



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Samhain / November
2021



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FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES



The Draft Register will be on display from 1st November 2021 to 25th November 2021 which gives the public an opportunity to ensure their details are registered correctly, and all fields are completed including Dates of Birth, Eircode's etc. For any omissions or corrections the application form RFA1 should be completed. The review is of particular importance this year in line with the modernisation project of the Electoral Register. To ensure your details are updated for the 2022/2023 Register all changes should be sent to the Register of Electors team before 25th November, 2021.

A list of claims will then be compiled, and presented before the revision courts held in early December 2021. The final register will be published on 1st of February 2022 and will be in operation for one year from 15th February 2022 to the 14th of February 2023.

Freedom of Information and Data Protection

2021 Year to date Statistics to 26/10/2021

- 154 Freedom of Information Requests
- 11 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 Appeals to Information Commissioner

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

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published up to Tuesday, 26th October, 2021.

Brief Description	Response deadline
Bolooghra Bridge Repair	18/10/2021
Tulla Footpath Remediation, Tulla, Co. Clare	18/10/2021
Traffic Management Scheme at Patrick Street, Clarecastle, Co. Clare	05/11/2021

Register of Electors

The Draft Register of Electors for 2022/2023 will be published on 1st November 2021, copies of the Draft Register will be circulated by hard copy to all the Garda Stations, Libraries, Post Offices and Local Authority Offices for display purposes to allow the public to inspect. The Draft Register will also be published online www.clarecoco.ie or may be checked under www.checktheregister.ie.

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 October included:

- Ennis 2040 strategy to make Ennis one of the best places to visit, work and live
- Garda Commissioner attends special Clare JPC meeting
- Cathaoirleach disappointed that Limerick Northern Distributor Road not included in National Development Plan
- Official opening of Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park dressing rooms
- Official opening of Kilkee Fire Station after redevelopment works
- Launch of 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Clare' 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

October saw the completion of the Council's Annual Report in Irish.

In a long-awaited development, the Irish language Officers Association (COFG) secured recognition from CCMA, a significant boost for the organisation's status.


Work has commenced on a draft Scéim Teanga 2022-2025.

COMMUNICATIONS

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 October, the Communications Office:

 • Posted 43 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,325, with 14,786 page likes. Posts earned 180,534 impressions with 8,834 engagements.



• Posted 40 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,299. Tweets earned 71,943 impressions and 2,621 engagements.



• Posted 5 times on Instagram with followers now 2,263.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Staff Officer (Shortlisting) • Senior Staff Officer (Interviews) • Administrative Officer (Shortlisting) • Find & Fix Water Services GO Driver II (Interviews) • Find & Fix Water Services Wastewater Inspector (Interviews) • School Warden P/T Ennis MD (Interviews) • Acting Graphic Design Print Room Manager (Interviews) • Co-Operative Interviews UL (Shortlisting) • Co-Operative Interviews UL (Interviews) • Temporary Executive Engineer (Eligibility Exercise) • Temporary Executive Engineer (Interviews) • Technician Grade I (Eligibility) <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Operative Panel (Open) • Graduate Planner (Open) • Technician Grade I (Civil, Architectural & Building) (Open) • Parttime Caretaker Ennis Hub (Confined)
Learning and Development	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in October include:</p> <p>Course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breathing Apparatus – Refresher- Fire • CSCS – Signing, Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks Update – 2 courses • General Engineering - 1 staff member completed this training • ESDS Level 2 CAT B Driver • ESDS Level 2 CAT C Driver • ESDS Level 3 CAT B Driver • ESDS Level 3 CAT C Driver • Playground Inspection Training • High Power Water Jetting Course • VDU Assessments • Safe Pass; Manual Handling –4 courses • Confined Spaces Med Risk - 2 courses • Outdoor Interview Training • Agresso Training – 2 courses. <p>Essential Skillz Online Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security • ErgoWize • Ergowize Assessment • Manual Handling • Working in a Covid-Era • GDPR • H&S Induction • Wellbeing & Remote Working <p>Climate Action Training undertaken to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising Awareness • Championing Leadership • Planning for Climate Change
Employee Welfare	Employee Welfare supports are provided to staff on an on-going basis.
Covid-19	The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.
Unions	The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with Unions on various matters.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Garda Commissioner attends special Clare JPC meeting



JPC Members with Commissioner Drew Harris, on 18th October, 2021, at Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis.

On 18th October, 2021, the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) of Clare County Council and Clare Garda Division hosted a special meeting in the Council Chamber in Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis, which was attended by the Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris. The Commissioner addressed the Clare JPC and delivered a presentation on the new Garda Operating Model. He then took questions from JPC members on community engagement, crime and traffic/roads policing.

Garda Commissioner Drew Harris said: “This afternoon’s meeting here in Ennis has been a useful opportunity to meet with, and listen to the concerns of local stakeholders who are working closely with Gardaí to keep people safe. “The roll out of the new Operating Model, which has continued during the past 12 months, is already helping to modernise An Garda Síochána at divisional level. This has included organisational changes in Clare which are aimed at strengthening An Garda Síochána’s high visibility presence in local communities, and enhancing our capabilities in frontline policing.

“I am confident that this reshaping will ultimately deliver consistent, high-quality policing services that are specifically catered to respond to local policing issues in County Clare and surrounding areas.”

policing matters. The Commissioner’s attendance further enhances our ongoing relationship with local representatives and stakeholders.”

JPC Chairperson, Cllr John Crowe, said: “We welcome the Garda Commissioner’s visit to Clare today to hear about his plans for the new Garda Operating Model and answer questions on local policing issues. The Commissioner brings a wealth of experience to the role and we thank him for his leadership of An Garda Síochána. I would like to acknowledge the excellent working relationship that we have as community stakeholders and statutory agencies with the Gardaí here in Clare. “Our JPC is an important mechanism to support policing and to engage on plans for the future in our county.”

The JPC provides a forum where the Local Authority and An Garda Síochána, with the participation of Oireachtas members, local councillors and community interests, consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local area in order to contribute to the improved safety and quality of life of the community.



Chief Superintendent Sean Colleran, Clare Garda Division, said: “We welcome the Commissioner’s visit to the Clare Division. It was great he got the opportunity to attend the Clare Joint Policing Committee to meet and interact with JPC members and discuss local



Shannon Heritage Project Update



Craggaunowen.

Clare County Council has commenced a Due Diligence Process to consider the potential transfer by Shannon Group Plc of its subsidiary company Shannon Heritage DAC (including Clare-based tourism sites) to Clare County Council. Shannon Heritage DAC would then become a subsidiary company of Clare County Council.

This commencement of the Due Diligence Process is a pledge by both statutory bodies to provide for an in-depth review and focus on the recovery from the devastating impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the tourism industry, the airport and on overseas visitors to the Mid-West region. The central role that Clare County Council plays in tourism product development and sustainable tourism development, has made the organisation a natural fit to explore this opportunity with Shannon Group Plc. Clare County Council has considerable experience of operating existing visitor attractions with the assistance of two other subsidiary companies, i.e. Cliffs of Moher Centre DAC and Kilrush Amenity Trust Ltd.

The following Clare tourism sites are being considered and subject to Due Diligence and subsequent negotiation:

- Bunratty Castle and Folk Park
- Knappogue Castle
- Craggaunowen – Bronze Age Park
- Retail Outlet at Cliffs of Moher.

In relation to the impact of this transition, Clare County Council has appointed an internal staff team and Project Manager (Donnacha Lynch) who is working with experienced specialist services to examine the following topics:

- Operational and Financial to include business performance
- Technical Due Diligence to include property and asset surveys

- Human Resource
- ICT
- Legal
- Capital Investment
- Taxation.

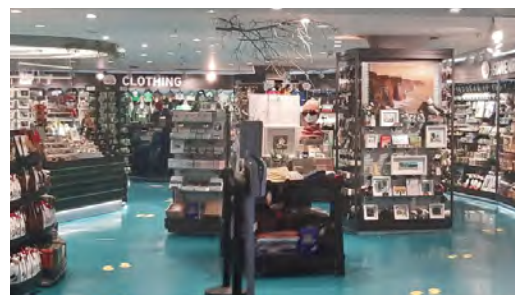
Site visits were arranged recently by the Council staff team. The transfer of Shannon Heritage Clare properties to Clare County Council is subject to approval by and consent between the various Government Ministers and Government Departments. Elected Members of Clare County Council will be briefed on an ongoing basis as the Due Diligence Project progresses.



Knappogue Castle.



Bunratty Castle.



Cliffs of Moher Gift Shop.

Shannon In Bloom



The Rural and Community Development Officer recently worked with the Shannon Municipal District in the delivery of the “Shannon in Bloom” initiative. This new programme was supported by Shannon MD Councillors and delivered by the Municipal District office and local community groups across the Shannon MD. This project built on the existing working relationship between the to increase their knowledge of biodiversity, accessing training supported by the Heritage Office in early 2021 and seeing communities take on this issue in a tangible way.

This community planting event has created visual highlights in villages and communities across the MD through coordinated bulb and wildflower seed planting, allowing a community to come together in a safe outdoor setting to work side by side to create the bulb beds, and looking forward to the spring when a

riot of colour heralds the arrival of brighter days, new beginnings and a vibrant splash of colour. With pollinator friendly plants included, the Shannon in Bloom event is a boon to our local biodiversity, creating a haven for bees and other pollinators and insects. It will create an important space for communities, add colour to village centres and meet biodiversity goals.

RCDO support has highlighted how this role supports the work and delivery of projects at MD level, creating linkages with communities and increasing a shared knowledge base. Support for environmental projects that are community led fits with the Clare Climate Change Adaptation Policy and the Enhanced Environment objective of the Clare Rural Development Strategy, as well as the biodiversity initiatives and supports delivered across the Municipal District with the support of a network of Clare County Council staff from multiple directorates.

Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces new €7 million fund to enhance streetscapes and shopfronts in rural towns and villages

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced a new €7 million fund to support the enhancement of streetscapes and shopfronts in over 50 rural towns and villages.

- The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative will provide funding to property owners to improve the facades of their buildings.
- Eligible works include painting, signage replacement, shopfront improvement, scaffolding, materials, lighting and planting.
- The focus of this measure is to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades of defined areas within selected rural town/village centres.

Under the scheme, property owners in over 120 towns and villages are being provided with funding to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork and install features such as canopies and street furniture.

This activity will be funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) through this Streetscape Enhancement Measure for 2021. This is an additional Measure introduced as part of the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and €7 million is being made available under this Measure in 2021 with a total allocation to Clare County Council of €320,000.



Clare County Council has selected seven towns for inclusion in the Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021 as follows:

- Tulla
- Clarecastle
- Scariff
- Kilrush
- Clonlara
- Newmarket On Fergus
- Corofin.



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

Healthy Clare team attends 'Farm Connect' event in Kilmihil during Mental Health Week 2021



Farm Connect event.

On Friday, 8th October, during Mental Health Week 2021, the Lighthouse (West Clare Mental Health Association) hosted a 'Farm Connect' event on a farm in Kilmihil. Guest speakers for the event included former Ireland and Munster International rugby legend John Hayes and the Chairman of *Awareness Head to Toe*, George Graham. There was a great turnout to the event

that included free blood pressure screening by the Civil Defence and informational stands by the IFA, Quit Mid-West, Social Farming Ireland, Macra na Ferime, Clare Sports Partnership and our own Healthy Clare team. Mental health is a key priority in the Healthy Clare Strategic plan 2019-2021 which was promoted along with the Healthy Ireland brand on the night. The team distributed Healthy Ireland leaflets and mental health informational booklets along with Healthy Clare's October newsletter which features upcoming local events happening across county Clare.

For more information on the Lighthouse (West Clare Mental Health Association) please visit <https://www.facebook.com/The-Lighthouse-317715958838263>

Keep up to date with the Healthy Clare Newsletters by emailing healthyclare@clarecoco.ie or visiting <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/healthy-clare/newsletters/>

Dreharbeiten im Burren (Filming in the Burren)

Dr Eamon Doyle (Geologist) from The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark team gave a geological exclusive to Dirk Steffens and the Terra X Faszination Erde film crew who were over from Germany to film in the Burren. With Eamon's assistance, the crew were able to present an authentic and accurate picture of our beautiful 330 million year old landscape.

