



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bealtaine / May
2021



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p5



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FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information and Data Protection

2021 year-to-date statistics including 01/04/2021 to 27/04/2021:

- 52 Freedom of Information Requests
- 2 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 0 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- 2 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 15 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request, eg. Gardaí.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published in April 2021.

Short description	Response deadline
Loophead Lightkeepers Cottages Restoration, Clare County Council	10/05/2021
Killestry Bridge Repair Works	14/05/2021

Local caucus for women councillors

The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage recently commissioned the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi) to undertake research regarding female caucuses in local government structures. The research, entitled "Women doing politics differently – development of local or regional caucus for women councillors – identifying interest and examining possible supports", can be found at: https://www.nwci.ie/learn/publication/women_doing_politics_differently

To support the findings of this research and associated guidelines, Mr Peter Burke TD, Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, announced that funding would be available to local authorities to assist with the establishment and running of such

caucuses. The Department called for proposals from local authorities for funding the establishment of a local caucus for women councillors. All female councillors in Clare have been consulted and an application for funding the establishment of a local caucus for women councillors in Clare was submitted to the Department on 13th April, 2021.

Register of Electors Modernisation Project

The General Scheme of the Electoral Reform Bill was published on 8th January, 2021, which provides for a range of significant electoral reforms which includes the modernisation of our electoral registration process.

This process involves the review and update of our Register of Electors to ensure we have an accurate register including all required information, ie. Date of Birth, Eircode, Citizenship, etc.

The public are being invited to check their details on www.checktheregister.ie or www.clarecoco.ie.

To ensure valid electors remain on the Register any corrections/updates can be emailed to register@clarecoco.ie or alternatively sent by Freepost to Register of Electors Section, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95DXP2. Licence No. ES104. For any queries please contact our Register of Electors department on 065 6846363.

FINANCE

The 2020 Annual Financial Statement was completed and submitted to the department in accordance with the relevant guidelines. The full report is before Council.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Office communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest. Media releases issued during April included: the launch of the *County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030*; the public consultation on a future strategy for the Cliffs of Moher; and a welcome from the Council for the CLÁR programme for 2021. Media outlets to feature Council news included *The Clare Champion*, *Clare Echo*, Clare FM and *Irish Independent*.

Communications activities to promote countywide wellbeing continue on social and mainstream media as part of the Keep Well campaign.

Print and Graphic Design

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

Irish Language Development

April saw ongoing translations including an important update to the Council's commitments to Irish in the County

Development Plan 2022-2028. Work on the draft revised Scéim Teanga is continuing and online Irish language sessions are now available, with a fresh session added each month.

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 April, the Communications Office:



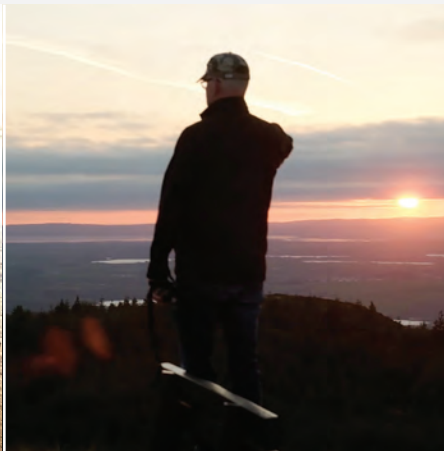
- Posted 41 times on Clare County Council's Facebook page, with followers now 15,549 and 14,285 people have liked the page. Posts achieved 140,000 impressions with 5,800 engagements.



- Tweeted 41 times on Twitter, with total followers now 6,925. Tweets earned 120,000 impressions and 2,500 engagements.



- Posted 11 times on Instagram, with followers now 1,972.



During April, the Communications Office promoted awareness of Council activities and services including (clockwise from top left): 'Keep Well' advertisements in the local press; the 'Shining Path' video was shared on the Council YouTube channel and social media; advisory notices including road works and weather alerts; installation of bee education boards at pollinators in Shannon Town; the Community Response Helpline; and additional resources provided in beach areas including public toilet facilities and litter and traffic management.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during April 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach Lifeguards • Retained Station Officer (Killaloe) • Traffic/Litter Warden Shortlisting • Staff Officer Final Interviews • Traveller Liaison Officer. <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganger • GO Driver 2 • Executive Architectural Conservation Officer • Temporary Part-time Beach Ambassador • Assistant Foreman (Water Services) • Clerical Officer.
Learning and Development	<p>Online training programmes/webinars/information sessions held in April include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency Interview Training • Diary Management – note taking in the context of FOI & GDPR • VAT on Schedule Service Training • Children First Training • Effective Records, Reports and GDPR • Standard for Rented Houses Conference/ Seminar • Conference/ Seminar – Roads • TII Standards Training Roadshows. <p>Essential Skillz online courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Data Protection Regulation • Manual Handling • Cyber Security • ErgoWize • Wellbeing & Remote Working • Home Working • Health and Safety Induction • Working in a Covid Era. <p>The remote delivery by the IPA of its Continuing Education programmes in Local Government was completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 staff members completed exams in the Diploma in Local Government • 10 staff members completed exams in the Certificate in Local Government.
Employee Welfare	<p>Employee Welfare supports continue to be made available to staff during April. For National Workplace Wellbeing Day (30th April, 2021), a series of online initiatives were made available and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilates Classes • Mindfulness Sessions • Work Life Balance Sessions • Productivity Webinars • Lunchtime 5k • Virtual Coffee Morning • Top 10 Tips for Working Remotely • Employee Focused – How to be financially well webinar • Mental Health & Wellbeing e-learning course.
Covid-19	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.</p>
Unions	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with unions on various matters.</p>

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

COUNTY CLARE TOURISM STRATEGY 2030



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

Clare County Council, Tourism Department, hosted a virtual launch of the 'County Clare Tourism Strategy 2030', Thursday (22nd April) at 10:00am across the Council's media platforms at <https://youtu.be/JeM2EyK9by0>. It was formally launched by Mr Paul Kelly, CEO, Fáilte Ireland, supported by a host of local stakeholders.

The 2030 Vision is that Clare is a globally renowned sustainable and vibrant destination, recognised for its compelling array of adventure activities and its remarkable experiences portraying our rich culture-landscape of age-old spirituality, power and influence; our contemporary vitality arising from our deep-rooted traditions in music, sport and innovation; our dynamic rural towns and villages where hospitality excels – all set within our stunning backdrop of unique and varied living landscapes.

The Clare Tourism Strategy is an ambitious roadmap for the development of tourism in County Clare post-Covid and over the next decade. To view, download, read on flip book, or scan to read, visit:

<https://www.clare.ie/strategy2030/>

Clare Tourism Recovery Taskforce moves to The Clare Tourism Advisory Forum

In line with the strategy launch, The Clare Tourism Recovery Taskforce has moved to the implementation phase of the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 – Guiding our Journey to a Vibrant New Future in Tourism. This is without losing sight of recovery, or reopening Clare as a tourism destination.

The Taskforce has become the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum to implement the tourism strategy, its objectives and to move to the tourism industry for Chair and Vice-Chair to this Forum. Sean Lally was proposed as Industry Chair and Maurice Walsh as Industry Vice-Chair. Elected members across the Municipal Districts will join the Forum once their formal nominations are complete.



County Clare's Wild Atlantic Way e-brochure:
www.clare.ie/share



Clare's Wild Atlantic Way is amazing and full of wonderful attractions and experiences. In addition to the experiences highlighted in this, the latest e-brochure, to the www.clare.ie/share resource bank, add in spectacular scenery, towering cliffs, Blue-Flag beaches, the Burren, ancient monuments, quaint towns and villages and cosy stop-off places to eat.

Global audience for the Geopark Code of Practice

Carol Gleeson, manager of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, has been asked by several national and international groups to discuss the Geopark's Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism. Presentations were given to businesses from the Marble Arch Geopark and to representatives from UNESCO and the 161 Global Geoparks.



The Code of Practice was chosen as an exemplary case study in sustainable tourism practice at the recent European Geoparks Network meeting, with representatives of 83 attending, and also at the EU research and policy grouping ESPON peer learning workshop on greening tourism, which had both an Irish and European audience. Digital media has helped to bring the Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism to a worldwide audience.



Mother Earth Day

April 22nd was Mother Earth Day, this year's theme was "Restoring the Earth" which looks at new innovative ways to restore the world's ecosystems. The Burren Ecotourism Network joined forces with other community groups within the Geopark to tackle the issue of litter management, they organised clean-ups in the lead-up to Earth day, which was a great success! The Geopark released a series of 'did you know?' facts about the Burren and Cliffs of Moher related to Earth Day on social media.

RURAL & COMMUNITY FUNDING



Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021

Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development has recently launched the 2021 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) which seeks to support outdoor recreational activities in the countryside. The scheme is delivered by the Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

The type of projects typically funded by the Scheme include trails, walkways, cycleways, greenways, blueways, mountain access routes, bridleways and open water amenities at bogs, rivers, lakes and beaches. Applicants in 2021 are strongly encouraged to consider opportunities to develop recreational amenities associated with the use of bogs, rivers, lakes and beaches. Projects that can display a specific tourism or other sectoral impact that may aid economic recovery are also encouraged.

Projects applications will be accepted from Local Authorities under the following Measures:

- **Measure 1** for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €20,000 (max 7 applications)
- **Measure 2** for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000 (max 3 applications)

- **Measure 3** for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000 (max 1 application)
- **Project Development Measure** funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large scale projects (max 1 application).

The Project Development Measure is new for 2021. This measure will provide funding for the detailed development of projects which would enable them to reach a standard for application under Measure 2 or 3 of ORIS. Such work might encompass detailed design, preparation for the planning and/or procurement, appropriate assessment.

- The deadline for applications for Measure 1 is 30th June, 2021
- The deadline for applications for Measures 2, 3 and the Project Development Measure is 30th July, 2021.



Cliffs of Moher reopens

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience reopened on 12th April to residents of County Clare as a public amenity, on 26th April the outdoor visitor attraction reopened with increased services including toilet facilities and takeaway food service, O’Brien’s Tower, the Exhibition and Retail Giftshop remain closed. Opening hours are 9am-5.30pm, Monday-Sunday for the month of May, hours will increase with demand. Tickets should be prebooked in advance at www.cliffsofmoher.ie, reduced admission applies during reduced service period.

