



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR



# TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

## Nollaig / December 2022



# LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR

# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

## CORPORATE SERVICES



Pictured at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, where Clare County Council was named Local Authority of the Year 2022, were (l-r): Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Fiona Candon, President, Chambers Ireland; and Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland.

## Clare County Council named Local Authority of the Year

Clare County Council was named Local Authority of the Year 2022 at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. Clare County Council was also named overall winner in the 'Festival of the Year' and 'Sustaining the Arts' award categories.

The Excellence in Local Government Awards are held in conjunction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and showcase best practice in local government. The awards recognise the skills, hard work, innovation and enthusiasm within local government that can often go unrecognised.

Now in their 19th year, the awards were presented at a ceremony in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry, Dublin, on Thursday, 24th November, 2022.

- Clare County Council was named winner of the overall Local Authority of the Year Award for its commitment to serving the community and for raising the area's profile nationally

as a stand-out destination. The other winning Council initiatives at the Excellence in Local Government Awards were:

- Festival of the Year Award – Ennis Mela Festival, which saw over 50 performers from countries worldwide perform alongside local diverse communities from Clare in March; and
- Sustaining the Arts Award – House! Open Air Aerial Dance Spectacle with Fidget Feet, a dance spectacle that was commissioned by Clare County Council and premiered in Ennis in April.

Councillor Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said: "Winning the best Local Authority in Ireland in 2022 is an acknowledgement of the commitment and hard work of the staff and elected members of Clare County Council, who work in partnership to serve the people of Clare. Being named Local Authority of the Year is a real honour. I would like to commend everyone involved in achieving this prestigious award."



Pictured (l-r): Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development, Clare County Council; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development, Clare County Council; Cllr Michael Begley, Cathaoirleach, Shannon Municipal District; Fiona Candon, President, Chambers Ireland; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Cllr Alan O’Callaghan, Cathaoirleach, Killaloe Municipal District; Cllr Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor, Ennis Municipal District; Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services, Clare County Council; Cllr Shane Talty, Cathaoirleach, West Clare Municipal District; and Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland.

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, said: “As a progressive local authority our purpose and vision is to be responsive and agile while leading the development of our county.

“Engagement and collaboration is fundamental to the work of Clare County Council, and I would like to acknowledge the valuable input and participation of our communities, partners and stakeholders across the range of our initiatives and activities.

“The challenges in recent years have been far-reaching and ever-changing. The Covid-19 pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine have had a global and local impact like nothing that has gone before. I would like to commend the staff and elected members of Clare County Council for their innovation, adaptability and determination to respond to these events and to deliver services with real social impact.

“We have a structure in Clare County Council which puts sustainable communities at our heart. Our communities will remain at

the centre of everything we do to ensure our county continues to develop as a place to live, work and visit,” added Mr Dowling.

Five other Clare County Council initiatives were nominated for an Excellence in Local Government Award:

- Age Friendly Initiative – The accreditation of Ennis as an Age-Friendly town
- Climate Change – Renewal of site protection and conservation infrastructure at Fanore Beach
- Enhancing the Urban Environment – Ennis Public Realm Enhancement: Parnell Street, Laneways and Bow-ways
- Initiative through Municipal Districts – Shannon In Bloom
- Promoting Economic Development – Tech Disrupt 4.0.

Clare County Council previously was named Local Authority of the Year in 2018.

Visit [www.chambers.ie](http://www.chambers.ie) for more on the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.



Pictured at the presentation of the ‘Sustaining the Arts’ award for HOUSE! An open air aerial spectacle, were (l-r): Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development, Clare County Council; John Brennan, AIB; Cllr Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor, Ennis Municipal District; and Ian Talbot, Chief Executive, Chambers Ireland.



At the presentation of ‘Festival of the Year’ award for Ennis Mela, were (l-r): Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD; Anne Haugh, Director of Social Development, Clare County Council; Antoinette Reilly, Fáilte Ireland; Cllr Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Cllr Alan O’Callaghan, Cathaoirleach, Killaloe Municipal District; Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor, Ennis Municipal District; and Ian Talbot, Chambers Ireland.

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection

2022 to date – statistics to 1st December, 2022:

	2020	2021	2022 (to 1st Dec 2022)
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	114
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8
Appeals to Information Commissioner	1	4	2
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	9
Data Requests – Erasure Request	0	1	1
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	25

### Register of Electors Modernisation Project

Following the commencement of the Electoral Reform Act 2022 and system upgrades, the Franchise Section of the Dept of Housing, Local Government & Heritage is running an ongoing awareness campaign to raise awareness among the public about changes in the electoral registration process. A wide range of media platforms are being used in the campaign including traditional, social and digital to ensure as wide an audience as possible is reached.

This awareness campaign has seen a significant increase in the numbers accessing [www.checktheregister.ie](http://www.checktheregister.ie) to update their details, including PPS number and Eircode. A poster campaign is now commencing which will see posters displayed in prominent positions in local authority offices where the public frequent. A further campaign is planned for the Spring of 2023, to continue awareness of these changes.

### Record Management

Works are now completed on a new facility in Quin Road for file storage. This premises will operate in addition to the existing storage facility located at Beechpark. It is intended to initially use the Quin Road premises for the storage of Planning files. This will provide much needed storage space for the large volume of files which have to be retained, in accordance with Planning legislation.

### 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 November included:

- Clare County Council named Local Authority of the Year
- Clare County Council adopts €151.9 million budget for 2023
- New appeal for Clare properties to house Ukrainian people
- Minister for Transport turns the sod on Killaloe Bypass, Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme
- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) Draft Map for County Clare now available for public to view
- Cathaoirleach welcomes RRDF funding for Clare projects



- Ennis named 'Ireland's Friendliest Place' at AIBMS Retail Excellence Awards 2022.

On Friday, 25th November, Áras Contae an Chláir was illuminated orange in support of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. A Book of Condolence was opened for the late Vicky Phelan.

### 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 November, the Communications Office:

- Posted 42 times on Facebook, with total followers now 17,316.
  - Posted 49 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,845.
  - Instagram followers are now 2,669.
- (Statistics accurate as of 30/11/2022)

### Print and Graphic Design

The print and graphic design service continues to provide services including layout and production.

### Procurement

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 27th October to 28th November incl.:

Short description	Response deadline
Grassland Management Contract for Shannon Municipal District for 2023 Co.Clare	19/12/2022 12:00
West Clare Railway Greenway Section 1 (Kilrush to Kilkee) – Topographical Survey Contract	06/12/2022 16:00
Remedial Civil Works to Moinin, Housing Estate, Kilkee, Co. Clare	14/12/2022 15:00
Refurbishment of the Old Rectory Building into the Inis Cealtra Visitor Centre, Mountshannon, Co Clare	14/12/2022 12:00
Delivery of a Juvenile Swim Programme at Ennis Active Leisure Complex	28/11/2022 14:00
Footpath Refurbishment works	17/11/2022 15:00

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p><b>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during November:</b></p> <p><b>Eligibility Exercises &amp; Desktop Shortlisting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Staff Officer (Desktop Shortlisting)</li> <li>• Heavy Vehicle Mechanic/Plant Fitter (Eligibility Exercise)</li> <li>• Administrative Officer (Eligibility Exercise)</li> <li>• Assistant Engineer (Eligibility Exercise)</li> <li>• Executive Librarian (Eligibility Exercise)</li> <li>• Executive Technician, Active Travel (Eligibility Exercise)</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee Matching &amp; Relationship Manager</li> <li>• Heavy Vehicle Mechanic/Plant Fitter</li> </ul> <p><b>The following competitions were advertised:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firefighters (Kilkee, Kilrush, Shannon)</li> </ul>
Learning and Development	<p><b>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in November include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid 2- Day Refresher Training</li> <li>• Manual Handling</li> <li>• Safe Pass</li> <li>• Resilience</li> <li>• Site Dumper New Entrant</li> <li>• Operation &amp; Maintenance of Horticultural Equipment</li> <li>• TTM Booklet Talks</li> <li>• Time Management</li> <li>• Grade 5 &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Pre-Retirement Seminar</li> <li>• Grade 3 &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Leading Hybrid Teams</li> <li>• Grade 4 &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Competency Based Interviewer Training</li> <li>• Asbestos Awareness Training</li> <li>• Serious Incidents Simulated Exercise</li> </ul> <p><b>Essential Skillz online Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Ergowize</li> <li>• Financial Wellbeing</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Induction</li> <li>• Slips, Trips &amp; Falls</li> <li>• Working in a Covid Era</li> </ul> <p><b>Metacompliance Platform:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote Ergonomics Assessment Live from 1st November 2022 to 25th November</li> <li>• DSE &amp; Workstation Assessment Live from 1st November to 11th November 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>Health &amp; Safety:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Refresher Online Training (Slips Trips &amp; Falls) resulted in 56 people completing training during November</li> </ul>
Employee Welfare	Employee wellbeing supports continue to be made available to staff across a range of areas.
Unions	The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

# UKRAINIAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

---

## National Situation

There are currently 64,000 temporary protection orders granted nationally with a 7-day rolling average of 151 (slightly down on recent weeks). There are 50,100 currently in accommodation and almost 13,000 children have enrolled in schools. Dublin Airport accounts for 83 per cent of arrivals with Shannon receiving 3 per cent.

Sixty-three per cent of the arrivals are female and to date the number of employments is 13,500 – there is a strong correlation between those employed and the settlement areas, i.e. people are living and working locally. This is good for local economies, and we recognise the opportunities that are there to add to the local workforce in County Clare.

The primary employment sector is ‘Accommodation & Food Services’ (>5,000) with ‘Wholesale & Retail’ following at 2,000 (approx.).

## County Clare

At this point County Clare now has 3459 (approx.) displaced people from Ukraine. They are living in 28 multi-occupancy properties across the county including a rest centre in Newmarket on Fergus and self-catering properties in other locations.

The team continues to work closely with Mid-West Simon to match Ukrainian people to pledged properties, the team have successfully placed 61 people into 21 pledged properties through-out the county.

## ‘Offer a Home’

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has launched a national call-out for unoccupied homes. This call-out is led by local authorities to make use of unoccupied houses and apartments to house Ukrainian people and families.

While rent will not be payable to those who offer properties, a tax-free recognition payment of €800 per month is available from the Department of Social Protection to those who offer accommodation to Ukrainians, this rate applies from 1st December, 2022.

Property owners can offer homes at the newly created website: offerahome.ie or by contacting Clare County Council at offerahome@clarecoco.ie. Deirdre Ryan, Administrative Officer in Ukrainian Services Development, is leading on this initiative.

Those who offer a property can expect to be contacted by the local authority within 5 working days of making their offer and an assessment of the property will be carried out by the local authority shortly after. The assessment is to ensure the property

is habitable and to get some details so it can be matched to the most appropriate person or family.

This national initiative is asking that people offer a home for a minimum period of 6 months but Clare County Council recognises the importance of stability for communities, services and families and is asking people to consider offering for longer. We intend offering available homes to Ukrainian people already living in a area – they may already have their children in school (new friends), playing sports, volunteering or be working locally. Services will already be in place from the early response. It is important that we keep and build on this fragile cohesion and, in that light, it is important that we aim to minimise movement after a short 6 months: hence the preference for longer-term accommodation options.

This call-out is for unoccupied homes only and if a property owner wishes to pledge a shared property, they can do this through the Irish Red Cross.

## Community Response Forum

A central support for arrivals in County Clare is the Community Response Forum – there are approximately 40 groups and agencies involved with over 100 listed participants. The countywide forum meets bi-weekly with regional groups meeting every 4-6 weeks as required (Ennis/Shannon/Kilkee/Ennistymon).

The group works to resolve practical issues in services – examples being the movement of families to facilitate school/work/health needs, the adjustment of bus services to facilitate new ‘shared accommodation’ coming on stream (i.e. Boydyke self-catering) or the re-alignment of social enterprises to meet the Ukrainian Response need – i.e. Lisdoonvarna Failte, Mna Ag Gaire.

The team in Clare County Council will be running a facilitated workshop on 29th November to identify challenges in services and short-term opportunities should national funding become available – the workshop will consider Health/Education/Transport/Community Development/Safety Needs/Childcare among others.

## Ukrainian Services Development

Deirdre Ryan, Administrative Officer, is leading on the ‘Offer A Home’ initiative and is currently supported by Steven Hayes. We are expecting a new team member following the recently advertised “Refugee Matching and Relationship Manager” competition.

The team are available to take queries and emails can be sent to CommunityResponseForum@clarecoco.ie

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Green Light for Landmark East Clare Tourism Project – Inis Cealtra (Old Rectory) Visitor Experience



The most significant tourism project ever to be undertaken in East Clare has taken a major step forward with the announcement of funding for the development of the Inis Cealtra (Holy Island) Visitor Centre in the heart of Mountshannon village.

On 10th November, 2022, the Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €3,906,252 to Clare County Council for the Inis Cealtra (Old Rectory) Visitor Experience. The Local Authority will match fund a further 20%, with 80% of project costs to be funded by the Department. It will repurpose and extend the Old Rectory building into a visitor centre and community hub.

Having taken 41 acres on the island into public ownership in 2015, Clare County Council this year acquired the Old Rectory building overlooking Mountshannon Harbour, Scarriff Bay and Lough Derg. A detailed design of the proposed transformation into a mainland visitor centre is currently underway following

extensive public consultation and will interpret the monastic site and its surrounds.

Once completed in Q3 of 2024, the visitor centre building will comprise a reception area, three exhibition areas interpreting stories from Mountshannon and the island of Inis Cealtra as well as a revitalised Rectory Garden. Boat trips will initially focus on bringing visitors around the island, while trips to the island are part of the future-plans for the overall experience.

The consultancy team appointed by Clare County Council to progress the project comprises McCullough Mulvin Architects, Tandem Partners Ltd. (interpretation/visitor experience designers), Tobin Consulting Engineers (quantity surveyors/project managers), Design Works (branding and design consultants) Amion (economics and financial management consultancy) and Cognisense Ltd. The design team are doing a superb job and there is huge support from the local community for this project.



## ORIS funding for Clare outdoor recreation projects



Three outdoor recreation projects in County Clare are set to benefit from €768,204 in funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). The funding will see the repair and upgrade of a looped section of the Cliffs of Moher North Coastal Walk, upgrade of facilities at the Ballycuggeran/Two Mile Gate recreation area, and upgrade works at the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.

Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD announced €14m for the development of 59 outdoor recreation amenities and to support outdoor pursuits such as hiking, mountaineering, kayaking, and cycling on Monday (28th November, 2022). Minister Humphreys made the funding announcement as she launched Ireland’s first-ever national outdoor recreation strategy, ‘Embracing Ireland’s Outdoors: National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027’. The five-year strategy focuses on bringing a more joined-up and cohesive approach to the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure at both a national and county level.

At the Cliffs of Moher, funding of €500,000 will be used to carry out repair and upgrade works on a section of the Cliffs of Moher North Coastal Walk to improve visitor safety. The works include the repair of a 1.3km section of the existing walkway, part of which links in with the historical Doolin Road. In addition to the upgrade of the gravel paths, works will include drainage, fencing, stone wall repairs, hand rails and the erection of safety signage.

Clare	Ballycuggeran/Two Mile Gate	Upgrade of facilities	€180,900
	Burren & Cliffs of Moher	Upgrade/update UNESCO Global Geopark	€87,304
	Cliffs of Moher North Coastal Walk	Repair and upgrade of a section of the Cliffs of Moher	€500,000

At Ballycuggeran/Two Mile Gate, funding of €180,900 will enable the installation of new universally designed walkways that are wheelchair accessible with a surface that is safe for all users. Road improvements will allow safe access between the walking trail at Moylussa and the lake amenity at Ballycuggeran, two significant amenities within the area that are currently separated by a regional road. Other upgrades include provision of universally friendly picnic tables, upgrading of entry points to the green area/lake to allow them to be universally accessible, introduction of a new set of steps into the designated swimming area from the pier to facilitate entry by people with mobility issues, provision of a hoist to facilitate access to the water by people with disabilities, and lining of the car park to facilitate more spaces and creation of disabled persons’ parking spaces.

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark will receive €87,304 for upgrade works. Welcoming the funding for the Clare projects, Cllr Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said: “Outdoor recreation has many benefits for our mental and physical wellbeing. In County Clare, we are fortunate to have outdoor sites and amenities of outstanding quality. The projects being funded will add to the strong outdoor recreation offering in the county. I would like to thank Minister Humphreys and her Department for making funding available to progress these works.”

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, said: “This funding will support the delivery of quality facilities at three locations in County Clare and will allow more residents and visitors to take part in outdoor activities. The new outdoor recreation strategy launched by the Minister will further inform Clare County Council’s strategic approach to the development of the county’s many outdoor amenities and attractions.” Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council, added: “Developing the outdoor recreation sector in the county will bring welcome health and economic benefits in our rural communities. I would like to acknowledge all of the stakeholders, in particular community groups representing a range of sectors, for their input in these successful applications.”