Dr Doyle has been contacted several times to provide his expertise on the Geopark region for various high production videos both nationally and internationally over the last few months. The Geopark Office has obliged on the condition that the production team highlights the region's designation a UNESCO Global Geopark and illuminates the importance of managing

the region in a focus on conservation and sustainability.

With some of the Faszination Erde documentaries exceeding 1.5 million YouTube views, there is no doubt that this one will raise enormous traction for the Burren region with the German markets. We look forward to seeing the documentary released next Spring.



Dr Eamon Doyle with Dirk Steffens and the Terra X Faszination Erde film crew.

National Marketing and Promotion



Celia Holman Lee, pictured in Nozomi, dressed by Nozomi and coat by County Boutique.

As recommended through the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, marketing and promotion turned to the Autumn / Winter for promotion, with a focus to promote the Ennis Experience. This social media promotion was supported by Visit Clare And Visit Ennis, through Ennis Chamber (as member to the Clare TAF).

Celia Holman Lee, fashion stylist and influencer with 47,300 followers to Instagram showcased all Ennis has to offer, from Boutiques, Ladies, Men's and Children to Cafés, Hotels as well as accessories. Visit Clare, Visit Ennis, Ennis Chamber and Celia Holman Lee will cross-promote with the Ennis Trade across social media.

Informal meeting with representatives of the Guingamp Twinning Committee with Shannon Twinning Committee and Clare County Council



Pictured (l-r) are: Deirdre O'Shea, Acting Head of Tourism; Liliane Le Gac, Co-President, Guingamp Twinning Committee; Frank O'Hanlon, Shannon Twinning Committee; Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan; Benoit Goudailler (Councillor appointed by the Mayor, Philippe Le Goff); Cllr Michael Begley, Clare County Council Twinning Representative; Brigitte Troël, Secretary, Guingamp Twinning Committee; John O'Brien, Secretary, Shannon Twinning Committee. Missing from photograph: Yves Morice, Co-President, Guingamp Twinning Committee; Nicola Killeen, Secretary to the Clare Twinning Committee.

Clare County Council facilitated a Twinning meeting with Guingamp in the Armada Hotel, Spanish Point, Co. Clare, on Monday, 18th October, 2021.

John O'Brien, Secretary of the Shannon Town Twinning Committee, was contacted by Liliane Le Gac, Co-President of Guingamp Twinning Committee to organise an informal

meeting, with the Council, while they were scheduling a private visit to Clare, from 19th October to Friday 22nd 2021. The meeting commenced with a photo opportunity and the exchanges of gifts and information from both areas. The outcomes from this meeting will be discussed during the next scheduled meeting of the Council's Twinning Committee.

Shannon Estuary Way: Destination Visioning and Networking Event

A special visioning and networking event was held at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park on Thursday, 14th October, 2021. Clare Local Development Company and West Limerick Resources is funding a programme with a focus on collaboration in and around the Shannon Estuary Way. The Tourism Space has been contracted to facilitate the programme.

Guest speakers included Minister of State, Patrick O'Donovan, and Pól O Conghaile, Travel Writer and Travel Editor with the Irish Independent. This was a great opportunity to enable businesses and communities on either side of the Shannon estuary to network with each other and to further the development of the Shannon Estuary Way for the benefit of businesses, communities and visitors alike.

There was great support from Clare County Council's elected members at this event with the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, in attendance along with Cllr John Crowe,

Cllr Gabriel Keating. Joan Tarmey, Tourism Officer, sits on the Shannon Estuary Way Working Group along with representatives from Limerick City and County Council, Fáilte Ireland, CLDC and West Limerick Resources. We look forward to see the Shannon Estuary Way go from strength to strength in the future.



Supporting the Shannon Estuary Way – Destination Visioning and Networking event were (l-r): Tina O'Dwyer (Tourism Space), Caitriona Scully (West Limerick Resources), Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, Pól O'Conghaile (Irish Independent), Cllr Gabriel Keating and Joan Tarmey, Tourism Officer.

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT – KILRUSH LEA

Active Travel

Lissycasey



Works are ongoing in Lissycasey. Ducting and “pots” for public lighting is completed. Tarmacadam has been placed to existing footpaths which were unfinished. Stage 1 and Stage 2 Road Safety Audit has required a redesign of the scheme near Fanny O’Dea’s pub. Redesign is almost completed and the public advertising of a Section 38 notice is imminent. It hoped to incorporate four bus stop locations – two on either side of the road – into the final scheme.

Kilrush

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

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

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

2021 Roadworks Programme

Our Surface Dressing programme is complete.

Our Restoration Improvement programme is complete.

Pavement overlays have been completed on:

- N67 – 800 metres – Carrowbloughmore (between Doonbeg and Kilkee)
- N67 – 900 metres – Shandrum (near Quilty)
- N68 – 3,500 metres (over a distance of c.5,000m) at Caherea near Lissycasey.
- R484 – 2,500 metres – Knockalough to Kilmihil.



Drainage Works, Merton Square, Kilkee, and Drainage Works, Rehy Cross.

Drainage works have been completed.

Works carried out from discretionary funding are completed.

Two low-cost safety schemes are at design stage and works will commence soon. Local Improvement Schemes – four (of five allocated) schemes completed or well underway.

Hedgecutting contract along national secondary routes has been awarded and works are to commence.

CLÁR 2020

Construction of pedestrian crossings has commenced on:

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



Pedestrian Crossing Carrigaholt Road, Kilkee

Irish Water

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

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

Both of these pipelines were laid under the public road network and both sections of the public road required substantial reconstruction works. Reconstruction works have now been completed on both public road sections.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021

We hope to commence works raising the Shannon Estuary protective river wall along the R-473 at Erribul and Aillroe shortly.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING



Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development, Clare County Council, at the launch of the CHI estate at Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus.

At the beginning of October we started to get back to normal and by the end of the month we are reminded of the persistence of Covid-19 and its impact on society.

That said, October was a busy month with official openings of the Tim Smythe dressing rooms and the launch of the CHI estate at Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus. It is also budget month so we spent the month in the throes of budget 2022 preparation.

The housing public counter is open from 9am to 1pm and by appointment only in the afternoon. Appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service.

Social Housing Needs Assessment 2021

The 2021 Social Housing Needs Assessment is ongoing with over 700 applicants written to seeking updated information to assess their continued qualification for social housing supports. All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to complete this assessment for all persons who have applied for social housing support.

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

This Council has contacted certain applicants who have applied for social housing support prior to 30th of July 2020 to confirm that they still require social housing support. Each applicant must confirm their requirements to the Council by completing the assessment form which issued on the 20th September together with a covering letter explaining the process. As part of this process they will need to submit details of income for previous 52 weeks in accordance with national social housing guidelines. Applicants who have applied for social housing after 30th of July 2020 were not written to as their file would have recently been assessed so there is no need

for them to be reassessed or to contact the Council unless there is a change in circumstances.

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

To date over 300 forms have been returned to the Council and these are being assessed to ensure that each applicant has a continuing need for social housing support. It is most important that forms are completed in full with all relevant information.

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

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

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

Presently the housing public counter is open from 9am to 1pm and by **appointment only** in the afternoon. Appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service. This service is working well and is generating efficiencies for staff and customers alike.

Housing in numbers

Breakdown of tenancies by Municipal District, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent):		
	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,169	627
Shannon	653	155
West Clare	932	373
Killaloe	376	157
Inter Authority HAP		60
TOTAL	3,130	1,372

2,805 LA tenancies	1,372 HAP tenancies	198 RAS tenancies
306 leased properties	2,667 LA properties	3,572 Rent accounts

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing need by Area of choice:

AREA_OF_CHOICE	Transfer NO	Transfer YES	Grand Total
ENNIS MD			
CLARECASTLE	131	65	196
ENNIS	570	735	1305
Subtotal	701	800	1,501
SHANNON MD			
CLONLARA	19	9	28
MEELICK/PARTEEN/ WESTBURY	78	71	149
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	63	33	96
SHANNON	133	115	248
SIXMILEBRIDGE	32	28	60
Subtotal	325	256	581
WEST CLARE MD			
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	17	31	48
COROFIN/RUAN	40	42	82
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	93	90	183
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	19	15	34
KILFENORA	7	2	9
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	45	44	89
KILMALEY	5	9	14
KILMIHIL	12	14	26
KILRUSH	65	78	143
LISDOONVARNA/ BALLYVAUGHAN	21	33	54
MILTOWN MALBAY/ MULLAGH/QUILTY	46	51	97
Subtotal	370	409	779
KILLALOE MD			
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	71	92	163
KILLALOE	39	36	75
QUIN	15	14	29
TULLA/KILKISHEN/ BROADFORD	32	24	56
Subtotal	157	166	323
Grand Total	1,553	1,631	3,184

* First area of preference only counted.

Please note these figures are correct as of 21/10/2021.

Summary of activity

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from 25.09.2021 to 19.10.2021)	65
Offers refused	1
Tenancies signed up	33
Tenancies terminated	5

Voids work programme (at end October):	
Voids/casual vacancies	42
Acquired properties (works on-going)	10
Average vacancy period	147 days
Number voids returned to stock	6
Average spend	€35,664

Housing Maintenance calls:	
October	375*

* to 20th October

Estate Management

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

	Oct to date	Total year to date
Call Outs	262	2,241

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

Traveller Liaison Officer

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

Private Rented inspections:

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

Virtual Inspection Invitations September	60
Physical Inspections: September	16

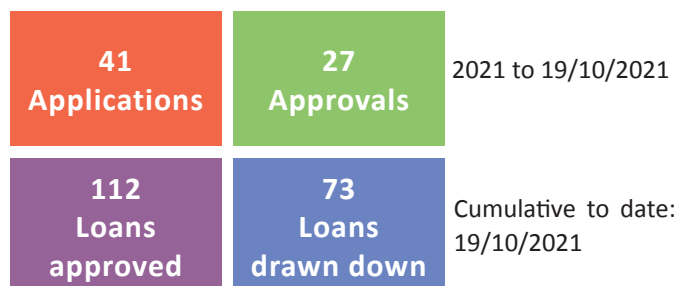
Housing Grants:

Grants Approved for October 2021:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	4	24,428
Housing Aid for Older People	4	70,770
Mobility Aids Grant	6	31,250
Total	14	126,448

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

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



Homeless

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on **065 684 6291**.

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period Monday 20th September to Friday 15th October 2021: 13 households exited from homeless services; of these 13 households; 12 housed in own door properties through HAP, Leasing, AHB and Local Authority Allocations, 1 discharged/self-discharged and left homeless services.

Homeless presentations from 20th September to 15th October 2021:

New presentations	29
Repeat presentations	145
Total Presentations	174

Status as of 15th October 2021:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	3	6	5	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	7	11	14	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	4	0	4
TOTAL	11	51	20	9

Irish Refugee Resettlement Programme

The availability of properties is the challenge in the accommodation of the second tranche of families who are due to be resettled in Clare under this programme. We are continuing to work with the agencies in supporting the families already settled in Clare and in seeking initiatives to fast track the process of resettlement other families.

Vacant properties

Clare County Council is continuing to review 'vacant homes' in collaboration with the Municipal District Offices. A

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

number of towns and villages are being prioritized in each MD where vacancy/dereliction is particularly high on main streets.

The Vacant homes unit is continuing to seek ownership details on a number of properties that have been identified as potential long term vacant residential dwellings in each MD. In addition, work is progressing on assessing vacant properties where owners are engaging. The Capital team has carried out site inspections on 6 potential properties in recent weeks.