New visitor management attraction system

Vivaticket is a leading multinational company that designs, manufactures, and manages advanced electronic ticketing and access control systems. Vivaticket has been successful provider following a procurement process to provide a fully integrated ticketing, booking and capacity management system that will allow for the continued development of the overall visitor experience. This encompasses the customer journey before, during and after arrival, the aim is to have one fully integrated system which will capture and report on all visitor engagement with the COMVE via the online ticketing platform, and onsite to make it easier to manage and deploy user-friendly, engaging, interactive and informative content to users. Vivaticket has over 3000 clients worldwide, including Walt Disney World, the Louvre

Museum, and Ferrari World Abu Dhabi. The system will be put in place over the next six months at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience.

New website and app

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience requires a first-class innovative website and app using the latest technology, to be built and optimised for mobile platforms. The website will capture the essence of the visitor experience, provide valuable useful information, high-quality content promoting the wider remit of County Clare tourism product and Ireland, focusing on sales conversion, integration with existing bookings systems, complementing social media platforms and video channels. The app will capture the essence of the visitor experience, give access to a multilingual audio guide, provide useful information, promote County Clare, integrate with booking system, be easy to download and navigate. The contract is in the final procurement stage with the new digital assets expected to be delivered within 20 weeks from appointment.



'A Flow of Words' booklet for Poetry Day Ireland 2021 New Directions: Maps & Journeys

'A Flow of Words' is a radio programme broadcast monthly on Scarriff Bay Community Radio in conjunction with the Mountshannon Arts Festival since 2018. It showcases poetry and prose from writers of the region.

In April 2020, one month into lockdown, a show specifically dedicated to Poetry Day Ireland with the theme 'There Will be Time' aired to a very receptive audience. The first 'Flow of Words' booklet of the poems from that show was produced in conjunction with the Clare Age Friendly Programme, specifically with cocooners in mind.

The theme of this year's poetry booklet is **New Directions: Maps & Journeys**. This is the latest in the Flow of Words series produced for **Poetry Day Ireland on 29th April, 2021**.

This booklet has played a huge part in introducing new audiences to the world of poetry, part of the remit of Poetry Day Ireland. The feedback from the contributors has been very positive. They are hugely encouraged by having this outlet for their creative talents.

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Fanore Beach

Works carried out by the WCMD Crew Ennistymon at Fanore Beach to protect the sand dunes including new timber decking path down to beach, new post, and rail near the entrance to beach, new post, and rope around the sand dunes. Due to the location both the NPWS and UNESCO were consulted on best practice so to blend in with the natural surroundings.



Fanore beach works.

Cooraclare footpaths

With support from GMA funding, there is a new footpath in place in front of the (Vaughan's Amber) filling station. There is also public footpath in place at the nearby crossroads in the centre of the village.

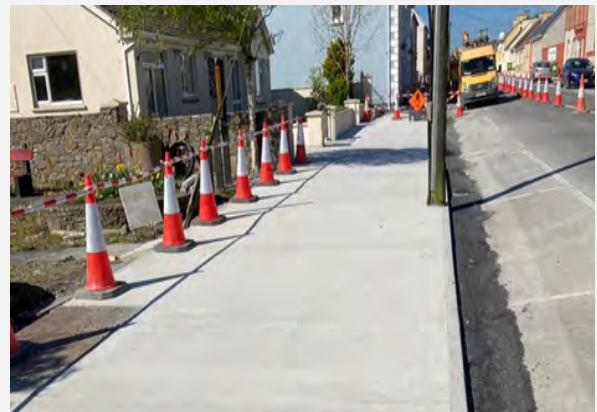


Cooraclare village. Footpaths under construction.

Clare County Council recently constructed a new section of footpath to link the existing footpath network in the centre of Cooraclare with Vaughan's filling station. The new footpath is located outside the old creamery and improves access to the Cooraclare recycling bring centre.

Doonbeg footpaths

With support from GMA funding, Clare County Council undertook the remediation and renewal of substantial sections of the public footpath network in Doonbeg village. The sections replaced had cracked due to age and loading.



Doonbeg village. Completed section of footpath.

KEEP WELL GOVERNMENT RESILIENCE CAMPAIGN



CLARE ARTS OFFICE

Shining Path to mark the Spring Equinox in March

A light installation initiative took place at the 12 O’Clock Hills, Co. Clare, on the Spring Equinox weekend of 19th, 20th and 21st March, 2021. This project lit up a section of the 12 O’Clock Hill path with LED lights of multiple colours (red, white, blue, green) undulating along the hiking trail between the 12 O’Clock Hills, lower and main summits, in East Clare and visible for miles around – a sign of life and light to lift spirits at this time and to welcome longer and brighter days. Through colour and light, the installation celebrated the activity of the mind and body, both of which are linked to health, wellbeing and positive mood.

Watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/nv00DxYVU60>

The project was supported by Clare Arts Office as part of the #KeepWell initiative.



CLARE LIBRARY REPORTS



The Grow it Forward campaign was launched by Clare County Library.

This is a national programme to help half a million people #KeepWell by growing their own food. Clare County Library is distributing 860 seed packs to organisations, groups and individuals around the county. Each pack includes seeds, a guide to help grow them, and a postcard and gift tags to help share them. Those who sign up will also receive regular e-mails with growing support, video clips, and ideas for how to ‘grow it forward’ by passing on seeds, seedlings, or produce in accordance with social distancing guidelines. If you were unable to register for a

pack but would still like to take part and receive this growing plan please visit: <https://giy.ie/growing-plan/>



As part of the Grow it Forward campaign, Clare County Library Presents: Frank Bouchier demonstrating how one would go about sowing seeds and vegetables. This presentation was given Wednesday April 21st 2021 at 11am over Zoom.



On Wednesday, April 21st, Frank Bouchier facilitated an online vegetable growing workshop to highlight the Grow It Forward campaign. Frank discussed all aspects of growing your own vegetables, when to sow, soil and site preferences and growing under cover in a polytunnel or greenhouse. He also gave a seed sowing demonstration and answered gardening queries people participating may have had on the day. Fifty people attended the gardening workshop which gained a lot of positive feedback. The workshop was recorded and is a fantastic resource to start you off in your vegetable growing project.

Watch it on the Clare County Library's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcVj8V7Fh0o>

FEEDBACK FROM THE EVENT

“Thank you for organising the most informative gardening workshop with Frank Bouchier today.”
Ann

“Thanks Ann for the zoom link to join today, Frank was really good and all the info was very useful. Looking forward to my real carrots and tomatoes can't wait!”
Monica, Kilfenora

“Great workshop - useful and interesting! Thanks to all concerned.”
Mary

“Congratulations on a wonderful vegetable seed sowing workshop this morning.”
Ann, Clooney

“Well done Anne and Frances, Great Workshop!”
Mary, Ennis



World Book Night 2021 – 'Books to Make You Smile'

World Book Night is an annual celebration of books and reading on 23rd April that brings people from all backgrounds together for one reason – to inspire others to read more. Presented by The Reading Agency, and in partnership with Specsavers, in 2021 World Book Night presents a special “Books to Make You Smile” theme. Clare County Library distributed 200 copies of *Stories To Make You Smile* to encourage reading and held three online events as part of World Book Night.

Clare County Library staff from De Valera, Kilrush, Scariff, Shannon and Newmarket libraries also hosted seven online bookclubs.

Spring into Storytime with Clare County Library

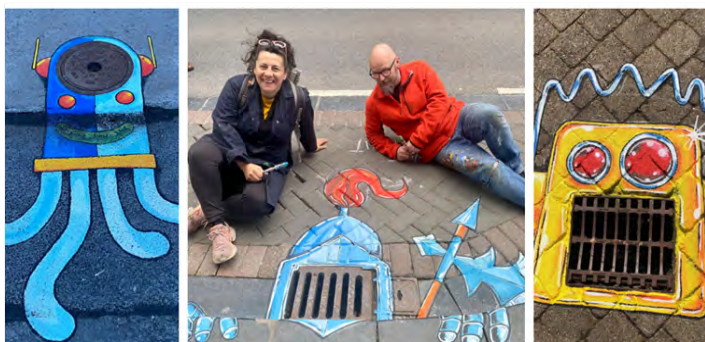
Clare County Library’s annual Spring into Storytime programme started on 1st April, 2021, and will continue until the end of May. Staff in all libraries in County Clare delivered a diverse range of weekly online programmes that included interactive story readings and craft demonstrations, seed planting and talks on nature and wildlife. All events were delivered via Clare County Library’s social media channels, bringing the magic of storytime to families and children of all ages to homes across County Clare. All of these stories can be viewed online anytime by visiting www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/services/childrens/online_storytime_crafts.htm



Clare County Library's Drain Art initiative with Ennis Chamber – Creative Ireland funded

Everybody is talking about the drain art trail, new to Ennis! Artists Martin Shannon from Ennis and Italian Giordana Giaché have 10 creations already in place, the characters have become an attraction as children and adults take on the challenge of following the trail and finding all of the unique creations.

Visit www.facebook.com/watch/?v=288526629559071 for a brief overview of the project.



Creative Ireland funded – Kildysart Drama 21 Year Lookback

Kildysart Drama took to the virtual stage to celebrate 21 years. This short 35-minute documentary was funded by Creative Ireland and showcases the best and funniest bits of Kildysart Drama – with an insight into drama life, and of course some backstage gossip. The past 21 years are captivated through the eyes of some of the groups most loved characters. This documentary gives you an insight into drama life and what Kildysart drama means to the community and those involved.

Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2adv19KnS_0 to watch the documentary on their YouTube channel.



Other Creative Ireland funded projects happening around the county

- Storytelling sessions with Eddie Lenihan for Cahercalla residents.
- The continuation of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board online Reading the Local Landscape courses. These courses provide knowledge and understanding of the natural, built and cultural resources of the study area

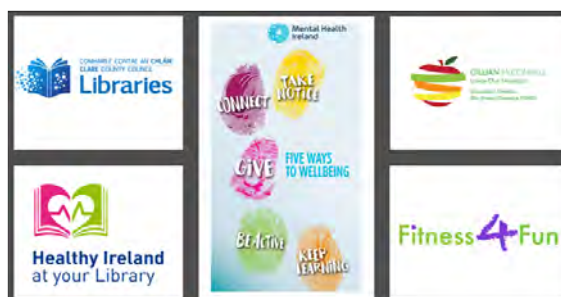
Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



and help participants develop the necessary skills to undertake further research/work in local heritage interpretation. The ability to identify landscape resources can be utilised to enhance personal well-being, community identity and employment opportunities.

