shopping available. Now taking bookings for weddings, naming ceremonies, family and friends' reunions. Booking is essential for all visits: www.cliffsofmoher.ie

Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark Geopark secures grant aid from NPWS and Heritage Council for sustainable tourism projects



Dr Amanda Browne setting up vegetation cages at Fanore Dunes.

With the support of the Heritage Office, the UNESCO Global Geopark has secured grant funding for a monitoring and management project at Fanore Dunes from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and for the development of a county-wide Heritage Map Viewer from the Heritage Council.

In line with our sustainable tourism programme, the Fanore Dunes project will create baselines for future monitoring and management of the impacts of visitors, weather events, grazing

cattle and rabbits on the Dunes, which are a Special Area of Conservation.



Adding a County Clare Heritage Map Viewer to HeritageMaps.ie

Inis Cealtra

Survey work continues apace for Inis Cealtra project in Mountshannon. A wide range of surveys have been undertaken for the Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience project, including tree surveys, Lidar survey, ground radar penetration, breeding bird surveys and a bat survey.

A very significant piece of work was undertaken by the Archaeological Diving Company Limited on 5th May with an underwater archaeology survey. This involved a heavily supervised diving operation with a number of divers in the waters surrounding Inis Cealtra in Lough Derg. A report will be awaited on findings.





Clare marks World No Tobacco Day 2021 with new ‘Not Around Us’ videos

World No Tobacco Day, on Monday, 31st May, saw the launch of 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 purpose of the ‘Not Around Us’ campaign is to:

1. Help protect children and young people from second-hand smoke exposure
2. Contribute to the denormalisation of smoking for children and young people
3. Reduce the environmental nuisance, cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products create
4. Signpost the HSE Quit services.

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

The appetite for smoke and vape free spaces in Clare is strong, with 102 signs already erected around the county since the campaign’s launch in February of this year.

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/>

Clare Tourism Advisory Forum

The following Elected Representatives were welcomed to the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum meeting, held on 26th May:

- Cllr Paul Murphy, Mayor of Ennis
- Cllr Pat Hayes, Cathaoirleach, Killaloe Municipal District
- Cllr Pat Mc Mahon, Cathaoirleach, Shannon Municipal District
- Cllr Joe Killeen, West Clare Municipal District
- Cllr Gabriel Keating, West Clare Municipal District.

New Age Friendly interdepartmental team established

Clare County Council has established a strategic interdepartmental team to commence the process of implementing a joined-up planning, infrastructural and community development strategy to future proof County Clare for its ageing population.



This strategic interdepartmental team will support key areas of work in the delivery of actions such as:-

- The local implementation of the joint departmental Housing for an Ageing Population Policy actions.
- The integration of health supports into housing and public realm for older people.
- Rightsizing of older householders and addressing under-occupancy issues among others such as the climate action agenda.

- Delivering Age Friendly initiatives through local strategic planning processes, including the County Development Plan and Local Economic and Community Plan.
- Utilising statutory funding to deliver capital projects that are in line with Age Friendly principles.

The primary aim of the team is to work together to identify opportunities for collaboration supported by the Age Friendly Programme Manager, Karen Fennessy, and Age Friendly Technical Advisor, Jean McNerney.

County Clare Wins by Smiles feature in the Irish Independent Staycation Magazine 2021

www.clare.ie/win

A full-page advert with separate editorial featured in the *Staycation Magazine* of the *Irish Independent* on Friday, 21st May, showcasing the wide open space and amazing places in County Clare.

The feature also offered an opportunity to win a gorgeous family break in Clare, kindly sponsored by local businesses including Hotel Woodstock, The Flying Alpacas and Aillwee Cave. A competition page was created on the Visit Clare website inviting entries and at the same time highlighting all that Clare has to offer: www.clare.ie/win

A further advertisement will feature in *The Weekend* magazine on 12th June in the *Irish Independent*.

FOR HOLIDAY FUN, COUNTY CLARE WINS BY SMILES!

OPEN SPACES. AMAZING PLACES.

County Clare is amazing for holidays. Experience dramatic cliffs, wonderful beaches along the Wild Atlantic Way, the Burren National Park, the River Shannon, and the pleasures of Lough Derg. Plus, brilliant land-based and on-the-water activities, and top attractions. For value, variety, and holiday fun, Clare wins by smiles.

WIN A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY BREAK IN CLARE

For great experiences, and to WIN a BREAK, check out www.Clare.ie/win

CLARE DOIRTEAR CLARE CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCAN ME

Clare Echo weekly series

The *Clare Echo* is featuring a weekly Visit Clare slot as a measure of promoting and reminding all readers what is great about Clare for this year's staycation plans.

Below is a selection of what has been covered to-date:

The readers of the *Clare Echo* have been invited to submit and inform about what they love most about their trips around the county and win some great prizes, to include the Aillwee Cave sponsored 'Walk with a Hawk'.

Ireland's Classic Hits

The Tourism Department is continuing with the Classic Hits Radio promotions, across its radio with Clare adverts featuring over a six-week period to include digital and social media adverts. A promotional Clare prize was highlighted on the Colm and Lucy Breakfast Show (week commencing 24th May, 2021).

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING



Housing

The business of Housing continued during May with hope and optimism for a more 'normal' operating environment. Albeit the restrictions have eased in line with government policy staff continue to work remotely.

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.

Housing in numbers

Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District (including RAS and leasing):		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1127	649
Shannon	600	158
West Clare	914	393
Killaloe	378	166
Inter Authority HAP		56
TOTAL	3019	1422

2667 LA tenancies	1422 HAP tenancies	210 RAS tenancies
291 leased properties	2,660 LA properties	3172 Rent accounts

Summary of activity

COVID 19 restrictions continue to impact on service areas with essential services as determined continuing. The impact of these challenges is reflected in the numbers hereunder.

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from 24.04.2021 to 23.05.2021)	22
Offers refused	1
Tenancies signed up	19
Tenancies terminated	7

Voids work programme (at end May)	
Voids/casual vacancies	51
Acquired properties (works on-going)	21
Average vacancy period	114 days
Number voids returned to stock	8
Average spend	€23,301

Housing maintenance calls	
May	348

Private rented inspections

*Inspections suspended for May under Level 5 COVID-19 restrictions.

Private rented inspections	
May	0

Housing grants

Grants approved for May 2021		
Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works (€)
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	5	37,120
Housing Aid for Older People	22	68,000
Mobility Aids Grant	27	120,260
Total	54	225,380

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 our own resources.

Rebuilding Ireland home loan

16 Applications	11 Approvals	2021 To 24/05/2021
96 Loans approved	67 Loans drawn down	Cumulative to date: 24/05/2021

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 22nd April, 2021 to 25th May, 2021: 8 households exited from homeless services; of these 8 households; 2 housed in own door properties through HAP, leasing, AHB and local authority allocations, 3 discharged/self-discharged and left homeless services, 2 returned to family/friends, 1 went to rehab/hospital.

In addition, 8 individuals moved from hotel accommodation to supported shared living accommodation under the new Clann Nua project.

Clare's 'Housing First' project in partnership with our colleagues in the HSE will begin the implementation process over the next period with the first meeting of the multi-agency implementation group planned for early June. The Housing First project will target

those clients who are presenting with complex needs and who are difficult to place within the existing homeless services. Housing First project is a National Policy that is guided by the Housing First National Implementation Plan 2018-2021.

Homeless presentations to 25th May, 2021	
New presentations	27
Repeat presentations	148

Status as of 25th May, 2021				
	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	12	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	6	7	1
Westbrook	0	13	0	1
Ashford Court	5	10	8	1
Clann Nua	0	8	0	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	10	0	8
TOTAL	10	60	16	14

Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme

In anticipation of the arrival in early July of seven families under this programme the Council has reengaged the Clare Interagency Resettlement Committee. The committee are tasked with overseeing the integration of the families into the communities in which they are settled. The project is being led by Respond as the implementing partner. Respond have concluded the recruitment of a resettlement worker to support the families in their relocation to Clare.

Clare are receiving a total of 80 individuals under this programme which is a final tranche of Phase one of the first resettlement programme. Four of the families will be resettled in Shannon, another three families will be resettled in Ennis with further properties to be identified to house the remaining families to equate to the 80 person allocation.

There has been very positive engagement by all agencies in the support of this project to ensure a cead mile failte to our new Clare residents.

We have recently been advised that Clare will be tasked with resettling a further 85 individuals under the second phase of this programme which runs between 2020 and 2023.

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	Under Construction	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 application with DHLGH.	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Lodged.	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. Procuring Design Team.	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Subtotal	275			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
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
Subtotal	30			
Total	305			

CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

14 libraries including Local Studies reopened on May 10th for browsing and borrowing of books.



Kilrush Library welcomes back one of its young members this month.

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.