	Initial Assessment	Identified as Potential*	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections
Ennis	29	11	5	
Killaloe	37	20	13	2
West Clare	85	40	22	3
Shannon	51	3	2	1
TOTAL	202	74	42	6

Status as at 20/10/2021

* Initial assessment ongoing

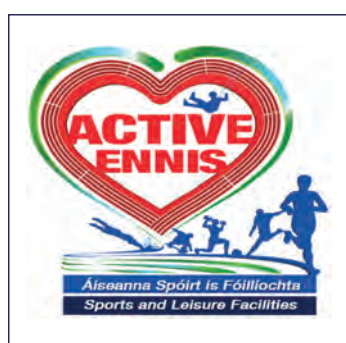
Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under Construction. 6 Units – Due to compete Q4 2021 12 Units – Due to complete Q1 2022	Q3 2020	Q4 2021 & Q1 2022
Scarriff	18	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII being prepared.	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Stage 4 approved by DHLGH. Contract docs being prepared.	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII approved. Stage 3 app. to issue to DHLGH.	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Clarecastle	2	4 Stage application to issue to DHLGH.	Q4 2021	Q3 2022
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII decision due 06th Dec 21	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Masterplan being developed.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2021	Q3 2022
Subtotal	222			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	4	CAS – Project completed	Q3 2020	Q2 2021
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q3 2020	Q1 2022

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Construction to commence 9 to be delivered Q4 2022 15 to be delivered Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	69	CALF Turnkey 29 units to be delivered in Q4 2021 40 units to be delivered in 2022	Q1 2021 Q3 2021	Q4 2021 Q4 2022
Subtotal	121			
Total	343			

SPORTS & RECREATION



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

Atlantic Youth Project

The Atlantic Youth Project was selected as winner under the category “International Cooperation in the Atlantic Area” for the Atlantic Project Awards. Clare County Council is delighted with its recognition in this project and greatly welcomes the award.

Clare Sports Partnership Working with Minority Communities

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

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

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

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

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

This work is made possible by the ongoing support from Clare County Council, through the Community Support Fund. Please follow the link to read about our 2021 work to date: <https://claresports.ie/working-with-minority-communities/>

Active Ennis Leisure Complex

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

Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park

The dressing rooms at Tim Smythe Park were officially opened by the Mayor of the Ennis MD Councillor Ann Norton on 5th October. The dressing room complex houses a fully accessible changing facility, this facility is the first of its kind in the County and indeed is one of a few such fully accessible changing facilities in the Country.



Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Active Kilrush Sports Complex & Active Ennis, Cloughleigh

All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with prebooking essential on www.activeennis.ie Clubs and patrons are reminded to exercise continued vigilance and comply with COVID restrictions.

Bike Week

Clare Bike Week was to provide people of all ages and abilities with a variety of cycling events and to create awareness of Cycling as an enjoyable form of transport and physical activity. Clubs, community groups, schools and local organisations were all targeted to ensure a far reaching Clare Bike Week 2021.

To achieve this vision from a cycling perspective, we worked with a diversity of individuals, schools, communities and clubs to help with the development of safe and competent Cycling as a means of transport, recreational and competitive sport.

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

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

As a partnership, we work with stakeholders to ensure that resources used for the most strategic purposes.

Our growing partnership with Clare County Council is testament to that.

With the various national and local policies in mind - 2018 Get Ireland Cycling Ireland Strategy Framework, National Sports Policy, National Physical Activity Action Plan, Healthy Clare.

To read our report, please see <https://claresports.ie/national-bike-week-12th-to-18th-september-2021/>

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

15 libraries and Local Studies are currently providing in person services. 36 home deliveries were also made during the month to date.



Smartphone classes in Kilkee Library

Dormant Accounts funding

Smart phone classes for older people were completed in October. Classes took place in Ennistymon, Kilkee, Shannon, Scariff and De Valera libraries and was delivered in person in pods of 6 people or less. A second set of classes will take place in November. The classes were funded by Dormant Accounts funding.

Staff attended hearing awareness training in person with Chime in October. Chime are the national deaf association in Ireland. They also supplied hearing loops to branches and the trainer gave advice on the use of the hearing loops. The hearing loops and training were also provided by Dormant Accounts funding.

Online Resources – e- audiobooks continue to lead the way in public preferences



Marketing

Social media stats for Sept/Oct

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	22	5,391	50	227	34, 412 Reach & 76 Shares	15
	13	1,928	51	153	94	0
	14	1,536	47	387	8180 Reach	10

Total number of live events	24
Total number of online events	16
Total attendances at live events	100
Total attendances at online events	1,168
Total number of videos posted online (across all platforms, including Facebook/YouTube/ Vimeo, etc.)	18
Total number of video views (across all platforms)	527

Right to read

This year Clare Library Children's Services hosted 46 events for primary schools for Children's Book festival. They were a mixture of live-online and in-person events for primary schools in each library region. The programme is supported by Clare



Author Alan Nolan meets children from County Clare online

Libraries, Clare County Arts Office, Clare County Council and Creative Ireland. Highlights included a long-awaited return to live performance with three special theatre shows for the very young from The Barking Dog Theatre Company, in association with Clare Arts Office and Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee.

We were also delighted to offer two online information sessions for parents and caregivers on how to encourage a child who is dyslexic to read. Also this year, we launched Clare Library's first "Scéal Trail" an interactive outdoor picture book exhibition which was installed in the sculpture garden of De Valera Library, Ennis. The aim of the "Scéal Trail" is to bring a shared reading experience to people of all ages in new settings. The exhibition will visit the garden spaces of selected libraries throughout 2021 and 2022.

Healthy Ireland

Clare Library service facilitated an 8 week online Basic Irish Sign Language course in October. Irish Sign Language (ISL) is Ireland's third official language and is estimated to be used by as many as 45,000 people on a regular basis. This 8-week ISL Basic course is taught by fully qualified ISL teachers and gives participants a foundation to the language. The lessons focus on understanding of ISL as well as an ability to sign basic vocabulary and sentences, and there is a certificate of attendance issued by the Irish Deaf Society upon successful completion of the course. This is funded as part of the "Healthy Ireland at your Library" series of events.

Creative Ireland

Creative Ireland funding was provided for the Scéal Trail at DeValera Public Library of *Barney Goose: A Wild Atlantic Way Adventure* by Carol Ann Treacy. Pam Finn aka PR Pam also received funding for her podcast series "Crafting the Story" which interviews Clare craftworker's about their skills and how they innovate, the first interviewee was Seán Torpey of Torpey Hurleys. CBS Ennistymon were funded for their Arts Week programme, Clare Youth Theatre for their new theatre group

for younger children and glór for their Arts Mentoring Scheme where eight pairs of artists were chosen to work together in one-to-one sessions to provide support and mentoring.

Decade of Centenaries

History Week took place from 16-22 October. The week began with the launch of the **Irrepressible Women of Clare** art and history exhibition in Clare Museum and the premiere of the Tim Collins musical history piece, "*I fought the War – Re-voicing Clare women in the Revolutionary Period*".

Historical lectures were provided by renowned historians such as Dr Mary McAuliffe on gender violence, Dr Sinéad McCool on *Mná100*, Dr Áine Hensey on the Rebel Priests of Clare, Dr Joe Power on Clare in the Civil War and Dr John Treacy on the Story of Clare. Cuimhneamh an Chláir also hosted a Zoom talk on Joe Kenneally who turned 100 this year while DeValera Library hosted an exhibition on the Mid Clare Brigade. All virtual events are available on the History Week section of www.clarelibrary.ie and library social media channels.

Several community commemorative events were scheduled for October including Lissycasey Historical Group, Inis Cathaigh Kilrush, the West Clare War of Independence Commemoration Group, Lough Graney Association and Oidhreacht an Chláir – all have received Decade of Centenaries funding.

Archives & Local Studies

The digitisation project has begun with the digitisation of Board of Health and Public Assistance Records dating from 1915. Work has been reinitiated by the archivist on the Archives Interface to make suitable collections available for research on a digital platform. Two new collections have been donated to the Archives Service this month; the John Holohan Collection and the George Cunningham Burren Archive Collection. Both collections will be valuable additions to the existing collections. Work has begun on the processing and production of a descriptive list of 19th-20th Century School Roll Books (c.200 volumes) from throughout Co. Clare.

Each month the Archives Service continually deals with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies library from the archives collection. Queries are also being dealt with through e-mails and phone.

Clare Arts Office

Clare Arts Office began a visual arts residency with the National Learning Network for 14 participants and another one with the Brothers of Charity for 16 participants as part of the Embrace Programme for Arts and Different Abilities. Six schools commenced artist residencies this month with 167 children participating working with 2 artist, 23 schools applied for this year's Artist in Schools Scheme. The Duala project with the Irish Traditional Music Archive held an online Q & A session with the artists. The video has received over 1,700 views. Through the Live Performance Scheme concerts were organized in Ennis, Knockerra (two) and New Quay. Over 20 art talks both on ZOOM and in person have taken place with older people and in day care centres countywide this month through the "Visual



Mid-Clare Brigade Exhibition in De Valera Library for History Week

Voices” sessions.

The Dial a Seanchai Project was launched in association with glór and support from Creative Ireland. It received over 2,000 calls on the first day with an average of 50 daily calls thereafter. The Arts Office has supported filming requests for 2 RTÉ productions in West Clare and an Australian food programme also shot in West Clare. Final figures for Culture Night showed engagement by more than 10,000 people on Clare activities in person and online.

Three exhibitions took place in Scariff, Ennis and Kilkee with the launch of the Decade of Centenaries Arts Commissions taking place in the County Museum. Culturlann Sweeney in Kilkee re-opened with over 80 children attending a theatre show. The Cuan an Chláir art commission was completed in Ennis and 27 residents were presented with the works they created. The Arts Officer was a guest speaker at the annual Arts & Health gathering.

Clare Youth Theatre continues to meet regularly in glór. The teenage group is full and a small number of places are available in the new junior group. A new junior group has been established in Kilkee also in partnership with the Limerick Clare Creative Youth Partnership. One theatre trip to glór took place

this month. The Arts Office posted 145 times on social media receiving 189 comments. Our social media groups had 634 reactions to posts, and our social media pages had a reach of 8,837 generating 2,253 likes and 3,928 engagements and 17 events /posts were added to our website www.clarearts.ie

Clare Museum

‘The Irrepressible Women of Clare’ exhibition was launched on Saturday 16th October and will run for a month. A new exhibition system was installed to accommodate the exhibit in the Tourist Office area. Several small collections were donated to the Museum in recent weeks including a letter from Daniel O’Connell dating to 1830 and some textile items (linen and lace). Minutes documenting the adoption of five museum policies and an engineer’s assessment of the museum building were supplied to the Heritage Council, progressing the maintenance of Museum Accreditation.

Four videos were made for the Clare Library History Week, featuring items relating to the War of Independence in County Clare. A small group of trainees from the LCETB visited the museum to view the Clare Embroidery Collection as part of their course training in sewing.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works Restoration Maintenance Programme

Complete

Restoration Improvement Programme

Complete bar Blacktop works at Elmhill and Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen. Lagan Asphalt will complete works on behalf of the Council over the coming weeks.

Drainage Works

Works are ongoing regarding the Drainage Programme detailed in the SMDW 2021. Remediation of the persistent flooding on the Regional Road adjacent to Scarriff Community College has been completed. A further 8 drainage projects are in preparation stage.

Footpaths Improvement and Replacement works

St Luas Villas, Killaloe -	Complete
Canal Bank in Killaloe -	Complete
Clonmoney Grove, Crusheen -	Complete
Hillcrest Grove, Kilkishen -	To be completed
Beechwood Lawn, Bodyke -	In Construction

Town & Village Renewal

Clooney TVR: Works are coming to a conclusion on the Town and Village Renewal Contract at Clooney. The works involves the provision of new public footpaths, pedestrian crossing, public lighting, line marking, signage, drainage works and other associated works. Killaloe MDs technical team are overseeing the delivery of the project on the ground.