## Chinese Ambassador to Ireland Visit to Clare County Council



Clare County Council hosted a visit by Chinese Ambassador to Ireland He Xiangdong, on Monday, 28th November, to mark County Clare’s twinning relationship with Yunnan Province in the People’s Republic of China. The relationship evolved from the visit of China’s Vice President to Clare in 2012, after which Clare County Council set about exploring the potential of establishing a twinning arrangement that fostered the development of closer industrial, tourism, farming, educational and cultural ties between Clare and China.

The link was formally established in 2015 when a delegation comprising officials and members of Clare County Council travelled to China where a relationship also was developed between the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark and the Stone Forest Geopark (Shilin Geopark) in Yunnan. Yunnan Province, which has a population of more than 46 million, is in the far southwest of China and borders Vietnam, Laos and Burma.



## Completed CLÁR projects

Works have been completed on 2 CLÁR-funded projects in Tulla and Kilmihil. The CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and forms part of the Government’s five-year policy for rural Ireland, ‘Our Rural Future’. The funding is directed to small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline.



The works in Tulla were completed under Measure 2 of the CLÁR Scheme – “Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities” and the funding was used to develop a walking track in the wooded area of the grounds of Tulla AC. In addition, outdoor furniture and planting was provided.



The works in Kilmihil were completed under Measure 3 of the CLÁR Scheme which provides funding for Community Gardens and Allotments. The works were carried out by Kilmihil People’s Park and involved the development of an area of the People’s Park site for use as a community garden and allotments including the provision of an all inclusive greenhouse within the site.

## Funding Scheme Announcements

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has recently announced the following 2 funding support schemes aimed at assisting community groups with running costs.



### (1) The Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESS)

The CVESS scheme is being administered by Pobal on behalf of the DRCD.

This Scheme will provide support to incorporated Community & Voluntary sector organisations (i.e. those incorporated as CLGs or Co-Operatives) and/or registered charities only. Such organisations may apply to Pobal under the Scheme for a contribution toward additional energy costs which are not funded under any other Government energy schemes such as the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS) for trading organisations, or other sectoral support schemes in the arts, sports, Gaeltacht/language or health sectors.

Such organisations may also apply under the Community Support Fund (see below) for support in respect of other running costs or for facility enhancements, only.

This scheme is currently open for applications and will close at 3pm on Friday, 2nd December.

(2) **The Community Support Fund (CSF)** will provide small grants to a wide and diverse range of local community groups to assist with their running costs.

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

Unincorporated or small voluntary organisation can apply under this scheme of energy cost as well as other running costs and small scale facility enhancement works. Funding will be available to support Parish Halls, Community Centres, Local Development Associations, Social Clubs, ICA Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds etc.

Clare has been allocated **€301,325** under the Fund.

Further details on the application process will be available on the Council's website in the coming weeks.

## Clare Residents Surveyed on Sustainable Tourism in the County



A new countywide survey has been launched to inform the local tourism sector as it pursues a strategy developing Clare as a globally recognised and certified sustainable tourism destination.

Third party verified and independently carried out by researchers at the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo, the resident survey comes from one of a number of measures that Clare County Council, the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, Visit Clare and the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum are currently implementing to measure and monitor tourism impacts on Clare's economy, communities, heritage and environment.

Visitors to the county were already surveyed this summer and tourism businesses in the county will be surveyed early next year.

**Carol Gleeson, Manager of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark**, added "It is important that the sustainability goals in our Clare Tourism Strategy are supported by actions and data that are globally recognised and endorsed and we are very fortunate to have the experience of ATU Sligo to guide us. We are also learning a lot in our sustainable journey in the Geopark and we are keen to transfer this knowledge to the rest of the county."

**Fiona McKenna and Dr James Hanrahan of ATU Sligo** are appealing to residents in Clare to have their say. According to Dr Hanrahan, "Resident participation is essential when measuring and monitoring tourism destinations. All input is strictly confidential and will be utilised in the process of evidence-informed sustainable planning for tourism in County Clare."

The survey can be accessed through scanning the QR code or via a direct link – <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a64461d5f17444caa5efd20d062ad51f>. For those who have difficulty in completing the online survey, please contact **Fiona.mckenna@atu.ie** where a printed, paper version of the survey can be sent to an address via post, or a call can be organised to complete the survey over the phone.



## Festive Fridays with Dublin Coach



Visit Clare and Dublin Coach joined up to promote and share favourite Christmas events in the county and promote competitions from participating businesses in Clare. Weekly competitions offer a range of local gifts and experiences as well as return Dublin Coach tickets.

The purpose of this marketing campaign is to promote Clare to the predominant Dublin market, who use the Dublin bus. The digital marketing outreach is in excess of 250,000.

The Visit Clare Facebook Page will provide detail on the competitions in the lead up to Christmas.

## Clare Echo and Visit Clare campaign to promote Local Businesses

THURSDAY, NOV 24 2022 **Clare Echo** NEWS | 25

Sponsored by **visit CLARE**

# Give a Christmas 'Gift of Clare'!

## Shop local for Christmas and support Clare businesses

Shopping locally always makes excellent sense, especially during challenging times. It supports local businesses, helps sustain employment, and is good for the environment. It can save you time and money too. Here are a few ideas for your Christmas shopping and gifting.

- **Give a Clare Gift Card.** Ennis Chamber's Clare Gift Card is the perfect gift. The Gift Card allows the lucky recipient to spend in shops, supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, and pharmacies throughout County Clare. The card is operated and managed by One-dail and is available to buy in post offices in County Clare and online. You can get more information and buy online at [www.ennischamber.ie](http://www.ennischamber.ie)
- **Give a gift of the Burren.** The Burren Ecotourism Network feature a range of unique Burren products on their website - ideal for Christmas gifting. Buying from their online shop helps support the featured businesses. You can buy a fabulous 'Burren Basket' of artisan foods or a beautifully produced Burren Dinners Cookbook. You can also buy a Burren Gift Voucher, which can be sent to anyone worldwide. The gift voucher can be used across various accommodations, experiences, and restaurants in the Burren. You can buy online at [www.burren.ie/shop](http://www.burren.ie/shop)
- **Gift them Loop Head Peninsula.** Loop Head has introduced an all-new monetary gift voucher in time for Christmas. The voucher can be redeemed at over 20 businesses on Loop Head. If you are shopping for someone interested in water sports, wellness, food, art, kids' summer camps, or family-friendly accommodation, then this voucher has you covered. You can buy it online at <https://shop.loveloophead.com/>
- **Head to a local market.** Visiting markets is a great way to pick up food and craft gifts that are unique and locally made. You can buy thoughtful Christmas gifts that match the recipient's interests and personality. The farmer's markets will also have fresh and tasty foods to enjoy at Christmas. Some markets to visit, include:
  - **The Chapel Lane Craft and Gift Market, Ennis.** Days: Normally Saturdays, but extended opening hours during December. Open Saturdays and Sundays between December 3 and 18. Saturdays, 10.00 to 17.00h and Sundays, 13.00 to 17.00h
  - **Craft Works, Craft Shop, Parnell Street, Ennis.** A co-op shop supporting over 60 crafters. Days: Open Wednesday to Friday, 10.00 to 18.00h and Saturdays, 10.00 to 17.00h
  - **Ennis Farmers Market - Roslevan Shopping Centre.** Days: Fridays, 08.00 to 13.00h
  - **Killaloe Farmers Market - The Bridge, Killaloe.** Days: Sundays, 11.00 to 15.00h
  - **Kilrush Farmers Market - The Square, Kilrush.** Days: Thursdays, 9.30 to 13.00h
  - **Their Christmas Fair is on Saturday, December 17, from 10.00 to 21.00h**
  - **Kilkee Community Christmas Market, the Greyhound Bar, Kilkee.** Day: Saturday, December 10, 14.00 to 18.00h
  - **Myles Creek Christmas Market, Kilkee.** Day: Saturday, December 3, 12.00 to 18.00h
- **Personalised gifts from WowWee.ie.** Clare-based Wow Wee provide an extensive range of personalised gifts for all occasions - including a special Christmas range that can include the names of the recipients. Personalisation helps to make the receivers feel special. You can see their range and buy online at [www.wowwee.ie](http://www.wowwee.ie)
- **Go direct to Clare shops, hotels, and restaurants for gift vouchers.** Most Clare businesses provide their own gift vouchers. It means you can easily match gifts to your recipient's interests. You can give a gift of fashion, jewellery, and crafts or help them to chill out by gifting vouchers to restaurants, coffee shops, local attractions, activities, accommodation, spa treatments and more.

**Employers: Give a Gift of Clare to your employees, tax-free!**  
The recent budget allows employers to give employees up to two gift benefits, tax-free, each year provided it is not cash and that the combined value does not exceed €1,000. Therefore, employers can give Clare Gift Cards and Vouchers tax-free. Now there's a Christmas thought!

VisitClare.ie

## End of Season Meeting to discuss plans for 2023



The Team and Board Members of Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Loop Head Lighthouse met on 11th November, 2022, to discuss the Summer season in both visitor attractions and to discuss marketing and improvement plans ahead of the 2023 season.

## Healthy Clare Stakeholder Consultation



The Healthy Clare team hosted a stakeholder consultation event in preparation for Healthy Ireland Round 4 funding 2023-2025, at the Buttermarket Building, Ennis on 21st November, 2022. The two priority areas of focus are

- (1) **Healthy Weight** (with a focus on Overweight, Obesity and Malnutrition) and
- (2) **Mental Health Promotion** (aiming to reduce the number of deaths by suicide in Clare).

To further align with a health promotion and prevention approach to tackling these priorities, a determinants of health perspective was taken. These are also known as the 'Building Blocks of Health' and the 'Root causes of both good and ill health'. Using research from England, 9 determinants for each outcome were identified and these were the themes of each of the tables at the stakeholder event.

This was a scoping exercise to help identify what the issues and possible solutions are to addressing these challenges around the county.

Stakeholder who didn't make the in-person event have an opportunity to contribute online through Clare County Council's 'Your Say' page: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/healthyclare-lsap>

For more information, please contact the Healthy Clare Coordinator, Dena Mc Grath on [healthyclare@clarecoco.ie](mailto:healthyclare@clarecoco.ie) and 087 987 8785.

## Update from LCDC Hosted Workshop - "Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy for County Clare"



Further to a recent Notice of Motion, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) were asked to host a Workshop on the recent Clare Public Participation Network (PPN) publication, "Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare". The LCDC Chief Officer and her Team organised the Workshop which was held at the Temple Gate Hotel on 11th November, 2022, with over 50 attendees.

The welcome address was delivered by Cllr Gerry Flynn, Deputy Chair of the LCDC. The Agenda for the Workshop included a brief overview of the LCDC and the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) process by Bernadette Haugh as Chief Officer of the LCDC. Sarah Clancy, Clare PPN Coordinator, provided the background and context for the publication and Dr Conor McCabe, Queen's University Belfast, gave a very informative presentation on his research and findings. Dr Sean O'Riordain was the moderator for this event which involved a Q&A session and required the completion of a set of 6 questions based on the document and its findings and how such could input into the LECP process. All invitees were also circulated a copy of the questionnaire for completion after the event. Dr Sean O'Riordain will provide a Summary Outcome Report from the Workshop that will be provided to the LCDC to inform the LECP process.

Concerns were expressed at the Workshop that most of the data available is at a regional level and not specific to Clare with a particular requirement for datasets pertaining to child poverty, food poverty and fuel poverty. Consultation has commenced with the LECP Advisory Steering Group in relation to the LECP process where the requirement for this data will be reflected in the LECP Tender documents for the engagement of a consultant to oversee the preparation of the 6-year plan for the Economic and Community development of County Clare.

## Ennis Business wins Age Friendly Category in Clare Business Excellence Awards 2022



Pictured (l-r): Siobhán Landy, Sweet N Green Café; Larry Hally and Susan Harvey, Clare Older People's Council; Frank Landy, Sweet N Green Café; Karen Fennessy, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager; Maurice Harvey, Chair of Clare Older People's Council; and Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr Ann Norton.

Sweet N Green Café was announced as winner of the Age Friendly Category in the Clare Business Excellence Awards 2022, at an Awards Ceremony in Glór on 24th November.

Ennis Chamber introduced this category to the awards in recognition that older people account for up to 50% of consumer spending nationally. Sweet N Green took part in special online training last year delivered by Orlaith Carmody, Age Friendly Ireland Business Consultant, to help them develop their actions listed below:

- Designated downstairs indoor seating as an Age Friendly area available with a larger font
- Reading glasses behind the counter for those that might forget their own
- Seating for those that may be waiting on a table or takeaway etc. and cannot stand for too long
- Hanging hooks downstairs that would allow older people to hang their shopping, bags or jackets.

## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

The SMDW 2022 programme is nearing completion. All restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works are 100% complete.

Restoration Improvement Regional	100%
Restoration Improvement Local	100%
Restoration Maintenance Regional	100%
Restoration Maintenance Local	100%

As part of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022, drainage works are ongoing and are approximately 90% complete.

Works have been completed on five CIS and eight LIS roads in 2022.

### Active Travel 2022 Summary

Project	Status
Lahinch	Works complete
Doolin Pedestrian Crossing	Works Complete
Miltown Ennis Road	Works commencing November
Spanish Point	Construction works ongoing
Lisdoonvarna	Works 90% complete

### Spanish Point Active Travel



### Inagh National School Safe Route to Schools

Works are past the half way mark on the Inagh NS Safe Route to Schools programme. Works are progressing well with 60% of footpaths complete and drainage works 90% complete. Road resurfacing works are expected to commence by early December.



## SPORTS & RECREATION

In spite of the darker colder evenings demand for the facilities continues especially the astroturf. In light of ever increasing costs it is necessary to review the pricing structure for the facilities for 2023.



Clare Sports Partnership are running their own World Cup in Kilrush, as part of the Kilrush Sports Hub initiative at our facility at Active Kilrush Sports Complex. There are over 70 children participating in this 4-week programme on Friday evenings. The excitement is building as the competition enters its final stages.

### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

- We recently introduced a new activity at Active Ennis Leisure Complex; Underwater Hockey. The Club have a base in Limerick and travel to Active Ennis for training one hour a week. The club are open to new members for this fun novel sport.
- To beat the new year rush we have commenced our Christmas promotion with 1 month membership for €50. Also we have gift vouchers available as the ideal Christmas gift as we will have a New Year 3 Month Special for €120.
- The success of the Teen Gym is demonstrated by the number who have transitioned to adult members at the facility. This programme sets great foundations for our young people to continue to sustain their fitness and health journeys into adulthood.
- The Sub-Aqua Club continue to use our facility and recently held their annual introduction session 'Try-A-Dive' to attract new members to learn to dive in a controlled environment before exploring our beautiful coastlines as they gain experience.

Full details of all classes and programmes are available on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)

### Active Ennis Lees Road / Tim Smythe Park

We were delighted to host the Clare primary and secondary school cross country athletics finals during November and we continue to host secondary schools from all over the County for soccer and GAA competitions.

*All clubs and patrons are requested to leave facilities as they find them.*

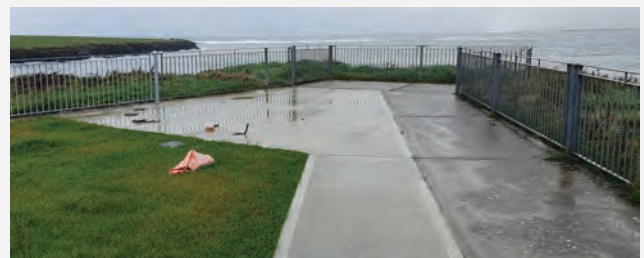
*Any operational issues or queries can be reported by email to [info@activeennis.ie](mailto:info@activeennis.ie)*

*All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)*



### Kilrush LEA

- Safety rails installed at White Strand, Doonbeg Blue Flag beach



- A site visit took place in November with Irelands Peatlands Trust, the new owners of Ketts bog, Tullaher to view the area involved. Included in the picture are John O'Malley A/SEO, Cllr Gabriel Keating, Nuala Madigan, CEO Irish Peatland Conservation Council, and Alan Kennelly, SEE.



## Cliffs of Moher

### (a) Great place to Work Award

The Cliffs of Moher Experience was awarded Great Place To Work Certification in 2021, an international accreditation system for evaluating a company's workplace and culture against strict benchmarks. This award is based solely on responses from an anonymous employee survey. We asked all Cliffs of Moher Experience employees to complete the Great Place To Work 2022 survey by 15 November. The information provided goes directly to Great Place to Work and will be amalgamated by them.

### (b) WTM Attendance / Flavours of Ireland 2022



Melanie Lennon, our Sales and Marketing Manager, attended the Flavours of Ireland 2022 from 26th-27th October and the World Travel Market 2022 in London from 7th-8th November.

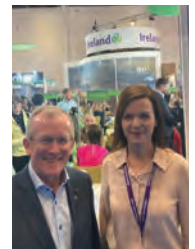
## Flavours of Ireland 2022

Flavours of Ireland is Tourism Ireland's annual B2B tourism workshop, where tourism companies from Ireland meet and do business with top global inbound tour operators.



## World Travel Market

WTM London is successfully held in-person event, focused on showcasing how the industry has evolved and reshaped itself over the last few years to meet the demands of the new consumer market.