Spring Into Storytime

Clare County Library’s annual Spring into Storytime programme continues until the end of May. Staff in all libraries in County Clare delivered a diverse range of weekly online programmes that included interactive story readings and craft demonstrations, seed planting and talks on nature and wildlife. All events were delivered via Clare County Library’s social media channels, bringing the magic of storytime to homes across County Clare. Spring Into Storytime with Clever Little Handies - Following on from a successful term of free parent and baby ISL classes in January, Clare Library Service was delighted to be able to provide another free term with Clever Little Handies for Spring Into Storytime in April.

First Five Little Library Book Bags

Early Years Educators and childminders were invited to visit their local library to collect their “First Five Little Library Book” Bag. This initiative consists of a selection of books for ages 2.5 – 5 years as well as information and resources for childminders about the benefits of reading from a young age. The project aims to support the development of “Little Libraries” in early learning and care settings, and encourage a love of books and reading among younger children. The project is a collaboration between the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). 126 childcare services in Clare availed of the scheme, receiving a total of 165 bags in both Irish and English.

Library Programming in April

Total number of online events	16
Total number attendances at online events	712
Total number of videos posted online (across all platforms, including Facebook/YouTube/Vimeo, etc.)	54
Total number of video views (across all platforms, including Facebook/YouTube/Vimeo, etc.)	2240

Right to read

Good Books Good Companions

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



Scariff Library window welcomes back library members.

CLARE COUNTY LIBRARY

5,511 DELIVERIES

Online Resources – issued during the month of April

1630 EBOOKS

2229 AUDIO BOOKS

955 E-MAGAZINES

1291 ONLINE COURSES

6175 PRESS READER

245
TRANSPARENT
LANGUAGES

Marketing



- 180 posts
- 1147 likes
- 360 shares
- 270 comments



- 112 posts
- 1085 likes
- 40 comments



- 149 posts
- 466 likes
- 185 retweets
- 7 comments

Creative Ireland

Preparations are continuing for the upcoming Cruinniú na nÓg festival on 12th June. The programme has been finalised and 24 free events will be showcased on the day. Highlights include Gaelscoil Mhichíl Cíosóg's 'Thugmar féin an Samhragh Linn' - a showcase of song, poetry, art and performance filmed in the Burren – an art workshop with Ana Colomer, coding with Tiarnan O Ruairc, clay workshops with the children of the King Thomond Direct Provision Centre as well as storytelling workshops, Clare Youth Theatre performances and Music Generation performances. The full programme is available on the national Cruinniú website at <https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/> and on www.clarelibrary.ie

Decade of Centenaries

The Bealtaine event for Decade of Centenaries was a filmed production of 'Midwives of the Nation' looking at the dispatchers, doctors, gunrunners, smugglers and nurses of 1916. The event received 54 views and 5 nursing homes in the county watched the event online. An account of Corofin during the War of Independence by Dr Donough Wheeler Macnamara of Corofin was added to the Clare Library website, it provides a unique account of life in Corofin in the 1919-1921 period.

Healthy Ireland

Five Healthy Ireland events were delivered online this month. Andrew O'Neill, Clare-based consultant physiotherapist, delivered a very



informative workshop on strategies to prevent and relieve neck, shoulder and back pain to an audience throughout the County.

Claire Flynn, Development Officer with Mental Health Ireland, delivered a 2 hour workshop on 'Five ways to wellbeing during tough times'. This workshop explored the challenges of lockdown to people's health and wellbeing and also identified the successful coping strategies which were adopted, thereby increasing resilience. This workshop is a follow-up from Claire's introductory talk last month.

Mindfulness instructor, Sonia Millar delivered 2 workshops to 6th class Primary School children focusing on the theme of 'Transitioning to Secondary School'. Excellent feedback on the benefits and suitability of these workshops was provided by teachers.

A partnership between the HSE, Clare Library & Healthy Ireland delivered a concert to Nursing Homes, Day Care Centres & Active Retirement Groups, with local singer Patrick Roche. This is the third concert that has been delivered through the Healthy Ireland at your Library initiative and the feedback from healthcare staff, management of Day Care Centres and individuals has been very positive.

Clare Arts Office

- Jenny Bassett continued a Creativity Course with Clare Women's Network through the "Keep Well Initiative" and

Roisin Kelly worked on an art project with the residents of Liscannor Nursing Home. Clare Arts office listed 16 events of interest on the Keep Well website.

- Three Zoom sessions took place with Clare Youth Theatre.
- One Artist in Schools Residency started and two were completed in April.
- 2 Arts and Disability Programmes commenced.
- Posted 20 times on social media in April with a post reach of 1650.
- The Arts Council submitted a Creative Places application to the Arts Council.

Clare Museum

- A reading list of resources at the Clare Local Studies Centre for members of the public seeking more information on the Museum collection has been placed on the museum website.
- 60 objects were photographed during the month and a hard drive has been purchased to allow for the photograph collection to be backed up. 1,300 photographs have been taken in total.
- Social media posts continued during the month, with one image receiving over 4,000 views and two new social media platforms, Instagram and Tiktok, have been set up for the Museum.
- The environmental monitoring of the store at Beechpark continues daily.
- New videos on War of Independence in Clare are being researched at the present time with view to ramping up video content during the closure of the museum. A volunteer

is helping with the research for videos to complement the school curriculum for launch in September.

- The museum’s strategic plan is completed and an implementation plan is being put together. The education policy also requires an implementation plan, and both will be presented to the SPC, along with the Disaster Plan.
- A press release has gone out in relation to the museum acquiring the Scott Collection.
- Work continues on the new exhibition for de Valera’s car which will be re-housed in the Museum space for re-opening at end of the summer.

Clare Local Studies & Archives

The Archives Service continually deals 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 requests can now be fulfilled. Recent additions to the Local Studies online collection include a description of the McMahon family of Clonina, images of the sale of the Burton Bindon Estate of 1853 and a transcription of the Ruan/Dysart Parish Marriage Records up to 1920 donated by Flan Lyons.

Library Capital Programme – update

The retendering of this project fell victim to Covid-19 as the surveys required to inform the tender package were delayed due to restrictions on travel. That said phase 1 of the retendering process has concluded in that there is now a shortlist of companies who have qualified to progress to the second stage of the process. It is now anticipated that the completion contractor will be appointed in late September 2021.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District works

Works to the 2021 Schedule continue around the Municipal District. Completed Restoration Improvement Programme Works include:

- R-461 Feakle to Scarriff Road
- L-4104 Clooney Graveyard
- L-7000 Fermoyle
- R-471 Coolycasey Junction
- L-4108 Middleline

Grants

Works are ongoing on the following projects related to Rural Grants – ORIS, CLAR and Active Travel Grants:

- ORIS Trail finalisation works

- Completion of Doonane Wall and Footpath, Tulla
- Broadford Low Cost Safety Scheme
- Design works are currently being carried out in relation to a number of Traffic Calming Schemes in Kilmurry, Quin, Dromindoora, Feakle. Members will be briefed on these schemes in the upcoming weeks.

Killaloe MD is also preparing submissions in relation to 2021/2022 Rural Grants.

Strategic Workshop

Killaloe MD councillors took part in a Workshop with the Executive of Clare County Council on April 13th aimed at focusing in on specific strategic objectives for the Municipal District going forward. Work is ongoing on the draft plan.

SPORTS & RECREATION



permissible in line with COVID restrictions. Please refer to www.activeennis.ie for the most up to date information in relation to the facility.

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

The facilities are available for bookings for organised training for clubs. From the 7th of June outdoor sports matches can recommence. All Active Ennis/Kilrush pitches and running tracks can be booked online at the above link.

During May activity at the facilities increased with clubs returning to training initially juvenile training and later in the month adults returned to the pitches..

Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Active Ennis leisure complex will reopen from the 7th of June for individual training only. The Active Ennis leisure complex timetable remains the same with book and pay for one-hour slots in the gym and pool. Fitness or swim classes are not currently

The Parks remains open to the public for individual exercise. All users are advised to observe the Government/HSE guidelines.

Playgrounds are accessible with appropriate parental supervision.

It is noted how vital our public parks are in the current climate, we are experiencing a significant increase in usage and request the publics continued compliance with public health advice.

ACTIVE ENNIS LEISURE COMPLEX

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
10 - 11AM 11:30 - 12:30PM 1 - 2PM 2:30 - 3:30PM 4 - 5PM	10 - 11AM* Active Age Hour (Over 50's only) 11:30 - 12:30PM 1 - 2PM 2:30 - 3:30PM 4 - 5PM	8 - 9AM 9:30 - 10:30AM 11 - 12PM 12:30 - 1:30PM 2 - 3PM 3:30 - 4:30PM 5 - 6PM 6:30 - 7:30PM 8 - 9PM	8 - 9AM 9:30 - 10:30AM 11 - 12PM 12:30 - 1:30PM 2 - 3PM 3:30 - 4:30PM 5 - 6PM 6:30 - 7:30PM 8 - 9PM	8 - 9AM 9:30 - 10:30AM 11 - 12PM 12:30 - 1:30PM 2 - 3PM 3:30 - 4:30PM 5 - 6PM 6:30 - 7:30PM 8 - 9PM
		SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
		10 - 11AM 11:30 - 12:30PM 1 - 2PM 2:30 - 3:30PM 4 - 5PM	10 - 11AM 11:30 - 12:30PM 1 - 2PM 2:30 - 3:30PM 4 - 5PM	Terms and conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly bookings with pre-payment required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members must pre-book also Arrive five minutes prior to your booking to allow for check in and observe social distancing All customers will be restricted to four sessions per week in the interest of equity

Active Ennis timetable.

