



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bealtaine / May
2022



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FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

Croatian Ambassador visits Clare County Council



Pictured are the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, and the Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Cllr Ann Norton, welcoming H.E. Mr Davor Vidiš, Croatian Ambassador to Ireland, to Áras Contae an Chláir on 25th April, 2022.

Freedom of Information & Data Protection

2022 year to date statistics to 27/04/2022

- 36 Freedom of Information Requests
- 2 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 0 Appeals to Information Commissioner

- 5 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 7 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request, e.g. Gardaí.

Electoral Reform Bill 2022: Modernisation of the Electoral Registration Process

The Electoral Reform Bill 2022 was published on 30 March. When enacted, it will provide the legislative underpinning for a range of significant electoral reforms in line with commitments in the Programme for Government – Our Shared Future. These include:

- The establishment of an independent Electoral Commission;
- The modernisation of the electoral registration process;
- The regulation of online political advertisements; and

- Amendments to facilitate voting when Covid-19 type restrictions are in place.

Of particular relevance to local authorities are the provisions relating to the modernisation of the electoral registration process, which are set out in Part 3 of the Bill and are designed to take better account of modern realities such as improved access to technology, a more mobile population and a better understanding of issues that different people face in exercising their rights.

The Bill is currently being debated in the Dáil and will be enacted once passed by Government.

Business Innovation

Clare County Council is supporting the Culture of Innovation vision set out in DPER's "Innovation Strategy for the Irish Public Service". The Council, through our Innovation team is working towards creating a culture where all staff are inspired, empowered, and enabled to innovate.

The Council recently launched an Innovation Strategy, which sets out the innovation priorities for the organisation and county. The goal of the strategy is to articulate and encourage internal pathways for innovation. In collaboration with IT, a Call for Ideas portal has been established on the Intranet to encourage staff to suggest innovative ways of doing our business.

All staff are encouraged to utilise the Call for Ideas portal or to express their innovation suggestions with their Innovation Team representative.



Launch of the Innovation Strategy with Cathaoirleach, Cllr PJ Ryan.

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 the month of April included:

- Minister Humphreys visits Clare rural development projects
- Cathaoirleach welcomes New Jersey legislators to County Clare
- Burren businesses recognised for sustainable tourism practices
- Two Clare Locations Feature in All-Ireland TV Special.

Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council. In April, the Communications Office:

- Posted 22 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,740. Posts had a reach of 62,000 with 3,267 engagements.
- Posted 29 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,640. Tweets earned 18,043 impressions and 633 engagements.
- Posted 6 times on Instagram with followers now 2,455.

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.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published publicly on

eTenders in the period from 1st April 2022 to 25th April 2022 incl.:

Short description	Response deadline
Expressions of Interest in the provision of Housing Schemes and/or Land for Social/Affordable Housing and/or long Term Leasing of Multi Unit developments (10+ years) to Clare County Council	21/04/2022
20-1055 Parteen TVR Scheme	29/04/2022
Remedial Works to Housing Estate, Roads, Footpaths, Drainage and Potable Water	05/05/2022
Shanball Housing Estates - Remedial Work to roads, footpaths, drainage & water	12/05/2022

LAMA Awards



The 'Clare Covid Heroes' initiative won the National Impact Award at the LAMA Awards on 9th April. Clare Covid Heroes was an initiative of the Office of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Mary Howard, to recognise people for the help and support they provided to others during the Covid-19 pandemic. There was a Silver Award for Clare Waste Awareness Week, Bronze for Clare Fire Service, Bronze for the Waterways Ireland Virtual Open Day and Bronze for the Age Friendly Clare Digital Nursing Home Initiative in the LAMA Awards. Congratulations to all involved.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during April:</p> <p>Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Assistant Desktop Shortlisting • Interviews • Part-Time Receptionist Active Ennis • Beach Lifeguard • Senior Beach Lifeguard • Buildings Manager • Branch Librarian • Part-time Traffic Warden Seasonal Employment • Beach Operative • Assistant Scientist Final Interviews <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <p>Open Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator – Analogous to Grade VI, 3-year Contract • Retained Fire-Fighter Panels (Part-time) – Kilkee, Killaloe, Kilrush & Shannon • IS Analyst Developer (Networks) • School Warden, Part-Time & Sporadic Cover Panels (West Clare MD, initial assignment to Ennistymon) • School Warden, Sporadic Cover Panels (Ennis MD) • Business Advisor, Local Enterprise Office
Learning and Development	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in April include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Day SLG New Entrant • Championing Leadership Webinar • Confined Spaces Medium Risk • CPC Module 3 • CSCS Locating Underground Services • Data Protection SAR • Fire Warden Training • Leading Hybrid Teams • MEWP Refresher • Pro Works Training • Safe Pass • School Warden Training • Water Services Area Briefing • Working Smarter Not Harder <p>Essential Skillz online courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security • Diversity & Inclusion • Drivewize <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ergowize • Fire Warden • GDPR • Health & Safety Induction • Manual Handling • Slips, Trips & Falls • Working in a Covid Era <p>Climate Action Training undertaken to date:</p> <p>Climate Action training continues to be arranged for all staff and elected members. 69% of all indoor staff have completed the training to date and arrangements are currently being made for outdoor staff to avail of the training. 50% of elected members have completed the on-line training and further opportunities will be made available so that all members can complete it.</p>
Employee Welfare	Employee wellbeing supports are made available to staff across a range of areas.
Unions	The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Minister Humphreys visits Clare Rural Development Projects



On a recent visit to Clare (7th April, 2022), Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, visited three projects that are supporting the ongoing development and revitalisation of Clare's rural towns and villages, including an extended DigiClare hub and two community and tourist amenities.

The Minister's first stop was in Clarecastle where she officially opened the River Fergus Walk and Cycleway. This project was part-funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) with match funding being provided by the Council. The new walkway, which is circa 1.5km, provides a link between the R469 Quin Road in Ennis to the N85 Roundabout at Clareabbey along an area of significant recreational and visual amenity value. The area is rich in heritage and biodiversity and the project is expected to generate significant tourism and educational benefits.

The Minister continued her visit with a trip to Ennistymon where she officially opened the Ennistymon River Walk. This project received grant funding of €69k under ORIS 2018. The project was delivered by the Ennistymon District Community Organisation (EDCO) with assistance from Clare County Council's Rural Development Directorate. The project primarily involved resurfacing works on the existing trail along with repairs to bridges and the inclusion of safety rails and fencing along the trail. The trail is approximately 3km in length and follows a path alongside the River Inagh. The walkway is an attractive amenity for both the local community and visitors to the town.

Following her visit to the Ennistymon Riverwalk the Minister visited the recently completed Connected Hubs extension at the DigiClare Ennistymon Hub. The recent refurbishment works were funded from the Connected Hubs Fund 2021 and comprise the addition of new facilities including a podcasting room, four flexible private workspace pods, shower facilities, a bicycle shelter and associated accessories.

On route to Ennistymon, Minister Humphreys stopped in Lisdoonvarna where she met with Lisdoonvarna Fáilte CLG who have been active since early March in coordinating the integration of visitors arriving from Ukraine to north Clare.



Community Response Forum

Clare County Council has established a Community Response Forum to coordinate the community-led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian nationals as they are accommodated in County Clare. The Forum, a subcommittee of the Clare Local Community Development Committee, and chaired by the Director of Rural Development Leonard Cleary, brings together state, private, community and voluntary organisations acting at local level in response to this emergency. An

Internal Response Team has also been set up by the Council to respond to the crisis locally.

The Forum is used as an information sharing forum, and also acts as coordinator for supports for the displaced Ukrainian community.

Contact email address: communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie

Participation in International Age Friendly Webinar on Transportation



Knock Airports have both gone through the process of becoming Age Friendly in accordance with the guidelines and are due to be launched as the first Age Friendly Airports in the world this summer.

Members of Clare, Mayo and Limerick Older People's Councils participated in walkability audits of Shannon and Knock Airports to assess how easy it was to journey through them. The information generated from these walkability studies has been hugely positive with the outcomes showing that Shannon and Knock Airports are already excelling as Age Friendly Airports in the way they assist their passengers to feel safe, comfortable and relaxed, regardless of the mobility barriers they face.

Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager, Karen Fennessy, participated in an international webinar on transportation hosted by Age Friendly Ireland and was viewed in 31 countries around the world. International Age Friendly Airport Guidelines were developed as a joint venture between Clare, Limerick and Mayo County Councils, as part of a project to develop Shannon and Ireland West (Knock) Airports as Age Friendly. Shannon and

A joint video presentation by Clare and Mayo County Councils on the project was made at the transportation webinar followed by a panel discussion with the audience sending in questions through sli.do. You can view the video presentation on the Age Friendly Airport initiative here: <https://youtu.be/xSjw200cVD0>

Two Clare Locations Feature in All-Ireland TV Special



Willzee and Luka Bloom Ballycuggeran, Lough Derg.



Stockton's Wing and Emma Langford: Ireland In Music.

Two County Clare locations feature in a landmark international television production promoting contemporary Ireland through the medium of music and performance art.

6:30pm having just been beamed into homes across Australia and the United States.

The second edition of 'Ireland in Music' was broadcast as a one-hour TV show on RTÉ One on Easter Monday (18th April) at

The production features musical performances at hallmark locations across Ireland from Navan Fort in Armagh to Adare Manor in Limerick, as well as at Labasheeda and Ballycuggeran

in County Clare. Filmed last summer, Ballycuggeran on the shoreline of Lough Derg is the scene for a performance by Willzee and Luka Bloom. Labasheeda Pier and the surrounding Shannon Estuary hosts a performance of 'Beautiful Affair' by Ennis group Stockton's Wing and Limerick singer-songwriter Emma Langford. Other performers featured in the all-Ireland TV special include the Hothouse Flowers, Stephen Rea, Imelda May, Damien Dempsey, Villagers, Rónán Ó Snodaigh, Samantha Mumba, Shiv, Paddy Casey and Moxie.

The international TV version of 'Ireland in Music' features both Clare performances, which are also included in an extended programme to be made available on the RTÉ Player from Easter

Monday. A one-hour edition of the programme broadcast on RTÉ One on Easter Monday featured Ballycuggeran.

With a total global viewership of 5 million, Ireland in Music Part 1 was a massive hit with audiences when first broadcast as a one-hour TV show on RTÉ One in 2021. It has since become an international hit broadcast on TV stations across 41 countries around the world and in 2022 has grown into a six-part TV show for global distribution. Ireland in Music Part 2 is currently enjoying significant international success, with several TV broadcasts during the St Patrick's Day period 2022 across Australia on SPS and in the United States on New York PBS station WLIW21 and the arts and culture streaming app and TV channel ALL ARTS.

Burren Businesses Recognised for Sustainable Tourism Practices



Pictured at The Falls Hotel on 7th April for the Award of Certificates for the Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism are members of the Burren Ecotourism Network, with Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark and Clare County Council officials. Photo: Eamon Ward.

Fifty-eight (58) businesses from across North Clare have been awarded Certificates of Achievement for honouring their commitments under the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism for 2020/2021. Developed with EU LIFE funding and launched by the Geopark in 2016, the Code is the only sustainable initiative of its kind in Ireland and in the network of 169 Geoparks spread across 44 countries. Carol Gleeson, Manager of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, highlights that the core criterion of membership of the Burren Ecotourism Network is for the business to provide evidence

of their contributions towards working together, actively engaging in conservation, supporting the local economy and community activities, gaining knowledge of heritage and the environment, and reducing their carbon footprint through waste, water, and energy management. Every two years members of the Network submit evidence to the Geopark Code of Practice online system. They are then externally evaluated on their commitment to these standards. This shared commitment to implementing sustainable tourism practices was highlighted when the Network was awarded the Lonely Planet Community Award for Best in Travel 2021.