### (c) Clare Residents, complimentary admission 1st-31st Dec plus discounts

To kick off this festive season, Cliffs of Moher Experience are offering complimentary admission to all Clare residents from 1st until 31st December, 2022, open daily 9am-5pm. We will also be offering Clare locals 20% off products in our Craft and Gift Store.

**COMPLIMENTARY ADMISSION TO THE CLIFFS OF MOHER EXPERIENCE THIS CHRISTMAS!**

- Free admission for Clare residents from 1st - 31st December 2022.
- Enjoy an invigorating walk with spectacular views along the pathways of Cliffs of Moher Experience.
- Clare residents can also enjoy a 20% discount in our craft and gift stores.
- Drop into our Café for a warming cup of hot chocolate and lots of other local Christmas treats.
- Marvel at our twinkling Christmas themed visitor centre, a yuletide wonderland.
- Opening times 9am - 5pm | Closed 24th, 25th & 26th December 2022.

What are you waiting for – make sure you download our app and audio guide to maximise your visit.

SCAN ME

Cliffs of Moher App & Audio Guide

www.cliffsofmoher.ie

### (d) Clare Business Excellence Awards 2022

On Thursday, 26th November, we were delighted to win 'Best use of Digital Marketing and Social Media' at the Clare Business Excellence Awards.





# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Social Directorate continued to be extremely busy during November. Our Capital team has significantly exceeded its Housing Delivery plan targets for 2022. Works have been finalised and properties handed over to the council at Baile na mBan in Miltown Malbay, with final phase of the development at Lifford, and AHB properties at Limerick Road, Ennis, both due to be completed in coming weeks.

Work on the new County Library continues and great progress is now visible on site.

The Council budget for 2023 was approved in November and will see challenges across all directorates, and especially within the Housing team due to increased energy, building labour and material costs, anticipated increase in social applications, and continued increase in homeless presentations. The management team have actively engaged with Finance team and Corporate Policy Group in preparation of this budget for 2023 and there is some modest increases allowed for within to support these issues.

## HOUSING

The housing public counter remains 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 to schedule same.

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

### Social Housing Needs Assessment 2022

All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to conduct an annual Social Housing needs Assessment. The purpose of the Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county, whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support.

The council has completed this Assessment process and the total housing need on 1st November 2022 was 2,687 households, comprising a total of 5,785 people. The net household

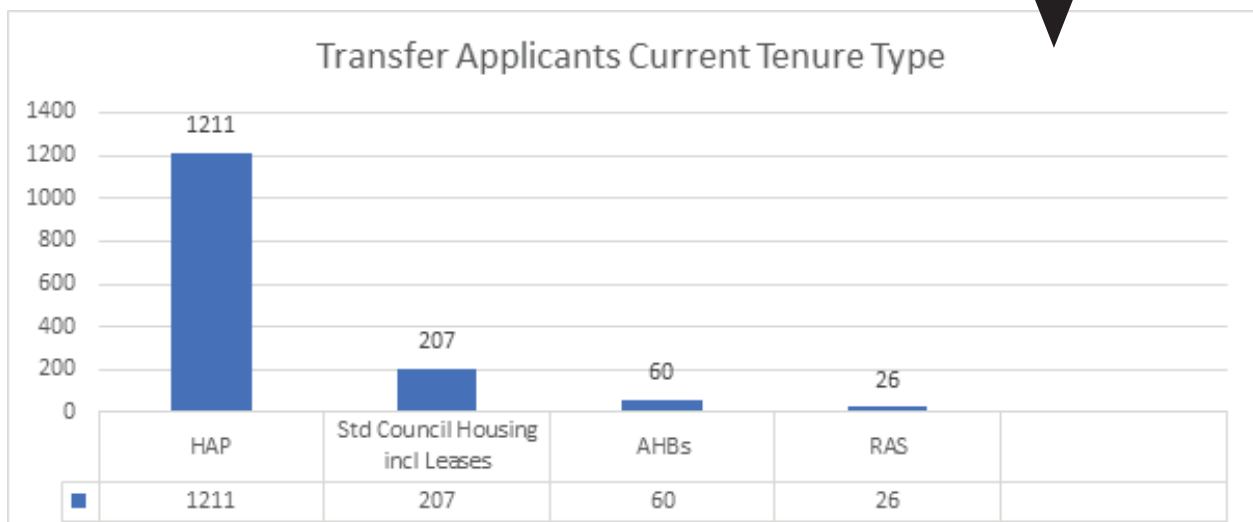
need is 1,191. The remaining 1,496 households are already in receipt of some form of housing support, be it existing tenancies, HAP tenancies or AHB tenancies and so are considered transfer applicants.

### Social Housing Demand

While figure returned as part of the SSHA for 2022 is per above and will be used for future planning and needs analysis the ongoing needs continue to change on a daily basis as new applicants are qualified and more applicants are allocated properties.

### Current Housing need as of 01/12/2021

Total Households on Waiting List	2,718
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,504
Net Need	1,214



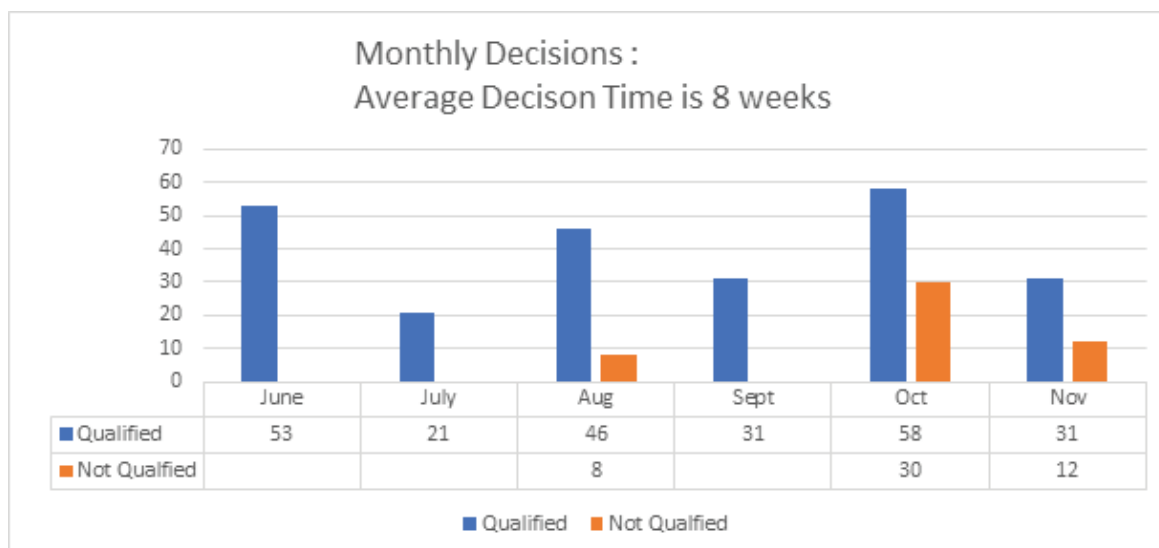
## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	BEDS APPROVED				Total
	1 & 2 Beds	3 Beds	4 beds	5 beds	
ENNIS	880	172	76	2	1130
SHANNON	178	23	14		215
CLARECASTLE	130	26	11		167
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	121	24	4		149
KILRUSH	98	31	7		136
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	106	20	4		130
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	74	37	10		121
M'TOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	65	10	5		80
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	67	10	1		78
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	53	15	4		72
COROFIN/RUAN	51	18	3		72
KILLALOE	55	10	2		67
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	39	9	3		51
SIXMILEBRIDGE	35	6	7		48
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	35	9	2		46
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	35	7	3		45
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	4	2		27
CLONLARA	17	7	2		26
QUIN	17	6	1		24
KILMIHIL	7	5	2		14
KILMALEY	10	2			12
KILFENORA	7	1			8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2100</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2718</b>

### Newly Qualified Applicants

New requirements around calculating income eligibility for housing applicants was introduced in 2021 which has made the process of assessment more strenuous, and added increased pressure on applicants in providing 12month complete income data. Notwithstanding that we continue to process a large volume of applications each month, with an average processing time on valid applications of 8 weeks.



Increased numbers in October as we held off on decisions due to introduction of new limits on 1st October. This was to afford applicants opportunity to qualify under increased rates.

### New Income Limits from 1st October, 2022

Clare was moved to Band 2 for income thresholds on 1st October, 2022. This increased the income threshold for a single person from €25,000 to €30,000. There is an increase for additional adults of 5% each up to maximum 10%. There is a further increase of 2.5% for each additional child, with no maximum. The Minister also recently announced that a further baseline increase of €5,000 is due to be announced this month and to come in to effect in January 2023. It is anticipated that this will lead to a further increase in qualified housing applicants over the coming months.

### Housing Allocations 2022

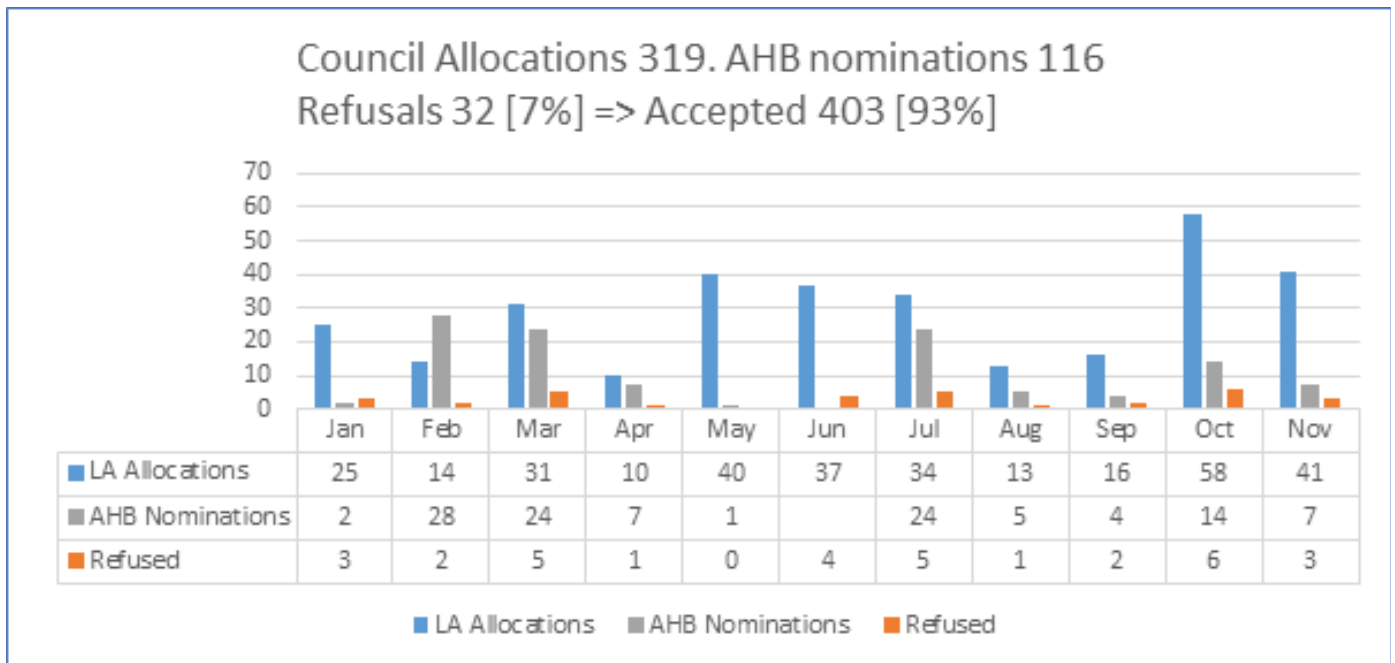
A total 319 offers were made on LA properties with 116 nominations to AHBs. 32 refusals (7%) leaves a total allocation year to date of 403.

Phase 1 of the new turnkey social housing development at Cluain Greine, Drehidnagower (16 units) is fully occupied. Phase 2 of this development which comprises 24 units is allocated and pre tenancy meetings for the new tenants are presently taking place now that keys of this development are available. Phase 3 which comprises 21 units, is in the process of being allocated

and letters of offer of accommodation have issued to all prospective tenants. This development includes a mix of two, three and four bedroomed houses together with one and two bedroomed apartments.

Phase 1 of the Clúid social housing development, which is located at Hogans Place, Limerick Road, Ennis was recently advertised on the CBL website. This phase comprises nine units and contains three bedroomed two storey houses and two bedroomed level access bungalow type accommodation. Details of the nominated households have been sent to Cluid Housing and Cluid have made contact with these households.

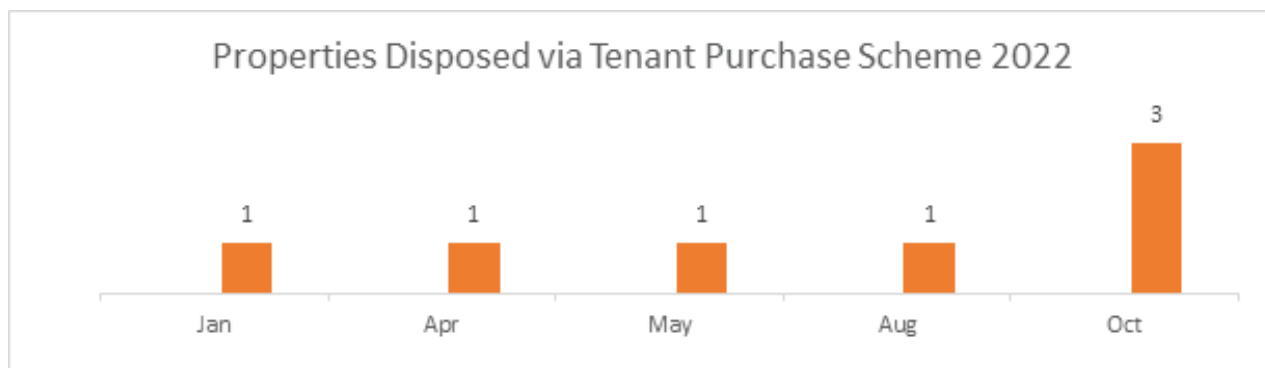
The new 8 units at Clos an Eidhneain, located on the Tulla Road, Ennis, were recently advertised on our Choice Based Letting website and a large number of expressions of interest have been received. This development comprises 6 no three bedroomed two-story houses and 2 no specially adapted two bedroomed bungalow type properties. The Allocations team are currently assessing the expressions of interest received and on completion of this process the formal housing needs assessment meetings will take place.



New Tenancies signed up in November	22
Tenancies sign up in progress to be completed 2022	45
Tenancies terminated in November [incl Transfers and Tenant Purchases]	13

### Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. To date in 2022 we have disposed of 7 properties to tenants under this scheme.



### Housing Tenancies

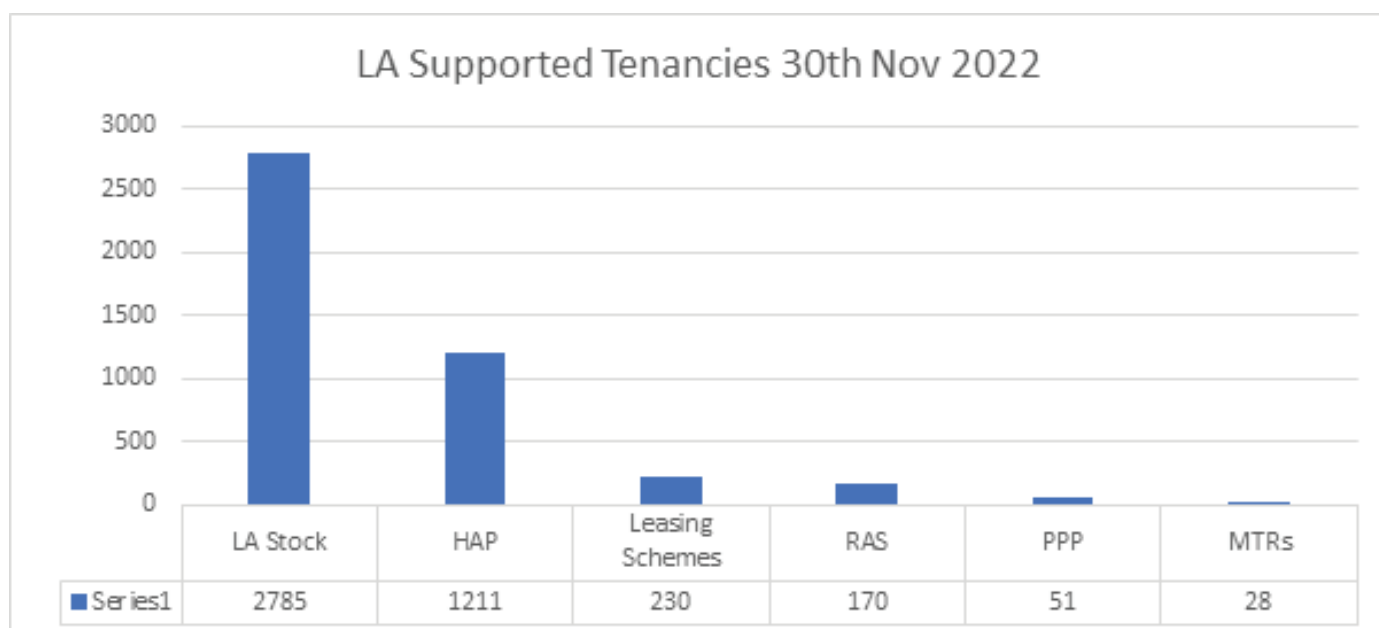
\*Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; PPP; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent. Excludes AHBs):

Municipal District	PROPERTY STATUS			Total
	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	
Ennis MD	47	1233	28	<b>1308</b>
Killaloe MD	2	358	6	<b>366</b>
Shannon MD	1	723	6	<b>731</b>
West Clare MD		950	39	<b>989</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3264</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3394</b>

### Vacancies by Municipal District

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller accommodation	5	6	3	0	14
Derelict properties	0	2	0	0	2
Projects	2	6	0	0	8
Casual vacancies	21	25	3	6	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>79</b>

### 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.

	Nov 22	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	613	6,663

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing [asb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and week-ends 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) is continuing, and on target, with 114 physical inspections being carried out in November, and 925 in 2022 total to date. These inspections were carried out on HAP, RTB, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that were received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards.