Active Cloughleigh

The resurfacing of the astroturf at Cloughleigh pitch was completed recently and part funded under a sports capital grant. This facility can be booked online.



Cloughleigh resurfacing.



Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Brochures

Clare Sports Partnership has produced physical activity and healthy eating brochures for those living in direct provision which were designed under the Keep Well initiative. There are 2 different brochures – one for adults, the other for children. Both brochures contain information about the benefits of physical activity, how much is recommended, examples of exercises that can be done at home and healthy eating tips. It is hoped that these brochures will increase awareness amongst children and adults, living in direct provision, about the importance of healthy living for body and mind. 780 Brochures were distributed altogether.

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

Physical activity and healthy eating brochures for those living in direct provision which were produced by Clare Sports Partnership under the Keep Well initiative.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Transportation

Clare County Council has received its road grant allocations for 2021. The overall allocation for roads in the 2021 Roadworks Programme is €34.5m, which comprises Transport Infrastructure Ireland (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 has commenced in 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. 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 second round of consultation has commenced and a presentation was made by the NTA to the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee in February. A briefing session with all councillors has been scheduled for June. The NTA intends to finalise the strategy by September/October, 2021.

Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the NTA. 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 submitted. 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.

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

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

ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS

Road Design Office

Current Projects: May 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	Update
TII HD15 sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary. The TII is of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should incorporate Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area. The RDO are reviewing the current designs to incorporate these elements. <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrycrossaun junction design and 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.
TII HD17 sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further to onsite inspections at Cranny, Crag and Parknamoney junctions, the TII have requested the RDO to progress with detailed site surveys, conceptual designs and Feasibility and Option Reports. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of the identified junctions for phase 1 is now complete, ie. Galway Border to Ballyvaughan. Revised design required for a number of these junctions, ie. New Church and N67/L50221. 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.

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. Feedback from TII received, Final design being progressed
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

Road Number	Location of LCS	Description pf Proposed LCS	Progress Update
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 phase has commenced.
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.
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.

Other Projects: Monthly Update

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.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Project	Progress update
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<p>Wheelchair accessible bus stop on Bothar Linne, Shannon Town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design is completed and issued to the Shannon MD. The project received €30,733 in NTA funding. A Preliminary Safety and Health Plan has been issued to the Shannon MD. Works commenced in late November. Works well underway with the remainder to be completed in 2021. Works have recommenced as Covid-19 restrictions have now lifted restrictions.
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 has approved funding and the contractor is being appointed. Works to commence in early June.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
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 MDs. Cycle lane and road line marking from the Clare Inn Roundabout to Clonmoney is substantially completed.
Circular RW 09/2020 - Climate Change Adaptation Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. The 2021 remaining element 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 and GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
NTA Active Travel Circular (2021)	Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on March 29th, 2021, and the total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,986,000. 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 the 26 March, 2021. Funding has not been announced to date.

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 two bridges to proceed to NIS stage.
- Bunratty Bridge: Meeting National Monuments 14th June to discuss possible repair works.
- Stonepark Bridge: Fisheries Derogation applied for,

not received yet. Road closure will be required. Aim to carry out works when schools close for summer.

- 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 two weeks.
- 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. Stage 2 Screening ongoing.
- Derrycon Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June.
- Cloonolia Bridge: Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June.
- Finnor Beg Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed. Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June.
- Ardnacaraa Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed. Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June.
- Lough North Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed. Contractor appointed, works to commence end of June.
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed.
- Furror Upper Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed.
- Cloghaun Beg Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued.
- Honan’s Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued.
- Dereen Bridge: Topographical survey completed week commencing 24th May.

Other Bridge Works

- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed.
- Clarecastle Bridges: Currently carrying out re-inspection of bridges on the R458 in Clarecastle for Roche decommissioning.
- 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 currently being assessed.
- Wooden Bridge Springfield: Survey to be carried out, meeting to be arranged with Waterways Ireland when Covid restrictions are lifted.
- Check condition of bridges notified by MDs.

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 is currently being revised and updated in accordance with 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 month of May. Monitoring of the revised Traffic Management Guidance will commence on 1st June.

General Design

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Sixmilebridge – Tender drawings and documents completed and forwarded to QS for preparation of the BOQs, pricing document etc. QS to publish on e-tenders on the 20/21 May. Section 38 notification published on 23rd April, 2021.

Barefield – Currently at preliminary/feasibility stage. Surveying, preliminary drawings preparation and consultation process in progress. Cost budget estimates to follow.

Corofin – Currently at preliminary/feasibility stage. Feasibility exercise, surveying, preliminary drawings preparation in progress.

Fencing

- Old Quarry, Knockanean – FRS due on site next week to erect 2m high Nylofor fence and gates.
- Derelict house, Laureen roundabout – Post and rail fence will be painted and chain-link mesh wire attached in the next week.
- Shallee Drive, Ennis – post and rail fence with chain-link erected (in conjunction with Ennis MD) at vacant site.

Property assessments

- Laghile, Cratloe – Mapping and reports being prepared in advance of land transfers, in consultation

with residents and Economic Development section.

- Main St, Sixmilebridge (Credit Union) – Land transfer map drafted and issued to Economic Development.
- Moyhill, Cratloe – Vacant Site – Visual survey and property report carried out.

Mapping

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass – ongoing.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing.

Ennis Museum and Tourist Office Refurbishment

M Fitzgibbon Contractors Ltd. commenced work on site on 4th May with a completion date in early August 2021.



CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The PMO made significant progress across a number of the main projects as follows:

Cloughaninchy Coastal Protection Works – Despite the Council's best endeavours, certain landowners are not engaging with us and it should be noted that the project cannot progress until landowner agreements are finalised. Clare County Council will continue efforts to reach mutual agreement with the landowners.

Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building – The building design is being progressed by the project consultants, Bucholz McEvoy, and will be presented at the next cross-directorate workshop (comprising the PMO, the Rural Development Directorate and West Clare MD) in mid June. Car parking and access options are being appraised with a view to preparation of a robust environmental submission required for the An Bord Pleanála approval process. As part of this process, the use of third-party lands is under review taking cognisance of ecological mapping recently updated as part of the preliminary design stage.

Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme – This scheme has been delivered on time and within budget and the certificate of substantial completion has now been completed by the consultants. There are some minor works such as pointing of the river wall at the Rowan Tree and plastering of the wall at the temporary entrance at No 7 Harmony Row remaining, but Ward & Burke have committed to closing out on these and any other outstanding items in the coming weeks.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme – Work is continuing on the final section of the scheme which involves the construction of a pump station. The structure itself has been substantially completed with the roof slab scheduled to be lifted into place during the first week in June. Once completed the temporary piles around the structure can be removed enabling the remaining few flood defence piles to be installed for this area. Additionally, the new back drain network is being constructed. In parallel, works are being carried out at the various sluice outfalls with the opening up of the existing river embankment at the locations in question. This is required to ensuring better connectivity from the back drain network flows with that of the river flows. Work is also continuing on the landscaping of the embankment along the flood protection wall and the verges of the maintenance track. The overall project remains on programme to be completed in August 2021.

Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner) – An Bord Pleanála has confirmed that a virtual oral hearing will be held on 9th and 10th June, 2021. The project team consisting of the Project Management Office, Clare County Council in conjunction with the Mid West Regional Road Design Office and Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers are preparing for the hearing and as always, Clare County Council would welcome any queries from affected landowners regarding the scheme.

Errinagh Canal bank walkway – In advance of work being allowed to resume post peak nesting season (and noting

construction moratorium during Covid-19 restrictions), Clare County Council has undertaken a review of construction aspects and of 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. Invasive species removal and monitoring continues to be carried out on the site, in line with the Invasive species management plan.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass – Ministerial approval is awaited on the recently furnished tender documents for the scheme and on receipt of same, procurement of the Main Works Contract can be progressed. It is expected that the tender for the main works contract will be published in the coming weeks. Concurrently, final third-party observations on the detailed design and remaining land agreements are now being incorporated in the final suite of tender documents.

The advance works contract is now nearing substantial completion with site clearance, fencing, utility diversions and critical boundary treatments all progressed in recent weeks. The sewer diversion works on the R494 from the Roolagh junction towards Ballina was completed as scheduled and final landscaping works are now being completed within the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Following completion of the main Archaeological Works contract, additional areas identified are currently being investigated to further de-risk the main contract works. Completion of these additional works is expected in late June 2021.