Lough Derg Blueway Accreditation



The Lough Derg Blueway has been announced as one of the first Blueways to achieve official accreditation. Commenting on the accreditation, Minister for Tourism Catherin Martin, said: "Under the Programme for Government, we committed to investing in and promoting Blueways and recreational trails for the benefit of local communities and tourists alike."

The official accreditation of the Lough Derg Blueway responds to the growing demand for quality outdoor infrastructure

close to water and nature. The Blueway accreditation was successfully achieved by co-ordinated efforts of the three Local Authorities of Clare, Tipperary and Galway in conjunction with Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and Sport Ireland.

Marking the official accreditation, Pat Dowling noted that this is an excellent example of how local authorities can come together with State agencies to support the tourism sector in promoting their product and the Blueway brand.

Loop Head Tourism and Employment Fair

It was wonderful to get together for the Loop Head Tourism & Employment Fair at the Marine Hotel, Kilkee, on 5th April. It was a great opportunity to network with business and discuss, in person, the recruitment and accommodation challenges being experienced.

During the morning, there were several speakers – Siobhan King, Wild Atlantic Way, Fáilte Ireland; Cllr Cillian Murphy on branding for Kilrush; Trea Heapes on sustainable tourism; and Luke Aston who informed on projects for the peninsula.



Colette Costello and Nicola Killeen at Loophead Tourism and Employment Fair.

Vandeleur and Loop Head Team visit to Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience



On 8th April, members of the Board of Kilrush Amenity Trust and the Team of Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Loop Head completed a site visit to the Cliffs of Moher as a shared learning experience. With a great welcome received by the team at the Cliffs of Moher, this proved to be a very successful trip as both Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Loop Head look ahead to a new chapter.

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT – KILRUSH LEA

Active Travel

Active travel works are ongoing.

Kilkee

New footpath access to beach



Kilkee

New benches on prom.



Kilkee

New picnic table on prom (wheelchair accessible).



Carrigaholt footpaths



Eurovelo bicycle racks & repair stations
Carrigaholt



Roadworks programme
Killeran, Tiernan and Clohanmore



Killimer



Bike Racks and Repair Station.

Killadysart and Effernan



Roadworks programme ongoing
Knockerra and Kilmurray McMahan



Road Recycling Kilmurray McMahan.

Banking/drainage works on N68 – recent pavement overlay



Brisla



2021 Piers & Harbours scheme

Carrigaholt (old) pier

A new section of pier wall is approaching completion. A section of the wave wall is also being repaired.

The pier wall replaces a c.30m section of railing. During storms, the railing allowed the sea to wash across the pier and into boats moored at the sheltered face of the pier. This had led to boats (moored across from the railings) almost submerging as sea water was taken on board.

The railings are being reused at Doonbeg White Strand.

Works are being undertaken by Ml. Boland, Contractors.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Clare Economic Taskforce

A briefing note on the potential to develop the off-shore wind energy off the Co. Clare/ Mid West coast was prepared for Government. The briefing note highlighted the potential to develop at least 75GW of floating off shore wind (€100 billion investment) by making sustainable use of our maritime assets and providing a green energy solution for Ireland and the EU. The document signalled the need for the development of an offshore renewable energy marshalling facility to deploy floating wind projects by 2028 and the creation of a supply chain enterprise hub on the Shannon Estuary.

Film Production in Clare

The collaboration with and support given by Clare County Council to the Regional Film Office (Mid-West) has proven to be very worthwhile and there is noticeable increase in activity in films and short series being filmed and produced in Clare. The Arts Officer and the Property Management Unit are regularly involved with film producers and location managers to assist where possible in finding suitable location and premises to meet their needs. The economic boost from such activity across the County is considerable.



Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, Clare County Council, visiting the set of 'Woken' with Paul Ryan, Regional Film Manager (Mid-West), and John McDonnell and Brendan McCarthy from Fantastic Films.

Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI)

Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

The Kilrush Maritime Training Centre has been endorsed by Management Team as one of 3 projects to go forward as an application for RRDF Category 1 funding. The SEI team finalised

an application in April with considerable work undertaken to prepare the background work required for the application in particular the expanded requirements in terms of compliance with the Public Spending Code and the preparation of a Financial Analysis. Significant support has been received from the community and a range of stakeholders from the maritime, renewable energy and transport sectors.

SIFP for Shannon Estuary

Shannon Estuary Taskforce

In February, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) invited expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals for membership of the Taskforce.

The Department said at the time: "The Taskforce will be supported in its work by a secretariat from DETE with input and expertise as appropriate from relevant Government Departments, State Agencies and Local Authorities."

On the 22nd of April 2022, the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD announced the membership of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce, following Government approval.

A report is to be produced by the group by October 2022 specifying the action which can be taken to create jobs in the region. A programme of engagement with relevant local authorities such as Clare County Council will form part of the taskforce's work.

Shannon Town Masterplan / One Shannon Hub

The project delivery of the Shannon Civic and Community Hub commenced in February. Background work and research is ongoing, and the preparation of URDF application which is key to the funding of a number of interventions proposed in the masterplan, has also commenced.

BDP Architects were appointed by Clare County Council to prepare a detailed strategic design brief for the proposed building and associated public realm. The purpose of this design brief is to set a vision and develop a brief for the design and uses of the building. This will be informed by understanding the ethos, current needs and shortcomings of the current situation in Shannon Town Centre, to establish the future needs for the area and for the people of Shannon, and to develop a range of opportunities for consideration and assessment that will lead to robust recommendations. This work is ongoing at present and is based on collaborative workshops across the design disciplines,

but also with Clare County Council and most significantly, with local stakeholder groups.

A meeting with the URDF Section of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has taken place to discuss the potential for Shannon Town to be the focus of a URDF application for the next round of funding later this year. The Shannon Town Centre Masterplan and its objectives was recognised as the basis for any application for funding.

Roche Masterplan

Work continues on the preparation of the Roche Masterplan in collaboration with Roche Ireland and OMP. Detailed work on SEA and HDA scoping continues.

South Clare / UL Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)

In April, a briefing on the SDZ was provided by Kerstin Mey, President of University of Limerick – this included information on the UL Academies of Learning model and the positive transformative potential the project will have on County Clare, the Mid-West and Limerick City. Significant positive engagement with the Elected Members occurred throughout the



Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Prof Kerstin Mey, President, UL; and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council.

discussion, with widespread support from the Elected Members.

A constructive and positive meeting with officials of Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on the SDZ occurred with UL and Clare County Council on the application for designation.

FORWARD PLANNING



Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The public consultation process for the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 closed on the 28th of March, with a total of 1,013 submissions received. This level of public submissions and interest compares with that of larger City authorities and follows an extensive public consultation campaign carried out since the consultation commenced on 10th December 2021 with nine dedicated public consultation events around the County.

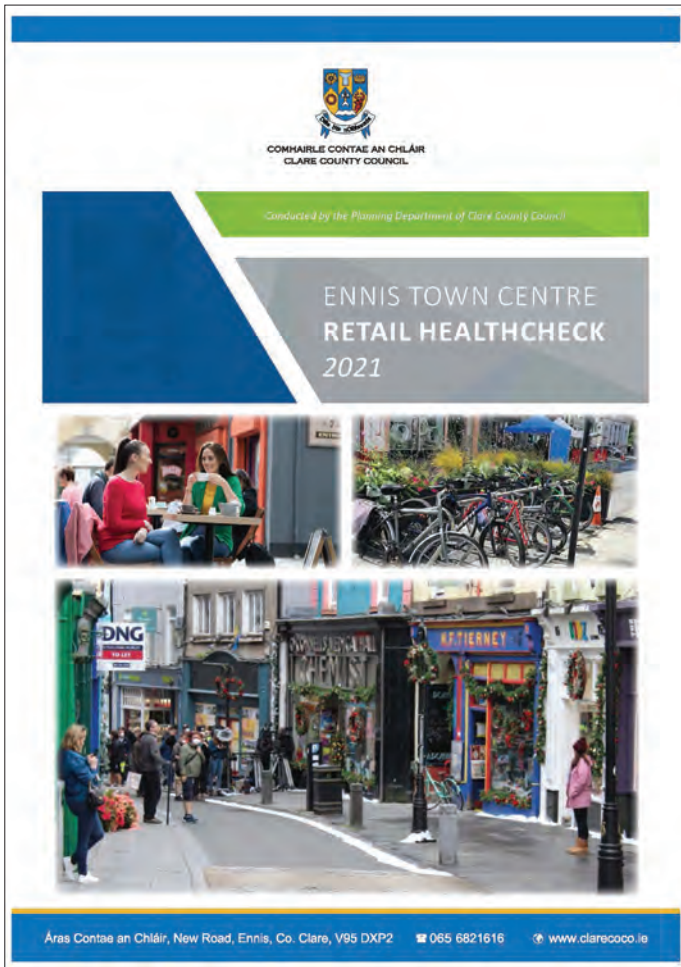
Over the coming weeks all the submissions received will be reviewed and the Chief Executive’s Report prepared. Upon finalisation, the Chief Executive’s report will then be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration in early July 2022.

Ennis Town Centre Retail Health Check 2021

The Planning Department conducted an Ennis Town Centre Health Check in September 2021 surveying the ground floor use of units in Ennis Town Centre. The results of the Health Check

were compared with the results from previous years, to allow for comparisons to be drawn and patterns to be identified. The findings from the health check illustrate that retail and retail services account for 35% of the total ground floor use of buildings within the town centre and leisure services such as restaurants, public houses and gyms encompass 12% of the ground floor usage in Ennis. These findings indicate that Ennis is thriving as the social and cultural hub of the county. Financial and business services are also well established in the town accounting for 7.3% of the ground floor usage of buildings.

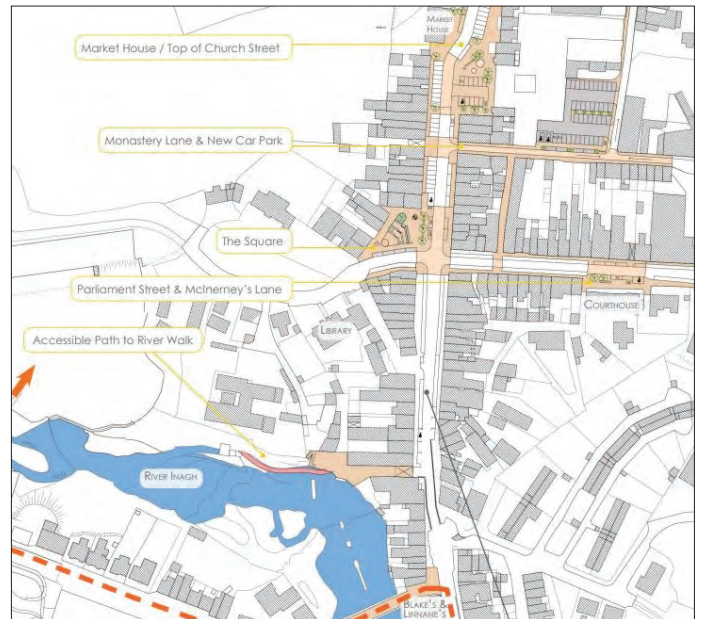
The occupancy rate within the town is 85% as of September 2021. The instance of vacancy has not changed significantly, with only 1 additional vacant ground floor unit recorded from the September 2020 Health Check. Having regard to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic it is considered that Ennis Town has performed very well in terms of its occupancy rate. Significantly, retail occupancy has only declined by 1 unit in that time (285 units in 2020; 284 units in 2021), which demonstrates that the retail environment in the town centre is robust. It is the intention of the Planning Department of Clare County Council to conduct a further Health Check of Ennis town towards the end of 2022, which will capture any changes in occupancy rates that may result from the latter stages of the pandemic and the subsequent period of recovery.