### Housing Grants

Grants Approved for November 2022:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	16	307,295
Housing Aid for Older People	25	113,451
Mobility Aids Grant	25	119,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>540,666</b>

### 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](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie)  
Loans data for 2022 up to 24/11/2022:



The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) has advised that the fixed interest rate for all new loans drawn down under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL) and Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) schemes will increase from 10 December 2022. The fixed rate payable by new borrowers after this date will be 3.35% annually for loans up to 25 years and 3.45% for loans between 25 and 30 years.

### Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 21st October 2022 to 17th November 2022 a total of 5 households exited from homeless services:

- 1 to L.A. Housing:
- 2 to AHB Housing:
- 1 Self Discharged.
- 1 to Private Rented Accommodation.

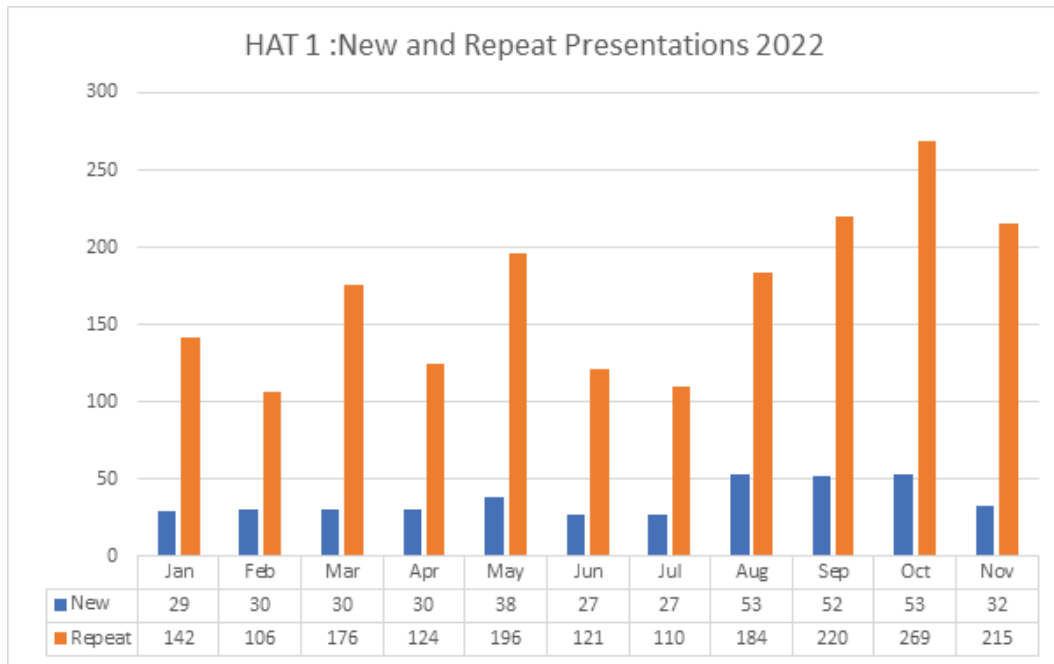
None the less demand for homeless services in Clare continues to rise. Graph HAT 2 below demonstrates almost 100% increase in new presentations for each of the last 4 months.

32 new clients contacted HAT during November 2022, with 215 repeat engagements. Many of the new clients were contacting HAT as they had fears about possible homeless situations into the future. Thankfully many of those presenting with difficulties avoided entering a homeless situation due to early intervention by the team. Advice regarding legislation on NTQs, support from the HAP Placefinder, allocations in advance of homelessness situations, and other supports offered by the team ensured many of these clients avoided actually seeking emergency accommodation and shows the positive effect the prevention measures taken by the HAT team can have when people engage at an early stage.

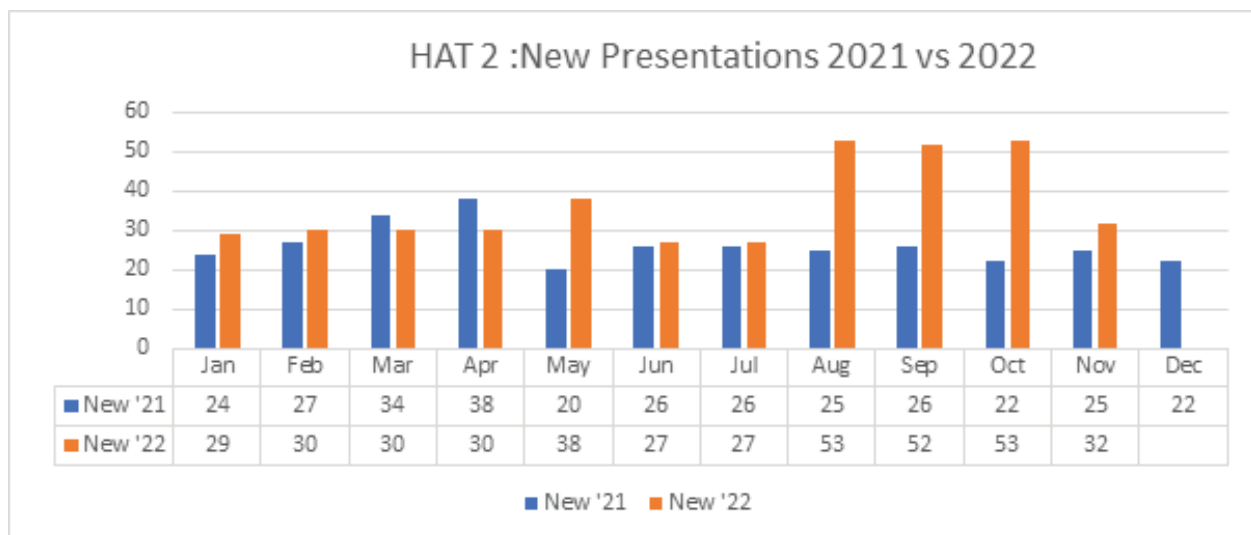
However even with above positive outcomes our emergency accommodation continues to operate at full capacity, and with continuous demand for additional capacity. The Council continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options. However, this is proving challenging due to competing demands for accommodation in the county.



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



*Repeat presentations are enquiries from existing clients relating to their housing and/or EA status*



### Emergency Accommodation Status as of 17th November 2022

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	14	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	7	8	1
Westbrook	0	13	0	1
Ashford Court	9	16	22	1
EA Families	4	5	5	2
EA Individuals	0	5	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9</b>

### Traveller Accommodation

**Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme:** The Scheme provides preferential loans to Travellers to purchase their own caravan/mobile home on halting sites for use as their primary residence. To date, 16 applications have been received. 6 have been given preliminary approval and a further 2 look positive and these applications are currently being reviewed. These applications will be subject to normal allocation check criteria including having Garda vetting carried out in advance of finalising applications.

### Vacant properties

The Vacant Homes Section continues to tackle vacant properties throughout the towns and villages of County Clare with a strong focus on suitable properties which can be delivered as social homes through the Capital Investment Programme.

#### Status as at 25/11/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	10	1	0
Killaloe	5	1	1
West Clare	13	2	0
Shannon	12	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

The public are encouraged to register vacant properties on the website [www.vacanthomes.ie](http://www.vacanthomes.ie). Properties registered on this website are investigated and assessed for suitability for redevelopment/purchase.

### Croi Conaithe (Towns Fund)

The expanded Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant was launched on the 15th November, 2022 by the Minister. The Grant which is funded through the Croi Conaithe (Towns) Fund originally applied to eligible vacant properties in towns and villages and has now been extended to apply to such properties in rural locations.

To date **20** no. applications have been received under the Towns Fund which are at various stages. **2** no. application have been approved, **2** no. applications have been referred for technical inspection, **6** no. applications previously rejected due to not meeting the location requirements under the terms of the scheme, have been contacted to submit an application under the expanded Scheme, and **10** applicants are required to submit

further information before proceeding to the next stage.

The Department have made available the Croi Conaithe App where information in relation to applications received for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant are to be input by each local authority. This will make information available in real time to the Department and the local Authority regarding the status of applications.

### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

Clare County Council continue to engage with the Department of Housing in relation to the Enhanced Defective Blocks Grants Scheme. Staff from the Department visited County Clare in late November to meet with our technical team and while here also took the opportunity to visit a number of sites where we have identified affected properties. We continue to await further guidance in relation to the process for homeowners. Clare County Council will have a role to play in the administration of the scheme and await details of same.

### New County Library Construction Project

Construction commenced on the new library building on Thursday 28th April 2022. All substructure works are now complete and all vertical works between ground floor and first floor are complete. First floor beams are also complete. Columns, beams and lift shaft concrete pours will continue up to Christmas. Preparation for 2nd Floor Slab pour ongoing and planned for concrete pour in early January. Techrete Concrete panels to façade of building to commence in early January also. The project involves the construction of a 2,321m<sup>2</sup> building on the glór site, comprising two floors of public library space. The local studies centre will be accommodated in this building, along with a separate art gallery. Additionally, the County Library HQ will be located on the third floor. The state-of-the-art new build will provide a key resource for research, study, recreation and art in a centralised location adjacent to the well-established glór theatre.



Progress photograph from October 2022

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Update on capital programme:

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Milltown Malbay	27	Completed.	Q4 2020	Q4 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Part VIII Approved. Tender assessment for construction contract complete and process under-way to appoint successful tenderer.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII has been quashed by the High Court - awaiting the formal High Court order.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Clarecastle	2	Stage 1-3 application submitted to DHLGH.	Q1 2023	Q4 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Determination issued to ABP and awaiting outcome.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 3 application approved by DHLGH. Tender being prepared for construction.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Stage 3 application currently being prepared.	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 2 submitted to DHLGH. Awaiting approval.	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. CENA appointed to support project development.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Cluain Gréine, Lifford, Ennis	61	Phase 1 (16 units occupied) Phase 2 (24 units) complete and to be allocated week 2 November 2022. Phase 3 (21 units) due December 2022	-	Q4 2022
Main Street, Mountshannon	4	Complete. Allocated	-	Q3 2022
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>224</b>			
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction 9 in Q4 2022 15 in Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (Cooperative Housing Ireland)	40	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) (15 units delivered in Q1 2022) (24 units delivered in Q2/2022) 16 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction in progress	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVerry Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen	16	CALF Turnkey – Department approved 6 units to be delivered in Q4 2023 10 units to be delivered in Q1 2024	Q4 2022 Q1 2023	Q4 2023 Q1 2024
Church Road, Tulla	2	CALF Turnkey (Part V) – under constructio	Q1 202	Q1 2023
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>136</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>			



## CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

### Clare County Library

There was a training morning organised for all staff in Cultural services this month. It was held in the Buttermarket building with five speakers on a range of topics including mental health, GDPR, Child Protection, NCBI services and climate action. 13 deliveries were made this month.

Online Resources usage as follows:




1444 E-Books	2685 E-Audiobooks	676 E-Magazines
420 Online courses	2089 Press Reader	64 Transparent Languages

### Marketing & social media

New printed material for promotion of online resources was created. The Marketing team are also working on printed material for the Shannon Library sensory space. There are a number of planned press releases including one for "Family Time at your library" in December.

Clare Library staff are currently working on Christmas book recommendations for Clare FM and the library website.

Social media stats as follows:

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts & stories (Insta only)	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	60	6636	156	1159	186	53
	-3	2068	53	217	52	0
	26	1746	156	703	12	18

Total number of live events	184
Total attendances at live events	2795
Total number of online events	5
Total audiences at online events	176
Outreach events	5
Total audiences at outreach events	92



New Irish Language Book Club meet in De Valera Library

There was a range of events for children and adults this month including book clubs, story times and films. The Clare Reads event for 2022 was an interview with author John Connell and Irish Independent Farming Supplement journalist Jim O'Brien on John's book "The Stream of Everything". John talked about his two-day journey in a canoe on the Camlin river during lockdown. The rich biodiversity of the river forms a quiet backdrop to John's much-loved philosophical observations. The event was held in Scariff Library.

### Healthy Ireland

The Healthy Ireland co-ordinator attended the Healthy Clare Action Plan consultation during the month.

### Decade of centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries programme for 2022 ended with an event on 6th November in Clare Museum to celebrate the arrival of De Valera's car to the Museum. Members of the DeValera family attended including Éamon Ó Cuiv and Éamon de Valera (grandsons) and Ann de Valera (granddaughter) as well as Éamon's de Valera's wife and daughter.



Introduction to online library services in Kilkee Library

## Local Studies

Abstracts of Births, Deaths and Marriages from the Dunboyne News Cuttings 1824-1878 have been uploaded to the Clare Library website. Staff of the Local Studies Centre and local historians produced these transcriptions. A history of the Kerin family was donated by Sylvia Turner and Michael O’Loughlen Q.C. and has been uploaded to the website also. Staff in Local Studies have begun up-loading nineteenth century birth, death and marriage records for county Clare to the library website.

[https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/local-studies/dunboyne\\_abstracts.htm](https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/local-studies/dunboyne_abstracts.htm)

Though representing a very small cohort of the Clare population of the time, they are of historical as well as genealogical interest and value and especially as they pre-date the civil register, which commenced in 1864.

## Clare Archives

The Barrett collection continues to be rehoused and catalogued. It is envisaged the collection will be fully processed early next year. Each month the archives service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view the material from the Archives’ collections.

A selection of digitised documents from the Barrett Collection has been added to the Digital Repository of Ireland’s website Digital Repository of Ireland | Digital Repository Ireland (dri.ie). This is the initial collection to be added to the repository. The Grand Jury Collection will be added to the repository in early 2023. It will be the beginning of a significant contribution to the accessibility of Clare’s archival heritage. A pair of portrait paintings of Edmund Armstrong, Willowbank, Ennis (High Sheriff of Clare 1852) and his wife have been donated to the Archives. These have been donated by his great-great grandson David Moore. An additional collection has been donated by Derrynaveagh National School (Sixmilebridge) also known as Oatfield National School. The material contains a roll book dating to 1883. An update will need to be performed on the library system to allow directorates to add material to the library’s catalogue.

## Clare Arts Office

Three Artists in Schools Scheme residencies began in Barefield NS, Caherea NS and Lisdoonvarna Secondary School. KeyStone a major art commission to celebrate 20 years of the Artist in Schools Scheme began in Colaiste Muire, Ennis and Scoil Mhuire, Ennistymon. The Embrace Arts & Disability residency began with Brothers of Charity – Avonlea. Fionnathan, Associate Artists, performed a work in progress and conducted school visits.

The Arts Officer conducted 2 Arts in Clare slots on Clare FM this month and was interviewed as part of the Glór is 21 celebrations. Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee, held a film screening and a concert.

Three exhibitions took place countywide including an exhibition by the Tones Residency artist Beata Rosik in the Clare Museum. The final report on the Live Local Performance Scheme indicated that 66 events took place in 50 locations throughout the county employing 237 people for 638 days (averaging 2.7 days per person)

Hospital radio continued twice a week in St. Joseph’s Hospital, Ennis along with visits by musicians to the wards. Arts activities resumed in Raheen Hospital. Clare Youth Theatre continued to meet in glór and the Kilkee Youth Theatre has re-started. An Engine Shorts film opportunity was relaunched with a screening and Q & A in glór with Film in Limerick.

The Arts Officer attended the Creative Places Networking Event in Tuam. The Arts Office began work with the Arts Council on a pilot mapping exercise for cultural venues as part of the Night Time Economy Task Force. There were 199 posts on the Arts Office social media channels with a reach of 18,954 people. The Arts Office won the 2 awards nominated in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards.



An Cathaoirleach of Clare, Councillor Tony O’ Brien with members of the de Valera family, Éamon de Valera and Éamon Ó Cuiv at the launch of the de Valera Car in Clare Museum.