Land Acquisition continues to be progressed with a significant number of cases completed while others are nearing finalisation. A small number of others are being dealt with through the Arbitration process which were suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions but now are scheduled to resume in mid-June.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme – RPS Consulting have been issued with all outstanding survey information which has allowed them to commence the coastal element analysis. Following the independent condition survey of the sea wall, additional locations have been added to the scope of the Site Investigation works which will go to tender in the coming days. This contract will be carried out over two site visits to avoid disruption during the busy tourist season.

The second Hydraulic Workshop will be carried out next week, in which the Atlantic Stream model will be presented and any amendments to the Victoria Stream hydraulic model. With the OPW rain gauges now fully established in Kilkee, the additional third-party gauges will be removed at the end of May. The water level sensors located in the various streams will be maintained for an additional six-month period to capture any potential flood events that occur. A Collaborative Workshop was held with our consultant and the relevant CCC departments to share information on the flood relief scheme and other projects of note in the

Kilkee area. Information on the project can be accessed through our online information video and associated information literature available on the scheme website www.kilkeefrs.ie

Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme – Although managed by Limerick Council, this scheme includes the areas of Westbury and Shannon Banks in County Clare and therefore, we will be represented on the Project Steering group as the scheme progresses. Following approval of the OPW last week, RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed as Scheme Consultants. The Consultants will develop and expand on the CFRAM work and use more detailed surveys and models to confirm the flood risks and establish the required flood protection works and associated benefits. An initial Public Consultation period will commence later this summer where the views of the public and other interested parties will be sought on the key issues to be considered. The period will also allow for the submission of any relevant local information to inform the project. Geotechnical Investigations and Topographic and Environmental surveys will also commence on the ground this year to inform the scheme options.

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) – Now that the NTA is close to finalising the LSMATS Report, we would expect to hear back from the Department of Transport following our submission of the Project Appraisal suite of documents last November. If favourable, we will be able to progress to the next stage of development.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) – The Members will be aware 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 currently before the courts, but we are hopeful of an early favourable resolution. Once reached, we will be able to carry out the necessary Geotechnical Investigations to inform the detailed design and engage further with the relevant landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme – Detailed design and tender documentation have been completed. A ‘Request for Tender’ for a contractor to carry the construction works was published on etenders recently. Tender submissions are due in mid-June and following tender assessment, a successful contractor will be appointed. In parallel, Clare County Council is continuing negotiations with the affected landowners and assuming agreement, it is hoped to commence works in August.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road – Phase Two (Options Selection) is currently ongoing and work continues to progress in relation to finalising the Stage 1 (Preliminary Options Assessment) 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. Following recent stakeholder consultation meetings, observations received are now being assessed by the project team and will feed into the

final option selection. Bi-monthly co-ordination meetings with the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Project Team is ongoing to ensure constraints from either project are managed as they are progressed independently of each other.

Clare County Council has carried out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and has determined that a full Appropriate Assessment is not required in respect of the proposed Ground Investigations contract. Following completion of the Ground Investigations Tender Report and CCC review, a letter of Intent and letters of Regret were issued on 11th May, 2021. A tender clarification meeting was held with the preferred contractor on 26th May and pre-start information required under the contract is currently awaited. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process. Further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed through our scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie

N85 Upgrade at Kilnamona – Funding of €100k has been provided by TII in its 2021 allocations for this project and it is hoped to be in a position to appoint Consultants to commence the design process in the coming weeks.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) – Preparation of tender documents is ongoing in respect of the appointment of Engineering Services provider for the detailed design, procurement, and managed removal as necessary and processing of waste deposits from the various sites. In the interim, the sites are rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works. They are being routinely monitored and we will continue to liaise with the EPA and take 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 continues to meet with our Consultants RPS Consulting Engineers, online each month.

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

- Both the Geophysical Survey and Topographical Survey have commenced onsite. CCC continue to liaise with both companies to monitor progress and resolve access issues.
- A number of site visits have been carried out with the CCTV Flow Monitoring contractor following the pre-start meeting for these works. The CCTV element of the works will commence on Monday, 31st May, 2021.
- The Site Investigation contract has been awarded and the pre-start meeting held. A provisional start date of 14th June has been agreed.

Outside of the scheme's third-party surveys, SAA are expect-

ing to appoint a contractor to carry out their own maintenance works on the SAA embankments in the very near future. A virtual consultation, with a subsequent option for physical consultation by appointment, is planned for June/July. A number of environmental surveys covering otters, bats and further invasive species surveys are planned for the coming months. A review of the Hydrology method statement is ongoing and expected to be agreed in early June.

Spanish Point Coastal Protection Scheme – The Rock Armour revetment was completed in early May in advance of the bathing season. Related works to include replacement of the cliff top fencing will be carried out over the coming months at a time least disruptive to the enjoyment and use of the facilities at Spanish Point.

Springfield, Clonlara FRS – Members will be aware of the intention to commence construction on the Springfield project in May. Unfortunately, we have had to delay the start date pending the outcome of some additional Site investigation works that was required. Contractors on our behalf carried out trial holes and ground investigation work and the results of these were assessed by a specialist Consultant Hydrogeologist. Following their review, a draft Hydrogeology Report on the groundwater flows in Springfield has now been completed, the findings of which are currently being considered by the Scheme Consultants Byrne Looby & Associates. We must now await their recommendations for the scheme based on the Hydrogeologist's Report. Clare County Council and the OPW are extremely disappointed that this delay has occurred but are committed to finding a solution which will allow us to move forward at the earliest juncture.

West Clare Railway Greenway – Following issue of the Letters of Intent and Regret, the Contract documents are being prepared for the formal appointment of Consultants for the section between Kilrush and Kilkee. Related to same, we would welcome comments and contact from anybody who owns land along the route of the old West Clare Railway line between Kilrush and Kilkee. In parallel, Tender documents are also being prepared for the appointment of Consultants for the Section between Ennis and Ennistymon.

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works – Engagement with the relevant stakeholders and landowners is continuing. The scope of Site Investigation works required have been identified and are due to be carried out presently. The results of which will inform the design and options and the design chosen.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during May:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Training
- Five recruit firefighters attended a QQI accredited Fire-Fighting Sills Course in Limerick.

Ennis Fire Station Redevelopment Works

Works have completed on the Fire Service Maintenance Building. A Certification of Completion has issued for the Workshop and Clare County Fire and Rescue Service mechanics are now operating in their new base.

Lone Working Devices

Lone working devices have been circulated to all workplaces in Clare County Fire and Rescue Service. All relevant personnel have received training on same.



Fire and Building Control Section Main Activities	April 2021	May 2021 (Up to 27/05/21)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	73	50	321
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	6	6	23
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	6	9	24
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	4	1	11
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	1	1	15
Number of Commencement Notices Received	46	31	166
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	1	7

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

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Water scenes filmed in Moy Lahinch for the TV series, "Smother".
- Clare vs Wexford hurling match, Clare vs Laois football match and Clare vs Wexford ladies football match in Cusack Park.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members provided ambulance transport for patients to hospital appointments in Ennis, Limerick and Galway.
- Members of the Drone Team provided drone assistance to An

Garda Síochána with the capture of video footage and stills of areas within the county.

- Members assisted An Garda Síochána with a search of the River Fergus for an item which may have been used in an alleged crime.
- Members provided transport for senior members of Clare County Council to inspect various sites.

Members Training & Professional Development

Senior members met to discuss and develop a training development schedule for volunteer members that will be implemented over the summer months.

ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact operations in the Environment section but our adaptable business continuity planning mitigates the effects. To date, all essential services in the Environment section have continued uninterrupted. The 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 55 complaints (including Section 4 licensed sites, wastewater and agriculture) have been received and investigated to date in May 2021. Enforcement notices/letters have issued where required under the Water Pollution Acts and the Good Agriculture Practice Regulations 2017 as amended.

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

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 ≤ 10). The EPA provided a virtual briefing to the Environment Section on the revised code.

Planning referrals from Planning Department

To date, 188 reports relating to single house developments have been prepared and submitted to the Planning Section.

To date, 180 forestry reports (includes applications for afforestation, felling and forestry roads) which were referred from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to Clare County Council have been examined and recommended conditions submitted in order to ensure that mitigation measures are taken to protect water quality in sensitive locations.

Laboratory & Technical Support

River Monitoring Programme 2021

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

Bathing Waters

The bathing water sampling calendar was previously submitted to the EPA, with sampling programmed to commence in mid-May and running through to September. In 2021, 14 designated bathing areas will be monitored for compliance with the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008. The pre-season samples were collected and analysed on 24th and 25th May in preparation for opening of the Bathing Season on 1st June.

Gardening

The Reflective Garden was officially opened on 11th May. Councillor Mary Howard, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, unveiled a poem by Clare man, John O Donoghue. The Reflective Garden celebrates the memory of our departed colleagues and elected members.