Local Improvement Scheme

Bauroe, Feakle -	Complete
Cappabane -	Complete
Ballyminogue -	Complete
Cappanapeasta -	Complete

Community Roads Scheme

Oatfield -	Complete
Carrownakilly -	Complete

Active Travel 2021: Killaloe MD Programme

Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Tender Evaluation stage
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Design complete, tender preparation
Droomindoorra	Design complete, tender preparation
Quin	Design complete, tender preparation
Clarisford Park Connection	Design complete, tender preparation
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Tender Evaluation Stage

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Transportation

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

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

Elected members were requested to submit Restoration Improvement proposals for consideration for a three-year non-national roads programme on 6th August 2021. Applications are currently being prepared for the 3 year non-national programme for Restoration Improvement projects for submission to the Department of Transport. Applications have also been made during October to DoT for 2022 SMDW projects. A three-year programme is also being developed with TII for overlay projects on the existing national secondary road network.

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

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

Connecting Ireland

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

Active Travel Programme 2021

Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced

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

Public lighting

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

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

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

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

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

Road Works Programme and Operations

Road Design Office

Current Projects: November 2021

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

TII Road Safety Projects:

A progress meeting with the TII was held on 15th October, 2021.

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

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021:

- An application for 2022 LCS Schemes was submitted to the Department of Transport on October 14th, 2021

Road Number	Location of LCS	Description of Proposed LCS	Progress Update
R352	R352/ Corrovorrin junction, Tulla Road, Ennis	LCS to improve the traffic movements of the junction from Kevin Barry Ave onto the R352.	Section 38 resolution adopted at Ennis MD meeting on 14 October, 2021. Detailed design and safety folder issued to MD for construction.
Junction of R462 & R471	Pedestrian crossing in the Square, Sixmilebridge	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point across on the R462 in Sixmilebridge.	Design is completed. Section 38 resolution adopted at Shannon MD meeting on the 29 July 2021. Construction stage commenced.
R478 / L10381	Doonagore	Improve sightlines approaching R478 from southern side L10381.	Design is completed. Landowner agreed required to set back an entrance pier and fence. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L4190-7/L8272-0	Lismulbreeda	Warning signs and to slow down traffic on the approaches to the bend.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
R463/R466	O'Briens Bridge / Bridgetown Junction	LCS with new signage and lining. Improve sightlines by removing existing vegetation.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction. Additional design completed on request from MD.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

R352	R352 Spancill Hill to Tooreen	Renew existing road lining, cut back vegetation, SLOW markings on road, 80kph repeater signs, centre and edge lining.	The design is completed. The RDO in conjunction with Elected Members held a public consultation meeting with residents and community groups. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L-3050-0	Clonlara primary school on the L3050-0	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point at the primary school in Clonlara.	Design is completed. Section 38 resolution adopted at Shannon MD meeting on the 29 July 2021. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction. Construction stage substantially completed
R476/L5260	Kilnaboy	Improve sightline exiting the L5260 on to the R476. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Design is completed. Safety review completed. Landowner dedication substantially agreed. Progressing to Section 38 adopted at the MD meeting on the 7th September.
R465-82	Broadford National School on the R465	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School the GAA sports grounds and a housing estate	Completed
L2050	Cahill's Hill on local road from Killmer Ferry to Cooraclare	Improved signage and a pull in area for motorists.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L4058-2 & L4062	L4058/L4062 Junction in Feakle	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School and two housing estates	Design is completed. Safety review completed. Not progressing in 2021 further to public consultation.
R460/L1010	Lough Bunny	Improve sightlines onto the L1010 from both sides of junction. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Design is completed. Detailed design & safety folder issued to MD for construction.
L4611-0	L4611-0 Newpark Ennis	Provide a controlled crossing point. Where footpaths are discontinuous.	To be incorporated as part of an NTA active travel project. Not progressing as a LCS in 2021.

Other Projects 2021:

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	Funding of €182,000 was secured from the Department of Transport (DoT) for the implementation of the EuroVelo route signage in County Clare. Procurement is completed and the signage installation is near completion. Consultation with community groups has commenced to identify optimal locations for map boards and cycle stands. Marketing and promotion of the route is being progressed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	The NTA have approved funding for 6 new bus shelters (Kilkee, Lisdoonvarna, Crusheen, Newmarket on Fergus, Limerick Rd Ennis, and Westbury) and upgrade works for 5 existing bus shelters in Shannon. The contractor has been appointed and construction works commenced in early June. Bus shelter civils works are complete in Crusheen, Lisdoonvarna, Kilkee, Ballycasey, Oakwood, Opposite Oakwood, Drumgeely and Fergus Roundabout. Works are progressing in Westbury and Radisson Blu. The bus shelter in Newmarket on Fergus is due to commence in October/November 2021.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
LIS Applications	Review completed by RDO.
Circular RW 10/2020 - Active Travel Measures Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. Active Travel Carry Over List – Surveying and designs have initiated in conjunction with the MD's. Cycle lane and road Line marking from the Clare Inn Roundabout to Clonmoney is completed, additional cycle signs have yet to be installed by the contractor. Refurbishment of the masonry bridge at Latoon has commenced.
Circular RW 09/2020 - Climate Change Adaptation Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. The remaining elements carried over into 2021 is near completion.
Circular RST 04/2019 Safe Overtaking Width for Cyclists Signs	Clare County Council received an allocation of €29,350 from the Department of Transport for the provision of safe overtaking width signs for cyclists. Installation is being progressed through the MD's and this process is ongoing.
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2021. Collaboration with IT & GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
NTA Active Travel Circular (2021)	Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on March 29th, 2021 and the total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,986,000. 24No Detailed project applications have been approved by the NTA the NTA. The Design, statutory processes and construction stages of these projects are at various stages of progression.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	A Specific Improvement Grant Application for R352 (Henchy's Cross) upgrade was submitted to the Department of Transport on the 18th November 2020. The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction.
Circular RW 06/2021 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021	A funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport (DoT) on the 26 March 2021. Funding of €699,350 has been approved. Projects progressing.

Bridge Rehabilitation

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

- AA Screening: Consultant appointed, Screening report to be issued by 30th April, 2021. Report issued 2 bridges to proceed to NIS stage
- Bunratty Bridge: Meeting National Monuments 14th of June to discuss possible repair works. Meeting held National Monuments not in favour of repair solution. Repair options been explored
- Stonepark Bridge: Works complete
- Smithstown Bridge: Works complete
- Ballyalla Bridge: Works complete
- Sragh Bridge: Initial investigation carried out 16th March. Structural investigation completed Atkins Consulting currently carrying out assessment of bridge. Topographical survey completed
- Corlea Bridge: Contractor on site due for completion in 2 weeks. Works complete
- Pollagoona Bridge: Works Complete
- Derrynacaw Bridge: Works Complete
- Latoon Masonry Bridge: Design ongoing- tender drawings issued for review. Screening complete, progressing to tender stage. Tender completed Contractor appointed and works commenced. Works complete bar snagging
- Derrycon Bridge: Works complete
- Cloonolia Bridge: Works complete
- Finnor Beg Bridge: Contractor appointed. Works complete
- Ardnacaraa Bridge: Contractor appointed Works complete
- Lough North Bridge: Contractor appointed Works complete
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed Contractor appointed. Contractor on site works 90% complete
- Furror Upper Bridge: Tender documents complete. Tenders returned and being assessed Contractor appointed. Contractor on site works 70% complete
- Cloghaun Beg Bridge: Tender documents complete and tender issued Tenders returned and being assessed Works started in September, works 80% complete. Works

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

Other Bridge Works

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

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 Government’s National Framework for Living with Covid-19.

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

Clare County Council has adopted the LGMA/LASOG Traffic Management Guidance Manual and training on its use and implementation has been delivered to Traffic Management

Designers and Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks Cardholders by the Health and Safety Team. Monitoring of the revised Traffic Management Guidance commenced from the 1st June with focused Inspections of Traffic Management arrangements at Roadworks. Additional Training on Traffic Management Design was delivered to a group of Technical Staff in September.

**General Design Office
Shannon Heritage Technical Due Diligence**

A brief is being prepared to appoint a Surveying Team to carry out Technical Due Diligence on Shannon Heritage properties at Bunratty Folk Park, Craggaunowen, Knappogue Castle and Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre Retail Unit. The completed brief should issue for Tender mid November.



Bunratty Castle



Knappogue Castle



Craggaunowen

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Barefield - JF Building & Civils were appointed as main Contractor and works began on site on the 20th September and are progressing in accordance with the approved programme of works.

Corofin – topographical survey scheduled; preliminary proposals ongoing.

Sixmilebridge – Coir Infrastructure appointed as main Contractor. Construction works started in August 2021 and are progressing in accordance with the approved programme of works.

Fáilte Ireland PFG Outdoor Facilities

Preparations of Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála is underway with the consultants appointed. Public consultation process to commence mid-November.



The Lane, Cappahard, Ennis

New footpath, drainage and public lighting at The Lane, Cappahard, Ennis. Works commenced on 27th September by Neville Civil Works and are due to be completed by the end of November.



Surveys

- Proposed line for diverted stream in site compound, set out via GPS on Killaloe Bypass, as per request from Capital Projects

Property Assessment report

- Derelict site (former reservoir) at Ballydonoghue, Lisdoonvarna.

Mapping

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass - ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Issue maps prepared for extended lease area for Creche at Bane's Field, Killaloe.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Progress across all our main projects was achieved throughout October. The key updates are as follows:

Cloughaninchy Flood Relief Scheme

Landowner negotiations have been continuing and are progressing well. It is hoped to secure all Landowner agreements in the coming month or so and that being the case, we will be in a position to commence tendering process which will enable these important works to move further.

Doolin Pier Visitors Services Building

A very useful cross-directorate workshop was held in Doolin in recent weeks with the agenda centred on car-parking, access, long term needs of visiting tourists, recreational users, and local access. It was agreed to further explore viable parking options with third party landowners in the area to provide the capacity required for buses, cars and active travel. The finalisation of this next step will feed into the overall design proposal for consideration by Design team and will inform our submission to An Bord Pleanála.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

Work is substantially complete with only snagging items remaining. The maintenance track and approach roads have now been surfaced and a demonstration has been arranged for the first week of November for Council staff to be shown how to deploy the pumps in the event of a flood event. This exercise will be carried out under the direction of the consultants and the contractor. Additionally, work is continuing in consultation with the OPW on the production of a series of updated flood maps highlighting the benefitting areas of the scheme which will inform the Insurance Industry.

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

We are still awaiting the An Bord Pleanála decision regarding confirmation or otherwise of the CPO following the Oral Hearing which was held in mid-June. A decision is expected from An Bord Pleanála before the end of the year and this will inform our next course of action in relation to the overall project.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

Further to final review of an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, the report has been forwarded to the NPWS for their information and consideration. Members will be aware of Waterways Ireland's proposed Greenway/Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff and the need to carry out more extensive environmental assessments as part of that project development. However, we are currently evaluating if certain elements of our proposed works to restore the existing pathway could proceed as an interim measure to optimise use for pedestrians and cyclists. Related to same, Invasive species monitoring and control is ongoing.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Tender queries continue to be managed by the PMO team and the project consultants, RPS. The tender return deadline has been extended until 4pm on the 3rd of November 2021. A Tender Assessment Board has been engaged to review and score the quality submission of the individual tenders, following which the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) will be determined. It is expected that the Contract will be awarded in late December or early January and that construction on site will commence shortly thereafter subject to Department approval.

The ESB and its contractors continue to progress the necessary

electricity diversion works with power outages being managed by the ESB with all affected residents and landowners. It remains the intention that all ESB diversion works will be fully complete by year end and in advance of the main works contract commencing.

The detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items of interest revealed during the investigation works continues. Once this testing phase concludes, the results will assist in the accumulation of the necessary detail for the final reports and public presentation in early 2022.

The advance works contractor, Coir Infrastructure Ltd are programmed to return to site in the coming weeks to complete some additional fencing & site clearance works, which will conclude their contract with us.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

JBA are continuing the coastal modelling and overtopping study. Some works still ongoing and due for completion by early November include:

- Flood inundation model set-up and simulations
- Assessment of breach drawdown
- Final report.

The next draft of the Hydraulics Report will be issued on completion of the coastal modelling element. The final emerging options will be issued to the steering group in the next week or so following which, a further site meeting will be organised with JBA to review each option on the ground. The commencement of the site investigation works has been re-scheduled to early November and it is anticipated that the site works will be ongoing for 4-5 weeks with laboratory testing and reporting to follow thereafter.