Four Healthy Ireland events were delivered online

- Claire Flynn, Development Officer with Mental Health Ireland, delivered a webinar, which gave a brief introduction to the 5 ways to wellbeing. Following the success of this event, a second 2 hour workshop will be offered in May.
- A nutrition workshop entitled ‘Boost your immune system with food’ was delivered online by consultant dietitian Gillian McConnell and was very well attended.
- Two chair yoga classes were delivered by John Conroy, which was very well attended and excellent feedback was received from participants. Among the participants were residents from a number of nursing homes throughout the county, Brothers of Charity service users, members of active retirement groups and other individuals.



HERITAGE & BIODIVERSITY

Clare Community Archive Network (iCAN) project

Clare Community Archive Network (iCAN) Heritage Postcard Collection Project, 2021, is a joint project with Galway and Wicklow Local Authorities and the National Museum of Ireland called Daoine agus Áit: Connecting Our Communities. The Clare iCAN groups are now working with photographer and a creative writer to produce a local place-based Heritage Postcard Collection.

Biodiversity Week 2021

For Biodiversity Week 2021 in May there are plans for biodiversity webinars via the Irish Community Archive website: Biodiversity for Citizen Scientists and Biodiversity for Community Spaces. These will take place during National Biodiversity Week 15th-25th May.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING



Ashline social housing development.

Construction activity recommenced on the housing capital projects 12th April, 2021, this is a welcome development for the delivery of social housing in the county. Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions remain in place and staff continue to work remotely and remain fully committed to the provision of services albeit that the manner of service delivery has changed.

The housing public interface is available by **appointment only** in line with Level 5 restrictions. Appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service area.

Housing in numbers

Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District (including RAS and leasing):		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,153	648
Shannon	608	162
West Clare	931	394
Killaloe	379	165
Inter Authority HAP		55
TOTAL	3,071	1,424

2,564 LA tenancies	1,424 HAP tenancies	211 RAS tenancies
291 leased properties	2,660 LA properties	3,158 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 (25.03.2021 to 23.04.2021)	19
Offers refused	1
AHB nominations	
Tenancies signed up	14
Tenancies terminated	5

Voids work programme (at end April)	
Voids/casual vacancies	48
Acquired properties (works on-going)	22
Average vacancy period	123 days
Number voids returned to stock	10
Average spend	€26,680

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing maintenance calls	
April	346

Private rented inspections

*Inspections suspended for April under Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions.

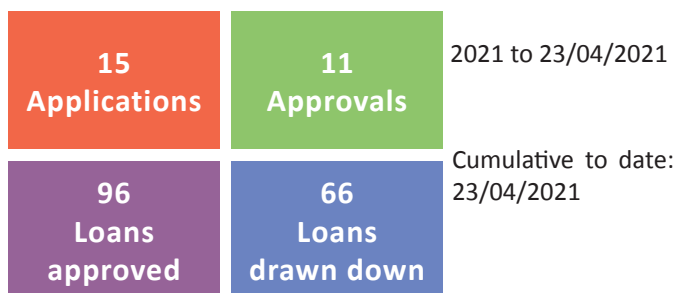
Private rented inspections	
April	0

Housing grants

Grants approved for January 2021		
Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works (€)
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	9	109,075
Housing Aid for Older People	8	44,250
Mobility Aids Grant	16	71,010
Total	33	224,335

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



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 21st March, 2021, to 22nd April, 2021: 3 households exited from homeless services; of these 3 households; 1 housed in own door properties through HAP, leasing, AHB and local

authority allocations, 0 discharged/self-discharged and left homeless services, 1 returned to family/friends, 1 went to rehab/hospital.

Homeless presentations to 22nd April, 2021	
New presentations	29
Repeat presentations	102

Status as of 22nd April, 2021				
	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	5	8	1
Westbrook	0	14	0	1
Ashford Court	4	9	7	1
Winter Initiative	0	5	0	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	11	0	8
TOTAL	9	58	16	14

Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme

Clare County Council has commenced the resettlement of 80 refugees as assigned to the County under Phase 1 of the Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRRP) in 2021.

We have sourced seven properties; four in Shannon and three in Ennis to accommodate these families in the county. There is a requirement for another 8/10 properties to meet our assigned number of refugees under Phase 1 of the programme. There will be a second phase of the IRRP rolled out in the near future. The Department have not yet confirmed to Clare County Council the number of refugees to be housed or a timeline for the second phase.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Update on capital programme

SHIP capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start date	Completion date
Shannon PPP	51	Under Construction - Ess. Designation 23 Units – Pro. Complete Q2 2021 28 Units – Pro. Complete Q3 2021	Q4 2019	Q2 2021 & Q3 2021
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction. Delays owing to Covid-19.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction. Delays owing to Covid-19.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction. Delays owing to Covid-19.	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	Stage 2 app. refused by DHPLG. Rev. stage 2 app. being prepared.	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Stage 3 application with DHPLG.	Q2 2021	Q2 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHPLG. Part VIII Lodged.	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Clarecastle	2	Single Stage approved by DHPLG. Contract ready to be awarded.	Q2 2021	Q1 2022
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Sixmilebridge	16	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Design Team appointed.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
(TA)	276			
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	306			

CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, ARCHIVES

Clare County Library



Library Programming

GIF campaign launches in Clare libraries

The national “Grow it Forward” campaign was launched by Clare County Library service with over 800 packs of vegetable seeds being distributed to organisations, groups and individuals in Clare.

Clare County Library also distributed 200 copies of “Stories to make you smile” to encourage reading and held 3 online events as part of World Book Night on 23rd April.

Seven online bookclubs took place hosted by staff from De Valera, Kilrush, Scariff, Shannon & Newmarket libraries.

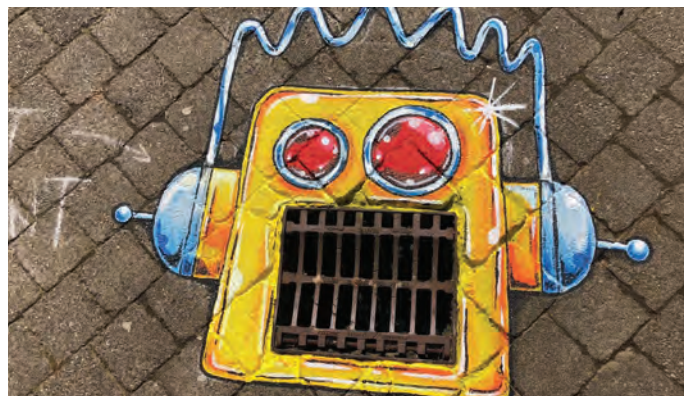
Right to Read programme

- 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 5-8 years. The aim of the programme is to support library staff across Ireland who work with children. Participants will develop skills in group facilitation with children, critical literacy as well as develop a broad knowledge of children’s fiction published from the 1970s and onwards.
- Clare County Library’s annual “Spring into Storytime” programme started on 1st April, 2021, and will continue 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 families and children of all ages to homes across County Clare.

Events included: Scariff Library “Spring into Storytime” Facebook Live Event and the Book Doctor Meets the Book Monsters. As part of Unesco World Book Day another storytime programme from “Clever Little Handies” was held.

Creative Ireland

- Preparations are continuing for the upcoming Cruinniú na nÓg festival on 12th June. The programme is being finalised and the official national launch will take place on 4th May by Minister Catherine Martin, an advertising campaign on both local and national media will also be launched.
- Several Creative Ireland funded projects took place during April – the Drain Art initiative with Ennis Chamber, the 21 Year Lookback online with Kildysart Drama Festival, storytelling sessions with Eddie Lenihan for Cahercalla residents and the continuing LCETB online “Reading the Local Landscape” courses.



Drain art in Ennis funded by CI.

- A series of online Creative Writing classes with Helen Blackhurst is being planned in conjunction with Clare County Library for the Bealtaine programme in May.

Decade of Centenaries

A production of ‘Midwives of the Nation’ by Carnation Theatre is in planning. This is the story of the women of 1916 including dispatchers, doctors, gunrunners, smugglers and nurses. The play will be available to view on Vimeo during Bealtaine. The audience will consist of the general public and nursing home residents. Booking is by email to decadeofcentenaries@clarecoco.ie

CULTURAL SERVICES

Clare County Library

4,723 DELIVERIES

Online resources issued to the public

5119 EBOOKS

6363 AUDIO BOOKS

3504 E-MAGAZINES

3559 ONLINE COURSES

22194 PRESS READER

238
TRANSPARENT
LANGUAGES

Digital literacy

Staff continue to provide one-to-one digital literacy support over the phone for targeted groups.

Marketing



- 176 posts
- 821 likes
- 402 shares
- 37 comments



- 138 posts
- 1485 likes
- 37 comments



- 154 posts
- 437 likes
- 234 retweets
- 15 comments

Healthy Ireland

Four Healthy Ireland events were delivered online.

- Claire Flynn, Development Officer with Mental Health Ireland, delivered a webinar, which gave a brief introduction to the 5 ways to wellbeing. Following the success of this event, a second two-hour workshop will be offered in May.
- A nutrition workshop entitled 'Boost your immune system with food' was delivered online by consultant dietitian Gillian McConnell and was very well attended by both Council Staff and a broad cross-section of people.
- Two chair yoga classes were delivered by John Conroy, which was very well attended and excellent feedback was received from participants. Among the participants were residents from a number of nursing homes throughout the county, Brothers of Charity service users, members of active retirement groups and other individuals.

Small scale capital grants funding has allowed for works to be completed in Shannon Library including a new door accessing the garden and the creation of a multi-purpose room.



Clare Arts Office

- Secured funding to develop a dementia art programme in association with the Alzheimer's Society.
- 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.
- Four Zoom sessions took place with Clare Youth Theatre.
- The Arts Officer assisted with one film location enquiry and one production company enquiry.
- The Arts Officer undertook a four-week course on digital techniques, posting 27 times on social media and listing 11 events on the website.

Clare Museum

- 120 photographs were taken of the Museum collection and uploaded to the accession record.
- New dehumidifiers were purchased for Beechpark to bring down the humidity levels and to protect the items in storage.
- A student from UCC Museum Studies MA course is currently on a month's remote work placement with

the museum. He is researching the Kathleen Griffin Autograph Book, which was photographed and sent to him via UCC. We will include his research online once completed.