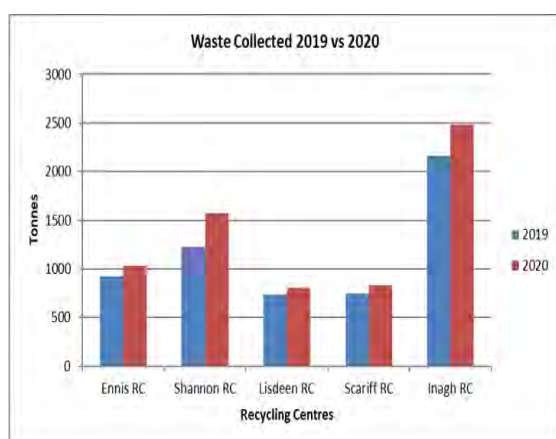
In May, our gardening team selected a number of locations in Ennis to plant more biodiverse, pollinator friendly and perennial flowers that will provide for a more sustainable planting regime.

Waste Management

EPA Waste Survey Report

Annual Waste Collection Data has been compiled by the Environment Section during the month of May for the EPA's Waste Survey Report 2020. The results of this have shown that waste collection across all the Recycling Centre has increased since 2019. The chart below shows that:

- Ennis Recycling Centre waste tonnages increased by 12%
- Shannon Recycling Centre waste tonnages increased by 29%
- Lisdeen Recycling Centre waste tonnages increased by 9%
- Scariff Recycling Centre waste tonnages increased by 11%
- Inagh Recycling Centre waste tonnages increased by 15%.



Inagh CWMF – Forestry

In May, the Environment Section in compliance with our tree felling licence commenced the felling of approx 4.5ha of forestry at the closed landfill site at Inagh. The felling of the spruce and larch is almost complete. The existing coniferous trees that have been felled are being transported to various sawmills in Ireland for processing. This year's felling forms part of the forestry management plan for the site. A felling licence for the site was granted in August 2018 for a period of 10 years. Replanting will take place later in the year and will consist mainly of native broadleaves.

Bring Banks

Following an application to Repak, the Environment section has secured the provision of 10 new bottle banks. These banks will initially be used at the Kilrush Bring Bank site while repair and improvement works at the site takes place.

Waste Enforcement

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The application for Anti-Dumping Initiative Funding 2021 was submitted and approved in May. A total of €77,442 has been approved for various projects under this initiative. This

application includes a number of projects targeted at eliminating illegal dumping at particular black-spots throughout each Municipal District. The approval also covers funding for a Bulky Waste Amnesty Day.

Liaising with Business Owners in Relation to Litter Management

In response to the rise in takeaway food outlets, letters have issued and site visits have taken place of retail outlets in Kilkee and Lahinch advising them of their obligations under the Litter Pollution Act. This Awareness Campaign will be extended to other towns, particularly in tourist areas, over the coming months.

Dog Fouling

Letters have been issued to home owners advising them of their responsibilities under Section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act, regarding cleaning up after their dogs. Additional signage and stencils were also put in place.

Voluntary Beach Clean Ups and An Taisce National Spring Clean

Signage has been ordered for placement at beaches advising the public to remove and bring home beach litter. Our Community Warden has linked in with Voluntary Groups to assist with beach clean-ups. Community Wardens continue to assist with ongoing community clean-ups throughout the county.

Notifications of Controlled Burning

The Enforcement Team have received 17 notifications of controlled burning from farmers so far in May, on foot of which a Notification Number is issued, which is then 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 May, 13 letters were issued under the Waste Management Bye Laws.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

In total, three Section 55 Notices, one Section 9 Notice (Notice requiring the removal of litter) and one Section 14 Notice were issued in May, instructing the landowners to carry out various tasks in order to clean their sites. These are being monitored and appropriate action will be taken where necessary. We have received nine complaints relating to litter in May. A total of 53 complaints relating to waste have been received in May and are currently being investigated. We have issued six litter fines in May, as a result of evidence found by the Environment section in illegally dumped waste. Payments of three litter fines have been made in May to date. The remainder are within the time frame for payment.

Beaches

All nine Blue Flag beaches managed by Clare County Council retain Blue Flag Status for the 2021 bathing season. The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. In addition, four Clare beaches retained the Green Coast for the coming season. The award recognises beaches for their clean environment, excellent water quality and natural beauty.



WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Section of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement and the 2021 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water. All protocols and working procedures relating to Covid-19 are being adhered to in the delivery of the service.

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 26th April, 2021, up to and including 24th May, 2021. The figures do not, however, reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint /issue.

- 20 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 439 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 213 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 45 Outage Notices were placed on the Irish Water portal during the period. 30 accounted for unplanned works for water outages and burst water mains, pump issues. The remainder 15 notices were for leak repair, mains flushing, step testing and leak detection works.

Water operations

A number of outages occurred in the Sandfield, Tobartaiscan, Barntick, Corrofin and 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 Doonbeg.

In the south-east Clare area, a number of outages occurred in the vicinity of Athlunkard Bridge, O'Connor's Cross, Larkin's Cross and Ardnacrusa. In Shannon, there were outages in Choill Mhara, the Shannon Town 300mm diameter main, and the Bunratty to Cratloe main.

Water conservation

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

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

The Find and Fix Crews concentrated activities in East and West Clare with leaks repaired in Clonlara DMA and Kilkee West DMA. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Killaloe and Kilrush DMAs.

Wastewater Operations

On Saturday, 22nd May, there was a break in the sewer rising main in Kilkee, which was followed shortly afterwards by a break on the storm rising main. This effectively shut down the pumping station. The operations crew were in attendance immediately to carry out repairs and were supplemented by a fleet of three tankers which drew effluent from the pumping station to help minimise and reduce the level of effluent discharging via the overflow to the Victoria stream. The repairs were completed late Saturday afternoon and pumping resumed and any discharges ceased at that time.

Irish Water capital programme

Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant interim upgrade

Ward and Burke commenced upgrade work on site at the treatment plant on 1st January, 2020. The upgraded treatment capacity of the treatment plant is now 28,500PE and the discharge to the Shannon estuary is compliant with the discharge licence. Some minor works at the pump stations are yet to be completed. The process proving report for the plant is likely to be approved by mid-June.

Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade

A new wastewater treatment plant, rising main and upgrade of the existing Frances St pumping station are proposed in Kilrush under the UTAS project. Detailed design is ongoing. A new planning application was lodged by Irish Water on 8th March, 2021, to deal with necessary alterations to the design of the WWTP and planning permission has been granted. Construction is programmed to commence in November 2021 with completion in early 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.

The detailed design and tender documentation for the new pumping facility at Quay Road and the new rising main to Clareabbey WWTP is complete and is currently being reviewed by IW. The works are programmed by Irish Water to start late 2021 with completion during 2022. It is anticipated that the upgrade works at Clareabbey WWTP will run concurrently with the rising main works such that flows can be pumped from Clarecastle to Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment.

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer are proposed for Liscannor. The CPO was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála and the Notices to Treat and Notice of entry were issued by IW in late May 2021. The project is expected to go to construction in Autumn 2021 with completion in late 2022. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the Pier in Liscannor.

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. The previous route and site selection report will be reviewed and a new report produced by IW's design/build contractor considering issues such as access and flooding. This report will propose a site for the proposed WWTP and pump station and will be

issued to Irish Water for their approval. It is planned to use the existing outfall west of the village. A planning application for the scheme is anticipated to be lodged in late 2021. The project is anticipated to go to construction by early 2023 with completion by Q2 2024.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main is planned for Kilkee. Irish Water held Workshop 1 on 31st March, 2021. It has been agreed by Clare County Council engineers and Irish Water that the Victoria Stream will continue to be pumped away from the beach during the bathing season to protect the Blue Flag status. The route and site selection report has to be revised by Irish Water's consultants to determine the preferred location for the new treatment plant and pumping station. A draft of this report is due in July 2021. Following Irish Water approval of the site and route, the environmental, planning and archaeology reports will be prepared. A planning application for the scheme is anticipated to be lodged in mid-2023. The project is anticipated to go to construction in Autumn 2024 with completion in late 2025.

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. This report is now with Irish Water for consideration before the scheme moves to the design and planning application stage.

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 primary effluent from the existing WWTP to Lough Gash turlough. A Foreshore Licence and Discharge Licence review will be required. The site investigation along the road from the Plant through Kilnasoolagh Park and on the R458 towards Latoon is complete. Various additional studies are required which will inform the final design. It is anticipated that the Planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged in Autumn 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 permission has been granted. The CPO Oral Hearing was held on-line by An Bord Pleanála on 23rd February, 2021. The CPO has been confirmed without modification for acquisition of lands, wayleaves and temporary

working areas. Detailed design is ongoing. Construction is planned to commence in November 2021 and be completed in early 2023.

Quin Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade

The 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 started its final 28-day process testing phase.

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 Ballymacravan to follow. A preliminary design has been produced for the construction of a new rising main between the New Doolough and Old Doolough Water treatment plants, which when constructed will allow for the decommissioning of the Old Doolough Plant.

Mullagh/Milltown Malbay Pipeline

These works involve the replacement of 4.7 kilometres of existing substandard water supply pipework which was identified to Irish Water as requiring replacement.