The additional property threshold surveys have been completed in the vicinity of the Kilkee Bay Hotel. The additional CCTV survey of culverts also in this area has been completed and the draft report issued. The structural survey report of the existing walls is still awaited from JB Barry. The latest newsletter detailing progress on the scheme and upcoming works is available on the project website at www.kilkeefrs.ie alongside associated scheme literature and our project information video.

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

Members will be aware that the LNDR was not specifically mentioned in the recently published update of the NDP (National Development Plan). That being said, we are comforted by the Taoiseach's comments that it does not mean that other projects can not be considered and progressed. The LNDR is included in RSES and the Draft LSMATS Report. We still await the final LSMATS report from the National Transport Authority (NTA), following which, we would expect to hear back from the Department of Transport further to our submission of the

Project Appraisal suite of documents to them last November. If favourable, we will be in a position to progress to the next stage of development.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

We are still awaiting a final resolution on the Court proceedings taken against the decision for the road element. If favourable, we will then be in a position to move forward with this important project to include the necessary Geotechnical Investigations, detailed design and engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

Following a necessary retender of the works contract, submitted tenders have now been assessed and a successful tenderer has been recommended and the associated letters of Intent and Regret have been issued. Engagement continues with affected landowners and once agreement has been reached, and subject to the OPW approval for the uplift in costs, we will be in a position to commence the works on site at the earliest juncture.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

Phase Two (Options Selection) continues to be progressed with our Scheme Consultants Fehily Timoney/Clandillon close to finalising the selection of a Preferred Option. Following which, it is intended to brief the Councillors in late November prior to going live with the related Public Consultation phase. The purpose of this non-statutory public consultation is to inform the public and stakeholders of the preferred option developed for the project, the work undertaken to date and the programme for advancement of the project. The public consultation will also provide an opportunity for further feedback which may inform the development of the project in the next stages.

Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) will progress following the selection of a Preferred Option, based on both technical and environmental inputs, to a stage where sufficient levels of detail exist to establish land-take requirements, to identify and mitigate Scheme impacts, and to progress the scheme through to the Statutory Processes Phase 4. Phase 3 is expected to progress up to mid-2023.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd are progressing with the first phase (slit trenches) of the site investigation works contract. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process.

Bi-monthly co-ordination meetings with the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Project Team continue to ensure the optimum progression of both projects as site investigations works are carried out simultaneously. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie

N85 Upgrade at Kilnamona

We are working with the Mid West Regional Design Office and the TII Engineering Inspector with a view to having Technical Advisors appointed to move further with this scheme at the earliest juncture.

Piers & Harbours/Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme 2021

Works are being finalised on the 9 projects funded by this scheme in advance of the November deadline. Locations include Ballyvaughan, Doolin, Seafield, Carrowmore, Doonbeg and Carrigalholt. Works include underpinning of piers, improvements to quay walls and the installation of a crane in association with Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).

Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)

Responsibility for the second phase of the Public Realm works in Ennis has recently transitioned to the Project Management Office (PMO). The Part VIII Planners Report in respect of O'Connell Street is before the Members at the November Meeting for consideration and decision.

In parallel, while we await the Members decision relating to the O'Connell Street permission, work on the design process continues in relation to the detailed design and tender documentation for the previously approved works in Barrack Square, Old Barrack Street, High Street and O'Connell Square itself. The Procurement of Contractors will be a two-stage process, the first stage of which, contractor assessment and shortlisting, will proceed in November 2021. It is expected to hold a public consultation in late November 2021 on the construction phasing and operational aspects of the works.

The Design team and Clare County Council are liaising with Utility Companies and other Stakeholders in the interests of streamlining the construction schedule and ensuring that future utility needs are accommodated where possible. All going well, Construction is scheduled to proceed in 2022 upon appointment of contractor and consideration of submissions further to consultation with business owners and the general public.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)

Tender documents have been published on Etenders for the appointment of Technical Advisors for the final remediation of all sites. In the interim, the sites, having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA, continue to be routinely monitored by Council staff.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The Project Steering Group, led by Clare County Council and including the Office of Public Works, representatives of the Shannon Group and our Technical Advisors RPS Consulting Engineers, continues to meet each month.

Recent progress on the scheme has seen the completion of all third-party survey fieldwork including;

- **Geophysical Survey:** Commenced in May and final report now issued.
- **Topographical Survey:** Fieldwork now complete following a start date in late May. Data processing ongoing with final report to be issued in the next week or so.
- **CCTV & Flow Monitoring:** CCTV works started in late May and are now complete with the final report awaited. The pumping station tests were carried out in recent weeks and all draft results have been issued. The flow monitoring has been extended by approximately two weeks in certain locations in the hope of capturing one or two more significant rainfall events.
- **Site Investigation Works:** These works started on site in late June and were completed during October. Laboratory testing and reporting are ongoing.

Following receipt of the above topographical data, our project consultant RPS have commenced the hydraulic model build which will be used to produce a new set of flood maps for the area. The final Hydraulic Method Statement has also been issued for review by the steering group. Wintering bird surveys are due to commence on site in the coming weeks which will update the historical data that is currently available.

Following consideration of feedback from the online Public Consultation Event held in June, the draft Constraints Study has now been issued for review.

Finally, for the Members' information, I wish to advise that the siteworks to the Airport Embankments that are currently being carried out are planned maintenance works and are being managed directly by Shannon Group staff and do not form part of our Flood Relief Scheme proposal. It is anticipated that their Contractor will complete works to the wet side of the embankments before Christmas which includes the installation of gabion baskets. Proposed works to the dry side of the embankment will likely be postponed until more suitable weather conditions in Spring 2022. As always, information on the scheme can be accessed on the project website at www.shanntownandenvironsfrs.com

Spanish Point Coastal Protection Scheme

Fencing and Landscaping material for the remaining elements of this project have been ordered and delivery is pending. Once delivered, the works will be completed at the earliest juncture.

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

Due to the favourable weather conditions to date, Work has progressed well on site up to recent weeks. The Embankments are 60% complete, culverts have been installed and a diversion of the Illaunyregan stream has been put in place.

However, conditions on site have deteriorated in more recent weeks due to rain leading to difficulties with the importation and compaction of embankment material. Consequently, works have now been suspended from Oct 22nd until suitable weather conditions allow for recommencement on site, possibly in late Spring of 2022. Ground water monitoring, a geophysical survey and environmental monitoring will, however, continue over the winter period. The site has been made safe, closed and secured. All plant and equipment is being removed and Traffic management has been removed from the public road. The roadway has been cleaned and damaged edges are being repaired.

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

Clare County Council and the Design Team have been reviewing submissions made by the public during the first round of public consultation and where possible, comments, queries and suggestions are being incorporated into the options selection process. Ecology Winter Surveys are ongoing and a meeting

with the NPWS is scheduled for late November. Thereafter, the next period of public consultation will be held in early December and will include the public display of the various possible routes and the emerging preferred route at the libraries in Kilrush and Kilkee as well as in Council HQ in Ennis. Again, we would welcome comments and suggestions from members of the public and all affected Landowners, as we move towards developing a preferred route to take to the Statutory Consent stage.

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

Tender documents in respect of Engineering Consultancy services for the second section of the West Clare Railway Greenway project have been published on Etenders with a return date of early November 2021. Following which, tenders will be assessed and a recommendation to appoint a successful consultant will be made. It is hoped to secure the necessary Dept/TII funding to appoint the Consultants in the next number of months.

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works

Works are ongoing on developing the preliminary design for this scheme with a view to moving the project to the planning stage as soon as possible.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during October:

- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training in Bray
- Line Rescue & Confined Space Training.

Interagency Major Emergency Exercise at Shannon Airport

Clare County Fire and Rescue Service took part in an Interagency Major Emergency Exercise at Shannon Airport on Tuesday, 19th October. Exercise "Juliet" was based on a crash exercise to test the response of the airport together with the support of the principal emergency services and other key stakeholders who would be called on in the event of a major aircraft accident at the airport.

Participating agencies included: Clare County Council Fire & Rescue Service, Shannon Airport Authority, An Garda Síochána, National Ambulance Service, Health Service Executive, Shannon Foynes Port Company, The Irish Aviation Authority, Clare Civil Defence and Irish Coast Guard.





Members of Clare Civil Defence Drone Team recorded aerial photos and footage and also provided a live link broadcast over Microsoft Teams to off-site personnel for the duration of the exercise.

A follow-up exercise testing the off-site response of the agencies will take place on 10th November.

Approved Capital Grant Aid Funding for new van for Maintenance Personnel

The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management has approved Capital Grant Aid Funding for the purchase of a new van for maintenance personnel. The maintenance van will be used by the Brigade’s two fitter mechanics when carrying out maintenance on a fleet of 35 vehicles in 7 stations across the County.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Sept 2021	Oct 2021 (Up to 22.10.21)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	59	55	657
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	3	4	60
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	8	4	56
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	2
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	4	2	32
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	9	1	35
Number of Commencement Notices Received	37	24	326
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	1	10

(Note: In the October Monthly Report, the September figures related to 1st to 28th September due to timing of report)

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- National Life-Saving Championships in Kilkee.
- “Launch the Lanterns” event held on the River Fergus, Ennis.
- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.
- “If In Doubt Pedal It Out” charity cycle for mental health

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members provided transport for a patient to a hospital appointment in University Hospital, Limerick.
- Emergency Medical Technicians carried out health checks for members of the public at an event organised as part of Mental Health Awareness Week in Kilmihil.
- Members of the Boat Crew retrieved life bouys that were floating in the River Fergus for the Water Safety Development Officer of Clare County Council.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Members successfully completed a People Moving / Handling course given by Clare Civil Defence's Manual & People Handling Instructor.
 - Members of the Boat Crew carried out training sessions on the River Fergus.
 - Members attended Search & Rescure training.
 - Members attended a pre-course Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) assessment at the Civil Defence Branch in Roscrea. All 8 members successfully passed the assessment.
 - Members attended the first official session of the Emergency Medical Technician Course and successfully completed a Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFR/A) Course as part of their EMT overall qualification process.
- Members travelled to McKee Barracks in Dublin to participate in a Critical Incident Stress Managers Course.
 - Members attended training on the new Mappyx mapping system which is being deployed nationally by the Civil Defence. These members will be qualified as licenced operators of the system.
 - Sixteen new recruits to Clare Civil Defence attended an induction night. The recruits received information on Clare County Council's Safety Management System from Gearoid Harty, Health & Safety Officer, Clare County Council as well as information on Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

Successful Search & Rescue Operations by Clare Civil Defence

Within the space of three days Clare Civil Defence completed two successful search and rescue operations. Both operations involved vulnerable persons who were trapped in extremely inhospitable areas of Ballyalla Lake and Ballymaley on the outskirts of Ennis. Neither could have been located without the use of the Clare Civil Defence Drone Team. With the generous aid of Clare County Council and the Civil Defence Branch of the Department of Defence a new state of the art drone was recently purchased for the unit. The drone has many innovative features including a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), and this feature of the drone was vital in locating both missing persons as quickly as they were. Using the drone, members of the Clare Civil Defence Search & Rescue (S&R) Team were guided to the exact location of the missing persons, allowing for the S&R Team to effect safe and successful rescues. Both of these rescues are the first, and only, documented drone successes in Ireland and have been recorded as such on the DJI European Drone Rescue Map <https://enterprise.dji.com/drone-rescue-map>.



Clare Civil Defence Drone

ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact operations in the Environment section but our adaptable business continuity planning mitigates the effects. To date, all essential services in the environment section have continued uninterrupted. The lifting of certain restrictions will permit more normal return to operations including community clean ups, school awareness campaigns, site inspections by external agencies and the completion of capital works programmes.

Environmental Awareness

An Taisce Green Schools programme

During October 16 Clare schools were awarded an An Taisce Green Flag for their work on the themes of Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship. In Clare 94 primary schools, 17 secondary schools and 3 pre-schools from across County Clare have received Green Flags.