- The third craft video by Ruth Marshall was uploaded as part of the Council's Keep Well campaign.
- The seal of the O'Meere family was acquired by the Museum. The seal dates to 14th or 15th century and was found in a field near Drumcliff graveyard where the O'Meere's were landowners in the late medieval period. It has been claimed for the state under the National Monuments Act and the National Museum was notified. Further research will reveal the extent of its significance.
- A press release on the Scott family collection is scheduled for release next week.
- Work is continuing on the strategic plan and a draft is nearly complete.

Clare Local Studies and Archives

The Archive Digitisation Project is continuing and the Electoral Registers are currently being scanned. The older National School registers for Ballycar National School have been lodged with Clare Archives joining recent accessions from the now closed Cross and Querrin National Schools.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Active Travel 2021

Killaloe MD was awarded funding via the Active Travel grant announced in early April. The fund allows for mobility related works to take place over the remainder of this year. The Killaloe MD team is working on design and planning in relation to these projects. Project locations include Tulla, Killaloe, Dromindoor Quin and Kilmurry.

Platforms for Growth

Faite Ireland announced funding to develop facilities for outdoor water-based activities. The submission relating to Ballycuggeran Twomilegate was successful. This project will now progress to Planning stage.

CLAR funding submissions

Killaloe MD has submitted two applications under this funding stream. These relate to an upgrade to the facilities at Ballycuggeran in relation to seating, age friendly and paths. Safety works at Crusheen School were also submitted.

Restrictions

The outdoor staff team continue to provide essential repair and maintenance to the Areas roads during Level 5 restrictions.

Amenities

Ballycuggeran – Toilet facilities are open at Ballycuggeran for the public in line with public health advice.

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park

The pitches in this park are also available for booking for clubs as per the Government guidelines and the park remains open to the public for individual exercise. 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 to publics continued compliance with public health advice.

Covid-19 and level 5 restrictions continue to impact on the operations available at Active Ennis/Kilrush facilities. We welcome back clubs who are eagerly booking up our playing pitches as underage training resumed at the end of April.

Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Active Ennis Leisure Complex remains closed. The site is open to accommodate access to the Bring Banks between 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road

The facility is booking up for organised training events for clubs while the park remains open to the public for individual exercise. All users are advised to observe the Government/HSE guidelines.



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 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 are now considering. A second round of consultation has commenced and a presentation was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC in February. The NTA intend to finalise the strategy by September/October 2021.

Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the project is to improve the public transport service provision in Clare by improving scheduling, dealing with gaps in the service and by introducing new public transport routes. Liaison and information sharing has commenced between the NTA and Clare County Council Municipal Districts and Road

Design Section to support the NTA in a comprehensive rollout of the project.

Active Travel Programme 2021

Further to the announcement of the Active Travel Programme 2021, Clare County Council has engaged with the National Transport Authority, the funding Authority for this programme, in formulating a portfolio of projects across all MDs in Clare. The Active Travel Fund is part of the overall Sustainable Transport Measures Grant (STMG) programme which is Multi-Annual, managed by NTA Project Gateways, flexible, urban-focused, a potential source of ERDF / URDF co-funding and broad in scope and scale. 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.

The Active Travel Programme supports:

- Development of active travel network strategies.

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.

ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS

Road Design Office

Current projects – April 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 – monthly progress

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

Project	Progress update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary. The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should incorporate Active Travel Strategy and Plan for the wider area. The RDO are reviewing the current designs to incorporate these elements <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrycrossaun junction design and 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.
TII HD 17 Sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further to onsite inspections at Cranny, Crag and Parknamoney junctions, the TII have requested the RDO to progress with detailed site surveys, conceptual designs and Feasibility & Option Reports. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of the identified junctions for phase 1 is now complete i.e. Galway Border to Ballyvaughan. Revised design required for a number of these junctions i.e. New Church and N67/L50221. The revised design for Minster Place, Kilkee has been approved by the TII. The TII have requested the RDO to review and separate costs associated with the active travel components of the project.

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021: Monthly Progress

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

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 is completed. Design phase has commenced.
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 is completed. Feedback from TII received, Final design being progressed
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 has commenced.
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 has commenced.
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.
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 has commenced.
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.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Wheelchair accessible bus stop on Bothar Linne, Shannon Town: <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 have been issued to the Shannon MD. Works commenced in late November. Works well underway with the remainder to be completed in 2021. Works will recommence once Covid 19 restrictions permit.
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 5 existing bus shelters in Shannon. NTA have approved funding and the contractor is being appointed.
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.
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 & 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 is now being progressed with the NTA.
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.
Circular RW 06/2021 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021	A funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport on 26 March, 2021.

Bridge Rehabilitation

2021 Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €687,000 for 30 no. bridges

- AA Screening: Consultant appointed, Screening report to be issued by 30th April, 2021.
- Bunratty Bridge: Meeting on site to be arranged with Waiting National Monuments when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.
- 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: Delayed with water levels and Covid restrictions. Works recommenced 15th March. Complete bar snagging.
- Ballyalla Bridge: Delayed with water levels and Covid restrictions. Works recommenced 15th March. Complete bar snagging.
- Sragh Bridge: Initial investigation carried out 16th March. Structural investigation completed Atkins Consulting currently carrying out assessment of bridge.
- Corlea Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed. Contractor appointed works to commence when AA Screening is complete.
- Pollagoona Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed. Contractor appointed works to commence when AA Screening is complete.
- Derrynacaw Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed. Contractor appointed works to commence when AA Screening is complete.
- Latoon Masonry Bridge: Design ongoing- tender drawings issued for review. Stage 2 Screening ongoing
- Derrycon Bridge: Tenders returned and assessed Contractor to be appointed.
- Cloonolia Bridge: Tenders returned and assessed Contractor to be appointed.
- Finnor Beg Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed.
- Ardnacaraa Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed.
- Lough North Bridge: Tenders returned to be assessed.
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Tender documents complete.
- Furror Upper Bridge: Tender documents complete.

Other Bridge Works

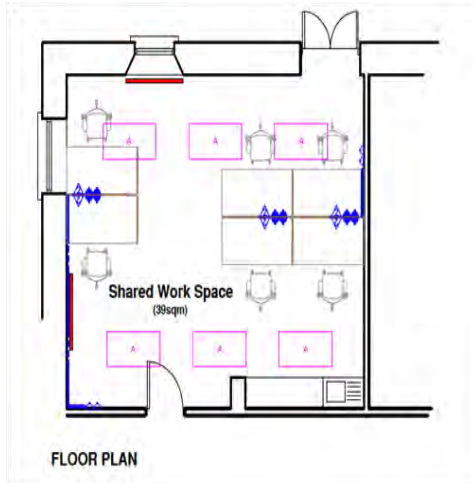
- Moanagh Bridge: Emergency repair works completed, other work to be completed when water levels reduce. Rubble removed from riverbed during low flow as agreed with Inland Fisheries.
- Killestry Bridge: Malachy Walsh & Partners appointed as designers, design commenced. Trial holes completed, design complete and tender advertised on e-tenders.
- 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 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 with the Health & Safety Team providing training and support.

General Design Office

Plans for a new digital hub community facility have been prepared which will be located within the former National School in Inagh. Clare County Council in partnership with the Inagh Development Ltd proposes to provide this facility.



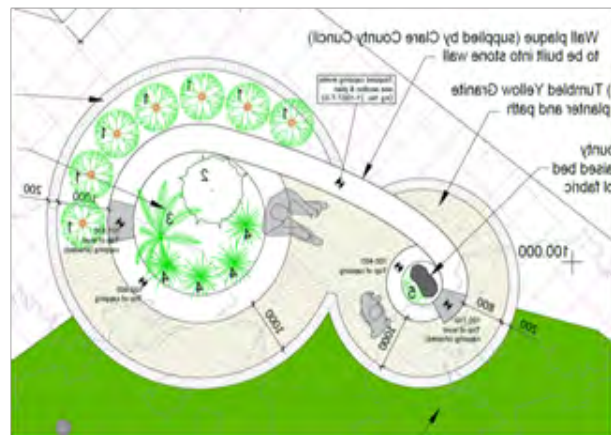
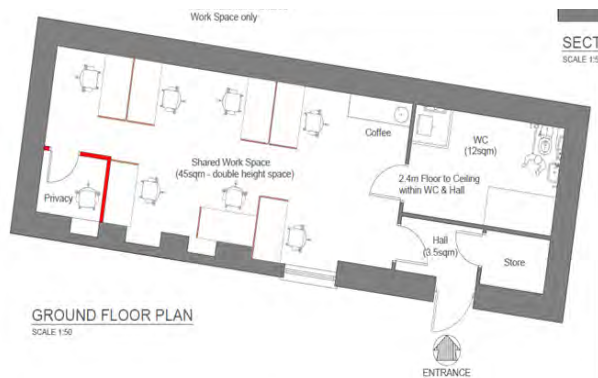
Kilrush Mother & Baby Home Memorial

Clare County Council, in collaboration with various interest groups, identified a site in Kilrush to provide for a memorial reflection space in memory of those who resided within the Kilrush Mother & Baby Home. Designs were prepared and refined in response to queries raised. Tenders were issued with a receipt date of 29th March, 2021. Covid-19 restrictions permitting, it is hoped to commence works on May 4th with a completion date of 2nd June.



Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Digital Hub

Plans for a new digital hub community facility have been prepared which will be located on Main Street, Newmarket-on-Fergus. Clare County Council in partnership with Obair, the local Community Development Organisation, proposes to provide this facility.



Records Management Centre - Quin Road (Phase 3)

The Records Management Centre is completed, which includes administrative office for 2 persons, canteen, toilet facilities along with covered loading dock and provision for records.

Social housing refurbishment projects

In April ongoing design proposals and support to social housing refurbishment projects has continued for vacant residential units throughout the county.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Outlined below are progress updates during April on the main schemes that we are currently working on.

Cloughaninchy Coastal Protection Works – Communication with landowners is continuing but agreements have not yet been reached. Clare County Council is committed to work with landowners to ensure a mutually suitable agreement is reached and all stakeholders are satisfied. However, it should be noted that the project cannot progress until landowner agreement is finalised.

Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building – The Project consultants Bucholz McEvoy presented outline design options for the Visitor Services building to a cross-directorate team (comprising the PMO, the Rural Development Directorate, the Economic Directorate and West Clare MD) in April 2021. A preferred option received the unanimous approval of the group, and the design team are progressing the design with a view to public consultation and submission to An Bord Pleanála in late 2021. In parallel, consultants are appraising car parking capacity and access options with a view to preparation of Environmental submission required for the approval process.

Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme – A certificate of substantial completion has been completed by the consultants on the scheme. This completes the final section of the Ennis Lower Flood Relief Scheme along the River Fergus. There are some minor landscaping works and pointing of the river wall outstanding. The wall at the temporary entrance remains to be plastered.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme – A site visit was carried out by the Office of Public Works in late April to see on the ground how work is progressing. Work is continuing on the final section of the scheme which involves the construction of a pump station. The piling and the temporary works have been completed and the reinforced concrete base is being poured. The new back drains are being constructed in parallel. 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) – 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 continuing with the data gathering and information that will be required as part of An Bord Pleanála's decision making process. An Bord Pleanála have advised that the date for decision on the process has been extended to 30th July

2021. Clare County Council continues to welcome any queries from affected landowners regarding the scheme.

Errinagh Canal bank walkway – Clare County Council is currently reviewing construction aspects with key stakeholders including the NPWS, in advance of work being allowed to resume post the lifting of the current Covid Level 5 restrictions. Invasive species removal and monitoring continues to be carried out on the site, in line with the Invasive species management plan. It is envisaged that works will be completed during the summer months.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass – The Project Team continue to progress the delivery of this important infrastructure and are due to meet again virtually in early May. Ministerial approval is awaited on the recently furnished tender documents for the scheme and following approval, procurement of the Main Works Contract can be progressed. 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 progressing well on site and remains on programme with a completion date of the end of May. Site clearance works are substantially complete with fencing of acquired land areas of the scheme progressing. The traffic management for sewer diversion works on the R494 from the Roolagh junction towards Ballina is scheduled to be substantially complete by 30th April. Critical boundary treatments and access road construction have all been completed in recent weeks. The main Archaeological Works have recently been completed and all areas have been backfilled. Following the site clearance works, additional areas are currently being investigated to further de-risk the main contract works. Archaeology investigations are also scheduled to be completed on the canal island in the coming weeks. Completion of these works is expected in early May 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 expected to resume in late May.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme – The Project Steering Group led by Clare County Council and including the OPW continues to meet with our Consultants Jeremy Benn Associates (JBA) and JB Barry (JBB) online each month. The Bathymetric survey has now been completed and draft data issued to JBA for review. A small portion of drone survey will be captured w/c 26/04/21 completing this element. Additional CCTV works were also carried out on the Atlantic, Victoria and Well Road Streams. Draft Site Investigation tender documents have been reviewed and comments returned

to JBA for consideration. This package of works will be advertised in May with the aim of appointing a contractor in late May. Where possible, sensitive works near the beach will be captured early or alternatively re-scheduled until after the busy tourist season.

An independent visual condition survey of the seawall has been completed during the period and will be made available to the Consultant for consideration. The first Hydraulic Workshop was carried out, in which our Consultant presented the Victoria Stream model which is at an advanced stage. The Atlantic Stream model will be presented in the second workshop in early May. A third-party contractor maintains a log of information from the rainwater gauges and water level monitors. JBA continue to compare these results with the 2no. OPW rain gauges that are 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 Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) – We are awaiting the Department of Transport's formal response to the Project Appraisal suite of documents submitted by the Council last November. If favourable, we will be able to progress to the next stage of development. Related to the work done on the LNDR to date, we had a meeting in recent weeks with the NTA and the Consultants involved in the LSMATS project to discuss and share information of mutual interest and benefit to both projects.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) – 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 awaiting a Hearing date but upon a favourable outcome, 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 – Site investigation works were completed in April. Clare County Council is continuing negotiations with the affected landowners and this will inform the detailed design. Detailed design is due to be concluded in the coming month and following this, Clare County Council will commence preparation of necessary tender documentation for the appointment of a contractor to carry out the works which we expect to commence later in the year.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road – Phase Two (Options Selection) is currently ongoing and follow-

ing the recent public consultation phase, observations received are now being assessed by the project team and will feed into the final option selection. The non-intrusive utility survey works have been completed on site by Apex Surveys. The results of the survey will provide background utility mapping of the study area necessary to identify any constraints associated with the various options being considered. The ground investigation tenders are currently being assessed by the project consultants, Fehily Timoney & Co and all clarifications sought have now been provided. Following receipt of the Tender Report and CCC review, a letter of Intent will be issued in early May 2021. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process currently ongoing. Consultation with the various project stakeholders to review the Phase 2 Option Selections is currently ongoing and 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.

N85 Upgrade at Kilnamona – We hope to be able to appoint Consultants to commence the design process in the coming weeks. Funding of €100k has been provided by TII in their 2021 allocations for this purpose.

Piers and Harbours – Clare County Council has submitted 10 detailed funding applications for minor projects to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material) – Tender documents are being prepared in respect of the appointment of Engineering Services provider for the detailed design, procurement, and construction phases of the project. This will in turn allow the appointment of a competent contractor. 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 Letter of Acceptance for the Geophysical Survey contract has been issued and the pre-start meeting has been carried out. A site visit between CCC and Whiteford Geoservices Ltd was carried out on 28th April 2021. These works will commence on Monday, 10th May. The Topographical Surveyor, MCDS Ltd, has also been appointed and will commence on site on Monday 10th May 2021. The Letter of Intent for the Sewer Network Survey has been issued. Following the 14-day stand-

still period appointment can be completed. The pre-start meeting is arranged for 29th April, 2021, during which a start date will be agreed. Following the tender assessment for the Site Investigation contract, and subsequent OPW approval, CCC have issued the Letter of Intent to the successful tenderer. The Letter of Acceptance will be issued on receipt of the requested documents and following the lapse of the standstill period.

Planning permission for the SI works has now been granted and can commence following the contractor's appointment. RPS have presented the Hydrology method statement to the steering group which is now under its final review.

Spanish Point Coastal Protection Scheme – The contract for the construction of the rock revetment was awarded in early April and works have commenced. The works are proceeding as per schedule and are due to be completed in early May.

Springfield, Clonlara FRS – The consultants for the project have completed the general and particular specifications for the works. 90% of the drawings are now prepared and they are currently working on the Preliminary Health and Safety Plan. The PMO continue to liaise with Local residents and a site-specific website is being set up to keep the public informed of developments relating to the scheme. In order to ensure the proposed design is fit for purpose,

a series of 12 trial holes were recently carried out by Clare County Council at various locations around Springfield and samples taken for testing. Clare County Council appreciate the local landowners who allowed access onto their lands to facilitate the trial holes. A specialist team of ground investigation experts were on site to inspect and carry out these works and their final report on their findings is awaited.

West Clare Railway Greenway – Following the recent tender competition for the appointment of Consultants, we have issued the Letters of Intent and Regret for the 20km section between Kilrush and Kilkee. Subject to the normal tender conditions being met, we will be able to formally appoint the consultants and commence work on Route Options and Selection. Landowner engagement and consultation will recommence during this process following the easement of restrictions.

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works – The draft Preliminary Design Report has been prepared by Byrne Looby Consultants and is currently being reviewed by Clare County Council. Various design options are being considered. Engagement with the relevant stakeholders and landowners is continuing. It is hoped to submit a Part VIII application later in the summer for the preferred option chosen.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during April:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training.

Fire Station Projects

Garage equipment, mechanical and electrical systems are currently being commissioned in the new workshop at Ennis Fire Station. Minor cosmetic upgrade works such as painting, etc. were carried out at Scarriff and Kilalloe stations during April.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Fire and Building Control Section Main Activities	March 2021	April 2021 (Up to 27.04.21)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	61	56	254
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	5	3	14
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	3	5	14
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	1	4	10
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	3	1	14
Number of Commencement Notices Received	45	38	127
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	1	6

(Note: In the April Monthly Report, the March figures related to 1st to 29th March due to timing of report)

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided the following operational duties:

- Members assisted the Irish Blood Transfusion Board with their blood donation clinic in the Auburn Lodge, Ennis.
- Members provided transport for patients to hospital appointments in Ennis and Limerick.
- Members provided transport for patients from their homes to vaccination appointments in Miltown Malbay and Ennis.
- Members assisted a family to move their mother, who is in palliative care, from an upstairs bedroom to a purpose fitted out downstairs room for her comfort.
- Members of the Drone Team provided drone assistance to Limerick Civil Defence colleagues in the search for a missing person in the river Shannon.
- Members responded to a call for assistance from the National Ambulance Service (NAS) and Clare County Fire & Rescue Service to assist with the retrieval of a young girl who had fallen in a densely wooded area of Dromore Woods. The members supplied a specialised basket stretcher on a wheel designed specifically for such a retrieval. The girl was successfully handed over to the NAS for transport and treatment.

Members' Training & Professional Development

- Members successfully completed a Cardiac First Responder Advanced Course.
- Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) registered medical practitioners attended for an update on medical policies and procedures given by the Civil Defence Officer.

Smother – TV Series

Members of Ennistymon Fire Service crew took part in filming a road traffic collision scene for the TV drama Smother. The scene comprised of the fire service personnel removing a casualty from an overturned car. Six members attended for filming of the TV series "Smother". The members were heavily involved with the filming providing ambulances and themselves as integral parts of the scenes being filmed. This was an overnight shoot which began at 17.30 hrs and ended at 05.00 hrs the following morning.

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 Level 5 restrictions will affect our output in terms of inspections, interaction with the public, businesses, contractors and other agencies.

Environmental Awareness

Awareness Campaigns

The social media campaign using #NotInOurNature Anti-Dumping Initiative videos concluded this month. The video used on social media addresses littering and illegal dumping at Bring Bank locations.

The Clare Echo Green Clare page newspaper adverts this month included My Waste.ie Recycling List; Dog littering; Waste Management Byelaws; Repair your Stuff initiative. These adverts were also promoted on both Clare County Council and Greener Clare social media accounts. This included targeted social media promotion for problematic illegal dumping locations.

Clare County Council in collaboration with Cork County Council, Limerick City and County Council and Tipperary County Council launched a dog fouling campaign for social media. A video was developed where Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Mary Howard featured dog owners picking up after their dogs using the tag line "Bag it, bin it"



Dog fouling campaign.

An Taisce National Spring Clean

Clare County Council currently have 151 groups from Clare registered for the An Taisce National Spring Clean 2021. To date we have issued 60 free passes to voluntary community groups to our Waste Transfer Facilities. Groups were further supported through the provision of bags, gloves, Hi Vis, where needed.

Water and Scientific Services

Water Pollution Complaints

A total of 44 complaints (incl. Section 4 licensed sites, wastewater and agriculture) have been received and investigated to date in April 2021. Enforcement notices/ letters have issued where required under the Water Pollution Acts and the Good Agriculture Practice Regulations 2017 as amended.