The contractor is continuing works onsite with all 4.7km of main now constructed. The contractor is now making the remaining cross connections required into the network. Works to arrange changeover of connections from the old to new main are nearing completion. Works are expected to be fully complete by June 2021.

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to IW to date. Following on site surveys, 51 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 330 assets, 201 have now been transferred to Irish Water.

The 129 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 consensus has been reached on the remaining assets with both IW and Clare County Council, a CE order will issue thereafter.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) – This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities – 5 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 IW 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 Councils 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 11 reports to be submitted to IW in this category.

Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) the Feenagh GWS (Sixmilbridge) and Tullaher GWS (Doonbeg) mains rehab projects are coming to the closing stages and it is hoped that the new mains will be commissioned in the coming weeks. Ballinruane GWS, Mountshannon is to re-tender for the replacement of 1.88km of mains and it is hoped to appoint a contractor in the coming weeks with works to take place over the summer period. Works on the Teerovannon GWS have commenced with the replacement of service fittings throughout the scheme. 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 per cent of the value of the works.

Under Measure 3 of the programme Bodyke – Raheen GWS have completed the replacement of existing meters.

Deerpark GWS and Caherkine GWS were submitted for Taking in Charge in May and this now brings the number of GWS's submitted by the Clare Rural Water Programme awaiting Taking in Charge to 13. Irish Water has suspended taking in charge of GWS's since November, 2020.

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 39 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

Ennis Public Realm – Parnell St project

The first section of road from Carmody Street to Wood Quay was opened to the public on May 12th, with a new seating area at the Wood Quay Junction. At the end of May, paving works to Parnell Street are now substantially complete as far as the junction with Cabey's Lane. This section of roadway from the Market area through to Wood Quay will be open to the public by mid-June. Eleven lanes are almost at completion stage and works are progressing well on the various laneways around the town.



Traffic management plan – HSE vaccination centre

Ennis MD Urban Crews implemented a traffic management system on the R458 outside the West County where the HSE vaccination centre is located. The system was agreed with the HSE, Gardaí, Clare County Council and the Fire Service.



Safety measures at Gaelscoil Michíl Chisóg

Bollards were installed at Gaelscoil Michíl Chisóg, to eliminate some issues relating to cars, parking on footpaths and blocking pedestrian routes to the school. The bollards were installed following a successful trial period with flexible plastic bollards.



Restoration Improvement Programme

The restoration improvement programme continues with recent resurfacing works in Ballyhannon, Kilvoydan, Ballyortla and Moyreisk.

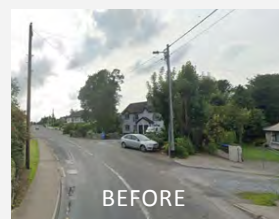


Age Friendly Seating

Age friendly seating has been installed in Ballyallia, overlooking the lake.

Footpath Improvement

Ennis MD recently extended a section of footpath and set back a boundary wall at Clarehill, Clarecastle.



Environment

Ennis MD Urban crews prepared the existing flower bed in Lower Market Street, by removing the existing soil and excavating to the required depth for imported topsoil to allow for installation of new perennial, pollinator friendly planting.



Unauthorised camping and illegal dumping took place at a site on Francis Street which was also the location of a significant storm sewer for the Francis Street area. Previous excavations for the maintenance of the storm sewer were filled in for now to ensure a safe area. Future significant maintenance on the storm sewer is still required at this location. A significant clean-up was required.



Pump maintenance at Woodquay pumping station

Ennis MD assisted EPS for maintenance works at Woodquay storm water pumping station. The works took place over two work periods, three days and two days in alternate weeks. Three pumps which had been previously removed for inspection and refurbishment were reinstalled with a large mobile crane and three further pumps of the eight in total were removed for inspection and maintenance. Faulty gate valves in the pumping chamber were replaced and rewiring of the newly installed pumps and finally commissioning of the pumps also took place.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Atlantic Green Digital Basin

In May, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary Councils and the Shannon Foynes Port Company met with a Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment-led inter-departmental committee to assist national government to implement the Programme for Government action for the Shannon Estuary. The aim of the meeting was to maximise the realisation of the economic opportunities that renewable energy and digitalisation can bring to the Estuary and the Mid-West region. The Government is reviewing the type of implementation/governance structure required to maximise the Estuary's development potential.

Clare Economic Task Force

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

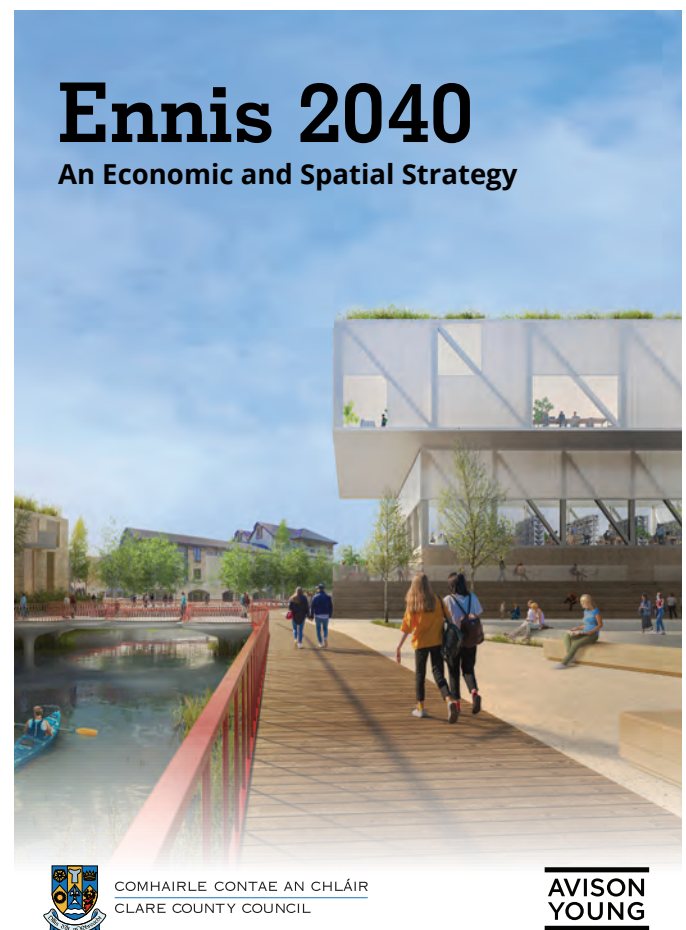
Ennis Data Centre

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 June 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

The third Ennis 2040 DAC Board meeting took place in May, to review priority transformational sites which could be developed in the short-term aligned with the objectives of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy. A feasibility study/market demand assessment brief is currently being prepared to feed into the development of business case studies to determine

commerciality of key strategic sites identified. Recruitment of an Executive Team for the Ennis 2040 Designated Activity Company is in progress, with first round interviews for the Chief Operating Officer role being held at the end May. As restrictions are being eased, it is planned to officially launch the Ennis 2040 Strategy with an Taoiseach in Ennis asap.



STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS

Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre

This Masterplan, which is funded by Government's Urban Regeneration and 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 Municipal District on the working draft of the Masterplan, engagement with a number of targeted stakeholders continued in May. Following the consideration of all inputs and any consequent changes to the working draft it is anticipated that a Draft Plan will then go on public display in July. The exact nature, timing and format of the public consultation will be agreed with the Elected Members.

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 University of Limerick (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 ensure the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2027 and its Core Strategy and Housing Strategy provides the policy basis and allocation of population and uses for the development of the SDZ.

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Tourism and Mobility Plan

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

The draft plan continues to be advanced and finalised. The Elected Members of the Killaloe MD received a progress update from the Senior Planner and the consultants on 19th May. The Members gave constructive positive feedback to the consultants based on their local knowledge and insight. In addition, a number of targeted stakeholder meetings with statutory agencies have taken place in the recent weeks.

It is anticipated that the draft Killaloe-Ballina plan will go on public display in July for public comment and following that any amendments will be made to the draft plan. It is anticipated that a final plan will be in place by end of the year and will inform the content of the Draft County Development Plan.

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 Strategic Economic Initiatives unit, 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 while 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 2022.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028

The preparation of the draft Development Plan 2022-2028 is now nearing completion with a pre-draft plan due to issued to the Elected Members by 16th June. The legislative process involves extensive on-site and desktop collation, evaluation and analysis of data and information to inform the new policies and objectives.

The draft plan will include a written statement, settlement plans and statements for all 85 towns and villages across the county, a new Housing Strategy including a Housing Need Demand Assessment, a County Retail Strategy including the Clare elements of the Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area, a new Renewable Energy Strategy and Energy Emissions Balance for the County, a Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

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 Council planned new bridge crossing and the upgrading works to take place along the Main Street. The study will explore the potential of the existing townscape and its built environment in order to guide its development in a positive way. It will also

comprise of a new signage strategy and streetscape enhancement plan, which seeks to improve the experience for visitors and residents. Baseline research is completed and work will now focus on defining a strategy for public consultation. The consultation seeks to put the community at the heart of the project, allowing their aspirations for the town to come to the fore. It is envisaged the first round of public consultation will be completed in June 2021.



Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (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’s Centre and Administration Facility for NPWS, provide public realm improvements through a streetscape enhancement plan and improve the tourist experience through the development of a new signage strategy. Tender evaluations were completed in May, with the appointment of the Design Team expected in June.



Ennistymon.

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, which seeks to promote the conservation of historic structures for the broader benefit of communities and the public. Funding has been awarded 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. In recent years, it has fallen into disrepair, and the grant will allow works to progress on the restoration of this important cultural artefact. It is expected that the production of tender documentation will begin in June.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of May 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 194, representing a substantial increase of 56 per cent year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 179.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	May 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of planning applications received	120	543
No. of Planning Decisions made	87	418
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	10
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	36	177
No. of Section 5 applications	7	33
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications	7	24
Submissions received regarding Compliance	33	145

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

Planning Ref No	Location	Description of Development	Applicant
P21/434	School Road Attycristora, Lahinch	8 dwelling houses	John Talty Construction Ltd
P21/497	Ballygeery West	Development and operation of a 250 to 500 MVA (electrical rating) synchronous condenser	PNG Energy Ltd
P21/503	Shannon	Construction of industrial and office facility	Shannon Commercial Properties
P21/3512	Knockanean, Ennis	13 dwelling houses	Padraig Howard

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT (UP TO 31ST MAY)

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	May 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new complaints received	20	191
No of Files Opened *includes complaints received in April (3)	12	55
No. of Warning Letters issued	9	37
No. of Enforcement Notices served *issued in April (2)	2	16
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	1
No. of Enforcement files closed	0	22

TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

A contractor is currently being appointed to carry out remedial works in Aughanteeroe, Ennis. A number of contractors, who are carrying out remedial works on behalf of the Council are back on site, following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions and are completing outstanding works on various estates.

An Tobar Estate, Hurlers Cross, Bunratty was taken in charge at the May meeting of Shannon Municipal District on 18th May, 2021.

We continue to monitor the progress of a number of new housing developments which commenced during the month of April and May 2021 and are in ongoing contact with the developers and their engineers regarding their progress.

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Week 2021

The Planning Department organised two online webinars in association with iCAN for Biodiversity Week. On 19th May, Dr Fran Giaquinto spoke about Biodiversity for Citizen Scientists and on 22nd May, Janice Fuller presented on Biodiversity for Community Spaces.

National Heritage Week 2021 – Save the date

National Heritage Week 2021, which will take place from Saturday, 14th August, to Sunday, 22nd August, 2021. For further details of Heritage Week 2021 visit the Heritage Council website. To view Clare's 2020 projects, visit <https://www.heritageweek.ie/projects/clare>

Heritage projects

During May, quotations were sought for the following projects funded by the Heritage Council:

1. Continuation of the Clare Holy Well survey which was completed in 2020
2. Conservation Plan for Hastings' Farmhouse, Shannon
3. Update of the heritage information on the Clare County Council website.

Biodiversity projects

The Council has been awarded funding of €82,965 for new biodiversity projects from the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the National Biodiversity Action Plan grant scheme to Local Authorities. The Planning Department will now work with various other departments and Municipal District Offices to deliver the following projects:

1. Clare Wetland Project
2. Establishment of a monitoring programme to record and mitigate visitor impacts at Fanore Dunes
3. Giant hogweed eradication from a pilot test area, ie. from the location where the giant hogweed is first recorded on the upper catchment of River Blackwater
4. Clare County Council Invasive Alien Species (IAS) online web resource
5. Educational strategy to enhance biodiversity learning within the local authority, leading to improved work practices. This work will expand into community support, school education and training
6. Support for the elimination of Knotweed species
 - (a) Knotweed eradication in Ennis
 - (b) Knotweed survey and action plans
 - (c) Purchase of knotweed treatment equipment and app development.

HERITAGE COUNCIL COMMUNITY HERITAGE FUNDING ALLOCATION TO CLARE: LIST OF OFFERS 2021

The Planning Department advised and supported community groups in their applications to the Heritage Council Community Heritage Funding, for which € 87,267 was allocated to 12 projects as follows:

Applicant	Project Description	Amount
Labasheeda Projects Group – Labasheeda Le Chéile	Kilkerrin Napoleonic Battery Historical Report and Community Liaison	€5,585
Scattery Island Heritage Group	To gather preserve safeguard oral histories, documents, photographs and artefacts relating to the Island community in Scattery Island in the 19th and 20th centuries, with a view to digitisation and display	€1,478
New Quay Community Development Group	Management plan/report of Art Work (14 Sean O'Sullivan paintings & 2 stained glass windows) in St Patrick's Church, New Quay, Co. Clare. Assessment of conservation needs	€4,100
Dúchas na Sionna	Hastings Farmhouse - Conservation Works and Architectural Survey	€10,000
Scariff Community Council	To carry out a Conservation/Condition Report on the Workhouse Water Tower In Scariff	€12,000
Cuimhneamh an Chláir	The Clare Oral History Podcast – a podcast series based on the oral history archive of Cuimhneamh an Chláir	€8,000
The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group	Rejuvenating the Shannon Dolphin Centre and the collections it houses for greater accessibility	€15,000
Lough Grainey Nature Sanctuary	To protect biodiversity and natural heritage of the Lough Grainey valley, and to raise awareness about our natural and cultural heritage, through a river survey, bat presence survey, and nature cam	€3,867
Shannon Tidy Towns	Sustainable Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Plan for Shannon Town 2021	€6,000
Irish Seed Savers Association	Digital Heritage Resource Development – Irish Seed Savers Virtual Reality 360 Experience	€3,400
Cratloe Community Council	Community Heritage Audit 2021: To undertake a Heritage Audit to determine suitable actions for our new Community Plan, in order to identify, interpret, protect and manage our built heritage while respecting nearby natural heritage	€13,487
Tuamgraney Development Association	Access and Interpretation at Limekiln, Tuamgraney: To complete the limekiln restoration project by installing a metal covering over the top of the kiln pot so it can be safely viewed and by erecting an interpretative sign for visitors	€3,350

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2021

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved funding of €85,000 towards three projects under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2021. The approved projects area as follows and are due to be completed by mid October:

1. St Flannan’s Cathedral, Killaloe
2. Oatfield Barn Church, Sixmilebridge
3. Manchester Martyrs Monument, Kilrush.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Pictured outside the County Museum following the commencement of the County Museum refurbishment project in Ennis are (l-r): Aldo Andreucetti, Design Lead, Clare County Council; Carmel Greene, Project Leader, Clare County Council; Cllr Mary Howard, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council; Helen Walsh, County Librarian; Niall Coonan, Project Manager, M Fitzgibbon Contractors Ltd; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; and Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, Clare County Council.

Refurbishment works to County Museum building

Construction work commenced on 5th May for the refurbishment of the County Museum following the lifting of the Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions for the construction sector. The main contractors are M. Fitzgibbon Ltd and there are a number of sub-contractors also involved in the project. The project was designed in-house by Clare County Council’s Design Office in conjunction with the Property Management unit, with external consultancy services engaged for mechanical, electrical and interior design.

The project involves investment in the museum offering by

increasing the museum space to incorporate the DeValera 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.

Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Mary Howard, said: “I am delighted to see this investment in the County Museum building, 20 years after it was first opened. Since it was vacated by LIT over a year ago, we have been waiting

for this day to bring new life and use to the building. It is also a great time to bring a modern look to the tourist office in line with recently launched Clare Tourism Strategy and as we start to welcome visitors back to Ennis and County Clare. The addition of the 1947 Dodge to the exhibition from its location at the rear of the De Valera Library to the County Museum will be an added attraction to the Museum and the town centre.”

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 technological university in the Mid-West – LIT Ennis Campus

The Council is delighted to be associated with the recent designation of Athlone Institute of Technology and Limerick Institute of Technology as Ireland’s next technological university. LIT’s Ennis Campus on Bindon Street will come under the remit of the new university. The potential created for Ennis through the collaboration between Clare County Council and LIT in establishing the campus at Bindon Street has already paid dividends. This latest development will building on that to the benefit of current and future generations in County Clare.

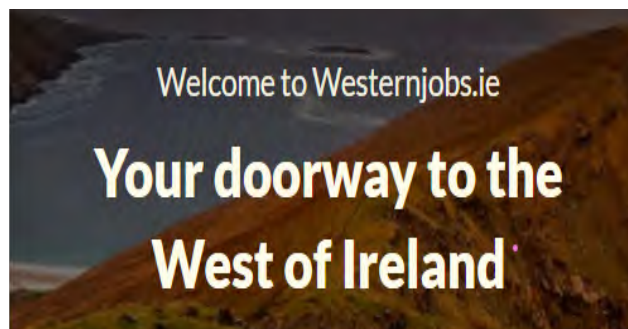


December 2019 opening of LIT campus.