An event was held in Clare Museum on Sunday, 6th November to celebrate the arrival of the de Valera 1947 Dodge car. A large crowd attended as the day also marked the annual commemoration of de Valera in Ennis by Fianna Fáil. De Valera’s grandchildren Éamon de Valera, his sister Ann and Éamon Ó Cuiv were in attendance. Éamon de Valera reminisced about the trips de Valera made in his car to Clare, particularly the 1966 trip which is well-remembered in the county. Cathaoirleach Tony O’Brien also addressed the crowd and historian Joe Power gave an informative talk on de Valera’s connection with the Banner county. Credit was given to all who helped restore the car particularly Councillor P.J. Ryan. The car has proven to be a popular exhibit and is a welcome addition to Clare Museum. Staff in the Museum continued to upload content to the new Museum website including two stories on different artefacts. There were a number of visits from an Ennis Active Retirement group and school class visits. Staff also uploaded photographs & videos on objects from the Museum collection to social media platforms.



### Glór 21st Anniversary

Glór celebrated its 21st birthday in style on Sat 26th November with a specially curated concert by Áine Hensey in collaboration with Glór. The concert featured 51 artists and performers. Many of the recent collaborations and projects developed at Glór were showcased, across a range of traditional, folk and classical music, dance, and drama – and the audience really seemed to

enjoy the programme. The audience joined the artists and Glór team for a reception after the show, with live music. Clare FM was the event Media Partner and broadcast their full Morning Focus show from the Glór Studio the previous day, with a range of conversations and music, looking back over the years since 2001, and forward to future plans

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Works are substantially complete on a successful delivery of the SMDW 2022.

This includes the restoration maintenance (surface dressing) programme, and the restoration improvement works programme, including regional road overlays.

Works are nearing completion on both the Drainage Improvement and Climate Change Adaptation projects throughout the MD

Please see below example of the regional road restoration improvement overlay works undertaken recently at Mountshannon [Photo 1], and the local road restoration improvement overlay works at Ballycuggeran Pier [Photos 2&3].



Mountshannon and Ballycuggeran Pier

Please see below Killaloe Municipal District works involving the installation of wheelchair accessible bench and seating, undertaken at Ballycuggeran.



Please see below example of Killaloe Municipal District improvement works, undertaken at Whitegate.



#### Killaloe MD Active Travel projects 2022

Project	Status
Tulla - Footpath improvements & pedestrian crossings	Construction works ongoing - Pedestrian Crossing Section 38 approved. Works to begin in December 2022
Drumandoora - Footpath & pedestrian crossings	Construction works nearing completion
Clarisford Park Connection, Killaloe	Construction started

#### Killaloe MD Low Cost Safety projects 2022

Project	Status
Henchys Junction	Works are substantially complete
Kilkishen - Main Street	Due to Start. Section 38 approved. Works to begin in December 2022

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### STRATEGIC PROJECTS

#### Roche Masterplan

As a strategic project for County Clare and one of the nine transformational projects identified in the Ennis 2040 Strategy, Clare County Council continues to work with Roche Ltd on the development of a Masterplan for the Roche site in Clarecastle with the objective to present a draft Masterplan for public consultation in Q1 2023.

#### Town Centre First/Croí Conáithe

Briefings on the Town Centre First concept were held with Councillors in each of the Municipal Districts during November and December to provide an overview of the role of the Town Regeneration Officer and outline topline details for future calls of Town Centre First funding. The first national network meeting of Town Regeneration Officers was held on 28th November to facilitate shared learning and best practice case studies.

#### Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

Clare County Council continues to actively engage with stakeholders and landowners in the regeneration of the Town Centre to deliver upon the objectives of the Masterplan. Clare County Council made a presentation to the members of the Shannon Chamber CEO Forum at their recent meeting in November and discussed opportunities for those local companies to actively get involved in the implementation phase of the Masterplan. A key focus of the initial delivery is the development of a 'One Shannon Hub' – a multifunctional building that will operate as a community, civic, cultural and enterprise hub in the heart of the town centre – as well as supporting the delivery of quality accommodation to encourage more people to live in the town centre. Clare County Council is actively targeting various funding streams to enable this development.



Kevin Thompstone, President of Shannon Chamber and Chair of Shannon CEO Forum.

#### Sixmilebridge Masterplan



As part of ongoing public consultation in the development of the Sixmilebridge Masterplan, the 'Have your Say' engagement platform and online survey went live on the Clare County Council's website in the middle of November. In conjunction with this, a leaflet drop to over 900 homes was organised for the week commencing 21st November, to encourage people to complete the survey. Notices were also placed in the local parish newsletter. It is anticipated that a draft proposal of the Masterplan will go on public consultation in February 2023, following initial consultation by the design team, Allies & Morrison, with stakeholders in January.

#### Inaugural Ennis 2040 Transition Year programme

Ennis 2040 DAC has commenced an exciting education and consultation programme for Transition Year Students in the secondary schools in the Ennis area, namely Ennis Community College and Gaelcolaiste, Colaiste Muire, St Flannan's College and Rice College. The programme is aimed at developing the student's vision for the Town and its environs in 2040 and will engage students in identifying their environmental impacts, make environmentally conscious choices and how they can adopt more sustainable lifestyles through small changes in their habits at home and at school.

Ennis Municipal District, Clare County Council, Ennis 2040 will provide introductory presentations to all students as well as arranging guest speakers to provide insight into their chosen category from the SEAI, NTA etc. Students will develop their projects over 12 weeks and will cover categories such as Transport, Food, Circular Waste, Biodiversity and Energy. This TY Student programme has been designed to encourage young people in Ennis to learn and engage with their local community and become participants in our local democracy through active

citizenship. The best projects will present their sustainability ideas and vision of Ennis in 2040 to the Ennis Municipal District Councillors in Spring 2023.

The overall goal of the programme is to facilitate a re-imagining of the town while empowering young people through engagement with their local authority. “Mól an Óige agus Tíocfaidh Sí”.

## FORWARD PLANNING

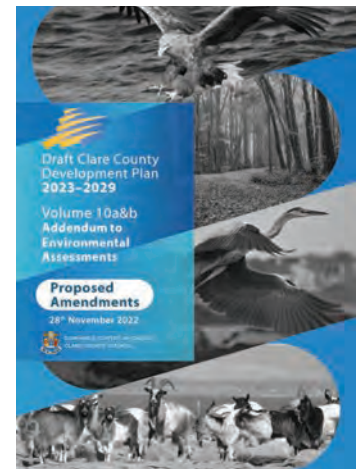
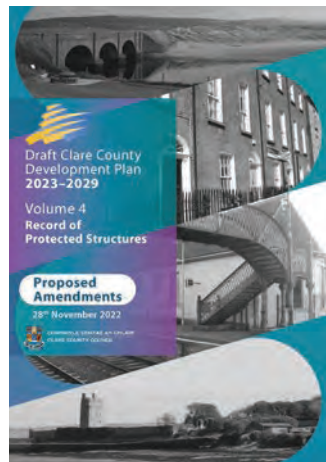
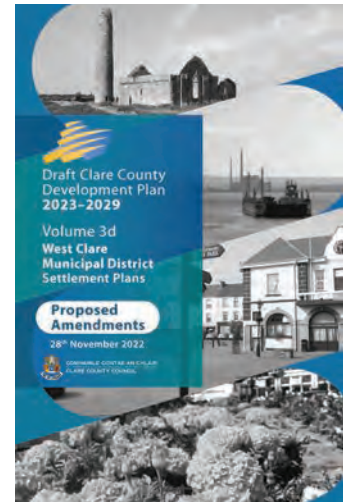
### Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Since the Special Council meeting held on 20th October where the Members agreed, by resolution, to adopt the proposed material alterations to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, the documents showing all the proposed amendments to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 have been prepared. Following a determination that both an appropriate assessment and strategic environmental assessment were required of the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan, these have also been undertaken as part of this process. The Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 Proposed Amendment documents were placed on public display on 28th November, 2022, and will remain on display until 3rd January, 2023, inclusive and a public notice was placed in the local press and on the Council’s website which set out the dates of the public consultation during which written submissions can be made on the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan. All the documents can be viewed on the Council website, which has a dedicated page for the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, and are available to view at Clare County Council Offices, including the Municipal District Area Offices of Shannon, Scariff, Kilrush and Ennistymon, as well libraries throughout the county.

At the end of the public consultation period the next step in the process will be to prepare a Chief Executive’s Report on written submissions received. This will then be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration at the end of January/early February. A special council meeting is scheduled for mid-March 2023 for the Elected Members to conclude their considerations and by resolution make the plan, with or without proposed amendments to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2022-2023.

### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

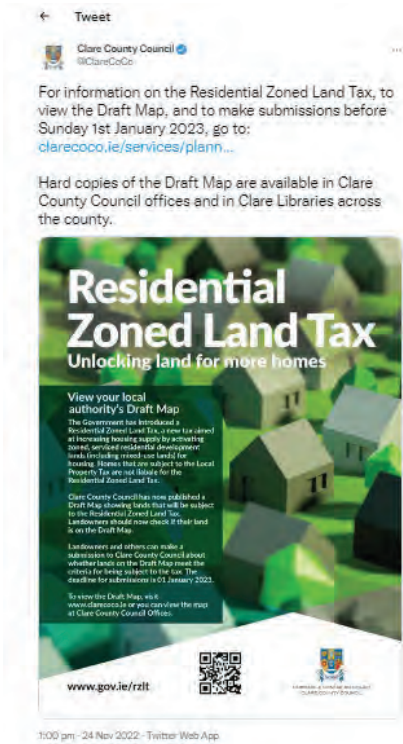
The RZLT is a new Tax, introduced in the Finance Act 2021, which will come into effect from 2024. The purpose of the tax is to activate existing planning permissions as well as zoned and serviced residential and mixed-use lands to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations. It is the responsibility of each local authority to prepare the maps that show the zoned lands which fall within the scope of the RZLT and to consider submissions that are received during the consultation process and to make any resultant changes to zoning that may arise. Following engagement with stakeholders including Irish Water, the Forward Planning Team have prepared a Draft Map which identifies all lands in County Clare that fall within the scope of the RZLT. The Draft Map was placed on public display



on 1st November and a public notice was issued in both national and local press to signify the start of a public consultation period which will run until the 1st January 2023. During this time, the Council will be accepting submissions from landowners and the public. Information on the RZLT will be available on the Council’s website which will include links to all the necessary information, a short explanatory video, the Draft Map and guidance on how to make a submission and points of contact options. While the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has launched a national media campaign, the Council has launched an ongoing media campaign using social media, press and radio in order to further raise local awareness and provide information on the RZLT.

After 1st January, 2023, the next stage in the process will involve

the local authority notifying those who made submissions that request their lands to be removed from the scope of the RZLT of the decision in this regard. These decisions will be issued by 1st April, 2023, and if submitters wish to do so, they can appeal the decision to An Bord Pleanála, which must be done by 1st May, 2023.



**Corofin Enhancement Strategy**

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) are working in partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. A multi-disciplinary design team led by Hall McKnight Architects has been appointed to prepare the plan. The second stage of public consultation is underway with an event held at Corofin Community Hall, where preliminary proposals were exhibited. The online consultation has concluded and received a high level of engagement from the community. A series of targeted consultation meetings with key stakeholders got underway in October and will continue into early December. The second stage of public consultation will conclude in December.



**The Manchester Martyrs' Monument**

The Manchester Martyrs' Monument in Kilrush has been repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. The project has now reached practical completion and has resulted in the full restoration of the monument's stonework and the historic ironmongery. All elements of the work have been undertaken by heritage craftspeople. The repair and restoration of the Manchester Martyrs' Monument is a significant step in safeguarding the heritage of Kilrush Town Centre. It is a further continuation of heritage-led works in Kilrush for which the local and visiting community will greatly benefit.

**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 continue to work on the preparation of the Ennistymon Enhancement plan. This enhancement plans seeks to provide a framework for the future development of the town. Following on from a well-attended public event exhibiting the enhancement plan, the design team are concluding the final report. It is expected that the final report will be issued in December.



**Flexible Outdoor Structures**

Clare County Council has received funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme as promoted by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. This funding stream asks us to reimagine how we use our outdoor public spaces and proposes a series of flexible outdoor structures which can be erected in outdoor locations during one-off events. The project team has sought tenders for the fabrication of the structures. It is expected that a fabricator will be appointed in early December with fabrication commencing soon after.



**Hastings’ Farmhouse, Shannon**

Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna have got some funding from the Heritage Stewardship Fund, promoted by The Heritage Council for Hastings Farmhouse, a protected structure. It is a rare building type of historic and architectural significance. The Fund provides support to bodies who have responsibility for the care of heritage objects and 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 between Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna is a key step in safeguarding the heritage of Hastings’ Farmhouse. This project has put in place key structures and frameworks which will guide the future of this protected structure and a cost plan for proposals has been developed. This project is also funding training in vernacular construction for adult learners with a view to increasing inclusivity in heritage initiatives. This training was delivered in partnership with the LCETB and Dúchas na Sionna and was attended by members of the local community as well as members of the Ukrainian community. The grant will also cover site works which look to increase accessibility to the site and they got underway in November and will be concluded in December.



Training in vernacular forms of construction at Hastings Farmhouse.

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of October and also gives the year to date totals.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	November 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	89	1077
No. of Planning Decisions made	101	957
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	0	24
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	21	217
No. of Section 5 applications	10	81
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	2	53
Submissions received regarding Compliance	26	345



## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	November 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	16	165
No of Files Opened	7	102
No. of Warning Letters issued	18	161
No. of Enforcement Notices served	2	25
No. of Legal Cases initiated	2	3
No. of Enforcement files closed	5	50

## HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### Heritage Projects

Heritage Projects funded under the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Heritage Council and Clare Creative Ireland funded projects have now been finalised for 2022, including reporting and recoupment.

### Heritage Presentation and Submissions

The Heritage Officer made a presentation to the Physical Development SPC on the Clare County Council Biodiversity programme 2022 and to the public on Biodiversity in County Clare at the De Valera Library.

A submission was made on the current role of the Heritage Council in the planning system and its potential role having regard to changing policy and legislative context. A submission was also made to the Heritage Council Communications and Engagement Strategy.

The Heritage Officer attended the annual Ennis Tidy Towns Local Awards which showcases the many gardens, green areas, residential streetscapes, civic gardens and shrines in the town and the care taken of these spaces. The Heritage Officer participated in a tree planting ceremony with Irish Water at Drumcliffe Treatment Plant where over 4 acres of suitable land at the site is being planted with native trees, birch, alder, oak, among other native species. Irish Water staff and children from fourth class at the Ennis National School planted the trees and discussed aspects of the local biodiversity and how this project will help nature in the area. This undertaking among other such projects throughout the country meets the objectives set out in the Irish Water Biodiversity Action Plan.

## CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

### Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

The 2023 round of funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme was announced on 16/11/2022. The BHIS is designed to assist with the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts. In certain cases, the scheme also supports the conservation of structures within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) where, in the opinion of the local authority, a need for works to enhance the character and appearance of an ACA has been demonstrated. The primary purpose of the scheme is to support privately owned properties in need of repair and conservation. Projects that incorporate a traditional skills training element may also be supported by this fund. Any such projects must be agreed in advance by the Department.

The grants scheme operates on a 50/50, grant/match funding basis. The minimum grant is €2,500 (works value of €5,000) up to a maximum of €15,000 (works value €30,000). Clare County Council will enact a proper assessment process to determine which applications are eligible to go forward for funding. Priority will be given to small-scale, labour-intensive projects.

Projects should demonstrate a range of conservation skills and will not be concentrated in a particular geographical area or on a particular type of structure.

In addition, 2023 Built Heritage Investment Scheme will include ring-fenced funding nationally of €500,000 for conservation repairs to thatched structures to maximise the availability of financial assistance to such owners, helping them offset other costs. For the ring-fenced thatch funding awards of up to €20,000 can be allocated, subject to a maximum of 80% of the total project cost.

### Historic Structures Fund

Phased works to St Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe are ongoing.

The 2023 Built Heritage Investment Scheme was announced on 25/11/2022. The primary focus of the HSF will be on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the broader benefit of communities and the public. There are four streams of funding under the HSF:

1. Stream 1 will offer grants from €15,000 up to €50,000 and is aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of heritage structures, covering up to 80% of eligible cost.

2. Stream 1, Historic Shopfronts sub-stream – As in 2021, to incentivise the conservation of historic shopfronts each Local Authority is invited to submit an additional application under Stream 1 for eligible essential repairs and small capital works for the refurbishment and conservation of historic shop facades, windows, signage and other associated details to safeguard them and keep them in use. Local Authorities are also invited to make an additional application for Irish-language shopfronts, which can cover up to 80% of eligible cost.

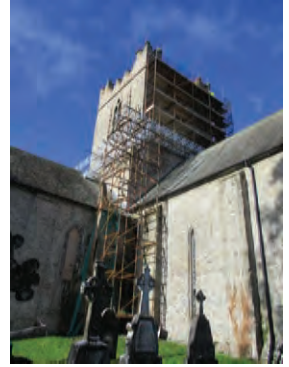
3. Stream 2 will offer a small number of grants from €50,000 up to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures, where:

- a. A clear community or public benefit has been demonstrated, or
- b. A clear residential benefit has been demonstrated (such projects must be advanced through the planning process as necessary)

A grant of over €200,000 may be awarded in exceptional circumstances where a case is made by the applicant in relation to the significance of the project and the works proposed. The grant can cover up to 50% of eligible cost but up to 80% in exceptional circumstances.