Planning referrals from Planning Department

To date, 164 reports relating to single house developments have been prepared and submitted to the Planning Section. All applications are examined to check that the wastewater treatment proposal complies with the EPA Code of Practice for Single Houses (p.e.<10) 2009.

To date, 53 forestry reports (includes applications for afforestation, felling and forestry roads) which were referred from Department of Agricultural, Food and 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.

Lake Sampling Programme 2021

TMS Environmental have carried out monitoring at 15 lakes to date in 2021. All samples are delivered to the EPA laboratory in Castlebar for analysis.

BallyduffBeg Waste Landfill Licence Monitoring Requirements

Our Environmental Contractor continues to carry out monitoring on site to comply with EPA licence conditions. Clare County Council staff carry out weekly sampling of surface water ponds. No issues have been reported to date. All water quality monitoring data is collated for the Annual Environmental Report, which is sent to the EPA.

Laboratory & Technical Support

River Monitoring Programme 2021

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

Drinking Water Monitoring

Clare County Council is required to sample and analyse all public water supplies including public supplied Group water schemes as part of the Service Level Agreement. The level of monitoring required is agreed with Irish Water and is based on the population served. The monitoring is spread evenly throughout the year with all analysis results forwarded to IW in the agreed format.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

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

Group Water Schemes (GWS) and Small Private Supplies

Clare County Council is the Competent Authority for regulating private water supplies and undertakes in excess of 270 samples from these supplies each year. The sampling and analysis will be ongoing throughout 2020. A number of schemes have been resampled where exceedances or breaches were detected. The Group schemes have been made aware of the analysis in all cases. A number of queries in relation to data from 2020 were received from the EPA during April, all of which were responded to and all files closed out.

Historic Landfills

The process of applying for a Certificate of Authorisation for Whitegate Historic Landfill has commenced and approval of funding has issued from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications to complete the necessary risk assessments and application. The second round of surface water and groundwater samples in the vicinity of the closed landfill were taken towards the end of the month. The results of this analysis will form part of the application process. It is expected that a Certificate of Authorisation (COA) application for Whitegate closed landfill will be lodged with the EPA in late summer or early autumn.

Gardening

Planned works continued in April and included the ongoing maintenance of spring bedding plants and preparation of summer bedding flowers at our Gardening Depot. In late April, gardening staff commenced the removal of the spring bedding plants to be replanted with appropriate summer species in early May. A variety of species will be used to promote pollination and we will use perennial plants to achieve a more sustainable planting programme.

Waste Management

BallyduffBeg Closed Landfill Site (Closure Restoration Aftercare Management Plan)

Monthly progress meetings are ongoing with the appointed consultants RPS. Design drawings are being progressed with Earthworks calculations nearing completion. Documents are being submitted to Clare County Council for review and agreement on an ongoing basis.



Inagh Aerial.

Doora Landfill Site Men's Shed Group

Although unable to meet collectively due to Level 5 restrictions, members of Ennis Men's shed group have been working at the site developing a gardening and planting area. Great work has been done clearing an area of scrubland and turning it into what will be a great amenity for the group. The Environment Section have continued to support the club with assistance in clearing of the site and provision of compost sourced from garden waste at Inagh Recycling Centre. A number of apple and plum trees along with a selection of vegetables have been planted to date.

Waste Enforcement

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The application form for Anti-Dumping Initiative Funding 2021 has been circulated to local authorities. This application is currently being completed for Co. Clare and will focus on projects which are targeted at preventing illegal dumping at particular black-spots.

Waste Management Bye Laws

The Waste Enforcement Team continue to investigate ongoing illegal dumping in various locations throughout the county using the tools available to them such as the Waste Management Bye Laws. We are continuing to write out to households under the Bye Laws, asking them to demonstrate how they manage their waste, and to follow up on the responses received.

Inter-Section Co-operation

The Enforcement Team continue to liaise with different sections in the council, such as the Housing Tenancy Enforcement team, the Property Management Section and the Municipal Districts to combat the problem of illegal dumping. Waste Enforcement would like to acknowledge the work of these Sections, in particular the Municipal Districts for their assistance in clean-ups and the removal of

larger waste items. The nature of these larger dumping incidents require machinery and additional resources.

Bikes to Africa

Rotary Ireland have written to the Council thanking us for our assistance in School Bikes Africa Project. They stated that it had been a productive year despite the challenges that Covid-19 had brought with logistics.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to increasing waste and litter related complaints in April. A total of 12 complaints relating to litter were received in April. A further 4 complaints relating to Drug Litter were received. A total of 83 complaints relating to waste have been received in April and are currently being investigated. 7 litter fines were issued in April, as a result of evidence found by the Environment section in illegally dumped waste. Payments of 2 litter fines have been made in April to date. The remainder are within the time frame for payment. We have issued 2 Section 9 Notices (Notice requiring the removal of litter) and 3 Section 14 Notices under the Waste Management Act, instructing the land-owners to clean their sites.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to be a challenging time for the delivery of essential front-line water services across the county especially with the current Level 5 restrictions. The Water Services Department 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.

Water Services Operations

Water and Waste Water Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and waste-water teams throughout the county from 19th March 2021 up to and including 25th April 2021. The figures do not

however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint /issue.

- 23 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 406 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 246 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 40 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 34 accounted for unplanned works for water outages and burst water mains, the remainder 6 notices were for step testing and leak detection.

Water Operations

A number of outages occurred in the Corofin/Ruan Area, in Hermitage and Kilrush Road Ennis and in the Mid Clare Area.

A number of outages occurred in the Miltown Malbay area causing loss of supply to some customers. There were also outages in Corbally, Bealaha, Doonbeg and, Kilmacduane as well as mains replacement in Railway Road, Kilkee in the West/North Clare Area.

In the South East Clare area, a number of outages occurred between O'Connor's Cross and Larkin's Cross. In Shannon, there were outages in the Shannon Industrial Estate and Dun Aras and a sensor issue caused an outage in Castlelake WTP.

Water Conservation

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

In March, the Leakage Find Crews continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in Ennis (Gort and Tulla Road) and Shannon (Aidan Park and North Freezone) District Metering Areas.

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in East-Clare and West-Clare with leaks repaired in Scariff DMA and Kilmurry McMahan/Labasheeda DMA. Leak detection find works are currently taking place in Clonlara and Loophead DMA's.

Waste Water Operations

Works have been approved by Irish Water to progress necessary major repairs at Bodyke RHO WWTP and Westpark WWTP. The works in Bodyke will involve the replacement of the existing RBC unit. Flow surveys have been completed at this site to facilitate the design of the unit. The works at Westpark will include an electrical upgrade. It is hoped that these works will commence in the coming weeks.

Irish Water Capital Programme

Shannon Waste Water Treatment Plant Interim upgrade

Ward and Burke commenced work on site at the treatment plant on the 1st January 2020. Both the industrial and the domestic treatment streams are in operation now. All Emission Limit Values (ELV's) in the final effluent have been compliant based on the latest data available. The

"Testing on Completion 30 day test" start date was 23rd March. All works at the plant will be substantially completed by the end of April. Some minor works at the pump stations are due for completion by the end of April. All sludge is being removed off site. The upgraded treatment capacity of the treatment plant is now 28,500 PE and the discharge to the Shannon estuary is now compliant with the discharge licence.

Kilrush Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

A new waste water treatment plant, rising main and upgrade of the existing Frances St pumping station are proposed in Kilrush. Detailed design is ongoing. A new Planning application was lodged by IW on the 8th of March 2021 to deal with necessary alterations to the design of the WWTP. A decision is due on the planning application on the 2nd May 2021. Construction is programmed to commence late 2021 with completion early 2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage.

Clarecastle Agglomeration Upgrade

This scheme consists of a new pumping facility at Quay Road and new rising main from Quay Road to Clareabbey Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The advance contract for the construction of 311m of rising main from Quay Road to a point just north of the Church is complete. This is the first step in a project, which will ultimately lead to the cessation of the discharge of raw sewage to the River Fergus. The detailed design of the new pumping facility at Quay Road and the new rising main to Clareabbey WWTP is being finalised and it is anticipated that the contract will go to tender during Q2 of 2021. 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 for treatment.

Liscannor Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

A new waste water treatment plant, pumping station, rising main and gravity sewer are proposed for Liscannor. The design/build contract was awarded to EPS in January 2020 under the IW Early Contractor Involvement framework. Detailed design is ongoing. Planning compliance documentation was submitted to Clare County Council by Irish Water. An Bord Pleanála has approved the Compulsory Purchase Order without modification for acquisition of lands, wayleaves, right of way and temporary working areas. The project is expected to go to construction in mid 2021 with completion late 2022. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the Pier in Liscannor.

Ballyvaughan Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

A new waste water treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water notified An Bord Pleanála that it has withdrawn the Compulsory Purchase Order for lands for a proposed waste water treatment plant, pumping station and rising main. Irish Water is considering options in relation to a new location of a proposed WWTP and the implications for continued use of the existing outfall. The AA screening and NIS have been updated by the Consultants and are being considered by Irish Water.

Kilkee Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

A new waste water 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 reports have to be revised by Irish Water's Consultants to determine the preferred location for the new treatment plant. A Planning application for the scheme is anticipated to be lodged by Q2 2022. The project is expected to go to construction in late 2023 with completion in late 2025.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

Upgrades of waste water 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 IW 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/Planning application stage.

Newmarket on Fergus Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of primary effluent from the existing WWTP to Lough Gash turlough. A Design Inception Report and outfall route selection have been prepared with Ecological studies and network flow surveys have also commenced. A Foreshore licence and Discharge Licence review will also be required. The site investigation along the road from the Plant through Kilnasoolagh Park and on the R458 towards Latoon is ongoing. The site investigation will take approx. two more months and there will be temporary traffic management in place on an intermittent basis on public roads along the route. Ecology surveys, topographical surveys

and river flow surveys are continuing. Licences, wayleaves and Planning application documents will have to be prepared. It is anticipated that the Planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged Autumn 2021. Construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by early 2024.

Kilfenora WWTP Upgrade

It is proposed to upgrade the existing Kilfenora WWTP, reuse the existing treated effluent rising main to the current discharge point and construct a new percolation area at this site. Planning Permission has been granted. The CPO Oral Hearing was held on-line by An Bord Pleanála on the 23rd of 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 September 2021.