Environmental Campaigns

During October, we promoted several environmental messages promoting good environmental practice in terms of good waste management practices and climate action. See Table below:

Campaign detail	Promotion details
Burning of waste during Halloween Promotion of www.mywaste.ie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Release The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert and article Clare Champion advert and article Clare FM interview @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare social media post
Illegal dumping campaign - Anti Dumping Initiative Increase awareness around illegal dumping, including responsibilities in terms of waste management Promotion of www.mywaste.ie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital media – The Clare Echo - My Waste advert was imbedded in the online news articles. The Clare Champion - My Waste advert had a prominent position on home webpage. Weeklong radio advert – Clare FM Newspaper adverts – The Clare Echo, The Clare Champion (and editorial), Clare County Express, The Limerick Post. See Photo 1. Social media targeted advert – @GreenerClare facebook – 30,000 reach Community groups and tidy towns groups contacted and involved in the campaign
An Taisce Green Schools Awarding of Green Flag to 16 Clare schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clare Echo Green Clare page article @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare social media post
Staff Energy Awareness Day with Limerick Clare Energy Agency – promoting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency Water conservation Waste prevention and reuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email notification to staff Staff awareness stand located in the foyer of Áras Contae an Chláir Energy tips on the screens in the foyer of Áras Contae an Chláir @ClareCoCo @GreenerClare social media
October Reuse month Promoting the value of stuff, by using and reusing it for as long and as often as possible thereby cutting down on greenhouse gas emission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> @GreenerClare social media post
CLDC Sustainable Energy Communities Webinar 27th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> @GreenerClare social media post



Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	October	2021 to date
Planning applications (Domestic)	42	412
Planning applications (Large Developments)	1	6
Planning applications (Forestry)	12	264
Planning applications (Agriculture)	6	17
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	34	45
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	10	19
Pollution complaints received	15	130
Warning & advisory letters issued	0	10
Enforcement actions (\$12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	6

Public Consultation Draft River Basin Management Plan

Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO) were due to host public consultations meetings in October and November in five venues in Clare to discuss the new Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027. However, due to Covid restrictions and increasing number of cases it was necessary to cancel these meetings. It is expected that the meetings will be rescheduled for late January / early February 2022. The public consultation period on the Draft River Basin Management Plan will run until 31st March 2022.

Laboratory & Technical Support

Drinking Water Monitoring

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

Small Water Supply Schemes

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

Group Water Schemes

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

River Monitoring Programme 2021

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

Private Waste Water Treatment Systems

Clare County Council is the regulatory authority for private wastewater treatment systems which have a discharge licence under Section 4 of the Water Pollution Act. The discharge from these systems goes to either groundwater or surface water and in most cases are linked to commercial activities such as industry or tourism. Each system is required to be sampled and monitored a number of times per year per depending on licence requirements. As of now there 50 active licences in County Clare. The monitoring programme for 2021 will be completed in November.

Gardening

Compost produced from 'green waste' deposited at our Civic Amenity Site in Inagh has been used throughout October to plant next season's flowers in our Poly Tunnels. This promotes the essence of the Circular Economy whereby the Gardening team use a product that has been produced from waste material.

Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Following signing of the contract on the 4th October 2021 construction works on the CRAMP project began on site. Priority Construction Ltd have set up site offices and work has been progressing well. In addition to capping the final cell liner, the project involves the construction of an Integrated Constructed Wetland area, which will contribute to the surrounding biodiversity value of the site and wider landscape.



CRAMP contract signing.

Bring Banks

Repair work to the wall of Kilrush Bottle Banks site is ongoing and will be completed by the end of October. Additional fencing will be installed at the top of the wall. Re-used concrete barrier will be installed on the inside to protect the wall. The existing temporary bottle banks located across from this site will be removed when all works have been completed to the original site.

Waste Enforcement

Anti-Dumping Initiative

A total of €96,781.54 in Anti-Dumping Initiative funding was received from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) in 2021. This has now been spent on the projects listed below:

- Household Hazardous Waste Amnesty Day
- Mattress Amnesty Day
- Site Security/ fencing at O’Gorman St., Kilrush and St. Michael’s Place, Kilmihil
- Clean ups/ removal of waste at sites throughout the county, and erection of “No Dumping” and “No Dog Fouling” signage at problem locations
- Erection of Fencing at Bottle Banks in Brew’s Car Park, Kilrush to prevent dumping over the wall of the bottle banks
- Installation of mobile audio devices at popular amenity sites to advise the public of responsible management of waste/ litter /cleaning up after their dogs and to inform that penalties apply for breaches of the above
- A Media Campaign to increase awareness & responsibilities around illegal dumping in Co. Clare, using local media (print, social, digital, radio). Resources developed by My Waste Ireland were used in the campaign

Amnesty Day

On Saturday, October 2nd, Clare County Council ran a Mattress Amnesty Day at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. This event was well advertised on print, radio and social media and aimed to provide the public with a means of disposal of used mattresses. This event was free to the public and was funded under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021. A total of 1,080 mattresses were taken in on the day, all of which were taken off-site for recycling.



Anti-Litter Capital Infrastructure Funding

A claim for €125,000 was submitted to the DECC in October. This claim relates to funding allocated to cover costs of new litter infrastructure, replacement of existing litter infrastructure and servicing of infrastructure.

Successful Prosecution for Non-Payment of a Litter Fine

On 8th October at a sitting of Ennis District Court, Clare County Council achieved a successful prosecution against a member of the public for non-payment of a litter fine. The fine was issued, based on evidence found in a large quantity waste dumped at a location in Cratloe in February 2021. After reminder letters had issued Clare County Council initiated legal proceedings against the offender. A fine of €1,070 was imposed by the court.

Inter-Agency Checkpoints/ Inspections

A joint inspection with the National Trans Frontier Shipment Office (NTFSO) was carried out at an authorised treatment facility in to examine record keeping relating to waste export paperwork. Clare County Council also linked in with An Garda Síochána in October to set up a series of Waste Enforcement Roadside Checkpoints. Further Inter Agency checkpoints will be carried out in each Municipal District in the coming months.



Garda waste enforcement checkpoint

Suspected Major Producers

In total, 8 businesses were written to, under the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014, as amended (S.I. 282), requesting them to either register with the Clare County Council or register with the approved body, Repak Ltd. to ensure that they are participating in a satisfactory manner in a scheme for the recovery of packaging and packaging waste. These regulations apply to all major producers of packaging (i.e. annually supplying more than 10 tonnes of packaging on the Irish market and having a turnover in excess of €1 million). Follow-up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance.

Waste Management Bye Laws

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to use the Waste Management Bye Laws as a tool to monitor waste management practices throughout the county. Following on from the erection of fencing at dumping blackspots under ADI, householders in the neighbouring estates (O’Gorman St. Kilrush and St. Michael’s Place, Kilmihil) were written to asking them to

demonstrate how they manage their waste. A total of 28 Waste Management Bye Law letters issued in October.

Fines and Directions issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, As Amended and Litter Pollution Act 1997, As Amended

One Section 14 Notice has been issued in October, instructing the landowner to comply with a schedule of requirements. This is being monitored and appropriate action will be taken where necessary.

A Notice under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act also issued in October.

A total of 90 waste-related complaints were received to date in October compared to 167 for the same period last year. A total of 3 litter complaints were received to date in October compared to 15 litter complaints for the same period last year. One litter fine was issued, and one litter fine was paid in October to date.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

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

Water Services Operations

Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 23rd September 2021 to 20th October 2021. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 16 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 247 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 131 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 32 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. Of these 30 accounted for unplanned works for water outages, burst water mains, reservoir outlet tie-in for New Doolough. The remaining notices were for low water pressure and reservoir interruption.

Water Operations

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

- Lissane Clarecastle – Watermain Burst & valve installation
- Crusheen – Burst Watermain

- Tobertaiscain Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Hermitage Ennis – Burst Watermain & Valve installation
- Gort Road & Gort Road Industrial Estate/Aughanteeroe – Burst Watermain (x3 for period)
- Clancy Park – Ennis – Meter Install
- Tankering ongoing in Carran WTP to end of September
- RAL upgrade ongoing in Corofin WTP.

In West Clare Area

Unplanned Outages experienced in west Clare from mid-September to mid-October;

Kilrush Area – Kilfearagh x 2, Killadysert Rising Main, Kilmurry McMahon x 3, Doonbeg Village, Drumellihy, Baltard, Kilkee,
North Clare – Ennistymon Bridge, Ballyvaghan x 3, Ballyellery, Rineen, New Quay x 3.

Planned Outages: RAL Upgrade works: Supply re-routing to facilitate Clarifier shut-downs while maintaining ESB Money point supply & 750 Trunk Main Tie-in outage.

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

- Clonmoney Reservoir cleaning
- Mountshannon Reservoir Maintenance
- O Briansbridge Borehole Upgrade and Pump Replacement
- Burst Watermain O Briansbridge
- 06-10-2021 Burst watermain x 2 Clonlara Mainstreet

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

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in East and North Clare with leaks repaired in Scariff and Bellharbour DMAs. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Ardnacrusa and Ballyvaughan DMAs.

Wastewater Operations

Site investigation works to facilitate the rehabilitation of the foul and storm rising mains in Kilkee were successfully completed in mid October. These survey works were carried out without any break in service. It is envisaged that the once the works are designed that they will be completed by April subject to weather conditions and funding approval.

Irish Water Capital Programme Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

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

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

Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

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

Tenders have been issued to an Irish Water Framework and were returned on the 21st of October. Construction works are programmed to start on site in January 2022.

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor wastewater treatment plant and the new pumping station has commenced. EPS is the main Contractor. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. At the wastewater treatment plant, the storm tank, sludge tank and primary settlement tanks are under construction. At the pump station site the driving of sheet piling for the construction of the emergency storm storage tank is underway. Completion of the scheme is due in early 2023.

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



Liscannor Bay



Liscannor WWTP tanks under construction

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water's design team have produced a draft route and site selection report. The draft report was issued to Irish Water and Workshop 2 was held on the 14th of October. Once the route and site selection report is finalised at the end of October, the next stage in the scheme is production of land and wayleave drawings and then contact will be made with landowners. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in early 2024 with completion in autumn 2025.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. A revised Route and site selection Report has been prepared and Workshop 2 was held on the 6th of September. Consultants for Irish Water conducted an ecological walk over survey of the various WWTP option sites and rising main routes. A follow up workshop 2 was held on 11th October to agree the findings of the Route and site selection Report. The next stage in the scheme is production of land and wayleave drawings and then contact will be made with landowners. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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

Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped 400mm diameter rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. The design process is ongoing. The majority of the rising main route is along the R458 with the final sections along the motorway service road

north of Dromoland east roundabout and a land parcel owned by Clare Co Co. Pre planning discussions will be held between Irish Water and Clare Co Co. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged in late 2021 /early 2022. Following planning, approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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

The wastewater treatment plant will be upgraded and a new percolation area will be constructed at Ballybreen. Provision of a temporary treatment system will be necessary before the demolition of some elements of the existing plant can take place. Improvements to the existing network are also planned, the extent of which will be determined by surveys of the existing sewers. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.



Existing Kilfenora WWTP



Kilfenora WWTP temporary site compound and fencing



Kilfenora WWTP temporary works

Quin Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

This project aims to provide additional capacity and treatment

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

Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

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

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

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

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

Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed:

1. Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross, Athlunkard - replacement of 1,034m of 375/300mm trunk main with a 450mm diameter main- expected to start December 2021
2. Clon Road and Toberteascain, Ennis – replacement of 1,249m of 75/125mm main with 180/250mm diameter main and replacement of public side services expected to start November 2021
3. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush – replacement of 1847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main– expected to start before year end
4. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage
5. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór – at design stage.

Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

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

Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

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

Ennis Drainage Area Plan

This project involves the gathering of all available data on the wastewater network in Ennis and surveying and monitoring of flows in the network. This information will be used to build a hydraulic model of the network. The hydraulic model can be used to model future growth in the town and accurately identify where upsizing of pipework/pumping infrastructure might be required. It will also be used to identify where groundwater is infiltrating into the network adding unnecessary additional loading. It will allow Irish Water to have confidence in obtaining the best outcome for euro spent on network improvement. It is expected that this project will commence before end 2022.