4. Vernacular Structures Stream - In the context of the forthcoming strategy for built vernacular, the pilot stream for vernacular structures introduced in 2021 will be retained, with funding of €50,000. The purpose of the stream is to support conservation repairs and small capital works to vernacular structures

that are not listed in local authority Records of Protected Structures or otherwise legally protected. Such structures may be located within an Architectural Conservation Area. All local authorities can apply for funding for specific projects of between €5,000 and €10,000 for eligible projects. The grant can cover up to 80% of eligible cost.



The closing date for both the HSF and BHIS for Clare County Council applications has been set as 27/01/2023.

### Community Monuments Fund 2022

The Conservation Management Plans of the three medieval churches of Killofin, Labasheeda, Killchreest, Ballynacally and Templemaley, Ballyallia have been completed. The Conservation Management Plans are to be used in seeking further funding for Capital works to consolidate and protect the ruins of the medieval churches.

The 2023 round of the Built Heritage Investment Scheme was announced on 21/11/2022. Total funding available nationally under this Fund 2023 will be €6,000,000.

The Community Monuments Fund (CMF) is investing essential capital in our archaeological heritage to help owners and custodians of archaeological monuments safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. The Community Monuments Fund is available for structures on the RMP (Record of Monuments and Places). It must be noted that the CMF covers 100% of the cost and requires no match funding.

There are three streams of funding under the CMF:

1. Stream 1 – Grants up to €100,000 for essential repairs and capital works for the conservation of archaeological monuments.

2. Stream 2 – Grants of up to €30,000 for the development of Conservation Management Plans/Reports and detailed Specification of Works aimed at identifying measures for conservation of archaeological monuments and improving public access.

3. Stream 3 – Grants of up to €30,000 for the enhancement of access infrastructure and interpretation (including virtual/online) at archaeological monuments.

Further details are available at <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/community-monuments-fund-2023.html>

The closing date for CMF applications is 31/01/2022.

**Section 57 Applications**

Section 57 Declarations are issued to owners of buildings or structures that wish to conduct works to their structures. A Declaration determines whether works would be considered exempt from planning and can also be used to clarify the curtilage of a protected structure, or what elements are to be protected. There is no fee for a Section 57 Declaration.

Section 57 Declarations	November 2022 up to & including 27/10/2022	Total (Valid)
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	2	29

**Clare Business Excellence Awards**

Local Enterprise Office Clare sponsored an award for the Best Micro Business at the Clare Business Excellence Awards on November 24th at Glór.

The prize, presented by Padraic McElwee, went to LEO Clare Client, CSGE Electrical Wholesaler, who also won Business of the year 2022. Many other LEO Clare clients also came away with winning prizes in other categories.



Clare Business Excellence Awards (Ethan Kerin, Caroline O'Connor of CSGE Electrical Wholesaler Ltd and Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office Clare).



Deputy Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Cllr Ann Norton, with Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, presenting Overall Business of the Year to CSGE Electrical Wholesaler Ltd.

**LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE**

- The 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, forty-two applications have been approved.
- 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 November 9 further mentors have been assigned bringing our current annual number of mentoring assignments to 159
- Green For Micro/LEAN/Digital Start: As part of our supports Local Enterprise Office Clare have approved the following supports to help businesses in 2022. This includes 14 Green for Micro applications, 15 LEAN applications and 8 Digital Start Applications
- Training: LEO Clare held three training courses and events over the month of November which saw over 65 participants register. These included training TikTok for business marketing, an accounts workshop and a Business growth for Female Entrepreneurs Workshop.

**November Evaluation Committee Meeting**

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their fifth evaluation meeting of 2022 in November. A Business Expansion project totalling €23,465 was approved for funding. The final meeting for 2022 will take place in December.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

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

We continue to assist many solicitors on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios et and the activity levels are indicative of an active property market in the County generally. In addition to the Table below, significant property transactions are underway which will add to the economic development of the County and these are related to individual projects.

Transaction	November 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	1	3	4
Licence to use property / building	0	12	11
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	22	22
Deed of Transfer signed	0	15	12
Contract for Sale signed	0	0	3
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	1	6	3
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	2	9	7
Allotment Agreements signed	0	39	39

### Grazing of Lands 2023

The annual advertisement for grazing of Council owned lands for an 11 month period will be advertised in early January 2023. This has been competitive in recent years.

### Shannon Allotments

The renewal of the agreements for the Shannon allotments is currently underway for the year 2023. With management of the allotments and ensuring that all are maintaining their allotment, It has been possible to allocate allotments to those on the waiting list this time as some people have given up their allotment where they can no longer maintain it.

### Tullyvarraga Hall, Shannon

The Property Management Team are working with the Committee of Tullyvarraga Hall in Shannon to improve the condition of this building, which is in the ownership of Clare County Council and leased to the Community Group. With a grant from

POBAL, plans are underway to refurbish the toilets to make them accessible, improve the entrance area to improve accessibility and also to install a kitchen.

### Energy Management for Public buildings

In line with the Government's campaign to reduce our energy usage, a range of measures have been put in place in our Corporate and other buildings to reduce usage on lighting and heating and IT related equipment. Energy management will be closely monitored by the Energy Management Committee.



### Casual Trading

As most of the events and festivals were held up to August / September, the only additional casual trading licences that were issued this month were for the Kilrush Horse Fair in November 2022, the Christmas Lights event in Ennis and the Christmas Fair in Ennis, being held in the first weekend of December.

## DERELICT SITES

To date this year, 58 new derelict site files have been opened and represents a significant effort by the Derelict Sites Team to take action against derelict properties throughout the County. This is the highest level of activity in any one year since the Act was first introduced in 1990/1991 and we now have almost 200 active files. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to understand the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict stage. A number of properties have been brought to the market and some are at 'sale agreed' stage and we continue the engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing the outcome of sales agreed in 2021 and 2022, with planning applications for refurbishment increasing and some works commencing on individual properties. 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, financial institutions and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in November 2022 to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021. This is a very significant increase on activity throughout the whole county.

Derelict Sites	November 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	0	58	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	4	33	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	1	22	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	2	20	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	6	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	4	0

### Compulsory acquisition of Derelict sites

To date in 2022, three of the four derelict sites acquired by CPO have been vested in Clare County Council and one is outstanding in the Property Registration Authority. The CPO process has been initiated in two more properties and we are dealing with objections in relation to those. We are working with the Housing Department to return the first three properties to living accommodation, following refurbishment or re-development. These are the first CPO's of Derelict sites initiated by the Council since 2014.

### Grants Scheme for Vacant and Derelict Properties

The announcement by Government of grant aid for the refurbishment of vacant and / or derelict properties in towns and villages, for occupation as a principal private residence is very welcome. Details of the scheme for towns and villages can be found on the website with all the information on the scheme, frequently asked questions and the application form for the Grants scheme - gov.ie - Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme (www.gov.ie) We bring this grants scheme to the attention of property owners that we are engaging with.

It has recently been announced that this grants scheme will be extended to properties in rural areas and this has the potential to make a difference in many parts of rural County Clare.

In order to ensure engagement with owners is more efficient, it is proposed that from January 2023 the Vacant Homes function will be amalgamated with the Derelict Sites function in the Property Management Team. Arrangements will be made for briefings to the elected Members in Quarter 1 2023 and a communications strategy for the public and property owners.

### Working Group with Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer is a member of a working group established by the Department to review the effectiveness of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 and to assess if any amendments or improvements are required.

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Completion of Illaunamanagh Carpark

Shannon MD has completed car parking enhancement works at Illaunamanagh which cost €70,000 approx. The works involved the installation of new drainage infrastructure, kerbing, a new footpath, a new car parking area and an improved entrance to the Illaunamanagh area. The carpark caters for 43 car parking spaces with an additional 4 wheelchair friendly spaces. The height restriction barrier offers safety and security for all the users of Shannon's biggest graveyard as well as the nearby crematorium. The footpath ensures safer pedestrian movement between the carpark and the graveyard. Additional benefits include its shared use for recreation purposes particularly when park runs are being held in the vicinity.



Pictured (l-r): Sean Haugh, Executive Technician; Cllr Donna McGettigan; Cathaoirleach Cllr Michael Begley; Cllr Gerry Flynn; Anne Griffin, A/SEO.



Councillors and staff chat about the carpark improvement works.

### Inclusive modes of Transport

Shannon MD was recently briefed by CoMotion Mobility Solutions who have worked previously with the Council on the provision of electric bicycles in Shannon town. The MD Councillors sponsored 5 e-bikes through the GMA for 2022 which are branded with Clare County Council's logo. CoMotion offer short term rental of electric bicycles that can be accessed through their user app. at various locations throughout Shannon. These electric bicycles also offer connectivity between Shannon Free Zone and the Town Centre. It is the intention that this mode of transport will be further extended to the hinterland in due course as the cycling network expands as part of our Active Travel projects.

CoMotion are currently exploring options relating to the roll-out of inclusive modes of transport and will pilot specially adapted trikes and bikes in conjunction with its downloadable app in the future. Shannon MD is proud to work closely with CoMotion to ensure delivery of this pioneering, innovative and accessible initiative. Shannon MD is also working on the provision of Bike lockers at various locations.



Cathaoirleach Michael Begley tries out the CoMotion tricycle model.

### Green Flag Award 2022

Shannon MD was delighted and honoured to be awarded the green flag for 2022 for Shannon Town Park once again. The An Taisce award recognises high-quality parks and green spaces that are managed in a sustainable way. The Park which was officially opened in 2019, provides a valuable outdoor recreation amenity for the entire Shannon and South Clare community. The Green Flag Award Scheme encourages high environmental performance and good management. Shannon Town Park was judged against eight key criteria including horticultural standards, cleanliness, sustainability, and community involvement.

The Park includes many distinct features including native woodland planting as well as mature existing woodland (30 semi-mature trees and 1700 young trees), wildflower meadow, semi-natural pond with aquatic planting, all of which enhance the bio-diversity of the area. Shannon Town Park also offers an adventure play area, a cycle pump track, formal and informal seating areas, picnic areas, formal footpaths and cycle track, and a unique bandstand.



Cathaoirleach Michael Begley displays the Green Flag together with Cllr Gerry Flynn and Cllr Donna McGettigan.

Experience Shannon Town Park on your next trip to Shannon town!

### Other Works and Activities in Shannon MD include:

- Contractor commenced the Low Cost Safety Scheme in Sixmilebridge.
- Flooding Relief Works at various locations:
  - Lisduff, Newmarket on Fergus
  - Ballymorris, Cratloe
  - Backwater, Ardnacuasha
  - Meelick
  - Rineanna Newmarket on Fergus.
- Meeting held with Newmarket on Fergus Community Development Group to advance the Looped Walk Project.
- Shannon MD is in the process of appointing a contractor to the footpath maintenance contract.
- N19 TII – significant overlay works are currently being carried out.
- Attendance at Shannon Estuary Inter Agency Emergency Exercise.
- Grass cutting tender advertised on eTenders.

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

The overall allocation for Roads in the 2022 Clare County Council Roadworks Programme was €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 was prepared as part of the SMDW for 2022 and is now substantially completed.

### 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. The revised Draft LSMATS document was published on the 26th April 2022. There was a consultation period for 6 weeks until 10th June. A presentation of the revised draft LSMATS document was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC on May 31st, 2022 and a submission on the strategy was made by Clare County Council. Steering meetings were held by the NTA over the summer months and the NTA have prepared a final draft to present to their board. The NTA has informed us that the LSMATS has been approved by the NTA Board and that the final LSMATS was published on December 1st, 2022.

#### 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 was rolled out during 2021 as part of this project by the NTA.

Clare County Council Transportation section attended a workshop on Wednesday, 26th October with representatives of

Limerick City & County Council, Bus Éireann, the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the NTA's consultants Jarrett Walker & Associates (JWA) and Systra.

#### Active Travel Programme 2022

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

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

- Construction works complete in Quin, Kilmurry, Boston, Doolin, Ruan, Lahinch & Kilmaley
- Construction works ongoing in Ennis (including Ballybeg), Tulla, Dromindoora, Spanish Point, Lisdoonvarna, Clarisford (Killaloe) & Sixmilebridge
- Construction works under 'Safe Routes To School' programme ongoing at St. Flannans National School in Inagh
- Construction works to commence presently in Miltown Malbay & Ballycasey (Shannon)
- Public lighting installation completed in The Peoples Park (Clarecastle)
- Public lighting being installed presently in Ballybeg (Ennis)
- Consultants appointed to advance Option Selection phase & Preliminary Design phase for permeability across bridges throughout the county
- Preliminary design being carried out under 'Safe Routes To School' programme for Clonmoney National School
- Preliminary design being advanced for Footpath Package schemes in Roslevan & Meelick
- Option Selection phase being advanced for Clare Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive), Tulla Road and Lahinch Road as part of development of the cycling network within Ennis
- Option Selection phase being advanced in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and NTA for Lissycasey Active Travel scheme

The Active travel programme is multi-annual and the above projects will continue into 2023. The process has now begun to identify suitable new projects to commence in 2023. Once this process has been finalised in consultation with all Municipal Districts, approval will be sought from the NTA for funding to advance the agreed schemes. The approved schemes are expected to be announced by the NTA in January 2023.

## 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 52% 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: Eneveo (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: November 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 27th September, 2022.

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p><b>For the N85:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary and this is being progressed by the TII through their consultant.</li> <li>The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should be incorporated in the Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area.</li> <li>The RDO carried out an extensive topographical survey of the N85 from Clareen roundabout to the start of the speed limit zone and are currently developing conceptual designs for this area.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.</li> </ul>
TII HD 17 Sites	<p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing.</li> <li>Interim measure proposed and being developed for N68/L2138.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N67:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 &amp; 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.</li> <li>Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. The TII have analysed the proposed junction layout and are satisfied that there will be no capacity issues, concerns were raised in this regard in a meeting arranged with community groups. Issues raised in the Road Safety Audit have been worked through and accepted by the Auditor, a public lighting designs has been completed. The Design Report is progressing with a competition for EIA and AA screening reports underway. Work is also progressing on a photomontage of the proposed scheme for public consultation.</li> <li>The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed. A Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit for this junction has been carried out and accepted. A Feasibility Report is being prepared for submission to the TII.</li> </ul>



## Other Projects 2022

Project	Progress Update
Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022	The projects progressing in 2022 are substantially completed. A number of projects will be continuing into 2023. The funding application for LCS for 2023 was submitted to the DoT in November 2022.
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Construction works are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	The NTA has approved 15 no. bus shelters for the 2023 programme. The tender process has been completed with construction works to commence in early 2023.
Road Schedule & Queries	Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
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 feeding into the Clare County Cycling Network Project
Ennis Pedestrian Friendly & Park and Stride Assessments	Completed.
Kilrush Cycle Routes Project	Road Design are currently collaborating with West Clare Municipal District to develop three new cycle routes throughout the Kilrush area. The cycle routes will incorporate a town, estuary, and heritage loop totalling 26km.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	This project is substantially completed.
National Cycling Network	This is a project initiated by the TII and is being developed in conjunction with the RDO, Clare County Council. This project seeks to develop a cycling network connecting settlements with a population 5,000. At public consultation stage. Presented to Physical SPC in June.
Clare County Cycle Network	Draft strategy commenced in conjunction with the NTA and AECOM. Public consultation expected to commence in late Quarter 4 2022.
Latoon Cycling Infrastructure	Tender documents are currently being prepared.
Climate Adaptation	The funding application for 2023 Climate Adaptation Grant was submitted to the DoT in November 2022.

## River Fergus Walk

Road Design have liaised with Clare County Council's Capital Projects Team and multiple stakeholders to develop signage and mapboards for the River Fergus Walk. These mapboards will shortly be installed along the route.

Rehabilitation Programme was submitted to the DoT in November 2022.

The 2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Programme consisted of the following	
Boologhra Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Cavanagh's Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls and deck
Drumullan Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Scariff Bridge	Repairs to wingwalls and retaining walls
Drummindoora Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Annagore Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Carrowkeel More	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Drehidnalacken Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Ahaclare Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
D'Esterres Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Turkenagh Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck

Friar's Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Gortnamearacaun Bridge.	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Ballynalackan Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Roadford Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Cooraclare Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Cloghaun Beg East Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Mauricesmills Bridge	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Silvergrove	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, deck & riverbed
Cloonaleary	Repairs to parapet & deck
Annagapple	Repairs to parapet, abutment and deck
Clooncat	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Drehidunagh	Repairs to parapet, wingwalls, abutments and deck
Addroon	Repairs to parapet & deck

## Health and Safety

The Health & Safety Teams schedule of Annual Safety Statement & Risk Assessment reviews in addition to their schedule of Safety Inspections and Internal H&S Audit is practically complete for 2022.