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 is expected to start its final 28 day process testing phase within the next few weeks once it is deemed that the treatment process is fully optimised.

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 will now move to make the remaining cross connections required into the network and test the pipe. Once this is complete, the contractor will arrange changeover of connections from the old to new main. Works are expected to be fully complete by June 2021.

Asset Transfer

379 water & waste water assets, in Co Clare, have been identified for potential transfer to IW to date. Of these 51 are non operational assets (prior to January 2014) and as such will not be transferring to Irish Water leaving 328 for transfer. Of these 325 assets 196 have now been transferred to IW.

The remaining 134 assets are broken down as follows:

- 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 Corporate/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 - 3 assets are with the NSPO for transfer and for investigation to ascertain if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved IW will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.
- Property Registration Authority Ireland – 0 assets have gone to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- 3rd Party/Unregistered assets – Of the 134 assets 114 have been identified as 3rd Party Registered lands (97) and Unregistered Lands (15).

Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) major upgrade works of 9.3km on the Tullaheer Group Water Scheme, (Doonbeg) and Feenagh GWS (Sixmilebridge) are nearing completion. Danganelly East GWS in Cooraclare completed upgrade works in April with the replacement of service fittings throughout the scheme. Ballinruane GWS, Mountshannon has published tenders for the mains rehab 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. Teerovannon GWS is due to commence the replacement of service fittings throughout the scheme in the coming weeks. The aforementioned works are being completed under Measure 5 of the Programme which is the Transfer of Existing Schemes into the public Network and funding under this measure is granted at 100% of the value of the works.

Danganelly East GWS was recently submitted for Taking in Charge following the aforementioned upgrade works and this now brings the number of GWS's submitted by the Clare Rural Water Programme awaiting Taking in Charge to 11. 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. A total of 31 applications have been 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

Civils works on Parnell Street have progressed as far as the junction between Parnell Street and Cabey's Lane. Paving to Parnell Street is following behind the civils work, complete up to the junction of Parnell Street, River Lane and Fahy's Lane. It is programmed that the road from the Market Area through to Wood Quay via Cabey's Lane and Parnell Street will be operational by the end of May.

Paving to River Lane, O'Halloran's Lane, Barrett's Lane, Brady's Lane, Murray's Lane, Thompson's Lane and Shanks Lane are all substantially complete at this point.



Roadworks programme

Works commenced on the restoration improvement programme in the Barefield area on April 12th and will continue throughout the district for the next 5 weeks

Grass Cutting & Maintenance

Grass cutting was delayed until April 20th, to facilitate the early dandelion flowers which represent one of the first crucial food sources for beneficial insects, such as honeybees.

The grass will then be reduced slowly over a number of cuts to a level where some flowers remain in the amenity areas.

The biodiversity management regime in place for the roundabouts and margins of the N85 will continue again this year.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



A bright future for Moneypoint

In April, the ESB/Equinor announced the establishment of a green energy hub at Moneypoint which will service Ireland's off-shore wind energy industry off the West Coast of Clare and Kerry. In the green energy hub announcement Moneypoint will retain its strategic power generation and power transmission position in the national grid infrastructure. The potential economic benefit for Clare and the Mid-West region is significant, in particular in the job creation potential servicing of the multi-billion off-shore wind industry in its on-shore and off-shore economic activity, the fabrication and assembly of the wind turbines and the servicing of all down-stream economic activity.

Atlantic Green Digital Basin

In April, Clare, Limerick and Tipperary Councils prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that recognised the need to work together to maximise the economic opportunities that renewable energy and digitalisation can bring to the Mid-West region. The three local authorities agree to work together under the regional enterprise plan structure to develop a jobs strategy that combines our existing technology strengths, our capacity for growth and our ambition.



Pictured are: Pat Slattery, Tipperary County Council; Liam Conneally, Clare County Council; Vincent Murray, Limerick City and County Council; and Eamonn Murphy, MidWest Regional Enterprise Plan.

Clare Economic Task Force

The IDA presented its growth strategy, "Driving Recovery And Sustainable Growth 2021-2024", to the Clare Economic Task Force outlining key sectors and opportunities to drive economic growth post-Covid. Clare County Council continues to engage with the IDA and EI to align, where appropriate, with strategic objectives set out in the plan.

The Abodoo Skills Mapping Platform continues to build profiles of the skills and talent across Clare.

Ennis Data Centre

The Council's Planning Department, Roads, Environment and other sections are engaged with the Data Centre applicant 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 first meeting of the Ennis 2040 Designated Activity Company (DAC) sub-committee took place in April to prioritise transformational sites which could be developed in the short-term aligned with the objectives of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy. The committee is currently engaging with land-owners of those sites identified to progress development opportunities. The next Ennis 2040 DAC Board meeting is due to take place in May to approve the work programme over the coming 12-18 months. Recruitment of staff for the Ennis 2040 DAC is progressing, with first round interviews for the Chief Operating Officer role to be held in May with a planned appointment by Q4 2021. The Ennis 2040 Strategy will officially be launched once Level 5 restrictions have been lifted.

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS

Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre

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

A working draft of the Masterplan was presented to the Elected Members of the Shannon Municipal District in mid-April. Following the presentation and receipt of feedback from the Members, the team commenced engagement with a number of targeted stakeholders which will continue into 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. The nature, timing and format of the public consultation will be agreed with the Elected Members.

University of Limerick (UL)/South Clare – Strategic Development Zone

Following the meeting of the Chief Executive, Director of Economic Development and the Law Agent with the UL Interim President and her team, work has continued by both teams on the SDZ DAC legal arrangements. In the coming months, further engagement between the partnership will take place to prepare for the making of an application to Government to seek the designation of the UL South Clare SDZ. The focus for now is to ensure the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2027 and its Core Strategy provides the policy basis for the development of the SDZ.

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Tourism and Mobility Plan

Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, 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.

Ongoing work has continued in conjunction with colleagues in Tipperary County Council on the finalisation of an emerging draft document. It is anticipated that a draft Plan will be available in May for discussion and consideration with the Elected Members of the Killaloe Municipal District and the wider Council.

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 is a medium-term objective which 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.

Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary



60Kw tidal test device to be deployed off Cahercon Pier.

In April, the SEI team significantly assisted the preparation of a response to a Further Information request from the Foreshore Unit of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Heritage Design Pro to an application by DesignPro for a Foreshore Licence to install a 60kW tidal test device off Cahercon pier. A range of historical scientific and technical data gathered since 2015 and analysis was provided by the team. The proposal for a tidal test device is in line with the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and the SIFP for the Shannon Estuary and follows a presentation in 2020 to the Elected Members of the West Clare MD. On receipt of a Foreshore License from the Department, there is potential for a tidal test device to be in place in April, 2022, creating a potential for a test device hub in the area.

With its location on the world-famous Wild Atlantic Way – the longest defined and among the most stunning coastal routes in the world – and with natural deep and sheltered waters, Shannon Estuary is a welcoming and attractive destination for cruise liners and their passengers. The Shannon Estuary is bounded by three of Ireland’s most scenic and historic counties, Clare, Kerry and Limerick, each of which has significant tourism offerings.

Over the past year the SEI team have collaborated with Shannon Foynes Port Company and Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council to form Cruise Shannon Estuary. Cruise Shannon Estuary is an initiative to sustainably grow the cruise and sustainable marine tourism industry and establish Shannon Estuary and Clare as one of the top destinations for cruise liners in Europe. In the context of County Clare the proposal will seek to dock small-to-medium size cruise ships in the Estuary and tender passengers south to Foynes for onward trips to Kerry and Limerick and tender northwards to Cahercon Pier and Clare, enabling tourists to visit the amenities and attractions in the nearby coastal towns and villages of the Shannon Estuary and experience the stunning trails, local produce and attractions in Clare. A promotional video was launched in April by Cruise Shannon which can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qC6DHyUaJyM>

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028

The preparation of the draft Development Plan 2022-2028 is now well underway, involving extensive on-site and desk-top collation, evaluation and analysis of data and information to inform the new development plan. In addition to the main policy document and settlement plans and statements for all 85 settlements within the county, the Development Plan will include 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, all of which are also progressing well. The Development Plan is benefitting from the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which are all in progress as parallel processes and are informing the Development Plan in its preparation so as to ensure it is a sustainable and environmentally robust plan as required by legislation.

A 'pre' draft Development Plan will be presented to the Elected Members in mid-June for their consideration prior to the draft Development Plan being adopted and placed on public display in August 2021. This will be followed by a period of public consultation when submissions can be made on the content of the draft plan.

Ennistymon Masterplan

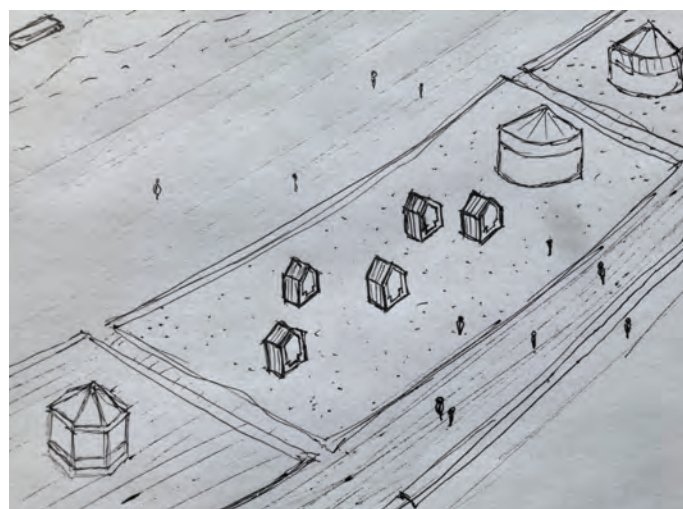
Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, has appointed a multi-disciplinary team led by Helena McElmeel Architects to complete a masterplan for the town of Ennistymon. The masterplan seeks to build upon existing Clare County Council proposals in place associated with the planned new bridge crossing and the upgrading works to take place along the Main Street. The study will explore the potential of the existing townscape and its built environment in order to guide its development in a positive way. It will also comprise of a new signage strategy and streetscape enhancement plan, which seeks to improve both the visitor and residents experience. The gathering of baseline information was completed in March, and a site visit involving all members of the design team and steering group occurred in April. The findings of the site visit and the work undertaken to date will inform the next steps in the process.

Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) are collaborating to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. The Strategy will seek 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. Tenders for an architect/urban designer-led Design Team have been sought and will be returned in May.

The Outdoor Dining Scheme



Clare County Council has worked alongside West Clare MD to develop a proposal in response to Fáilte Ireland's 'Outdoor Dining Scheme'. This is a capital investment scheme which will be delivered under Fáilte Ireland's 'Opening the outdoors' strategic pillar which prompts us to re-think our relationship to outdoor public space. It is a direct response to the current pandemic, and promotes the implementation of structures which can facilitate and enhance the experience of outdoor dining in key tourism centres across the county. Clare County Council has identified Ennis and Kilkee as a suitable location for a proposed project. The proposal looks to create an outdoor dining space that is embedded in the historical use of the site, as well as being sensitive to the context in which it is proposed. The proposal will be submitted to Fáilte Ireland in May, with an announcement expected in June.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of April and also gives the year to date totals. In comparison to the year 2020, this reflects an increase in the number of planning applications in the year to date of 125. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 86 decisions.

Development management	April 2021	Year to date 2021
Planning applications		
No. of planning applications received	120	414
No. of Planning Decisions made	82	320
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	9
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	37	120
No. of Section 5 applications	8	25
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications	5	17
Submissions received regarding Compliance	29	112

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

Planning Ref No	Location	Description of Development	Applicant
P21/338	Aisling Estate, Shanvogh, Ennis	14 Apartments, 2 Dwellings	Pat Doyle
P21/372	Smithstown, Shannon	48 Dwellings	Woodhaven Developments Ltd
P21/8002 (Part 8)	Doonbeg	8 Dwellings	Clare County Council
P21/370	Glendine North & Knockalassa	Renewable Energy Development	Slieveacurry Ltd.

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

Development management	April 2021	Year to date 2021
Planning enforcement (up to 29th April)		
No. of new complaints received	17	171
No of Files Opened *includes complaints received in January (1), March (3) and April (4).	8	43
No. of Warning Letters issued	10	28
No. of Enforcement Notices served	2	14
No. of Legal Case initiated	1	1
No. of Enforcement files closed	3	22

TAKING IN CHARGE

The Taking in Charge Team are in detailed negotiations with the Special Liquidators, on behalf of the IBRC, regarding the Council's claim on the bond towards outstanding works at Cappahard development on Tulla Road, Ennis. We are also currently preparing tender documents for the remedial works in Cappahard, and it is planned to go to tender as soon as settlement is reached on the bond claim.

Tender documents were issued for remedial works in Aughanteeroe, Ennis, closing date was Friday, 23rd April, 2021. Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed. Contractors, who are working on behalf of the Council, and

carrying out remedial works on a number of private estates are returning on-site as Covid-19 restrictions on the construction industry have been lifted.

The Statutory Process in relation to the Taking in Charge of Fort View, Clarecastle and Noughaval Drive, Doora commenced with an advertisement in the Clare Champion issue dated 2nd April, 2021. A number of new housing developments commenced during the month of April 2021, following the lifting of Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions and we are monitoring their progress and liaising with the Developers, their Engineers and residents of adjoining estates.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Covid-19 Supports

Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Clare continued to support our local businesses through the month of April. 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 e-commerce website, has seen strong interest. In the month of April a further 5 vouchers were approved bringing the number already approved in 2021 to 71. The focus is ensuring the funding approved in 2020 is released to successful applicants and a further 17 vouchers (€38,423) were paid out during the month. This brings to a total of 136 draw downs amounting to €310,470 in 2021.
- Online Webinars and Training: Over 130 clients registered in the month of April to partake in our range of online webinars and training courses which were provided separate to Local Enterprise Week. Events included Search Engine Optimisation, Media Skills Training and a Start your own business programme.
- Mentoring: There were 30 applicants in April for a free 3-hour mentoring session, where a member of the LEO Clare mentoring panel is assigned to an applicant to mentor them in areas ranging from financial review, starting a food business, digital marketing, Brexit and Export Development among others.

LEO Clare supported over 236 Small Businesses & 1,283 Jobs in 2020

On 21st April, The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for the year 2020 which showed that over 7,500 companies employing over 35,000 people are now supported by the LEOs. Local Enterprise Office Clare released the following figures on the

recent year's performance including job numbers and supports provided by the office:

- 401 approved for Trading Online Vouchers
- 179 new jobs created
- Net Jobs Loss 55
- 235% increase in training participants
- 236 businesses employing 1,283 people
- 32 businesses supported with €659k funding
- 75% increase in mentoring support.

Grant Supports

Local Enterprise Office Clare has accepted 97 applications in the month of April for the recent Small Business Assistance Scheme. The applications will be processed over the coming weeks.

LEO Clare also received 8 applications for the next evaluation committee meeting which will be held in May. These include seven Business Expansion and one Priming Grant.

LEO Clare Supported Businesses

LEO Clare Supported business 'Get the Shifts' was successfully sold to FRS Recruitment.

LEO Clare Supported Company Backballer owned by Noel Marshall was successful in obtaining £100,000 of investment on the UK's version of Dragons Den shown on BBC1.

Shannon based company Shannon Technical Services who were initially supported by LEO Clare announced the creation of 80 new jobs in the near future.

Green for Micro

LEO Clare is now accepting applications for the new National Green for Micro Programme. The objective of the Green for Micro programme – a new initiative from the Local Enterprise Offices – is to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future.

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Community Monuments Fund 2021

The deadline for applications to be returned to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the Community

Monuments Fund 2021 was 30th April and six projects were submitted for funding by the Council. It is anticipated that, in the coming weeks, the successful applications will be announced.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021 (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2021

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved funding of €72,000 towards nine projects under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021. All applicants have

been notified of the grants awarded and the conditions of same. Projects are to be completed by mid October.

Six applications were forwarded to the Department under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) scheme in March. The Council is awaiting notification of successful applications.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Facilities management

Work has been completed on improving the area to the rear of Áras Contae an Chláir, which will improve access for fire service vehicles and for pedestrians and those accessing the reflective garden. The limestone access pavement at the front and rear of Áras Contae an Chláir has been surface treated to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls. A number of other improvement works are currently being planned for our corporate buildings, repairs to the roof of the Buttermarket building, tree surgery on the perimeter of the site at Áras Contae an Chláir. Consultation will be held with adjoining property owners.

Property transactions

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

Transaction	April 2021	Year to date 2021
Lease of Property / Building	0	2
Licence to use property / building	0	4
Grazing Agreement for Lands	1	19
Deed of Transfer signed	0	2
Contract for Sale signed	0	3
Deed of Right of Way signed	0	1
Deed of Rectification signed	0	0
Allotment Agreements signed	0	39

Ballycuggeran Shop, Lough Derg



West Lake Coffee.

Following a tender process, we are delighted to support the new operator who was successful in being awarded the licence and has opened a wonderful coffee and ice cream shop at the amenity area in Ballycuggeran. 'West Lake Coffee' is a great addition to the services for visitors to Ballycuggeran and those on the beautiful walk-way there along the shores of the lake.

Refurbishment works to County Museum building

While construction works in general were postponed due to Covid-19, it is hoped that the proposed refurbishment of the County Museum will commence in May. The tender process has been concluded. The project involves investment in the Museum offering by increasing the Museum space to incorporate the DeValera 1949 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.

Casual Trading

Due to the Level 5 Government restrictions in relation to Covid-19, only those licensees who trade in food are currently trading. No new additional Casual Trading licences were issued during the month of April. Those who are trading in Farmers' Markets are allowed to trade at present and can bring an economic boost to areas.



Killaloe Farmers' Market

In preparation for the review of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws, workshops have been held with each of the four Municipal Districts. The draft Casual Trading Bye-laws for Municipal District have just gone on public display at the end of April 2021 and the public notice for same has been published in newspapers and on the council's website. The details for the public consultation are set out 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

While non-essential site inspections are postponed for the duration of the Level 5 restrictions, we have continued to deal with new complaints and engage in discussions with owners of derelict sites. There continues to be a positive response to engagement with owners of derelict sites. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in April 2021 and the year to date.

One site that was of concern to the members of the Ennis Municipal District and the residents of Tulla Road, Ennis since 2019 was transformed in March and April 2021, resulting in the file being closed and it is no longer derelict. This followed intensive engagement with the ESB and shows how positive engagement can yield positive results. The pictures show the before and after pictures of this property.



April, 2021.



2019.

Derelict Sites	April 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new Complaints / new files opened	2	15
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	6	6
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	4	13
No. of Compulsory Purchase Orders	0	0

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Works to the footpaths in both Shannon Banks and Dromoland were completed in April, providing improved and safe movement for residents and visitors alike. The 2021 grass cutting season has started with positive feedback from our communities and the 2021 Road Works programme will commence on 4th May with five roads to be surface dressed in the first week. The technical team in the Shannon Municipal District (MD) carried out a number of site visits during the month to begin the forthcoming 'Active Travel' projects in Shannon Banks, Meelick and Ballycasey green area.

A recent initiative in Shannon Town has been the establishment of Pollinator areas in conjunction with the local tidy towns committee. Supported by local councilors, the ambition is to develop the biodiversity within the town and to monitor and record the various flora and fauna species in the area. On 22nd April, Dr Fran Giaquinto' held a workshop with members of Shannon Tidy Towns to provide guidance on species identification, recording and monitoring.

This workshop was followed with a post on Facebook and Twitter asking the public for assistance in identifying the relevant species beginning to grow. Further awareness of our local biodiversity will be promoted through local schools in May.

The Shannon MD Community Grant Scheme 2021 closed at the end of March with the assessment of applications carried out during April. The value of the scheme this year is €27,470 and applications were invited in both written form and, having regard to Covid-19, through a new online process. There were 39 applications from various groups across the Municipal District and details of the grants awarded will be released at the May meeting of the Shannon Municipal District.

The Shannon Municipal District, with inputs from our colleagues in the Design Office and the support of our local councillors engaged with the Sixmilebridge Community Development Association during the month to agree a draft design for the Sixmilebridge Town and Village Renewal



A recent initiative in Shannon Town has been the establishment of Pollinator areas in conjunction with the local tidy towns committee.

Scheme. The tendering process for this €187,000 project will commence in May.

The team in Shannon MD have engaged with a local events management company to advance plans to deliver an outdoor performance in the Shannon Town Park during summer 2021.

During the month, the MD Councillors were briefed on the forthcoming Shannon Town Masterplan, reviews of Beach and Casual Trading bye-laws and updates in Housing activity. Collection of litter (up to 45 bags per collection) has continued on a weekly basis in support of Shannon Tidy Towns clean-ups.