Asset Transfer

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

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

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (20 assets) –** These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed. At present there are 17 assets under further query and 12 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.
- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (40 assets) –** This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities- 13 assets are with the NSPO for agreement for transfer or to ascertain or if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved Irish Water will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.
- **Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets) –** At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- **Outstanding assets to be transferred (67 assets) –** These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with the PRAI in the Councils name. These will then be transferred to Irish Water. Irish Water are examining new routes to register assets for which inadequate evidence is available to allow the PRAI to carry out a first registration in the Council's name.

Rural Water Programme

Significant works continue to progress under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 which is coming to its completion. Works on the Ballinruane GWS are due to commence shortly. Final works on the Mountrivers Group Sewerage Scheme are set for completion in the coming week. The above works are being carried out under Measure 5 of the Programme which is for the transfer of schemes to the public network and is funded at 100%.

Under Measure 2 of the programme (Water Quality) works have been completed on the Carrowcore GWS with the replacement of their existing reservoir and upgrade to treatment and automation. The scheme has been the subject of a long-standing

boil notice which it is hoped can be lifted as a result of the works. Funding under this measure is also granted at 100%.

The Rural Water Scheme has contacted GWS's with a view to compiling a bid submission ahead of the Department seeking bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme. Significant engagement has been undertaken with a number of schemes with a view to progressing works for the taking in charge of schemes where they are publically sourced. Privately sourced schemes have also been contacted in respect of the

structuring of their bids for upgrade works.

A significant number of grants continue to be assessed as part of the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme with a total of 94 applications received to date in 2021.

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

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Ennis retains classification 'Cleaner than European Norms' for 2021

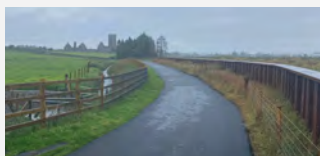
Ennis has maintained the highest classification 'Cleaner than European norms' in a nationwide litter survey. It ranked 3rd in the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) league, based on independent surveying and monitoring carried out by An Taisce. It joins only 8 other towns that were deemed 'Cleaner than European Norms'. Eight out of ten sites surveyed in the town were awarded grade A status with the remaining 2 receiving grade B status. This recognition does have ripple effects for the local economic and tourism sectors. Huge credit to all involved, community groups and EMD outdoor crews in retaining this standard.

Funding announcement

Ennis MD secured funding under ORIS measure 1 for a project that involves extending the recreational opportunities at Ballybeg Woodland to older people and persons with disabilities. This is to be achieved through pathway remediation, the installation of three new picnic sets including a wheelchair accessible one and new age-friendly seating. This project when completed will enhance the tourism potential of the area for locals and visitors.

Project activity

MD staff have completed construction of the 'River Walk' in conjunction with the Ennis South Flood Scheme



River Walk



Clonroad

Work programme

The small works crew, cleaned up and secured the boundary at a Council owned site by French Court/Clon Road at the request of the Property section.

Colas Ireland (contractor) engaged in approx 700m of road repair with overbanding at locations that had begun to ravel at Flannans road.



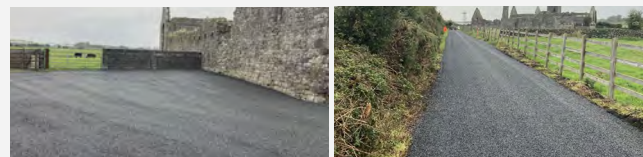
Road Repair

Footpath remediation (approx. 500m) was carried out at Ashfield Park, Ennis by Ecoflex (contractor). Similar works will also be taking place in Fergus Lawn and Castle Lawn.



Ashfield Park

A newly surfaced entrance road and car parking area, to Clareabbey has been completed by Ennis MD staff.



Ennis MD staff continue to assist the Environment Section in the clean up of illegal dumping.

Ennis Pedestrianisation Survey

The survey opened on October 15th and was circulated online and through the branch library network. It is open to all members of the public, including residents, businesses and visitors to the town. It will capture people's individual preferences for navigating the town centre and survey results will inform future decision making. Survey results will inform future mobility planning.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy launched by Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD

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

The strategic objectives of Ennis 2040 are to:

- Position Ennis, a key regional town strategically located between two cities and proximate to Shannon International Airport and Shannon Foynes Port, as a location for investment
- Make Ennis an exemplar as 'Ireland's First Climate Adaptive Town'
- Utilising and managing its environmental resources, through nature-based solutions, Ennis is positioned to transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient society
- Lead the way as 'Ireland's First 10 Minute Town' where a

range of community facilities and services are accessible in short timeframes

- Promote Ennis as an accessible place of quality with a quality-of-life proposition that sets it apart from other locations.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, said: "I'm really happy to launch this exciting and ambitious plan for the future of Ennis, which sets out how the town will grow its population by 1.6% per year and create 5,000 new jobs by 2040. Ennis has huge potential, with its location, talent pool and natural beauty, all providing excellent opportunities to invest, live and visit here. I know a lot of effort has gone into involving the entire community in developing this plan. Congratulations to all in bringing together this vision."

Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr. PJ Ryan, said:



Pictured speaking at the launch of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy in the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, on Friday, 22nd October, were (clockwise from top left): Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Cllr Ann Norton, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District; Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, Clare County Council; Kevin Corrigan, Chief Operating Officer, Ennis 2040; and Gerry Cahill, Chairperson, Ennis 2040 DAC.

"This strategy is grounded in a wide range of economic, social and environmental considerations which provide a basis for targeted investment, balanced economic growth and a sustainable pattern of development providing a choice of living.

"The Ennis 2040 strategy can deliver economic investment and benefits that will extend to all parts of the county. I think our communities will benefit, our businesses will benefit and the people who visit Clare will benefit. The prosperity of large regional towns like Ennis is critical to the health of the national economy and essential for balanced regional development. The positive effects of a vibrant county town will be felt countywide."

Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Cllr Ann Norton, said: "Ennis 2040 capitalises on the strength of Ennis's significant architectural, cultural and historic heritage and will leverage those strengths to expand and diversify its economic offering. This sustainable approach will deliver for the town, for the inhabitants of today and for our children.

"The strengthening of our regional towns is important for economic development, which in turn will lead to the improvement of the quality of life in our rural areas and urban communities. It is important to note that this plan will deliver a town that is an economic driver for the region and will assist

in the attraction of international investment. This will ensure the vitality and sustainability of the region, its cities, towns, and rural areas. One of the most important elements of the plan is the delivery of a vibrant and diverse community with the Town Centre at its heart.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, said: "Ennis 2040 is a bold vision for today, 2040 and beyond. This strategy is about building communities and making Ennis one of the best places to live, work and visit. The strategy fully accords with the National Strategic Outcomes and Priorities of the National Development Plan in seeking to regenerate and revitalise Ennis and secure a more sustainable future through compact growth."

Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, Clare County Council, said: "Ennis 2040 is the culmination of several years' work by the elected members of the County Council and Ennis Municipal District, the Council's management team, consultants Avison Young, the Ennis Chamber of Commerce and, indeed, the whole community of the town and its environs. The development of the plan has had extensive input from across our community, businesses and local government."

The vision to make Ennis one of the best places to live, work,



Pictured at the launch of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy in the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, on Friday, 22nd October, were (l-r): Gerry Cahill, Chairperson, Ennis 2040 DAC; Kevin Corrigan, Chief Operating Officer, Ennis 2040; Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, Clare County Council; Leo Varadkar TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; and Cllr Ann Norton, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District.

visit and invest is already being advanced through a strong and collective approach across stakeholders and partners in the region and the establishment of a special purpose vehicle in the form of the Ennis 2040 (Strategic Development) Designated Activity Company (DAC) in December, 2020.

The Ennis 2040 DAC is made up of both private and public sector members, with an executive team led by a newly appointed Chief Operating Officer, Kevin Corrigan, working collaboratively to deliver on the objectives set out in the Ennis 2040 strategy.

Gerry Cahill, Chairperson, Ennis 2040 DAC, said: "Central to Ennis's future success will be the strength, sustainability and adaptability of its economy.

"This plan is designed to build resilience and to facilitate orderly growth and create a platform for investment-ready projects at strategic locations in the town and its environs. Its purpose is to guide the long-term development of Ennis and highlight opportunities that will deliver competitive advantages over the short, medium and long term. It has a Town Centre focus while also looking ahead to prioritise other areas which will together support compact growth, realise economic opportunities, and respond to the call for climate adaptation."

Atlantic Green Digital Basin

The Government has recently appointed Mr Colm Forde, Principal Officer as executive to Shannon Estuary Task Force and the first meeting of the Task Force was held in October.

It is intended that the Task Force will lead to the realisation of the economic opportunities that renewable energy and digitalisation can bring to the Shannon Estuary and the Mid West region.

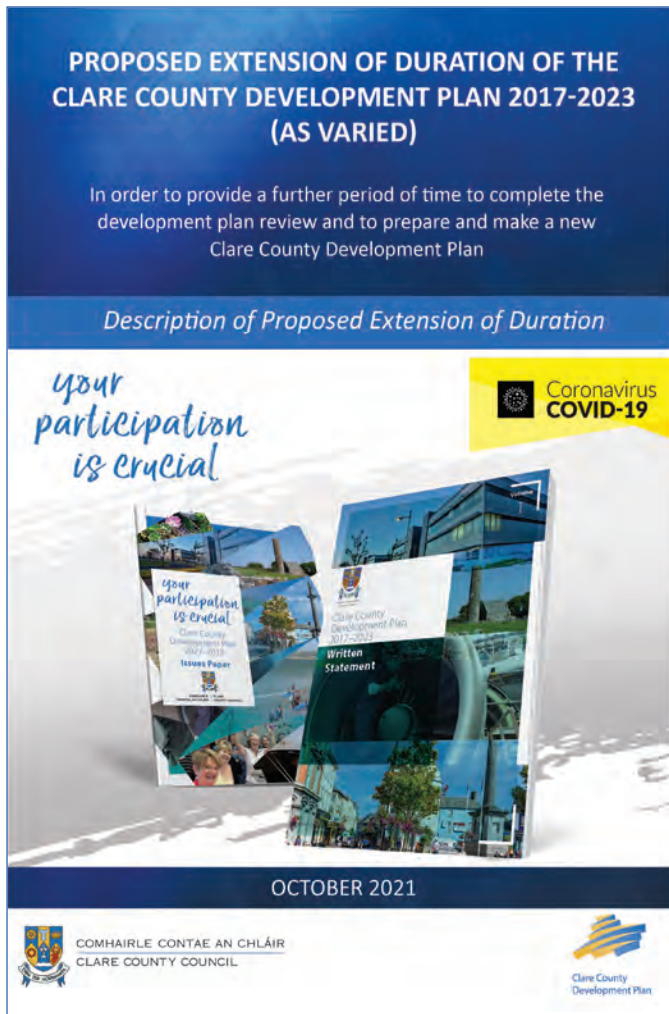
Clare Economic Task Force

At the October meeting of the Clare Economic Task Force, key economic issues for the County were discussed with speakers and presentations on topics including, Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy, the Shannon Estuary renewable energy potential, Shannon Airport and Shannon town masterplan.

Clare County Council continues to engage with the Shannon Group, ESB, IDA and EI to align, where appropriate, with the strategic objectives set out in the Clare County Development Plan, the SIFP and other strategies.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan



During October, the Elected Members further considered the new Draft Clare County Development Plan at the full Council workshop on 12th October. Workshops at both full Council and Municipal District level will be held in early November to consider and finalise the draft development plan prior to the draft being adopted by the Elected Members by the end of November. Once the draft plan has been adopted it will be placed on public display from mid December 2021 up until late March 2022, during which time there will be opportunities for community, stakeholder and public engagement in the process and for written submissions to be made.

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

Assessment have now been undertaken and associated Screening Reports prepared for each.

The Planning Authority has conducted the minimum four week public consultation period on the proposed extension of duration from 1st October up to and including 29th October 2021, during which time observations/submissions could be made. Following this, the Chief Executive's Report will be prepared on the submissions received, based on the reasons for seeking the additional time to prepare a new development plan (due to the impact of Covid-19) and the environmental implications of extending the duration of the existing development plan. It is proposed that the Elected Members will consider the Chief Executive's Report and make their decision in relation to the extension of the duration of the existing Development Plan at the November Council Meeting.

Ennistymon Masterplan

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

Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) have worked together to develop a brief for the preparation of an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. The Strategy seeks to maximise the potential of the village and its proximity to the Burren through thoughtful and sensitive interventions. The strategy will look to identify a suitable location and develop a design for a Burren National Park Visitor's Centre and Administration Facility for NPWS, provide public realm improvements through a streetscape enhancement plan and improve the tourist experience through the development of a new signage strategy. A multi-disciplinary design team led by Hall McKnight Architects were appointed and there was a good attendance at the first public consultation event held in October. The public consultation process includes an online survey and a childrens' art competition in the local primary school. The first stage of the public consultation process is expected to conclude in November.



The Manchester Martyrs Monument

Clare County Council were awarded funding from The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Historic Structures Fund for the repair and restoration of the Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush. This monument was erected in the heart of Kilrush Town in 1903 and is one in a series of monuments built around Ireland to commemorate the memory of the Manchester Martyrs. In recent years it has fallen into disrepair, and the grant will allow works to progress on the restoration of this important cultural artefact. The tender process was concluded in late October, and it is expected that the project will commence on site in November.

The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

The Council has been awarded funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme, as promoted by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. This funding stream asks us to reimagine how we use our outdoor public spaces. Clare is a county with rich festival traditions, which are an intrinsic part of our culture and traditional way of life. This project looks to support this culture, offering new ways to diversify and enhance its experience while prompting us to consider new ways and new settings in which they can occur. The proposal has been designed by the forward planning department and proposes a series of demountable outdoor structures for use during festivals and outdoor events.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the October and also gives the year to date totals. In comparison to the same period in 2020, this is an increase in the number of planning applications received of 342, representing a substantial increase of 42% year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 288.

Planning Applications	October 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of planning applications received	101	1,145
No. of Planning Decisions made	75	951
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	5	26
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	28	308
No. of Section 5 applications	5	62
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	2	48
Submissions received regarding Compliance	32	301

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

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

Planning Enforcement	October 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new complaints received	13	272
No of Files Opened	7	103
No. of Warning Letters issued	17	85
No. of Enforcement Notices served	0	24
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	2
No. of Enforcement files closed	11	40

TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

Remedial works were advanced or completed on the following estates in the past month.

Housing Estate	Status
Aughanteeroe, Gort Road, Ennis	Remedial works have now been completed
Churchfield, Doonbeg	The Developer is finalising some minor outstanding works in the estate.
Shanballya, Lahinch Road, Ennis	A schedule of works required to bring this estate to Taking in Charge standard is currently being prepared by the Taking in Charge team.

Taking in Charge maps are currently being prepared for a number of estates in order that the Statutory Process for Taking in Charge can commence.

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

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Fourteen Clare Biodiversity projects were completed in October and funded by the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund from the National Parks and Wildlife Service with co-funding from Clare County Council as follows:

- Rare, threatened and characteristic plants of the Burren and the Aran Islands - this project was completed in October. It aims to determine the current distribution, abundance and conservation status of rare, threatened and characteristic plants of the Burren and the Aran Islands. The results will be available in both hard copy and electronic format to be used as an educational resource for interested parties and the general public. It focuses attention to the very special nature of the flora of these internationally important regions, and the need for ongoing monitoring to ensure the conservation of these species for future generations. The information gathered could form the foundation for a County Clare Rare Plant Register, as outlined by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland.
- Developing a monitoring approach for the future survey work at Fanore Dunes
- Wetland/pond creation as part of the Hares Corner in association with Burrenbeo Trust
- Orchards project creation as part of the Hares Corner in association with Burrenbeo Trust and Irish Seed Savers Association
- Wild Bees Hives and Training Project, Irish Seed Savers Association
- Biodiversity Site Recording, Irish Seed Savers Association
- Alien Invasive Species training, Clare Local Development Company
- Alien Invasive Species eradication equipment purchase for communities, Clare Local Development Company
- Alien Invasive Species eradication, Municipal District Offices, Ennis, Killaloe, Shannon and West Clare MD, see details below.

- Clare County Council Biodiversity Manual, editing and design
- Shannon Biodiversity Family Fun Day as part of Heritage Week.

Tackling Invasive Species Throughout County Clare

Each Municipal District of the Council is taking action to tackle invasive species throughout the county. The eradication is underway in September and October with funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service - National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding 2021. Follow up work will involve further mapping of the problem species, Knotweed and Giant Hogweed in particular and proposed long term management and control measures.



Tidy Towns show their support for pollinators

Seven Tidy Towns groups from Clare entered the Local Authority Pollinator Award in the national Tidy Towns competition. Results will be announced in November. This special award is a joint initiative of local authority Heritage Officers, Biodiversity Officers, and the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Help map Clare's actions for Pollinators

Community groups who have undertaken any actions to help support pollinators in Clare are asked to update the information on <https://pollinators.biodiversityireland.ie/>. This will help us record all the great work in Clare to support pollinators.

Burrenbeo scoops County Heritage Week Award

Congratulations to Burrenbeo Trust on winning the "County Heritage Week Award" for County Clare at the National Heritage Week awards organised by the Heritage Council at Croke Park,

for their Heritage Week Programme. Burrenbeo Trust were also short listed for the Wild Child Day Heritage Week Award.

Adopt a Monument – reminder

Applications under this scheme must be submitted by 5pm Tuesday 2nd November 2021. Further details and application criteria is available at <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/news/>

news-features/call-for-adopt-a-monument-participants

Geo-heritage Grant Scheme 2021/22

Geological Survey Ireland invites applications for the Geoheritage Grant aid for 2021/22 up to maximum of €10,000. The closing date for receipt of applications is 6pm Monday, 8th November 2021.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

As we slowly return to normal trading activity, enterprises who were approved funding over the last 12 months are now starting to drawdown that funding and invest in the future of their businesses. As of the end of October, 27 enterprises have drawn funding of €530,000, to date in 2021.

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme remains an important funding stream to facilitate Clare enterprises to develop an e-commerce website. So far in 2021, 262 businesses have drawn down funding of €577,798.

LEO Clare continues to see strong demand for online training and our free mentoring support offering. The main topics of interest to Clare enterprises are Digital Marketing, Green Economy, Online Sales, Exporting and Start Your Own Business.

Visit from Minister Damien English TD

The Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD visited County Clare on 30th September. The Minister was welcomed firstly in the Áras Contae an Chláir by Cathaoirleach P.J. Ryan and elected members of Clare County Council and LEO Staff. The Minister proceeded to visit some well known Clare businesses during his visit namely AIP Thermoform in Ennis and Hasset Precision Engineering in Shannon. Lastly the Minister visited the Future Mobility Campus Ireland in Shannon. The minister was also accompanied by Joe Carey TD and Senator Timmy Dooley

National Women’s Enterprise Day

Female entrepreneurs and budding businesswomen from across both Clare and Ireland took part in this year’s National Women’s Enterprise Day on 7th October. The LEO initiative, now in its 15th year, was hosted by founder and broadcaster Aine Kerr.

The event, titled “Build The Future”, featured some of Ireland’s best known female entrepreneurs including the likes of Aimee Connolly of Sculpted by Aimee, Rachel Doyle of The Arboretum and Sharon Keegan of Peachy Lean, who was recently supported on Dragon’s Den UK.

Clare’s ‘Leading Light’ at the National Women’s Enterprise Day was Caroline Dunlea of Core Optimisation Ltd, Shannon. Core Optimisation Ltd was founded in 2015 by Caroline Dunlea along with David Brett and has quickly grown to be one of Ireland’s leading Digital Transformation agencies, focusing on digital transformation strategy, search engine optimisation, paid search, paid social and conversion optimisation.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

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

Transaction	October 2021	Year to date 2021
Lease of Property / Building		3
Licence to use property / building		10
Grazing Agreement for Lands		22
Deed of Transfer signed	3	9
Contract for Sale signed		3
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	1	3
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	2	5
Allotment Agreements signed		39

Casual Trading

The Casual Trading Unit, while dealing with a small number of new applications for events such as Horse Fairs and the Ennis Christmas Market is in preparation for the renewal of the annual licences which is generally done towards year end. One additional licence was issued for the Kilrush Horse Fair in October.

The Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 for each Municipal District are available to view on the Council's website.

Derelict Sites

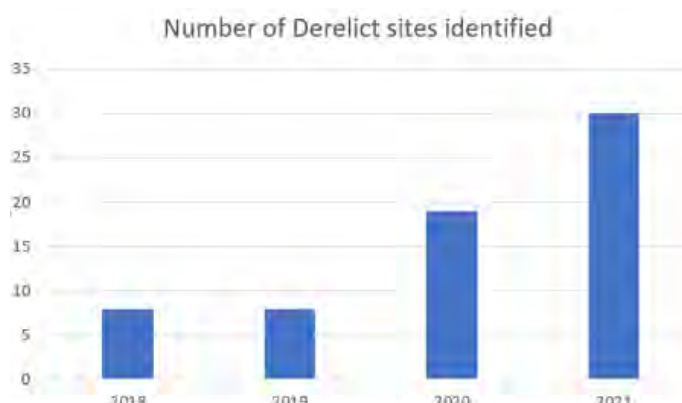
The Council welcomes the focus at national level on the vacant and derelict properties in the country and it is now well recognised that there is significant potential for re-development of such properties. This is not to say that there will not be challenges in many such properties and in dealing with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

Our focus is on engagement with owners and financial institutions and we have seen some positive response to this. For example, in one town, we are working to bring 4 housing units back into economic use over a period of 6 months. Two of them are now sale agreed after being vacant and derelict for a few years. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in October and the year, 2021, to date.

Derelict Sites	October 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new files opened	4	30
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	0	15

No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry onto Derelict Sites Register	0	2
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	2
No of sites added to Derelict Sites register	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	3	25
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	0

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



SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Shannon In Bloom.

Shannon In Bloom

October saw the launch of ‘Shannon In Bloom’ across the Shannon Municipal District with the planting of 50,000 pollinator friendly bulbs with the aid of our community networks in 11 communities. Coordinated by the team in Shannon, this project was prompted by our ongoing biodiversity focus, adding to the significant green infrastructure in the Municipal District and complementing the Shannon Town Park.

The objective is to bring colour and a sense of hope onto the landscape in the new year. The project was funded through the general municipal allocation (GMA) with the support of the seven municipal Councillors while engagement with communities was coordinated through the Rural and Community Development Officer. Graphics and logos were produced by Clare County Council's in-house design team.



Shannon In Bloom.

Roads Programme update

Delivery of the Roads programme continued across the Municipal District in earnest throughout the month with the Surface Dressing work now completed and overlay improvements substantially completed. The contractor, Lagans, will complete the remaining works in South East Clare during November.

Under the Active Travel Funding programme, the preliminary design works have been completed for the next phase of the footpath in Meelick (to connect both ends of the village for pedestrians). This design will now be referred to the National Transport (NTA) authority for funding approval. Under the same NTA programme the footpath concepts for pathways in Ballycasey, Shannon have also been designed and they too will be forwarded for funding.

Footpath and pavement improvement works in Sixmilebridge and Newmarket-on-Fergus have been completed. These works were funded under the GMA. Other works completed include drainage works in Portdrine, a Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) in Parteen and a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) in Clonlara. The footpath contract for the MD began in the last couple of weeks with an initial focus on the Drumgeely Area of Shannon Town. This contract is being supported by MD Councillors.

Following a successful 2021 season the grass cutting contract is due to complete this month while the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVR) for Sixmilebridge is progressing and is now on phase 4 of 7. This project is on schedule for completion in the coming weeks.