New Online Jobs Portal for the Atlantic Economic Corridor

The Western Development Commission has launched a new online jobs portal aimed at attracting professionals and their families to make new lives in Clare and the western region generally. Westernjobs.ie will help job seekers to find open roles across the region and assist employers in gauging the availability and depth of skills that they require. It will allow people to signal an interest in moving to the West of Ireland and to individual counties and will allow employers to create company profiles and promote job opportunities targeted at

talent that they know are interested in working in the region. Promotional videos on all media platforms will focus initially on Dublin-based workers and then on the diaspora living abroad.



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). One of the projects currently underway is the creation of a national digital hubs platform, Connectedhubs.ie, where people access and book space in hubs all over the country.

The Connected Hubs Network was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys on 31st May with a new marketing campaign to help drive awareness and increase use. This is a three-year project to create an interconnected community network from over 100 hubs identified as either operating or in development, in the AEC region and nationwide.

This Government initiative was developed as part of the Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy. This shared remote working platform can support the rebalancing of economic activity throughout and help to promote regional development in Ireland. The platform will offer a booking system for everyone, from working professionals and entrepreneurs to enterprises, allowing them to reserve facilities, including hot desks and meeting rooms at hubs all across Ireland.

Facilities Management

A number of other improvement works are currently being planned or are underway for our corporate buildings, including repairs to the roof of the Buttermarket building and canteen upgrade in Áras Contae an Chláir.



Friday, 14th May, marked the international awareness day for Verbal Dyspraxia and Clare County Council supported the event by lighting Áras Contae an Chláir up in blue to mark this special day. Verbal dyspraxia affects one in 1,000 children and is a serious and uncommon speech motor planning disorder whereby a child cannot coordinate the movement of their lips, mouth, tongue or jaw to make intelligible speech sounds.

The Council also acknowledged World Ovarian Cancer Day on 8th May by lighting up Áras Contae an Chláir in the colour teal in the interest of promoting awareness of ovarian cancer in the county, while simultaneously acknowledging the 11th anniversary of the Clare Cancer Support Centre (Sláinte an Chláir) in Kilnamona, Co. Clare.

Property Transactions

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

Transaction	May 2021	Year to date 2021
Lease of Property / Building	0	2
Licence to use property / building	3	7
Grazing Agreement for Lands	2	21
Deed of Transfer signed	2	4
Contract for Sale signed	0	3
Deed of Right of Way signed	0	1
Deed of Rectification signed	1	1
Allotment Agreements signed	0	39

Casual Trading

Following the lifting of the Level 5 Government Covid-19 restrictions, more traders are now able to trade. During May, 10 casual trading licences were issued for Kilkee for the period from 10th May to 31st July, 2021. There are some applications on hands for the planned Kilrush Horse Fair, scheduled for Thursday, 3rd June.

The draft Casual Trading Bye-laws for each Municipal District remain on public display and submissions are invited up to 14th June, as per the details below. It is intended that, following the consultation period, meetings will be held with each Municipal District to consider and adopt the bye-laws.

The Draft Bye-Laws for each Municipal District will be available for inspection at the following locations, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (due to COVID-19 restrictions) between the hours of 09:00 to 13:00, Monday to Friday for the period from 30th April 2021 to 31st May, 2021, both dates inclusive:

- Clare County Council Offices, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Shannon Municipal District Offices, Shannon, Co. Clare.
- Killaloe Municipal District Offices, Scarriff, Co. Clare.
- West Clare Municipal District Offices, Town Hall, Kilrush, Co. Clare.
- West Clare Municipal District Offices, Ennis Road, Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

A copy of the DRAFT Casual Trading Bye Laws 2021 for each Municipal District can be viewed on Clare County Council's website www.clarecoco.ie/news/notices

Submissions with respect to the DRAFT Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 may be made IN WRITING ONLY to the Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development Department, Clare County Council Offices, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare V95 DXP2 or by email to casualtrading@clarecoco.ie on or before 5pm on Monday 14th June, 2021. Submissions received will be taken into consideration before the making of the bye-laws by each Municipal District.

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 (right) provides a snapshot of the activity in May 2021 and the year to date.

Derelict Sites	May 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new Complaints / new files opened	15	30
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	2	8
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry onto Derelict Sites Register	0	0
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0
No. of files closed / property removed from Register	1	14
No. of Compulsory Purchase Orders	0	0

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Roadworks Programme

The team in Shannon Municipal District have been making best use of the improved weather over the past month.

- The footpath remediation works in Shannon Banks have been completed.
- The carpark to the rear of the church at the Fairgreen, Newmarket on Fergus, has been resurfaced with new drainage and upgraded lighting.
- It is expected that upgrade works on path at Dun na Rí will be completed next week making the route to the Shannon embankment loop walks more accessible and weather resistant.
- The National Transport Authority (NTA) bus stop upgrade programme has resumed and upgraded shelters are being rolled out in Shannon Town with the new shelter outside the Town Hall being installed this week.
- Work to alleviate the drainage difficulties on the dual carriageway at the Radisson Blu Spa Hotel were completed during the month which included bridge tensional of vehicle restraints on the Radisson to Lansdowne bridge.
- Notwithstanding the improved weather generally, the roadworks programme was suspended temporarily due to a spell of poor weather but surface dressing is due to commence next week while all preparatory works for the full programme are complete and the road improvement works are to begin shortly.

- Our tree maintenance contractor has been on site during the month working through safety related measures.
- The crews are also clearing the cycleways between Latoon to Clonmomey to allow them be re-lined.
- The team has given consideration to the condition of the front wall in Westbury with some of the existing cladding being removed as part of the exercise. The wall upgrade is due to commence in the coming weeks.
- Following an incident with a vehicle, emergency repair works were carried out at the Aidan Park Traffic Lights, with the column being rebuilt.

Town and Village Renewal Project

The team has been working with elected members and the community in Sixmilebridge and the tender package for the agreed Town and Village Renewal Scheme was published on eTenders recently. The deadline for clarifications is 3rd June and the deadline for submission of tenders is 17th June.

Active Travel Scheme

Submissions have also been made for ‘Additional Measures’ under Active Travel Scheme.

Re-opening of hospitality

The team in the Municipal District have worked with the proprietors of Dirty Nelly’s and businesses in Sixmilebridge to facilitate the welcomed re-opening of the hospitality industry.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE



Mae Kivlehan, *Tried & Tested*, Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon, being presented with her national award, second-place Intermediate Category, by Cllr Mary Howard, Cathaoireach of Clare County Council, teachers Laura Garvey and Caitriona Hynes.

Covid-19 Supports

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

- The Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has seen strong interest. In the month of May a further seven vouchers were approved, bringing the number already approved in 2021 to 80. The focus is ensuring the funding approved in 2020 and early 2021 is released to successful applicants and a further 41 vouchers (€92,874) were paid out during the month. This brings to a total of 177 draw downs amounting to €403,344 in 2021.
- Online Webinars and Training: Over 150 clients registered in the month of May to partake in our range of online webinars and training courses which were provided separate to Local Enterprise Week. Events included Women in Business Network Meeting, Cyber Security Training, Writing a Business Plan and a Start Your Own Business programme.
- Mentoring: There were 39 applicants in May 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.

Student Enterprise Award

A student from Scoil Mhuire Ennistymon, Clare, has taken second prize in the Intermediate Category at the National Final of this year's Student Enterprise Programme. The finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative were broadcast virtually on May 17th from Croke Park with An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Ambassador Derval O'Rourke speaking with host, RTÉ's Rick O'Shea, as students and teachers watched on from across the country.

Supported by Local Enterprise Office Clare, the student won second prize in the Intermediate Category. The winning student was Mae Kivlehan who worked under the guidance of her teachers, Laura Garvey and Caitriona Hynes. Her student enterprise was called: 'Tried & Tested', which was a cookbook with a compilation of recipes from sports stars, celebrities and locals. The Junior Category was represented by The Art Co from Scoil Mhuire, Ennistymon, and the Senior Category was represented by Portable Pouches from St Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish Point.

May Evaluation Committee Meeting

Our Evaluation Committee (EVAC) met on Tuesday, 11th May. The committee continued the process of meeting remotely, aided by the new Submit.com grant processing system. The May EVAC approved over €131,600 in funding for six projects. All six projects were for Business Expansion Grant applications.

Grant Supports

Local Enterprise Office Clare funded 75 applications in the month of May for the recent Small Business Assistance Scheme. In total, €300,000 was paid out to these companies.

LEO Clare also received seven applications for the next evaluation committee meeting which will be held in June. These include one Feasibility Study, two Priming Grants, two Business Expansion and one Agile R&D Grant.

Local businesses, national recognition

Local Company and LEO Clare supported Get the Shifts have won 'Most Innovative Temporary Staffing Solutions Provider 2021' by the EU Business News Irish Enterprise Awards.

Wix and Wax were promoted on RTÉ's *Nationwide* while Torpey's Hurleys featured on the front cover of the *Irish Country Living* magazine in the *Farmers Journal*.