The following Top Level H&S Objectives approved by the Safety Management Committee in February 2022 are nearing completion;

- Enhance communication and awareness around H&S post Covid – H&S Briefings delivered to all outdoor staff by H&S and Line Management. Online H&S modules issued to Indoor Staff supported by a Safety Poster Campaign.
- Roll out further Serious Incident Simulated Exercises at MD Level for Outdoor Staff and Line Management – Scheduled for each MD in December 2022
- Deliver bespoke training on contact with Underground Services for all staff undertaking excavation works – delivered to all Roads staff trained in the Location of Underground Services CSCS Skills Card.
- Continually Revise, Update, Implement and Monitor the Clare County Council Covid 19 Response Plan in accordance with the Government Transitional Plan

## General Design Office

### Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project



Further to the Part 8 Planning Application submitted to the Planning Department in October, Fire Safety Certificate and Disabled Access Certificate Applications have been submitted to the Building Control Authority. Tenders have also been received for the appointment of requisite external consultants,

Structural Engineer, QS & M&E Engineer and are under review.

A Part 8 Planning Application was submitted to the Planning Department on Friday 28th October. The development, to be constructed will comprise of a complete renovation of two existing stone buildings and construct a public Car Park.

## Town and Village Renewal Schemes

**Corrofin Town & Village Renewal Scheme** - topographical survey finalised and on file. Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

**Clonlara Town & Village Renewal Scheme** – Section 38 placed in Clare Champion, 18th November. Proposals put before Shannon MD members on Tuesday the 15th November

**Shannon (Drumgeely) Town & Village Renewal Scheme** – Part VIII planning application was submitted in October to the Planning Authority. Tender documents are being prepared.

**Sixmilebridge Access Steps Handrail** – Works on site at the moment.

**Columbarium at St. Cronan's Church, Crusheen** – proposals being prepared for niche design, layout and roofed structure to rear of protected structure.



## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

An important milestone was achieved during the past month with the visit of Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan to Killaloe for the official sod turning to mark the commencement of the new Bridge and Bypass there in early November. A further Ministerial visit to the County followed when OPW Minister, Patrick O'Donovan TD inspected the works recently completed at Springfield, Clonlara as part of the Flood Relief Scheme there. Towards the end of the month, we also welcomed a delegation from the URDF Team to inspect the Public Realm works carried out in Ennis as part of the initial project and advised them of what exactly is proposed in the next phase. Other progress on the main capital projects during November includes the following:

**Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)** – Disappointingly, but within their right to do so, an application seeking leave to judicially review the decision of An Bord Pleanala confirming the CPO was submitted to the High Court in recent weeks. We will be strongly contesting the basis for such a review and if we are successful in same, we will be able to move forward with the project to detailed design, tender and construction. However, if the Court allows for the decision to be judicially reviewed, then the project could be held up indefinitely pending the outcome of the legal proceedings.

**Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass** – On the 3rd of November the Main Works Contract signing was completed with John Sisks & Son's (Holdings) Ltd. This was then followed by the visit of the Minister of Transport, Eamon Ryan TD who completed the official Plaque unveiling and Sod Turning for this significant capital infrastructure project.



Photos of test piling exercise.

The Main Works Contractor, Sisk in conjunction with their appointed subcontractor PJ Edwards have commenced piling works on the Tipperary side of the river. Test pile reaction anchors have been installed and the test pile itself will be installed following appropriate curing of the concrete grouting. Excavation and replacement of unsuitable material from the site compound towards the Clare side of the river crossing at Clarisford is also progressing. This will facilitate access to the bridge location for larger plant including the piling rig and craneage. Utility services diversions are being carried out on the R494 and utility investigations are progressing elsewhere via slit trench identification and ongoing coordination with the

relevant providers. Works to the Main Construction Compound adjacent to the Shantraud Woods Housing Development on the R463 are now almost complete with final connection awaited from ESB Networks.

Site clearance and enabling works are also progressing in parallel at the following locations.

- Kilmastulla River Bridge crossing.
- Various areas along the R494, Ballina to Birdhill road.
- Lands adjacent to the Limerick/Nenagh/Ballybrophy Railway line near Shannonside Business Park on the R494.
- Lands adjacent to the proposed Ballyvally roundabout on the R463 Killaloe to Tuamgraney Road.
- Killaloe Bypass section of the scheme from Shantraud roundabout to Ballyvally roundabout.

Other works include archaeological monitoring, ecological monitoring & property pre-condition surveys. The remaining Land Acquisitions are currently being progressed mostly by agreement. The last Arbitration was held in the Lakeside Hotel on the 8th of November. The matter has been referred by the Property Arbitrator to the High Court for a “Case stated” on a number of legal points raised.

**Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme** – Following a recent site visit, the Project Team continue to progress the Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) for the fluvial options. It is envisaged that a preferred fluvial/pluvial option will be presented to the public in early 2023. The Project Team also met recently with Irish Water to discuss opportunities and interface associated with the flood relief scheme and the proposed wastewater treatment plant in Kilkee. Useful data sharing and potential optimisation of proposed pumping regimes was tabled for further investigation. Additional coordination meetings have been scheduled for the new year.

The topographical survey contractor has been engaged to carry out additional drone surveys of the beach. This data will be considered in the progression of the coastal element for the scheme. This season’s wintering bird survey has commenced and will be ongoing until February 2023. Further information is available on the Project Website [www.kilkeefrs.ie](http://www.kilkeefrs.ie)

**Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)** – Priority Geotechnical Ltd have now completed the remaining site investigation (slit trenches) works required for this project. The results of these investigatory works will inform RPS Consulting Engineers in finalising the road design, land-take requirements, preparation of the scheme drawings and specifications for a competitive Tender process for the works in 2023. A progress meeting was held with RPS on 17th of November to review landowner accommodation works to facilitate ongoing engagement with landowners regarding the acquisition of the necessary lands required for the road element of the scheme.

**Lough Donnell Culvert Repair works** – We are engaging with the Consultant to develop the detailed design in line with the Planning Approval for the works while also consulting with NPWS and Inland Fisheries regarding their requirements. Following which, we will be able to tender the works and appoint a Contractor.

**N19 Shannon Airport Access Road** – The Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage is currently ongoing. Following extensive consultation with all major stakeholders such as TII Road Safety Section, the NTA, the Gardai, Shannon Airport and Shannon Commercial Properties, the scheme consultants FTC & Co are now addressing all comments received in respect to these consultations.

Significant progress has been made in terms of junction design development, active travel measures, access strategies, scheme land-take requirements, construction methodologies and works sequencing. Clare County Council intends to submit a development consent application to An Bord Pleanála for the Project accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This Scoping Report provides details regarding the proposed development and the subject site. It also sets out the proposed scope of work for the EIAR. The purpose of the EIA scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and to eliminate those that are not. All consultation received as part of this scoping process will be considered in the preparation of the EIAR to accompany the development consent application. It is available to view via the scheme website (link below) under the Consultations tab. Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete. Further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website [www.shannonaccess.ie](http://www.shannonaccess.ie)

**N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme** – Preparation of tender documentation for the appointment of Technical Advisors for an extended scheme from Fountain to west of Kilnamona Cross continues. We would expect to be in a position to appoint Technical Advisors in early 2023, subject to TII approval and funding.

**Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)** – The Council continue to liaise closely with the URDF Section of the Department who are the Approving and Funding Authority for this project and at their recent visit to Ennis, saw first-hand the benefits of the Parnell Street and Bow-ways project already completed. The Delegation were also led on a walk-through of the areas due to be upgraded under this project and the URDF team were shown the designs, proposed material selections, and innovations to be introduced throughout the town centre. Following this meeting, Clare County Council now await the approval by the Sanctioning authority to proceed to contract award, thus enabling works to proceed in 2023. Clare County Council also met recently with Irish Water Asset Management to discuss the possible rehabilitation of sections of the foul sewer within the Project area. Irish Water have proposed that significant sections

of the network should be refurbished and have committed to funding same. The Project Team are considering how these additional works can be incorporated seamlessly into the overall programme of the works.

**Quin Flood Relief Scheme** – The temporary fencing to delineate the site during construction was recently installed. The licence for the archaeological testing was issued early in November. The Council and the archaeological consultant continue to monitor site conditions for a suitable window during which to execute the requirements of the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIS). Construction works are expected to commence at the earliest juncture in Spring 2023, weather dependant.

**Remediation of sites containing ACM** – Our Technical Advisers, Fehily Timoney & Co continue to progress the detailed design for this project. Following completion of topographical surveys at all sites in recent weeks, the design team are at present completing modelling of waste bodies which will allow accurate estimation of quantities, necessary for completion of tender documentation and estimation of final project cost. Our technical advisers are also reviewing available data to categorise waste bodies and coupled with intelligence regarding capacities of waste receiving sites, will be in a position to refine the contracting strategy and minimise the eventual cost to Clare County Council. In the meantime, the sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with our agreed approach following discussion and consultation with the EPA.

**Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme** – Following Council and OPW review of the draft updated baseline fluvial model, observations and comments were issued to RPS who have recently updated the model and re-issued again for our review. The associated Hydraulic Report will also issue in the coming days. As agreed with the Consultant, the updated Hydrology Report will issue in the coming weeks after the Hydraulic Report has been approved.

The Project Team consisting of Clare County Council, the OPW and our Consultants RPS recently visited the eastern and western embankments to view the as-built condition of these embankments following the recent maintenance works carried out by the Shannon Airport Group. The data collected will be considered in the ongoing Wave Overtopping Assessment & Analysis.

A site meeting to review the draft preliminary embankment options is to be held in early December. The consultant's geotechnical lead has been issued with our comments on the draft submission. The specification for the third-party independent check for these preliminary options has been largely agreed with OPW. Preparation of tender documents for same are nearing completion. The wintering bird surveys are ongoing. Liaison with the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road project team has continued during the period. As always, further information on the scheme is available on [www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com](http://www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com)

**Springfield, Clonlara FRS** – On Friday 11th November Mr Patrick O Donovan, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works visited the site at Springfield to inspect progress on the scheme. The embankments, penstocks, land raising, access roads and associated drainage have all been completed. Construction work has now ceased on site as a result of deteriorating site conditions due to rain. The Team have moved off site but will return when the weather improves in late March or so. Crucially, the scheme as is, provides the level of protection as per design to the Community at risk. The outstanding works include the installation of the permanent pumps, completion of the pumping platform and associated pipework, installation of boundary fencing and landscaping. Delivery of the pumps is expected in late December. Temporary pumps have been provided and are on site in the event of a flood.

During the month of November, the ESB began releasing water from the Parteen Weir. The maximum discharge was 135 cumecs which began on the November 5th and lasted to the 16th of November. While no dwelling house was threatened at this discharge level, it gave Clare County Council a chance to close the penstocks and implement the scheme. The operation was monitored for several hours and was successful. Detailed data was recorded, and observations made, and this information provided to the Consultants. This will be used to update and refine the operation and maintenance plan for the scheme.

**West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)** – The Project Team are currently working through the requirements of the Greenway Code of Practice. Comments from “Public Consultation 2” are being addressed and it is planned on holding “Public Consultation 3” in early 2023. In addition, procurement for the topographical survey is underway. Winter ecological field surveys have commenced. As always, we would welcome comments or suggestions from interested parties and members of the public which can be emailed to [pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie](mailto:pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie).

**West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)** – Presently, we are reviewing feedback received during “Public Consultation 1”. This Feedback will be incorporated into the Route Options Corridor documentation which is in development. It is planned on holding “Public Consultation 2” in Q2 of 2023 whereby Landowners, members of the public and interested parties will have an opportunity to comment on a variety of route options tabled for consideration with a view to ruling them in or out and resulting in an emerging preferred route.

**Other Greenway Proposals** – The PMO continues to engage with TII and other interested stakeholders to progress Greenway Proposals between Shannon and Bunratty/Sixmilebridge as well as being part of the Steering Group in the Waterways Ireland led proposal between Limerick/UL and Scarriff. This project proposes to utilise the active travel measures included as part of the Killaloe Bridge and Bypass works.

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during November:

- QQI Accredited Fire Fighter Breathing Apparatus Course held in Bray.
- Electric Vehicle Training  
Wicklow Fire Service delivered training on the hazards, risks and control measures associated with incidents involving electric vehicles to all 7 Fire Stations. Clare County Fire & Rescue Service has purchased equipment for dealing with incidents involving electric vehicles including car fire blankets and electric vehicle isolation sockets.



### Station Officers Meeting

A Station Officers Meeting took place for all Station Officers and Senior Officers from the Brigade at Moneypoint Generating Station on the 21st November.

### Refurbishment of 2 No. second-hand Class B Fire Appliances

Capital Grant Aid Funding was approved for the purchase of 2 additional second-hand Class B Fire Appliances. These are currently being refurbished following a competitive tender process. It is intended that these appliances will be operational in Clare in early 2023.

### Safety Management System Audit

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service took part in a two day NSAI audit of compliance to the ISO 45001 Standard (Health & Safety) on the 24th & 25th November. The audit included a Management Review together with onsite visits to Kilrush, Kilkee & Ennistymon Fire Stations. The NSAI Auditor continues to be extremely impressed with the level of compliance shown by areas audited. Awaiting the report on this audit.

### Recruitment & Retention of Fire Service Personnel at Shannon Fire Station

The recruitment and retention of fire-fighters at Shannon Fire Station continues to prove challenging with very high turnover of staff at the Station and very low numbers of applicants for vacant posts. New initiatives to help with recruitment and retention of fire-fighters have been introduced with the aim of improving the retention and recruiting of fire-fighters in Shannon Fire Station.

### Shannon Estuary Inter Agency Emergency Exercise (Table-Top)

The exercise was held in the The Strand Hotel, Limerick on the 23rd November. The aim of the exercise was to successfully carry out an inter-agency table-top exercise involving a maritime incident on the Shannon Estuary and to test various elements of the preparedness of the participating agencies and identify learning opportunities for the participating organisations.

The following agencies and organisations participated: An Garda Síochána, Health Service Executive, Irish Coast Guard, Clare County Council, Limerick City & County Council, Kerry County Council, Shannon Foynes Port Company, Shipping Agencies and Voluntary Emergency Services together with representation from the National Directorate of Fire & Emergency Management.

### Long Service Awards for Fire Service Personnel

Long Service Awards were presented to Fire Service Personnel on behalf of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage at a ceremony in Trim, Co. Meath on Thursday 17th November 2022.

These Awards were for those that achieved either 20, 30 or 40 Years Service up to 31st December 2020.

A number of Clare County Fire & Rescue Service Personnel were nominated as follows:

- 30 Year Award - Station Officer Gussy Hayes, Ennistymon Fire Brigade
- 20 Year Award - A\Driver Mechanic Patrick Cushen, Scarriff Fire Brigade
- 20 Year Award - Firefighter Padraig Myles, Scarriff Fire Brigade
- 20 Year Award - Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer Angela Naughton



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Oct 2022	Nov 2022 (Up to 25.11.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	93	73	900
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	10	2	82
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	7	5	82
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	12	5	71
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	10	3	64
Number of Commencement Notices Received	34	22	359
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	3	2	19

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

## CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

### Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Teenage Discos held in the Queens Hotel, Ennis as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.
- County Senior Football Final in Cusack Park.
- Munster Club Hurling Semi-Final
- "Pedal It Out" Charity Cycle
- Schools Cross-Country Athletics Meets
- Switching on of Ennis Town Christmas Lights

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members participated in an ongoing search for a missing person in the River Fergus. Clare Civil Defence were tasked by An Garda Síochána to conduct a search for a person reported seen in the river on the night of Thursday 10th November. Divers from various subaqua clubs throughout Clare have been assisting with the search as well as members of the Garda Underwater Unit. Civil Defence colleagues from Galway have also provided assistance with the search. On Saturday 26th November, Clare Civil Defence Boat Crew located and recovered the missing person.

### Members Training & Professional Development

- Members attended the Civil Defence Officer's Association Conference & Trade Show held in Letterkenny.
- Weekly training has resumed for members on Thursday nights.
- Recruits Basic Training (RBT) course has commenced

- for 8 new recruits.
- Members assisted with a Major Emergency Exercise in University of Limerick as part of the curriculum for the Paramedic Degree Course.
- Members attended a National Ceremony to award Covid-19 volunteer medals for the extraordinary services provided throughout the pandemic. The medals were presented by Minister Simon Coveney, Department of Defence & Foreign Affairs.
- The Civil Defence Officer conducted a national audit on Patient Care Report Forms on behalf of the Civil Defence Branch.
- The Civil Defence Officer participated in the Shannon Estuary Inter Agency Emergency Exercise (Table-Top) held in The Strand, Limerick.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Environmental Awareness

#### Healthy Clare Local Strategy Action Plan

Our Environmental Awareness Officer attended a consultation event on the development of a Healthy Clare Local Strategy Action Plan on the 21st November 2022, to highlight relevant links with climate action and environmental protection. The information gathered will influence the next Healthy Clare Local Strategy Action Plan 2023-2025.