Ennis Town Centre Retail HealthCheck 2021.

Ennistymon Enhancement Plan

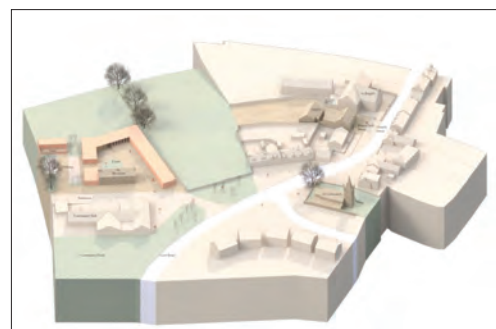
Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon Enhancement plan. The masterplan seeks to build upon existing Clare County Council proposals in exploring the potential of the existing townscape and its built environment. The strategy is looking at key sites in the town centre in order to guide their development in a positive way. The second stage of public consultation has concluded, and the findings are informing the next stages of the design process. The steering group met in April to discuss the developed design proposals, and the design process will continue into May.



Ennistymon Enhancement Strategy.

Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continued in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. In March, The Department of Rural and Community Development announced that the Corofin Enhancement strategy has been successful in its application to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. This funding stream supports the development of projects aiming to breathe life into rural communities, tackle vacancy and address dereliction in our towns and villages. The aspirations of the Corofin Enhancement strategy align well with these principles,



Corofin Enhancement Strategy.

as we look to define new uses for derelict properties and provide public realm improvements through thoughtful and sensitive interventions. A design team led by the award-winning Hall McKnight Architects has been appointed. The design team continued the design process in April, and this is heavily informed by the findings of the first stage of public consultation and baseline research. The design process will continue into May.

The Manchester Martyrs Monument

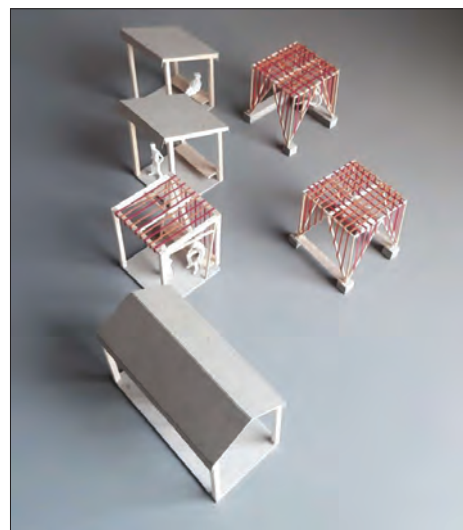


The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush is being repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Mid-West Lime Ltd have been appointed to carry out the repair works on site. The wrought iron railings are being repaired off site by a specialist heritage blacksmith, and these repairs works will continue into the coming months. The repair and cleaning of the stonework progressed through April, and the scaffolding has been taken down revealing the significant

progress made on the repair of the stonework to this point. Work on the Monument will continue into May.

The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

With funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, GKMP Architects have been appointed as lead consultant on a multi-disciplinary design team. The delivery of the project will support communities across the county in delivering their cultural offering while enhancing the experiences of those visiting the towns and villages in a Covid-19 compliant manner. The design team continued the developed design process in April, and the steering group met with the design team to discuss progress.



Flexible Outdoor Structures.

The Heritage Stewardship Fund

Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna have been successful in their funding application to the Heritage Stewardship Fund as promoted by The Heritage Council. The application focussed on Hastings Farmhouse in Shannon, a protected structure and a rare building type of historic and architectural significance. The Heritage Stewardship Fund looks to provide support to bodies who have responsibility for the care of heritage objects. It supports those who play a key role in the heritage infrastructure of Ireland and are vital to the delivery of national policy and plans. The partnership formed by Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna is a key step in safeguarding the heritage of Hastings Farmhouse.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Applications

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of April up to and including April 28th and also gives the year to date totals. To date the number of applications received is almost on par with 2021. The number of decisions issued to date in 2022 is ahead of the same period in 2021 by 12, representing a 4% increase year on year.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	April 2022 up to & including 28/04/2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	97	291
No. of Planning Decisions made	73	332
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	2	12
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	11	74
No. of Section 5 applications	4	27
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	3	16
Submissions received regarding Compliance	36	149

Planning Enforcement

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	April 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	25	61
No of Files Opened	12	31
No. of Warning Letters issued	13	38
No. of Enforcement Notices served	0	2
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	0
No. of Enforcement files closed	19	21

The Planning Authority were also involved with two successful Court Cases in the month of April:

- UD 18/001 – The Planning Authority successful defended an appeal of a District Court decision for the unauthorised development of an encampment in Ballyveskill, Ennis.
- SC 21/27 – The Planning Authority successfully defended a small claims case regarding the outcome of an enforcement investigation in Doolin.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Historic Structures Fund

The successful recipients of the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) Scheme 2022 were announced on the 31st March 2022. This Fund covers the cost of works up to €200,000, with an average of 50% match funding required. It applies to buildings on the Record of Protected Structures (RPS), generally with a public interest. A total of €192,000 was allocated to Clare County Council by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for 2022. Works will be monitored by the Architectural Conservation Officer over the coming months. The successful applicants are:

- Frawley's Bar, Lahinch - €40,000
- St Flannan's Cathedral, Killybegs - €152,000.

Community Monuments Fund 2022

The successful applications for Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2022 were announced on 20th April. The successful

applications were granted under Stream 2 only, which is a grant allocation for a Conservation Management Framework. The Conservation Management Framework outlines the architectural, archaeological and ecological management of a structure, with the aim of applying for Stream 1 (capital works) funding in the future.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provide 100% of the funding for the Community Monuments fund, with no match funding required from the Council. A total of €29,520 was awarded to Clare County Council for the development of a Conservation Management Framework. The successful three projects were:

- Kilchreest Church, Ballynacally
- Kilofin Church, Leabasheeda
- Templemally Church, Ballyallia.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme

The Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. So far in 2022, eighteen applications have been approved while in April a further two grants were drawn down totalling €3,525.00.

Mentoring

LEO Clare continue to receive a strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In April, 12 mentoring applications have been assigned.

Training

LEO Clare continued to see strong demand for online training support offering during April with nine courses and workshops taking place. The main topics of interest to Clare enterprises were Start Your Own Business Workshops, Internet Security Awareness & Safety Training, Green for Micro Information Event and continued completion of long running programmes with over 125 clients booked on.

April Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals

Committee (EVAC) held their second evaluation meeting of 2022 in April. Six Business Expansion projects totalling €184,338 were approved for funding.

Green for Micro

LEO Clare is now accepting applications for the new National Green for Micro Programme. The objective of the Green for Micro programme - a new initiative from the Local Enterprise Offices - is to help prepare small businesses for the low carbon, more resource efficient economy of the future. The programme allows businesses to avail of advice and technical support covering topics such as resource efficiency, understanding your carbon footprint and implementing an environmental management system.

LEAN Consultancy Programme

LEO Clare commenced their LEAN for Micro Programme for 2022 with nine companies applying. Lean for Micro is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organisations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector. Lean is about doing things quicker, better and saving costs. Lean strives to remove waste and to continually improve a company.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in April, together with the totals for 2022 to date.

We continue to assist many solicitors with enquiries to the Property Management Unit on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc which is indicative of increasing of levels of activity in the property market in the County generally.

Transaction	April 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
Lease of Property / Building	1	2	4
Licence to use property / building	2	5	11
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	17	22
Deed of Transfer signed	0	7	12
Contract for Sale signed	0	0	3
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	5	3
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	1	7
Allotment Agreements signed	0	38	39

Casual Trading

No additional casual trading licences were issued in April but those who have been granted licences to date have commenced trading at various locations.

Derelict Sites

Following on from previous reports, we continue to see a positive impact with a number of owners of derelict properties bringing them to market or commencing works once the notices under the Derelict sites Act have been served. We are also seeing the outcome of sales agreed in late 2021 with enquiries, planning applications for refurbishment and commencement of works to render properties non-derelict. This is not to say that there are not many challenges in dealing with derelict sites as we come across many issues which need to be resolved. However, with time and effort, working with owners and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The picture below shows some works in progress on a house at St. Patrick’s Terrace in Kilkee which has been derelict for many years.



St Patrick’s Terrace.

Significantly also, a large site with two derelict bungalows has been put up for auction in Ennis following continued efforts by the Derelict Sites Team.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in April and the year to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021.

Derelict Sites	April 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	10	20	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	3	15	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	1	11	4
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	4	6	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	4	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	1	4	0

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Upgrades of Roads and Footpaths

The footpath contractor for the municipal district is currently finishing a small number of snagging items at various locations while our own crews have commenced the installation of improved footpaths in Shannon Banks. In addition to these, works our crews have continued the upgrade of footpaths in Fairyfield, Parteen and Aidan Park, Shannon.

Works on two footpaths, excluded from the TVR project in Sixmilebridge have been completed utilising GMA funds

General Works

The team from the Shannon Municipal District are continuing ground preparation in advance of the 2022 roadworks programme. The MD has just finalised the tender process for the non-national road overlay programme, with works scheduled to begin in June.

Drainage works continue to be carried out at several locations across the Municipal District.

Town & Village Renewal (TVR)

The Town and Village Renewal project for Parteen is progressing with a Section 38 process on-going and advertised in the media and expected for consideration at the May meeting of Shannon Municipal District. The designs are complete, consultation with land owners is continuing and tender preparation is under way.

Teams from the Municipal District and General Design office carried out site visits in both Drumgeely and Clonlara last week to 'kick start' the concept design process for the two Town & Village Renewal schemes approved for 2022. When concepts drawings are produced we will begin the process of engagement and consultation with our elected members and the community.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund (ORIS)

The Drumgeely loop walk upgrade project funded under ORIS has progressed through the tender process, with works due to commence in the coming weeks. This is a key infrastructural link between the Shannon Free Zone and the Shannon embankment walkways.

Preliminary design concepts for the Newmarket on Fergus (Lough Gash) ORIS are currently being developed with the next steps to meet with Councillors and the community group to develop the project further.

Active Travel – National Transport Authority (NTA)

The Active travel projects in Meelick and Ballycasey Green Area continue to progress with ongoing engagement with property owners. The Municipal District Office has identified further project opportunities which have been put forward for consideration.



Tom Mellet, Katelyn Quirke and Sean Haugh, Shannon MD.

Other Matters

The Shannon Municipal District Small Community Grant Scheme is now closed for applications. The MD team are assessing the applications with the list of proposed projects to be approved at the May meeting of the Shannon Municipal District.

Recent briefings at which our MD were involved in included the Revised Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) transport strategy and the 'Shannon Greenway' project which is currently out for public consultation.

The team in Shannon Municipal District continue to work with our colleagues in the Crisis Management Team in respect of the Ukrainian Crisis.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

As events of the Ukrainian crisis unfold the pace of activity has reached an all-time high with us all seeking another word for 'busy' as this word does not describe the pace and demand in the Directorate.

The situation with regard to displaced Ukrainians is ever evolving with two emergency rest centres stood up during April. In addition the team are continuing to pursue more permanent housing solutions all the while keeping an eye on delivery

under 'Housing for All' which we are tasked to maintain on track.

A cross-directorate team has developed to co-ordinate and support the accommodation of Ukrainians in Clare.

The contract for the completion of the new Library project in Ennis was signed on 22nd April, the appointed contractor is Coolsivna.



Contract signing for County Library.

Radharc an Óir



Ms Frances Lee, new tenant at Radharc an Óir, Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus, stated:

"I am delighted with this offer of accommodation from Clare County Council. I really like the layout of the apartment, which is open plan, bright, airy and spacious. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all of the Housing staff that I dealt with who were so helpful to me. I can only describe this accommodation as perfect and that I fell on my feet the day I received this offer of accommodation."

Another new tenant at Radharc an Óir, Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus, who would like to remain anonymous, stated:

"I would like to thank Clare County Council for providing me and my daughter with a home! I became homeless in 2015 after my mother passed away and my relationship consequently broke down with my family.

I 'sofa surfed' for a while until I've run out of options. Two wonderful charities supported me during my homelessness – Saint Vincent de Paul and Mid-West Simon Community – I am so grateful for their support. For a while I shared a house with other homeless individuals in Clann Nua Ennis Project.

Since Clare County Council informed me that I have been allocated a property in Newmarket on Fergus – my world transformed!

I feel like I can breathe and live again! All of my plans were on hold while I was homeless and now, I look forward to waking up and making plans, doing things – living again..."



HOUSING

Housing service delivery continues at pace with the Housing public counter open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065-6846334 or 065-6849403 to schedule same.

Capital housing projects in Tulla, Ennis and Miltown Malbay are shortly due to complete, these projects will be advertised on Choice Based Letting (CBL) in the coming weeks in order to have tenants appointed by handover date.

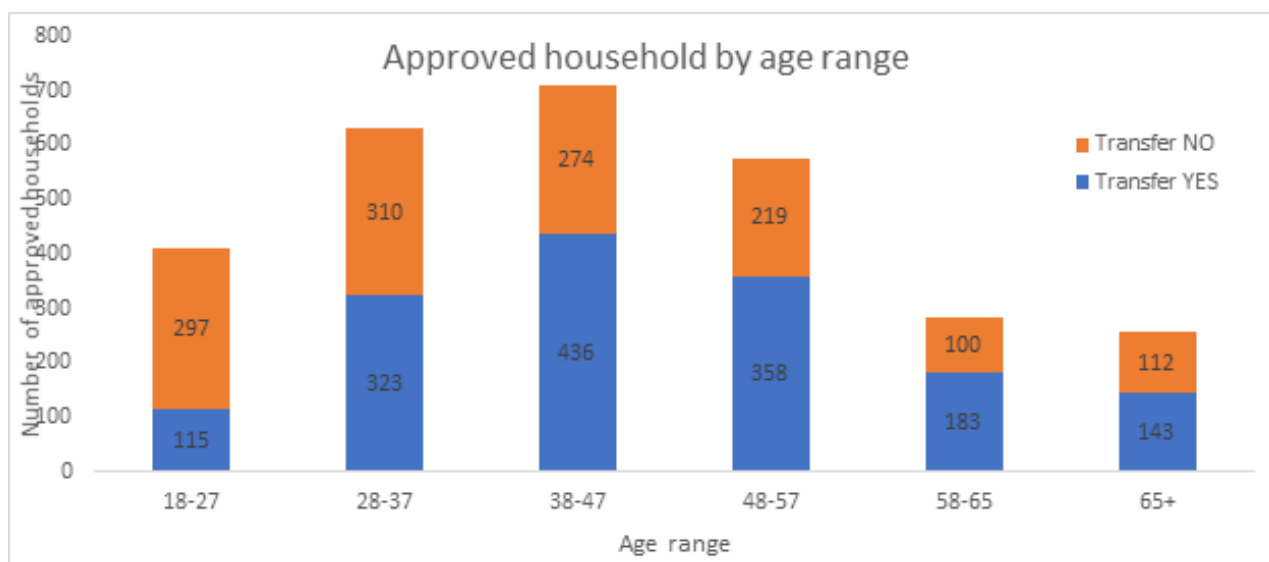
Housing need as of 26/04/2022:



Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved:

BEDS APPROVED						
FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Grand Total
CLARECASTLE		134	28	11	1	174
CLONLARA		16	5	2		23
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	2	36	10	1		49
COROFIN/RUAN		52	23	3		78
ENNIS	7	923	193	68	3	1194
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH		113	28	5		146
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	1	135	29	4		169
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY		24	3	2		29
KILFENORA		6	2			8
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT		68	10	1		79
KILLALOE		55	8	3		66
KILMALEY		10	3			13
KILMIHIL		9	7	3		19
KILRUSH		97	31	7		135
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN		37	10	4		51
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY		77	37	10		124
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY		71	12	7		90
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS		59	14	4		77
QUIN		16	8	1		25
SHANNON		182	25	14		221
SIXMILEBRIDGE		35	6	7		48
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD		41	9	2		52
Grand Total	10	2196	501	159	4	2870

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



BEDS APPROVED						
BASIS OF NEED	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Grand Total
Concluded that Mortgage is uns		28	2	6		36
Currently Dependent on Rent Su	3	1266	355	78	1	1703
Disability requirement - intel	4	80	3	5		92
Disability requirement - menta		63	6	1		70
Disability requirement - physi	1	109	17	2		129
Disability requirement - senso		4	3			7
Exceptional Medical or Compass		71	21	17		109
Homeless, Institution, Emergen	1	89	18	2		110
Involuntary Sharing	1	316	39	7		363
Overcrowded		72	27	30	2	131
Unfit		32	4	5		41
Unsuitable - Particular Househ		66	6	6	1	79
Grand Total	10	2196	501	159	4	2870

Housing allocations

Offers issued (from (26.03.2022 to 20.04.2022)	13
Offers refused	1
Tenancies signed up	20
Tenancies terminated	8

Housing Tenancies

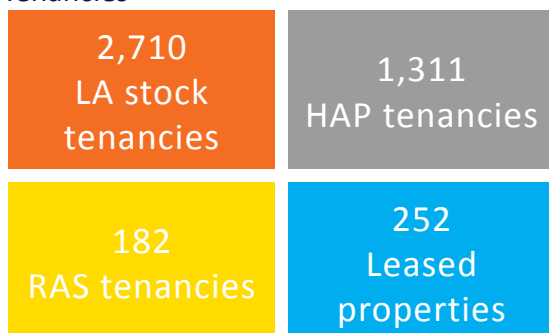
*Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent):

PROPERTY STATUS				
Municipal District	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ennis MD	2	1179	28	1209
Killaloe MD	2	375	10	387
West Clare MD		679	14	693
Shannon MD	3	925	45	973
Grand Total	7	3158	97*	3262

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD
Traveller accommodation	4	6	2	0
Derelict properties	0	2	0	1
Projects	5	6	0	0
Completed scheme	0	1	0	0
Casual vacancies	25	27	7	11
TOTAL	34	42	9	12

Average cost of returning casual vacancies to stock in April was €17,025 with an average vacancy period of 125 days.

Tenancies



Estate Management

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

	April 22	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	395	2,240

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

Private Rented inspections

Work to achieve the target for private rented inspections (1,025) has accelerated in April with 75 physical inspections undertaken. A work programme has been set out with dedicated staff assigned to ensuring this target number of inspections is achieved. We continue to address hesitancy of tenants to facilitate access and continue to communicate with tenants to ensure tenants are available when we call to the property to carry out a scheduled inspection.

Housing Grants

Grants Approved for April 2022

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	20	408,540
Housing Aid for Older People	25	115,580
Mobility Aids Grant	21	44,470
Total	66	632,237

Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie



Homeless

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

The service remains at capacity with access to private emergency accommodation further impacted by the demand for accommodation of this nature.

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 24th March 2022 to 21st April 2022: 6 households exited from homeless services 1 to Local Authority own door and 3 to AHB properties, 1 self-discharged and 1 to private rented.

Homeless presentations from 24th March 2022 to 21st April, 2022:

New presentations	14
Repeat presentations	75
Total presentations	89

Status as of 21st April 2022:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	5	8	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	7	13	13	1
EA Families	2	2	3	2
EA Individuals	0	5	0	4
TOTAL	13	54	24	10

Ukrainian accommodation response

The Housing team has been very busy during April arranging accommodation for displaced persons from Ukraine. Emergency accommodation units have been provided at the Quin Road, Ennis and at Newmarket-on-Fergus. The Council is liaising with the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) in identifying a number of potentially available multi-occupancy emergency shelters and accommodation facilities. Currently there are circa 2,000 Ukrainians at various locations throughout the county. The Housing Dept is also tasked with co-ordinating the inspections of pledged accommodation both supplied directly and through the Irish Red Cross.

Vacant properties

There is a renewed focus on vacant units as a potential long term housing solution for displaced Ukrainians. This Council has extensive groundwork done in this area and continues to seek ownership information on properties that have been identified as potential long term vacant in each MD. Initial visual inspections on 63 potential properties was carried out during April. The team is also progressing with the CPO process for one vacant property in the Killaloe MD.

The public are encouraged to register vacant properties on the website www.vacanthomes.ie Properties registered on

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

this website are investigated and assessed for suitability for redevelopment/purchase.

Status as at 25/04/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	4		5
Killaloe	2		0
West Clare	10	63	0
Shannon			1
TOTAL	16	63	6

Defective Concrete Blocks

The Council continue to liaise with the Department of Housing and the Clare Pyrite Action Group to seek to meet the conditions of the Department for the inclusion of Clare in the Defect Concrete Block redress scheme. Meetings are scheduled for early May to update the Clare Pyrite Action Group on the planned response to the Department.

Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Shauntraud Woods, Killaloe	4	Complete and allocated	-	Q1 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Complete and allocated	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q2 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q3 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Stage 2 Approved. Part VIII Approved	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII under Judicial Review.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Clarecastle	2	4 Stage application to issue to DHLGH.	Q3 3022	Q3 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Submit determination by ABP.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 1 approved.	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. CENA appointed to support project development.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Subtotal	246			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF – Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V – Completed. Sale closed 15th February 2022.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction 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)	55	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) 15 units to be delivered in Q1 2022 40 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q2 2021 Q4 2021	Q1 2022 Q3 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction in progress	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVery Trust	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q1 2022	Q1 2023

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen	16	CALF Turnkey – Department approved 6 units to be delivered in Q1 2023 10 units to be delivered in Q4 2023	Q2 2022 Q3 2022	Q1 2023 Q4 2023
Subtotal	151			
Total	397			

SPORTS & RECREATION

Active Ennis Leisure Complex



The team was delighted to welcome back camps with our Easter Camp running from the 18th – 22nd April with 28 children taking part. Full details on activities can be found on www.activeennis.ie where information on summer camps, swimming lessons and other activities planned for the summer will be posted. The next Swim Lesson Programme term begins on 3rd May.

The popular Aqua Aerobics class returned in mid March, this class is very popular with active aged and others.

Demand for the Schools Swimming Programme is significant with the timetable full for the Easter/Summer Term.

Gym activity is steadily increasing and in-house classes such as Body Blast, Hiit and Lunch Crunch are back to full capacity. We have some exciting new additions to this programme on their way including Pilates and Yoga. This term, our Rock and Roll Fitness, which is available for all abilities including special needs customers, and Teen Gym, continues to be extremely popular.

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

Demand for these facilities remains consistent with significant upcoming events such as the Community Games competitions which are scheduled for June/July. In addition the Schoolboy/girl Soccer Leagues have returned this April and the annual ‘Relay for Life Event’ returns this summer after the Covid-19 hiatus.

As Covid has not disappeared, clubs and patrons are reminded to exercise personal responsibility with regard to their safety and the safety of others. All clubs and patrons are requested to leave facilities as they find them. Any operational issues or

queries can be reported by email to info@activeennis.ie

All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on www.activeennis.ie

Clare Local Sports Partnership cooperates with the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis



- Active Play resources are being translated and a plan to hold training is being developed.
- Teen ‘After School Programme’ is being developed and will be rolled out in the relevant communities. This will be an integrated programme with local communities.
- Exploring the possibility of a community sports hall ‘Athletics Programme’ base in the ‘mass’ accommodation areas. Again, this will be a community integrated approach.
- Bicycle ‘Recycling’ Scheme initially targeting 50 bicycles is being rolled out. This is being funded by Clare County Council and facilitated by Clare LSP.
- Fit Sticks Programme is being developed and will be rolled out in the specific communities for Adults.
- Club Development Grant. A limited fund has been set aside to directly support clubs, through their county boards that have increased numbers.
- Working with Sport Ireland to overcome challenges around Garda Vetting for Ukrainian nationals and indeed other displaced individuals.
- Working with Sport Ireland to look at how a Safeguarding Programme could be facilitated through Ukrainian & other languages.
- Gathering club documentation that can be translated into Ukrainian.
- We are looking for Volunteers, in conjunction with Clare Volunteer Centre, in the particular communities that are under pressure from the increased population.
- We are looking at organising Coach Education/Ancillary Training/Fundamental Training for the new volunteers in areas such as Active Leadership, Dealing with Trauma etc.

CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library



New desk in Shannon Library.

20 deliveries were made to housebound library members. The new Library Management system, Spydus, began operating in April. A new desk was installed in Shannon Library. This will facilitate the IT integration between the library and Clare County Council.

Clare County Library applied for resources and software licences funding under the Dormant Accounts Funding. Resources include c-pens for those with dyslexia and literacy issues.

Online Resources usage for previous month

1,367 E-Books	2,500 E-Audiobooks	607 E-Magazines
127 Online courses	2105 Press Reader	82 Transparent Languages

Marketing

Social media stats for previous month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	31	6186	86	423	113	13
	15	2016	37	131	33	0
	5	1626	96	716	12,262	22

There has been a significant increase in the number of live events in the last month since restrictions have lifted – including workshops, story times and events. There also has been a sizeable increase in audience attendance.

Total number of live events	53
Total number of online events	2
Total attendances at live events	337
Total attendances at online events	9
Total number of outreach visits	1
Total attendance at outreach visits	18



Children's author, Mary Murphy visits Shannon Library.

Right to Read

Clare Libraries hosted picture book author and illustrator Mary Murphy at Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Tulla and Killaloe branches on 5th and 6th of April. Mary's visits were enjoyed by 5 pre-school groups who visited to take part in the national Right to Read programmes; Spring Into Storytime and the Little Library initiative.

In addition, all branches are getting ready to host story time sessions and activities for young children in April and May.

The Little Library Initiative provides free book bags for all childcare services. Children starting primary school in Clare in September are invited to collect a gift of a special bag of books at their local library from Friday, 8th April.

The stories in each bag are about starting school, being happy in yourself and making friends. A library card for children joining the library and special wallet to keep it in are also included. This is the current phase of the Little Library programme

which was rolled out by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in 2021 in collaboration with Public Libraries, to support children's early language and literacy development. The focus of the initiative is to build strong links between Early Learning Centres, School Aged Children's services and libraries.

Healthy Ireland

Three Healthy Ireland in-branch events took place this month. Kiltrush Library hosted a talk by Nicola Thompson, a Parkinson's Nurse Specialist on the 6th April and 32 people attended the event, to mark Parkinson's Awareness week. There was great feedback from the attendees as well as the organisers from the Parkinson's Association of Ireland who said that this event will help to relaunch a support group for the people of Clare.

On Friday 8th April, Trish Cleary facilitated a Chair Yoga class in Killaloe Library, 4 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed the class.

Newmarket on Fergus Library hosted a Chair Yoga class, with Trish Cleary on Thursday 14th April.

Local Studies

The Local Studies Centre has developed a major collection of auctioneer's sales catalogues from the period 1850 to 1892, chronicling the sale and disposal of land in County Clare in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In the immediate post-Famine period many estates were insolvent and their owners faced bankruptcy. Much like the National Assets Management Agency in our time, the Incumbered Estates Court of the 1850s was a vehicle set up to dispose of distressed property. The collection now in the Local Studies Centre records the transfer of land and property in Clare up to the beginning of the twentieth century when the work of Irish Land Commission began in earnest. A comprehensive index to this important collection is now on the library website.

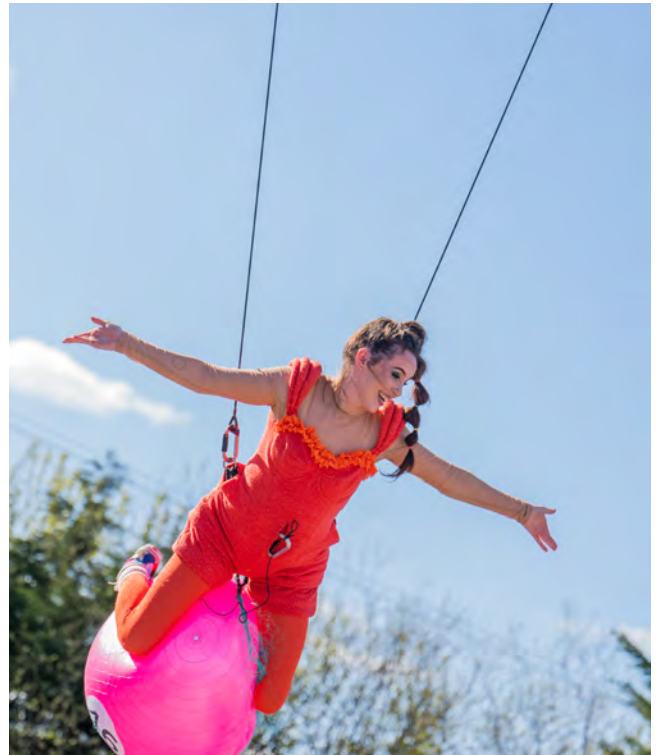
Clare Archives

Additional accruals to the Dwyer Collection have been made which will be added to the collection's descriptive list. Additional images will be added to the website in the coming month.

Each month the Archives Service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies library from the archives' collection.

The digitisation of material continues. An application for membership to the Digital Repository of Ireland is being made which will ensure long term digital preservation for Clare County Archives' digital collections.

A collection of Chief Executive Orders from various sections within the Council have been professionally bound and are now safely stored in the Archives repository.



HOUSE! at Clare Marts, Ennis. Photo: Tom Micks Photography.

Clare Arts Office

The Visual Voices programme continued with workshops with the Alzheimer's Society, St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and Raheen Day Care Centre.

Guided talks took place at the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon and the County Museum for Cultural Companions.

Three exhibitions also took place in Kilkee, Ennis and Scariff.

HOUSE! produced by Fidget Feet and commissioned by Clare County Council in partnership with Galway County and Limerick Arts Offices sold out at the Ennis Mart.

Culturlann Sweeney held a water safety talk for Ukrainians, a film fundraiser screening the Ukrainian film Olga and a theatre show for Ukrainian children.

18 applications for live music performances were received and assessed through the Live Local Performance Scheme.

Nathalie El Baba began an Artist in Schools residency in Clouna NS while David O'Rourke began an Arts and Disability project with the Brothers of Charity Scariff.

The line-up for the Riches of Clare concert series, featuring 16 concerts was announced.

A webinar for the PRISM Street Art Scheme took place.

The Arts Officer joined the Mid West Creative Hub Advisory Group for Helium Arts to provide an art programme for ill children in Ennis during the summer.

Clare Museum

Two primary classes had guided tours of the museum this month. Three classes of English language school students also visited during the month.

106 items were catalogued, all newly donated collections since December.

There is ongoing work in the Museum in preparation of De Valera's car being transferred to the Museum.

- Photographs of de Valera were transferred from where the car is currently stored, and these were mounted on the walls in the tourist office.
- A final edit of the text panels has taken place and they are to be printed and mounted.
- One of two exhibition/display screens has been delivered and mounted in the lobby of the museum for visitor information purposes.

The audited accounts for 2020 were submitted to the Heritage Council for MSPI purposes. The museum will receive its MSPI maintenance certificate on 13th July at Kilkenny Castle.

The Local Authority Museums Network launched a new strategic plan during the month at the Custom House in Dublin. Its strategic aims are:

- To build relationships and develop communities
- Celebrate the stories of Ireland through Museum collections
- Promote place in society.



Clare Museum curator, John Rattigan, attends the Local Authority Museums Network.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Preparatory works are underway in relation to the Schedule of Municipal District works 2022. Enabling works for the delivery of ‘surface dressing’ and ‘strengthening projects’ at Slieveanore, Leacarrow, Ballycar Road, Sallybank, Rathclooney and Dooglaun have commenced.

Blacktop Contract

Design and contract documents are complete in relation to the Regional Blacktop Contract for 2022. As the procurement process is near completion it is anticipated works will begin in late Spring.

Section 177 Planning Permission

In conjunction with the General Design office and the Tourism section, Clare County Council has submitted a planning application for a new amenity building in Two Mile gate. The building proposes new shower and changing facilities along with communal areas. The project also proposes ancillary improvements in relation to accessibility and wastewater treatment.

Ballycuggeran

Activity relating to the Aquapark at Ballycuggeran will commence in May 2022.

Active Travel 2022 Summary: Killaloe MD Programme

Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Works ongoing
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Contractor to be appointed

Droomindoora	Tender preparation
Quin	Works complete
Clariford Park Connection	At Tender stage
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Works complete



Footpath Extension Clooney – April 22



Active Travel Works – Tulla April 22

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

Clare County Council has received its road grant allocations for 2022. The overall allocation for Roads in the 2022 Roadworks Programme is €48.4million which comprises of Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Department of Transport and National Transport Authority grant allocations along with IPBMI and own resource allocations.

The Roadworks Programme for 2022 has been prepared as part of the SMDW for 2022 and has been adopted by all four Municipal District meetings in March.

Preparation for rollout of the 2022 programme of work has commenced in the Municipal Districts in April.

Strategic Transportation

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) document was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) Board during the summer of 2020. The LSMATS public consultation, to which all Members were invited, was launched by the NTA on 2nd September, 2020, and was on public display for an 8 week period up to 30th October. There were over 112 submissions during the process which the NTA have considered. A presentation was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC in February 2021. The revised Draft LSMATS document was published on 26th April, 2022. There will be a consultation period for 6 weeks until 10th June.

Connecting Ireland

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

Active Travel Programme 2022

Funding for the Active Travel 2022 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on 24th January, 2022. The total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,298,000.

The following is brief overview of the status of ongoing projects:

- Construction works ongoing in Tulla, Quin, Boston and Ruan



- Construction works to commence in Doolin and Lisdoonvarna
- Tender packages being prepared for Clarisford, Dromindoorra and Kilmaley
- Statutory processes being undertaken for Spanish Point
- Detailed design being advanced for St Flannans School in Inagh, Ennis Road in Miltown Malbay and Latoon Cycling Scheme
- Preliminary analysis being carried out for Ennis Park and Stride and Ennis Public Lighting
- Concept designs being prepared for Clare Road in Ennis, Tulla Road in Ennis, Ballycasey in Shannon and Lissycasey.

Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. Following the successful conclusion of the procurement process a contractor has been appointed as the Design Build Works Contract for this regional project. At present 50% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

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

- Internet: Direct reporting on our website – <https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland/>
- Phone: Enevero (Formerly SEE Airtricity) dedicated call centre at 0818-372772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority's website or contact number. <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight/>

Road Design Office

Current Projects: April 2022

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 19th January, 2022.

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. The RDO carried out a topographical survey of the N85 from Claureen roundabout to the start of the speed limit zone and are currently developing conceptual designs for this area. <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.
TII HD 17 Sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 & N67/L1016 now completed, conceptual designs for N67/L50222 and N67/L50221 are completed and Feasibility Reports are being developed. Conceptual designs progressing for N67/L1022 and N67/1016. Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. A comprehensive traffic and pedestrian survey was undertaken in early August, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been carried out and CCC are awaiting report from Auditors. This will form part of the Preliminary Design Report for submission to TII. The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for this junction has been carried out with Minister Place and CCC is awaiting on report from Auditors. A Feasibility Report is being prepared for submission to the TII.

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022

- An application for 2022 LCS Schemes was submitted to the Department of Transport in October 2021. The Department of Transport has allocated a total of €529,000 for safety improvement works on regional and local roads for 2022. The design process for these schemes is ongoing.

Other Projects 2022

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works for 2021 are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	Works on the last remaining bus shelter at Newmarket is ongoing and will be completed in by mid May.
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 receive.
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 2022. 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.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The Department of Transport has allocated €70,000 for 2022 as a Specific Improvement Grant to complete the works commenced in 2021.

Bridge Rehabilitation

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €602,000.

- AA Screening: Currently Preparing Tender Documents for 2022 Bridge Projects. Tenders returned Consultant appointed.
- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed. Consultant appointed. Contractor appointed. NIS completed, environmental issues to be resolved prior to commencing works. NIS sent to Development Applications Unit at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for comment.
- Killestry Bridge: Contractor on site, works complete. Snagging ongoing.
- Scariff Bridge: Contractor on site, works 85% complete.
- Cavanagh's Bridge: Repair Works out to tender.
- Cooraclare Bridge: Repair Works out to tender.
- Drumullan Bridge: Repair Works out to tender.
- Gortnamearacaun Bridge: Repair Works out to tender.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Team have commenced their schedule of Annual Safety Statement and Risk Assessment Reviews with updates to the Occupational Health and Safety Management System communicated in March 2022.

The Top Level H&S Objectives approved by the Safety Management Committee in February 2022 have commenced implementation with face to face briefings delivered on Health & Safety across a range of Departments and the development of a suite of Safety Posters and supporting toolbox talks.

Training in the use of the Traffic Management Dashboard manual and supporting software have continued with a briefing delivered on 13th April to all Traffic Management Designers and relevant Traffic Management Supervisors.

The Health and Safety Team have commenced their schedule of Safety Inspections in order to inspect, monitor and advise on the implementation of the Clare County Council Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

General Design Office

Michael Cusack Visitor Centre

Works will consist of an extension to the café, installation of a hurling wall and playing surface, upgrade of the wastewater treatment system and renewable energy upgrades.



Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Corofin Town & Village Renewal Scheme – topographical survey finalised and on file. Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

Parteen Town & Village Renewal Scheme – topographical survey concluded, preliminary design proposals, options and cost estimates approved, proposed publishing on eTenders April

2022, Tender

Clonlara Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Initial briefings and design meetings held Thursday, 21st April, project to proceed with preliminary design investigations

Drumgeely Shannon Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Initial briefings and design meetings held Thursday, 21st April, project to proceed with preliminary design investigations.

Flagmount Digital Hub

Construction works at the Flagmount Digital Hub have been completed and the facility is due to open by the end of April 2022.



Ennistymon Digital Hub Extension

The extension to the Ennistymon Digital Hub has been completed and was visited by the Minister for Social Protection and Minister

for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphries TD on 7th April, 2022.

Surveys

Continual surveys on Killaloe Bypass project, as per request from Capital Projects – CPO and fence lines set out/checked.



Mapping/Drawing

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

Sixmilebridge Access - Regularise Steps/Handrail on TVR Scheme – Tender drawings finalised and approved. Gone for pricing March 2022. Quotation received and approved, awaiting confirmation from contractor.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

April was another busy month for the Project Management Office where along with the various Progress Group and Steering Group meetings, we had a Ministerial visit, a deadline for grant applications, news that the Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme was shortlisted for an award and the announcement of funding for Piers and Harbours. The main updates relating to our key projects during the month are as follows:

Clounahinchy Flood Relief Scheme

Queries from individual landowners have been responded to and site meetings have taken place over the last month. We still await final agreement from all landowners, all of whom have been advised that until these are submitted, the project cannot progress any further.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

The Scheme Consultants have now finalised the Draft Flood Maps highlighting the benefitting areas following the completion of the scheme. These were received by the Council only this week and are currently being reviewed following which they will be forwarded to the OPW for approval. Thereafter they will be published and will inform the Planning Authority as well as the Insurance Industry. Provision of the new water-level monitoring system has been awarded and will be installed shortly. The related Riverside Walk and Cycleway was officially opened by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys on April 7th and is proving extremely popular with users. The associated information boards, signage, seating, bike racks, etc is in the process of being procured and produced and will be installed at the earliest juncture.

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

The decision regarding confirmation or otherwise of the CPO

following the Oral Hearing in June 2021 is still awaited from An Bord Pleanála. We are advised that the report is still with the Inspector where once completed, it will pass to the Board for decision to confirm, amend or reject the CPO application and this will inform our next course of action.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

The works being carried out here involve the restoration and enhancement of a section of the original pathway for the benefit of a multitude of users, both from the local community and the student population. Essential limbing of branches and cut-back of overhanging trees has already been completed prior to the Nesting Season commencing. The Contractor is scheduled to return to site in the coming weeks to resurface the pathway with compacted limestone. These improvement works are being undertaken as an interim measure as related to same, the Members will be aware of the more expensive proposal for a Greenway/Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff and we are working closely with Waterways Ireland in this regard. The scheme is currently at Public Consultation stage with presentations being held in a number of venues as advertised in local media.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Following the issue of the Letter of Acceptance issued to John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd on 16th February 2022, they were essentially in contract as of March 16th 2022 with works allowed to start on site anytime thereafter. The Contract period is for 33 months.

We are all aware of the issues affecting the construction industry generally with hyper-inflation driving up costs significantly, unprecedented supply chain difficulties due to Brexit, the Ukrainian conflict, economic sanctions applied against Russia and more recently, regrettably the fallout from the Roadbridge

receivership and the combined effect of these has hindered the commencement of the works on site.

The Project Team is working closely with Sisks regarding progressing the delivery of the project at the earliest juncture. To this end, programme sequencing is currently being reviewed which may facilitate alternative procurement strategies to secure the supply chain and manage inflationary risk and while the resequencing of some works may assist with Sisks commencement on site, it will not address the significant cost escalations since the works were priced late last year. Members may be aware that Government are currently examining proposed amendments to the Public Works Contracts which would provide some relief for contractors currently engaged in the delivery of major capital works projects and we await an update from Government in this regard.

Related, the Letter of Acceptance and Chief Executives order formally appointing RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd as consultant to provide Site Supervisory roles/Resident Engineering Staff has been prepared and will be issued once we have the Main Contractors detailed construction programme to hand. Other works currently ongoing include:

- The few remaining Land Acquisitions are currently being progressed by Clare County Council and its agents.
- Ecological monitoring of the bat roost structure and numerous bat boxes installed across the site was carried out during this period.
- The results are still awaited (delay in testing due to Covid-19 pandemic) from the detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works carried out on site in 2021. Following the provision of these results to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd, the final reports can be prepared, and a public presentation organised as promised. We would hope to be able to hold this later in 2022.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

The draft ground investigation report is due for submission at the end of April. This will then allow the consultant to progress with the costing of the various options as part of the 'Option Appraisal' activity. The options and models for the Victoria and Atlantic streams have been updated since the last report following the submission of comments/observations from CCC/OPW.

Further to the submission of the Hydraulics and Hydrology reports, a technical meeting was held with the consultants to review their findings of the wave overtopping study and coastal modelling. Some initial proposals have been discussed and will be further developed in the coming weeks. The OPW coastal section has returned their comments on the coastal model to the consultant.

The consultant is currently developing a conceptual design to deal with storm water around the Well Road area. Their proposals will be submitted for review in advance of the May Steering Group meeting. CCC and the consultant have commenced preparations for the next public consultation day to be carried out towards the end of Q2. It is expected that this consultation will take place in person with similar information made available on the project website during this time.

Progress on the scheme and upcoming works is available on the project website at www.kilkeefrs.ie alongside associated scheme literature and the project information video.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

This matter is shortly to be heard before the Courts with a Hearing date set for mid July 2022. Dependant on the outcome of same, we will be able to advise of our next steps thereafter. If favourable, we will be able to move forward with this important project to include further Surveys, Geotechnical Investigations, Detailed design, and engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

Following a meeting with one of the main landowners involved, we are considering alternative options for the delivery of this scheme. Given the significant delay and rising construction costs, we will need to review cost estimates and ensure that the scheme is still economically viable. If it is, we will most likely have to retender the works and this will be done at the earliest juncture.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) is currently progressing with the procurement of a Traffic Survey Specialists, Ortho imagery, Archaeology & Geophysical Consultant. The wintering birds survey has now also been completed and the results gained from these surveys will assist the further development of the scheme design including the layout and junction arrangements, identifying the lands required for the scheme and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Priority Geotechnical Ltd returned to site in early April to complete the remainder of the trial pitting, probing and drilling works. During the Summer months the laboratory testing and analysis of the excavated material from site will be completed which will then see the conclusion of this site investigations works contract. Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie

N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme

Data Gathering from previous work done on this project continues and will inform the Project Brief and scope of the works when we advertise the Tender for Technical Advisors in the coming weeks. Thereafter we would expect to appoint them later in the summer following assessment and review. Funding of €100k is available in this year's budget to progress this project.

Piers and Harbours

Clare County Council were recently advised that we were successful in seven of our ten applications under the 'Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme'. The Department has advised of over €300k for investment in the coming year to include works at Doonmore, Liscannor, Cappagh, Kildysart, Labasheeda, Knock and the Shannon Estuary.

Public Realm Regeneration project (Ennis)

A well-attended Information Evening was held on Thursday March 31st in the Civic Room, Drumbiggle which afforded the various stakeholders including business owners, members of the public and interested parties, to meet with the Design team, Clare County Council, and Irish Water to review and discuss the preliminary construction phasing plan. Comment forms were distributed and the feedback of those attending on the night recorded. A briefing to the Ennis MD Councillors was held in advance of this Public Information evening.

An advance works contract involving a Water Mains upgrade by Irish Water and a Medium Voltage cable upgrade by the ESB will commence in early May subject to the necessary Road Closures being approved. These works will take approximately 3 months to complete following which the Public Realm works will commence. Irish Water will be informing all affected business this week of the forthcoming works (per Road Closure Notice).

Tender documents for the Public Realm element of the works will be issued to the 5 no. shortlisted contractors in late April, following completion of detailed design and the Bill of Quantities. Following review and tender assessment, we would expect to award the Contract in late June/early July with the successful Contractor commencing on site in August. Regrettably, there will be disturbance experienced during these works, but this is unavoidable, and every effort will be made to minimise it as much as possible. We will engage with Elected Members and affected Business owners/Residents as the work progresses to keep everyone informed of developments.

Remediation of sites containing ACM

It is envisaged that contract documents will be issued to Technical advisors in the coming days, thereby allowing design development to progress and preparation of tender documents for main remediation contract. The sites continue to be monitored by Council staff having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

A Hydraulic Technical Workshop was carried out in early April to review progress on the consultant's fluvial model. Some areas of further investigation and calibration were identified but in general, the works carried out to date were representative of the situation in Shannon.

Lab testing of soils is nearing completion. The final Factual Report is expected soon after testing along with the consultant's technical note on the geotechnical stability of the existing embankments.

An environmentally focused site visit was held in April with CCC, OPW and the consultant's EIAR and ecologist leads for the scheme. During the visit, issues such as habitat mapping and creation, managed realignment and material storage were discussed, and actions assigned. A follow-up visit will be held during the summer to review the updated habitat mapping once issued. A collaborative workshop with various CCC departments will be carried out in early June to discuss any potential design considerations or constraints associated with ongoing or planned projects in the Shannon area.

SAA's contractor for their embankment maintenance works has remobilised following the winter down period. Works on the western embankments are expected to be ongoing into the summer period. Further information on the scheme is available on the project website at www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

Construction works on the scheme have resumed as of this week which is welcome news. The main focus now will be on the completion of the Earthen Embankments which had to be suspended last year for the winter period due to unfavourable ground conditions. Suitable material will be imported to site in accordance with the Temporary Traffic Management Plan to ensure that the operation is carried out safely, efficiently and with minimum disruption. The contractor will shortly commence works, in parallel, on the construction of the second culvert.

Minerex have completed all fieldworks related to the Geophysical survey and issued the draft report to the consultant. The scheme consultant is currently carrying out a survey to capture information on the existing private wells in the Springfield area. The scheme is due for completion in late October/early November 2022.

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

Clare County Council are progressing the project in accordance with the 'Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways'. We are currently preparing tender documentation for the appointment of an independent agronomist. In addition, Consultation with the NPWS and other relevant bodies is ongoing and has resulted in additional Ecological surveys being required. The PMO continue to engage with landowners and would welcome any comments or suggestions that members of the public may have. We can be contacted on 065-6821616 or via email at pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie

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

The contract documentation for the appointment of Consultants for Section 2 of the West Clare Railway Greenway has been issued to the successful tenderer, Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers. A formal contract signing, and start-up meeting will be held in mid-May and we look forward to working with Roughan O'Donovan Consulting Engineers on this exciting project. Consultation with landowners along the proposed route corridor will commence in the coming weeks, again in accordance with the Code of Practice agreed between the Department and the Farming representative bodies. As always, we welcome comments or suggestions from affected parties or members of the public on 065-6821616 or via email at pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works

The Preliminary Design and Options Selection Report is complete and we are now awaiting a meeting with the OPW to discuss progressing to the next stage of development at the earliest juncture.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during April:

- Swiftwater Rescue Refresher Course held in Ennis
- Community Fire Responder Advanced Refresher training

took place in all 7 stations

- Cylinder Filling Training held in Ennis Fire Station
- Wildland Fire Fighting Course held in Ennis Fire Station and at various outdoor venues throughout the county.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	March 2022	April 2022 (Up to 25.04.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	87	58	329
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	5	1	23
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	8	4	27
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	1	1	13
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	6	4	20
Number of Commencement Notices Received	43	22	126
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	3	0	4

(Note: In the April Monthly Report, the March figures related to 1st to 25th March due to timing of report)

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel, Ennis as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.
- Clare v Limerick Senior Football Championship match in Cusack Park.
- Charity Cycle Events in East and North Clare.
- Rally Cross Event in Doonbeg.
- Family Charity Run in Barefield.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Members attended a National Training Day for Emergency Medical Technicians in Roscrea.

Due to Clare Civil Defence being tasked to set up and run Emergency Respite Accommodation for displaced Ukrainians, all further training has been suspended for the moment.

Establishment of Emergency Respite Accommodation for displaced Ukrainians

On 6th April, the Civil Defence Officer (CDO) and Assistant Civil Defence Officer (ACDO) were tasked by the Chief Executive of Clare County Council to establish and operate Emergency Respite Accommodation for displaced Ukrainians arriving seeking refuge in Ireland. The former Civil Defence base on the Quin Road was identified as the most suitable location. This premises was secured by the CDO from the owners, J&G Murphy (it should be noted that the owners of the premises have given over the use of the building to Clare County Council, free of charge).

Up to thirty members of Clare CD spent the next four days preparing the premises to accept the Displaced Persons (DPs). Works included: re-painting of several rooms within the building; deep

cleaning of the building; washing of windows; sourcing an electrical contractor to fit a new heating system into the garage area; sourcing and supply of camp beds and sleeping bags; sourcing and supply of children's toys and games; setting up a children's play room; carpeting the garage areas of the building; sourcing and supply of foodstuffs, toiletries, welcome packs, phone chargers, charging converters, etc.; with assistance from Clare County Council, a cleaning contractor was sourced to provide essential daily cleaning of the centre and a catering company was sourced to provide three meals a day for the displaced persons.

The Emergency Respite Accommodation has a capacity of up to 35 persons, depending on family configurations. On the evening of Sunday April 10th, 19 DPs arrived at the centre. During this time, Clare CD volunteer members provided a 24-hour per day presence at the centre in order to assist the residents with any requests or difficulties that they may have or encounter. Also, during this period the members arranged for the attendance of several government and non-government organisations at the centre in order to assist the residents integrate into the community. These agencies included representatives from – the Department Of Social Welfare (Intreo), Clare Local Development Committee, the HSE (Ukrainian Support Team) and Clare Immigrant Support. Following agreement by the Internation Protection Accommodation Services, more permanent accommodation was arranged and Civil Defence provided transportation to their new location on Monday, 25th April.

The CDO engaged with the Chief Fire Officer, the Director of Services, Social Development Directorate and the Corporate Section of CCC to identify suitable premises throughout the county for medium to long term accommodation for the DPs. Members assisted Obair of Newmarket on Fergus to establish a second Emergency Respite Accommodation in Newmarket on Fergus.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

National Spring Clean 2022

As National Spring Clean draws to a close 164 groups/individuals registered for this initiative to date. Participants have been advised that they can avail of free passes to our Waste Transfer Facilities. Since January 2022, 59 free passes have been issued to community groups for community clean ups. Groups have also been supported with litter pickers, bags and gloves.

As part of National Spring Clean two online workshops were delivered to community groups. The first was a Leave No Trace webinar followed by a Litter Management workshop by Aoife Munn on 25th April, 2022.

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Award

We are delighted to have received a Silver Award in the All Ireland Community & Council Award presented by IPB insurance and LAMA in the Best Waste Management Programme category for Clare Waste Awareness Week. Clare Waste Awareness Week was a five-day virtual event in association with the Southern Regional Waste Management Planning Office. It highlighted the role of the County's five civic amenity sites, informed citizens

on what they can do to correctly dispose of their waste and provided up-to-date information on reusing, reducing and recycling.

Circular Economy Academy

A Circular Economy Academy was delivered in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency through the Circular Economy Programme at Glor on the 6th April 2022. The clinic was facilitated by Sarah Miller, CEO of the Rediscovery Centre and Claire Downey, Director of Policy & Research at the Rediscovery Centre. The academy supports organisations to replicate the Rediscovery Centre's successful paint, furniture, fashion and bicycle reuse initiatives.

Green Schools 2021/2022

An Taisce Green School assessment visits also drew to a close in April. Across County Clare 20 primary and secondary school visits were carried covering all the environmental themes.

Environmental Campaigns

During April, we promoted the following environmental initiatives and messaging:

Campaign detail	Promotion details
National Spring Clean 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Release @ClareCoCo and @ GreenerClare social media Clare FM morning focus interview <p>Promoted through Rural and Community Department to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clare LCDC Membership Clare PPN Clare Rural & Community Development Officers
Circular Economy Academy	<p>Promoted through Rural and Community Department to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clare LCDC Membership Clare PPN Clare Rural & Community Development Officers
Reduce/Reuse/Recycle workshop	<p>Presentation and workshop to 40 Probus (ladies) members on 21st April 2022 at Templegate Hotel Ennis</p>
The Clare Echo Green Clare page	<p>The follow was promoted during April 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bin It OR Bring It Home Cigarette littering My Waste.ie Recycling guidelines ERP Waste Electrical Equipment collection event
Bicycle reuse initiative Unwanted bike appeal for redistribution to Ukrainian families	<p>This Anti-Dumping Initiative was launched on @ClareCoCo social media. An advert was also placed in the Clare Champion.</p>

Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific team to date in 2022:

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	April 2022	Jan-April 2022
Planning applications (Domestic)	36	143
Planning applications (Large Developments)	5	15
Planning applications (Forestry)	10	49
Planning applications (Agriculture)	1	9
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	5	12
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	8	38
Pollution complaints received	13	37
Warning & advisory letters issued	1	5
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0

Public Consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 which contains water quality objectives and a programme of measures to achieve those measures was closed on 1/04/22. A submission document on the draft plan was submitted from the Environment Section to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Gardening

During April, the primary focus of the Gardening Team was to ensure that young summer bedding plants were appropriately cared for to ensure that these flowers would be strong and healthy when planted in various public areas in early summer.



Late April signals the end of early season plants and flowers that have acted as a colourful enhancement of our public spaces. These plants will be removed with beds and planters then

prepared for additional planting during May and onwards. Our aim is to further promote the planting of perennial flowers thus eliminating the need to replant areas as the seasons change.

As part of the continued efforts by the Gardening Team to promote pollinator friendly planting schemes, the Gardening Section undertook to sow a number of wildflower meadow beds at the Central Waste Management Facility, Inagh.

Such projects serve to encourage plant and insect diversity and demonstrate to the general public how such measures can be implemented in existing green areas and gardens.

Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

This milestone project of capping off the landfill liner is now substantially complete. The integrated constructed wetland (ICW) cells 1 to 5 have been fully completed and planted. The species used consist of three main plant types – 1,256 Reed Sweet Grass, 1,256 Greater Pond Sedge and 1,256 Bullrush. There is also an additional 418 mix species included within the wetland area. All topsoiling has finished along the side slopes of the ICW and the borrows put area.

In addition to this the Environment Section specified a 4,500m² area to be covered using matured compost that has been generated on site at the Civic Amenity Site itself. This high quality compost was produced from household green waste, which was deposited at the CAS and processed naturally to develop into a high quality usable compost. This compost was produced from the green/garden waste taken in from the recycling centres around the County. This is the very definition of the Circular Economy in use on this project.

Grass seeding of all areas is continuing and nearing completion and the contractor is expected to be finished on site by the end of April.



Bottle Banks

Seasonal Bottle Banks were put in place by the end of April at

White Strand Doonbeg and White Strand Miltown Malbay in preparation for the summer season ahead.

Recycling Centres

Maintenance works have taken place in the bunded storage area at Shannon Recycling Centre along with the replacement of a pump during the month of April.

Waste Enforcement

RMCEI 2022 Plan and Focus Area for April

The updated RMCEI plan for 2022 was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in April. This plan outlines the priority areas for inspections in 2022, in line with the National Enforcement Priorities.

In addition to routine patrols and complaint investigation, the targeted priority inspection area for April was Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and battery inspections.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The 2022 Anti-Dumping Initiative Funding application was submitted to the DECC via WERLA in April.

This year's application focused on projects targeted at preventing illegal dumping throughout each Municipal District. Also included is an application for funding to run a bicycle recycling scheme to provide bicycles to Ukrainian refugees currently living in Co. Clare, in line with the principals of a circular economy.

Liaising with Business Owners in Relation to Litter Management

In advance of the summer holiday season 2022, liaisons has begun with business owners, in the food retail sector, advising

them of their responsibilities relating to litter management under the Litter Pollution Act. This monitoring and mentoring campaign will continue for the coming months.

Legal Proceedings

Legal proceedings are ongoing against 10 professional importers of Specified Vehicles throughout Co. Clare, to ensure they join the compliance scheme, ELVES. These cases were adjourned at the April sitting of Ennis District Court to allow the defendants time to seek meaningful engagement with the statutory process.

Legal proceedings are also ongoing against landowners for the holding and disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause environmental pollution.

Notifications of Controlled Burning

In April, under the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal By Burning) Regulations 2009, 2 notifications of intention to burn were received and processed.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team responded to 105 complaints relating to waste and litter in April to date. These are currently being investigated and closed out.

A total of 3 litter fines and one fine under the current Clare Beach Bye Laws were issued in April to date, one of which has already been paid.

A total of 2 notices under Section 9 of the Litter Pollution Act were issued in April to date, and 2 Warning Letters were also issued in April.

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 2022 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water. All protocols and working procedures relating to Covid-19 are being adhered to in the delivery of the service.

Water Services Operations

Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity/work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 25th March, 2022, up to and including 21st April, 2022. The figures do not, however, reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 20 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe

- 273 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- There were no Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders received during the period
- 98 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 22 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 15 were for unplanned burst water mains, pump failure, water flushing and water discolouration. 5 Communication notifications for water supply flushing, burst water mains and low water pressure and the remaining 2 were planned outages for electricity power outages.

Water Operations

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

- Shanaway road – Burst Watermain
- Hermitage – Burst Watermain
- Lifford Road Ennis – Burst Watermain

- Quin Road Industrial Estate Ennis – Burst Watermain
 - Doora Bridge – Burst Watermain
 - Clarecastle Village – Burst Watermain
 - Kevin Barry Avenue – Burst Watermain
 - Roslevan, Tulla Road – Meter Insta
-
- Remedial Action List (RAL) upgrade ongoing in Corofin WTP
 - Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non Domestic Programme.

West Clare

Major Outages for West Clare Area for period below:

- 20/4 Alava Cooraclare 9”A/C – Burst Watermain
- 14/4 Bog road Lack West Kilmihill 2” – Burst Watermain
- 13/4 Bog road No2 Lack West Kilmihill 2” – Burst Watermain
- 12/4 Cahermurphy reservoir overflowing auto controller leak.
- 5/4 Moyne Court Kilrush 4” waven. – Burst Watermain
- 3/4 Alva Cooraclare 9” A/C. – Burst Watermain.

North Clare

Major Outages for North Clare Area for period below:

- 12/3 Turlough 4” – Burst Watermain
- 8/4 Ballyvaskin Miltown Malbay 4” – Burst Watermain
- 15/4 Rockmount Miltown Malbay 4” – Burst Watermain
- 16/4 Rockmount Miltown Malbay 4” – Burst Watermain.

East Clare

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

- Riverdale, Scarriff – Burst Watermain
- Castlebank, Ardnacrusha – Burst Watermain
- Bru na Sionna (Lidl), Shannon – Installation of Flushing Valve
- Tradaree Court, Shannon – Burst Watermain
- Parteen – Burst Watermain
- Hynes Cross, Kilkishen to O’Callaghan Mills Road – Burst Watermain
- Aidan Park/Ballycasey, Shannon – Burst Watermain and replacement of 250mm sluice valve
- Shareridge continuing water rehabilitation works from Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross – Outages for tie-ins
- Moygalla Reservoir – Emptying of reservoir cell for cleaning works and for leak repair on inlet chamber
- Mountshannon Step Testing.

Water Conservation

- Leak Detection Works – East Clare – Broadford/ Bridgetown/ Shannon
- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare – Sandfield & Clarecastle
- Leak Detection Works – North Clare – Acoustic Logger Installation – Kilfenora DMA & Kilshanny DMA
- Fix Operation – Various locations – Kilkee/Ennis/Mullagh Milltown/Clonlara
- Larsens – Find crew – Tulla Road DMA
- Irish Water Contractor, SES – Find crew – Mountshannon DMA.

Wastewater Operations

Works are progressing to replace the rising mains from the pumping station in Kilkee which have burst on occasion and caused disruption to water quality on the beach. It is hoped to have these works complete before the bathing season commences.

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 ongoing at the site of the new WWTP. Primary settlement tank precast units have been installed and excavation is ongoing for the storm tank. Works at the Frances Street pump station site have commenced with installation of site hoarding and access road. Relocation of the overhead ESB line is awaited. 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.



Kilrush WWTP.

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. The pipeline from Quay Road to a point just north of the Church was constructed in an advance contract in February 2021.

Shareridge is the design/build Contractor and they have commenced the detailed design, road opening licence process and procurement elements of the Contract. The Introductory meeting was held between Irish Water and Shareridge on 23rd March.

When the project is complete and connection has been made to Clareabbey WWTP, this project will end the discharge of raw sewage to the Fergus at the Quay in Clarecastle.

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor wastewater treatment plant and

the new pumping station is ongoing. 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. Ducting, drainage pipework, interconnecting pipework and the base for the MCC kiosk have been constructed at the wastewater treatment plant site. At the pump station site installation of the inlet and outlet pipework continued in the Park including the culvert section. To facilitate the remaining pipeline works a temporary road closure is still in place along New Houses Road.

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 WWTTP.



Liscannor Pump Station.

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Irish Water has written to the landowner to introduce the project. An ecology walkover took place in early April. Monitoring of water levels is ongoing. Irish Water confirmed that a renewable energy source, most likely solar photovoltaic, is to be incorporated for consideration in the design of the site layout. The Clare Biodiversity Manual was issued to the Irish Water Designers for use/reference in design of the landscaping plan for the project. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall at Intrinsic Bay. Design of the treatment plant, pump station and rising mains is ongoing. The Hazop meeting was held on 6th April to identify and mitigate hazards in the operation of the proposed treatment plant and pumping station. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by Q3 of 2024 with completion in late 2025. When the new wastewater treatment scheme is in place, the existing Victoria Pump Station can continue to pump the Victoria stream during the bathing season.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The draft Feasibility Study Report and Site Selection Report investigate various options including locations for a new plant in each town or a new combined plant which would serve both towns. Costings for each option have been revised. Following on from Workshop 2 held on 3rd March the Feasibility Study Report and site selection report are being finalised by the Consultants working for Irish Water.

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 draft layout drawings of the proposed WWTTP upgrade and rising main were completed by the Consultants and have been issued to Irish Water Operations for comment. The NIS is being finalised. It is anticipated that the planning application for the scheme will be lodged in late June 2022.

Following planning approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Aeration, RAS/WAS PS and clarifier tanks have been constructed. Excavation is taking place for the additional storm storage tank. Excavation works have commenced at the new percolation area

adjacent to the Ennistymon Road. Archaeological monitoring has taken place at all excavations. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.



Kilfenora WWTP.

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 at the source. Works to upgrade filters numbers 5 & 6 have been completed with work underway on filters 3 & 4 and 1 and 2 to follow. Sludge thickener and lamella clarifier construction completed. Installation of the new sludge press expected May 2022. The intended completion date is August 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 nearing completion with the main treatment process now complete and ready for testing with the sludge handling process to be constructed in Phase 2 (May 2022 to August 2022) once the temporary plant is removed. Work is underway to finalise the SCADA and to detail the testing of the new equipment. Completion is expected by August 2022.

3. Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant

This plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan.

The project will modernise the treatment processes at the plant as well as bringing the plant production capacity to the required level. Design work is ongoing and it is expected that construction will commence in May 2022.

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Preparatory site clearance works and site investigation have been carried out. The final design has been submitted for assessment and HAZOP meeting is scheduled for 19th May. The anticipated completion is Q3 2022.

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 is underway.
2. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush – replacement of 1,847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main is now complete.
3. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór – at design stage
4. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage

Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet and 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 contractor has moved onto site and works have commenced. The estimated completion is in Q1 2023.

Clonroadmore and 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. PE design reports have been completed and agreement sought from Irish Water asset planning to the figures as presented. The

consultant will then proceed to prepare an options report for each plant.

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. The project is at tender assessment stage with study works commencing in 2022.

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 378 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 58 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 320 assets, 208 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 112 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (13 assets)

These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed. At present there are 21 assets under further query and 7 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.

National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (48 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 reported on (51 assets)

These are Third Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to submit to Irish Water for their consideration on the best approach to proceed with. Irish Water are now advocating that property in long term operational possession but not in the Council name be obtained by the adverse possession process. Circular L1 2022 has confirmed department

support for this approach. All assets which have not yet transferred will be examined to see if they can be progressed using this method.

Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme the mains replacement of the Dough GWS was completed in early April which also included the full resurfacing of a lane of the N67 as part of the works. Trial Holes have been completed in respect of the replacement of 4km of the Ballycar GWS Mains with the works due to go to tender in early May. The aforementioned works are all completed under Measure 5 of the MARWP with 100% funding allocation and subsequent transfer to the public network.

We still await the invitation for bids under the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage despite now heading into May of year one of the programme. Engagement continues with GWS's wishing to progress works under the upcoming programme.

3no group water schemes submitted by Clare County Council received approval for taking in charge by Irish Water in April with Roo East GWS (Ardnacrusha), Cloughaun Ballynahown GWS (Lisdoonvarna) and Ballinruane GWS (Whitegate) transferring to the public network.

22 no applications have been received to date in 2022 under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply'. 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.

The Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage have also announced a funding stream for "waste water collection and treatment needs for villages and settlements without access to public waste water services" under Circular L1/22 dated 28/4/22. This is a multi annual programme which aims to provide the required infrastructure in unsewered towns and villages. Local authorities will need to complete a detailed application process and meet certain criteria to avail of the funding.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

EMHA launch of 'Friendship Seating and Plaque'

The Ennis Mental Health Association (EMHA) friendship seating area and memorial plaque was launched in Abbey Street carpark on 7th April, marking the organisation's 30th anniversary as well as coinciding with the national mental health campaign, 'Hello, How Are You?' The launch was officiated by Deputy Mayor of Ennis Cllr Paul Murphy and EMHA Chair Maria Molloy, with delegates invited from age and disability friendly groups. The seating area and plaque has been donated to the public realm by agreement with EMHA.



Biodiversity

Clare County Council has committed to supporting the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan'. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requested that all Local Authorities

delay grass cutting until the end of April/early May, to facilitate the first flush of early wildflowers going to seed. Ennis Municipal District has supported this request resulting in great displays of wildflowers brightening the road margins and public spaces, and providing much needed sustenance for our pollinators. Grass cutting will re-commence towards the end of April.



Pedestrianisation

The 'Ennis Pedestrianisation Survey' which was conducted in Q4 2021 revealed that a large majority of respondents had a preference for some form of pedestrianisation in the town centre 'immediately' or 'in the medium to long term'. Ennis Municipal District engaged with our stakeholder group and the majority agreed to the pedestrianisation of O'Connell Street, effective from 5th April, 2022, from 11.30am to 5pm, seven days per week, up until the Ennis Public Realm Regeneration works begin. This road closure was advertised in the paper to allow for submissions from the public, however none were received.

Roadworks Programme

Preparatory works are underway in a number of locations for the 2022 roadworks programme in the Ennis Municipal District area.