### Electrical waste

#### National Campaign

Clare County Council have supported the European Recycling Platform (ERP) Ireland and MyWaste.ie national awareness campaigns to promote the reuse, repair, and recycling of electrical waste. As part of the campaign for Black Friday/ Cyber Monday in November we promoted the “Don’t Waste a Day” promotional video across @ClareCoCo and @GreenerClare social media channels. This campaign encourages the recycling of old electronic items at a local electrical retailer or at any of the 5 Local Authority operated Civic Amenity Sites in Clare.

#### Batteries for Barretstown campaign

We also support the “Batteries for Barretstown” campaign. Our libraries and public offices are designated collection points for batteries. Reusable bio bags and units for battery recycling will be distributed to participating libraries and public offices by ERP Ireland over the coming weeks.

#### Other campaigns

The following messages were promoted through Clare Echo Green Clare page: impacts of disposal of food scraps on green areas; solid fuel regulations, Leave No Trace, dog owner responsibility (do not let your dog roam).



In support of the Climate Change programme the series of Winter Workshops to give householders and communities energy saving tips and advice were promoted through social media. These workshops are being delivered by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and Clare Local Development Company.

### Water Enforcement and Laboratory Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	November 2022	Jan - November 2022
Planning applications (Domestic)	28	459
Planning applications (Large Developments)	4	28
Planning applications (Forestry)	12	137
Planning applications (Agriculture)	0	10
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	10	64
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	5	53
Pollution complaints received	11	117
Warning & advisory letters issued	1	8
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	-	46
Private Group Water Scheme supplies	-	40
Public Group Water Scheme Supplies	-	104
Public Water Supplies	-	386
Bathing Water	-	179



### Clare County Council Oil / Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan

An updated Plan has been developed in accordance with the Irish Coast Guards current template in compliance with statutory obligations under the Sea Pollution (Amendment) Act 1999, as amended. The draft Plan was submitted in November to the Irish Coastguard for approval.

### Gardening

In early November, the Gardening Team completed works on the urban woodland garden at Áras Contae on Chláir. This space will be a hub for biodiversity and will be a food source for many species. The Garden includes 3 bug hotels, 2 wooden logs, 2 bird boxes, 700 pollinator/perennial friendly plants/flowers with a linking wooden stepped path surrounded by woodbark and stone chips.



Preparation for Spring 2023 has already commenced with planting of hanging baskets and planter boxes completed and to be overwintered in polytunnels to protect against frost and harsh weather.

These planters and baskets will be ready for installation in early March.

The Gardening Team is currently collaborating with Ennis Municipal District in the planning for the international 'Communities in Bloom' event in Summer 2023. In addition, the Gardening Team provided new planting to the internal courtyard at the Buttermarket building with perennial and pollinator friendly planting.

### Waste Management

#### Bottle Banks

A new Bring Bank Site was installed on the 23rd November in Shannon Town opposite the Shannon MD offices on a trial basis. This new site will offer 4 Recycling Bins which accept Clear, Green and Brown Glass, along with Metal Cans. This site is accessible 24 hrs per day and will supplement the services offered by the Civic Amenity Site in Smithstown.



#### Deposit Return Scheme

On the 28th November Minister Osian Smyth announced a new deposit return scheme for plastic bottles and metal cans that is being rolled out over the next two years and will be fully operational by February 2024. The scheme which will be operated by non profit organisation Return.ie will allow consumers to return bottles or cans with the logo "Re-turn" to shops participating in the scheme. Plastic bottles and aluminium cans from 150ml to 3 litres are included in the scheme and dairy products are not included. It is anticipated that this scheme will reduce the quantities of plastic bottles and cans being accepted at Clare County Council recycling facilities.

#### Doora Landfill

An EPA audit of the site took place during November. The site operates under an EPA licence and any activities or proposed developments must be approved by the EPA in advance. Monthly water sampling and monitoring continue to take place in compliance with the site licence. The auditor did not identify any issues at the site.

### Waste Enforcement

#### Anti-Dumping Initiative

A total of €76,388.47 in Anti-Dumping Initiative funding was granted by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) in 2022. This has now been spent on the projects listed below:

1. **A Mattress Amnesty Day** at Kilrush mart, to serve West Clare residents. It is planned to hold similar days in other Municipal Districts throughout County Clare next year.
2. **Bikes for Ukraine**, a scheme which invited the public to dispose of unused bicycles which were recycled to provide Ukrainian refugees with a mode of transport.
3. **Clean ups** / removal of waste at sites throughout the county, and erection of "No Dumping" and "No Dog Fouling" signage at problem locations.
4. **Provision of a monitored skip** at an urban location, popular for bonfires, over a four-day period in the lead-in to Halloween to facilitate the disposal of waste otherwise stockpiled for burning. This initiative reduced the

number of Fire Service callouts to zero for the duration it was in place.

5. **Variable Message Display Signs** to advise the public of responsible management of waste/ litter /cleaning up after their dogs and to inform them that penalties are applicable where appropriate.
6. **Purchase of Mobile Audio Devices** to be located at public amenity sites, advising the public to clean up dog fouling to avoid a fine.
7. **A Media Campaign** to increase awareness & responsibilities around dumping in Clare, using local media (print, social, digital, radio). Resources developed by My Waste Ireland were used in the campaign.

### Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to complaints relating to waste and litter. In total, 34 complaints relating to waste and litter were received in November to date. They have all been investigated and are being closed out.

### Dog Fouling

The Waste Enforcement Team provide support to the Municipal Districts, in providing stencils, signage and disposal bags. The mobile audio devices are also in place at popular dog-walking locations. The number of dog fouling complaints received in November to date is 6, a reduction on the previous month. We will continue to liaise with the Dog Warden to promote the message of responsible dog ownership.

### Notifications of Controlled Burning

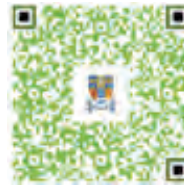
In total, 2 notifications of controlled burning were received and processed in November to date, as per the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009. The exemption to the provisions of the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste disposal by burning) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 is due to expire in January 2023. Thereafter no applications will be accepted or processed.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) are undertaking a feasibility study to investigate alternative sustainable practices to the burning of cut agricultural green waste in Ireland. The Environment Section have provided feedback and insights in this regard.

### Solid Fuel Regulations

The Environment Section attended a workshop organised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the new Solid Fuel Regulations, Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022. The new regulations came into effect on the 31st October 2022. Clare County Council's Environment Section throughout November is implementing an inspection program, comprising visits to retailers and distributors to raise awareness of the implications of the new Regulations, and to check that stock that does not meet the new technical standards is no longer being sold. A link to the DECC Clean

Air web page with information and FAQs for Retailers, Householders and Haulage companies can be scanned below.



QR link for additional information of the New Solid Fuel Regulations

---

## 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. Expenditure to date is currently running at 1% under budget.

### Future Delivery of Water Services

The WRC published a framework document on the 24th June for the future delivery of water services for consideration by the relevant parties. This framework document will assist in ensuring a stable operational environment is maintained as the water sector completes the transition to a national water services authority. There are ongoing discussions between the parties to finalise the details of the new service level agreement.

### 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 27th October 2022 up to and including 23rd November 2022. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 26 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 263 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received during the period
- 98 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 38 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 3 were for planned works i.e. flushing and reservoir cleaning. There were 33 unplanned outages for burst watermains, water outages, repair to leaking watermain, leaking hydrant, pumphouse failure. 2 Communication notifications issued for reservoir cleaning and watermain line flushing.

## Water Operations

The following is a summary of the outages dealt with in October and November 2022.

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

- 8th Nov. St. Michaels Villa's and College Park. - Burst Water main
- 9th Nov. Crusheen and surrounding Areas. - Burst Water main
- 11th Nov. St. Michaels Villa's, Castlewood Park, College Park, and Hazelwood Park. - Burst Water main
- 15th Nov. Rockmount, Clarecastle and Ballybeg. - Burst Water main
- 16th Nov. Barefield and Crusheen. - Burst Water main
- 17th Nov. Spencil hill, Clooney and Maghera – ESB Planned outage
- 17th Nov. Sandfield, Watery Rd. and Gort Rd. – Burst Water Main
- Remedial Action List upgrade ongoing in Corofin Water Treatment Plant.
- Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non-Domestic Programme.
- Leak Repair works ongoing in Drumcliff Reservoir – IW/AQS

## Outages for West Clare Area for period below:

- 27th Oct Burst in Labasheeda.
- 29th Removal of 16 X IBCs of Hydrofluorosilicic Acid from New Doolough
- 1st Nov Burst in Kilkee
- 16th Kilmurry McMahon Burst Water main
- 17th Mount Rivers Burst Watermain
- 25th Burst Watermain Kilkee.
- Old Doolough WTP Network Flushing
- New Doolough WTP Network Flushing and Reservoir Cleaning
- Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non-Domestic Programme.

## Major Outages for North Clare Area for period below:

- 28 Oct Two Number Burst Watermains in Miltown Malbay
- 11th Nov Rockmount Burst Watermain
- 12th Nov Rockmount Burst Watermain
- 13th Nov Spanish Point Burst Watermain
- 14th Nov Lahinch Burst Watermain
- Old Doolough WTP Network Flushing
- Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non-Domestic Programme.

## Major Outages for East Clare and Shannon Area for period below:

- 4th Nov. Shannon industrial estate repairs carried out on Burst Watermain
- 5th Nov. Barry's Shop at the Junction of Broadford and Limerick Rd.'s – Burst Watermain

- 5th Nov. Quin, Corbally and Danganbrack. - Burst Water main
- 15th Nov. Oakwood Hotel, Aviation Centre and Smithstown. - Burst Water main
- 21st Nov. Shannon Banks and Corbally. - Burst Water main
- 17th & 18th Nov. A major repair was carried out on the 18" rising main from Castl lake to Moygalla which did result in an outage to customers.

## Water Conservation

- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare – Gort Rd. and Kilrush Rd. DMA's in Ennis
- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare - Acoustic Logger Installation – Ballybeg DMA, Ennis
- Leak Detection Works – North Clare – Doolin, Moy, and Lahinch.
- Fix Operation – Various locations – Castlequarter/ Ballinfonta DMA, Backwater Bridge, Ballybeg and Quin.
- Larsens – Find crew – Scarriff DMA
- SES - Find Crew – Castlequarter/Ballinfonta DMA & Sixmilebridge DMA

## Water and Wastewater Operations

A new roof access hatch has been successfully installed on the Ballybeg water tower. The previous hatch had been damaged in winter storms.



Extensive pre-planned preventative maintenance works were carried out at Tulla waste water treatment plant on the 16th of November. The works involved the removal of the rotating biological contactor stahler wheel on stream 2 of the plant and the replacement of the drive chain and bearings.



Following the recent completion of the new rising mains in Kilkee a project is now underway to replace the existing long end shaft coupled storm pumps to deliver greater efficiencies. The works involve the demolition of the existing concrete plinths and replacement with stainless steel frames. The new pumps will sit in the dry well and the first pump has been successfully installed.



## 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. Backfilling around the tanks, chambers and retaining wall is complete. Process pipework is 90% complete. A surface water attenuation system was installed. At Frances Street Pump Station site, the floor of the storm tank was poured and hydrostatic testing commenced. Completion of the overall scheme is due in mid-2023.

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



### Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

This scheme consists of a new pumping facility at Quay Road and new rising main from Quay Road to connect to the Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant inlet. Construction of the new pumping facility is continuing at Quay Road. Civil works are programmed to be substantially complete by mid-December 2022.

When complete 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 project is ongoing. The scheme now consists 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. Treatment of wastewater is continuing and the 28 day process proving stage commenced in mid- November.

Full completion of the scheme is due in early 2023.



### Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Design of the treatment plant and pump station is ongoing. Preparation of planning application documents is continuing.

### Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall at Intrinsic Bay. Design of the treatment plant and pump station is ongoing. Discussions with landowners are ongoing. Preparation of the planning application documents is continuing. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by Q3 of 2024 with completion in late 2025.

### Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The site selection report and the feasibility study report are with Irish Water for approval. A single site for a WWTP between Ennistymon and Lahinch is the recommended solution. Work on

selection of an exact site, pipeline route, detailed design, land acquisition, marine modelling and a planning application will commence in early 2023.

### Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct additional treatment facilities at the treatment plant and a new 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 planning notice was published in the Clare Champion on 25th November and the planning application is to be lodged on the 2nd of December 2022. Subject to all statutory consents and a tender process, it is anticipated that a Contractor will be appointed during 2023.

### Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction is continuing at the WWTP site. Pipework is continuing with some road construction and kerbing completed. Mechanical and electrical works are ongoing. The overall scheme is due for completion in 2023.

### 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 has modernised 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. All of the main upgrade works are now complete with the plant undergoing preparation for the final testing process.
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 to upgrade the water treatment process are complete. The contractor has removed the temporary treatment package plant and commenced phase 2 works on site, to construct the sludge handling process.
3. **Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant** – this plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. Phase 1 of this will modernise the

water treatment processes at the plant with Phase 2 delivering the sludge handling line under a separate contract. Phase 1 Work has commenced with the construction of a new third water clarifier underway.

### 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. Construction of the reservoir is now complete, and the testing of the new reservoir is underway. Demolition and removal of the old tank is planned to be completed before the end of 2022.

### Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

Work at this location includes the construction of a new inlet works and screens, and a new storm tank. The inlet works will provide improved screening of materials coming into the plant to both protect and optimise the downstream treatment process to improve discharge standards. The stormwater tank will allow capture of flow during rainfall events for later treatment through the plant. All civil works are now substantially complete with mechanical and electrical fit out underway. The new ESB substation has been completed and power changeover carried out. The project is expected to be complete in Q1 2023.

### Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. 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. The consultant is now preparing options reports 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 value for money on network improvement. The consultant is reviewing the available data and preparing a surveying contract for Ennis wastewater network.

### Ballycannon and Elton Court Sewerage Pumping Station Upgrade

A project to upgrade the pumping facilities at Elton Court and to provide the required replacement infrastructure to allow the decommissioning of the existing Ballycannon wastewater treatment facility is underway. It is intended to construct a new storm water holding tank and new wastewater pumping chamber on the existing pumping station site at Elton Court to improve the capability for pumping wastewater to the Limerick main drainage network. A new rising main and pumping facilities in Ballycannon will then be constructed. When completed this will allow for the decommissioning of the Ballycannon plant and its safe demolition and return to greenfield area. EPS will commence site investigation and preparation works at Elton Court in December. It is expected that these works will be fully completed by Q1 2024.

### Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 64 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets or assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 314 assets, 215 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 99 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (12 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.
- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (56 assets)–** This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities. The majority of assets in this category are folios under third party ownership but where long standing use and some evidence of previous land dealing is present. 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.

- **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 (31 assets) –** These are 3rd 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. Many of the remaining assets have been examined and various routes being explored to close these out.

To resolve the assets which are not in council ownership, the department has recommended that adverse possession process be utilised. Clare County Council is progressing five sites as a pilot project and attempts to engage with registered owners is underway.

### Rural Water Programme

Works on the replacement of 4.2km of the Ballycar GWS mains network continues with approx. 2.1km of mains completed to date. It is hoped that all works shall be completed in early 2023. Works on the replacement of an isolated section of 600m of the mains of Clohanes GWS is due to go to tender in the coming weeks. It is hoped to progress this at the earliest opportunity. Approval has been received for the replacement of the abstraction pump of the Derryvough GWS. All the above works are to be completed under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme.

Invitation for the submission of bids under the new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2025 is still awaited as we approach December. The delay is the source of much frustration amongst scheme and particularly those who have ongoing issues with their network or where supply in an issue. 73 no. applications have been received to date in 2022 under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' with 71 no. grants paid out to date reflective of works undertaken by applicants throughout 2021 and 2022 to date. The Rural Water Team continues to work with group water schemes to ensure their members have a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water available to them.

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Ennis lights up for Festive Season

Abbey Street carpark was the venue for the traditional ‘switching on of the christmas lights’ this year. The stage and large screen were erected earlier in the day, with Damien Gormely hitting the stage just after 5pm. This was followed by theatrical and musical performances from Pantaloons, Cantare Choir and Harmony Bro in front of an audience of circa 4,000. The balloon man was a big hit as well as face painting and posting letters to the North Pole. Dublin Coach supplied a vintage open top bus to transport Santa, the Mayor and guests to Abbey Street carpark. The winner of the ‘Very Important Child’ competition [run by Clare FM in association with Ennis MD] was presented with prizes on the night. The Mayor in her speech made reference to Ennis’ recent successes at national awards including ‘Age-friendly environment’, ‘Ireland’s Friendliest Place’ and ‘Purple Flag’. The Mayor and guests then lead the official countdown after which the town of Ennis lit up and welcomed the Christmas season. Ennis Municipal District would like to extend thanks to An Garda Siochana and the Civil Defence for their assistance with the event.



### Ballybeg Woodland – extending recreational opportunities

This project which was part funded by ORIS and Clare County Council, set out to extend the recreational opportunities at this amenity to older people and persons with disabilities through pathway remediation, three new picnic sets including a wheelchair accessible one, new age-friendly seating and bicycle stands. The project has been completed and these enhancements facilitate social interaction in a natural environment, improving wellbeing for persons with disabilities in addition to extending its use to an all year-round amenity.





COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR