



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

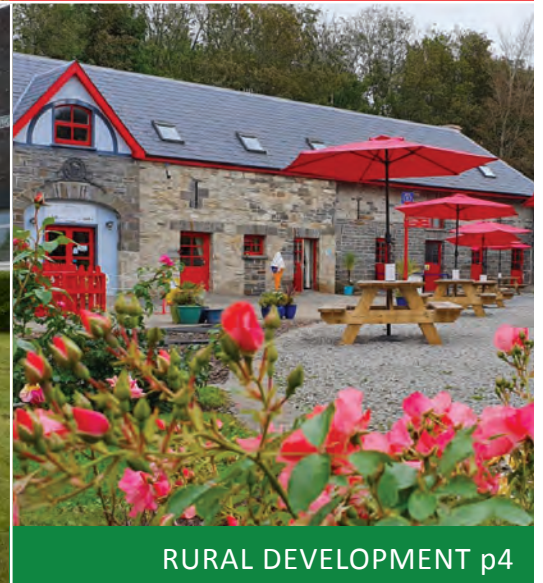
Eanáir / January
2022



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FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES



Freedom of Information and Data Protection

2021 Year to date Statistics to 17/12/2021

- 176 Freedom of Information Requests
- 13 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications (11 CCC reviews/2 COM reviews)
- 4 Appeals to Information Commissioner
- (2 CCC appeals/2 COM appeals)

- 6 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 27 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request e.g. Gardai

Procurement

No tender competitions were published in the period from 30th November 2021 to 17th December 2021

Register of Electors

The Revision Courts were held on Wednesday 8th December 2021. In line with Covid 19 restrictions it was not necessary for claimants to attend the Revision Courts. A List of 342 claims were considered by the County Registrar and all claims were approved and claimants notified accordingly.

The Register will be published on 1st February 2022 and will come into effect on 15th February 2022 which will be effective for a period of one year ending on 14th February 2023. This will be the Register of Electors which will be used at all polling stations in the event of any elections or referenda being held during the aforementioned time frame.

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 December included:

- Regular updates to the public and local and national media on Storm Barra
- Minister Burke updated on key strategic projects during Clare visit
- €110,844 boost to Clare Sports Partnership.

Print and Graphic Design

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

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 December, the Communications Office:

- Posted 39 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,448, with 14,873 page likes. Posts earned 132,196 impressions with 5,162 engagements.
- Posted 53 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,441. Tweets earned 117,186 impressions and 4,847 engagements.
- Posted 11 times on Instagram with followers now 2,342.

(Social Media metrics refer to 1st-17th December, 2021)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technician Grade I (Civil, Building & Architectural) • Executive Engineer (Initial Assignment to Active Travel) • General Operative (Final Interviews) • Retained Firefighters (Countywide Panel) • Librarian (Grade 5) Eligibility Exercise <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <p>Open Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-time Canteen Attendant Panel (Sporadic Cover) • IS Analyst Developer (Networks) • Temporary Harbour Controller - Doolin Pier (Seasonal) Panel <p>Confined Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Warden • Senior General Services Supervisor
Learning and Development	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in December include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3- Day Signing, Lighting & Guarding Course – 3 courses held • Occupational 1st Aid Refresher – 1 course held • Ride On Roller - 3 courses held • Road Opening & Reinstatement Basic – 1 course held • Manual Handling – 1 course held • Traffic Management Booklet Talks – 1 talk held • Signing, Lighting & Guarding, Chapter 8 Update – 2 courses held • Climate Action Training <p>Essential Skillz on-line Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Wardens • Health & Safety Induction • Manual Handling
Employee Welfare	<p>Employee Welfare supports are provided to staff on an ongoing basis.</p>
Covid-19	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to liaise as necessary regarding Covid-19 matters.</p>
Unions	<p>The Human Resources Department continued to engage and consult with Unions on various matters.</p>

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme



Courtyard with benches 2021.

The Tourism Department administered over €540,000 in Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining funding, which was provided to support Clare businesses, to the benefit of the local economy. 186 County Clare tourism and hospitality businesses were enabled to create outdoor dining experiences during 2021.

The Scheme was open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafés, public houses and other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food was sold for consumption on the premises. The purpose of this Scheme was to assist tourism and hospitality businesses in purchasing or upgrading extra outdoor seating, thereby creating additional dining capacity in a regulated manner.

Shannon Heritage Project



Pictured at a site visit to Craggaunowen Bronze Age Park is Donnacha Lynch, Project Lead, Alan Sherwood and Frank Shalvey, Sherwood & Associates.

Fáilte Ireland unveiled the first viewing points along the Burren Discovery Trail



Fáilte Ireland unveiled the first viewing points along the Burren Discovery Trail, a new looped route off the Wild Atlantic Way designed to encourage visitors to explore more and stay longer in the Burren. Developed with an investment of €340,000 from Fáilte Ireland, the 95km Burren Discovery Trail takes visitors through the Burren Highlands in Co. Clare and Lowlands in Co. Galway encouraging them to engage with the stories of each local area and explore the many wonderful towns and villages in the region.

The Burren Discovery Trail viewing points for Clare were installed out by a local North Clare Contractor appointed by the

West Clare MD. This trail is one of the catalyst projects identified through Fáilte Ireland's Visitor Experience Development Plan for the Burren and Cliffs of Moher which was published earlier this year. The West Clare Municipal District and Tourism Department were delighted to work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, other statutory bodies and the local tourism industry / community on the Burren Discovery Trail.

This project delivers on the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 and aims to distribute visitors across the wider North Clare area for the economic and social benefit of local towns and villages.

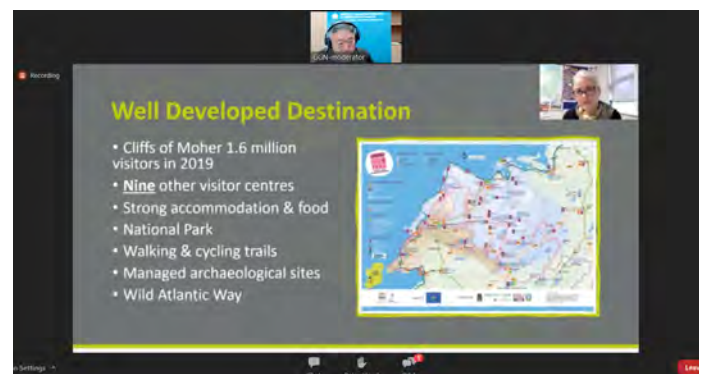
Networking as a Geopark

Networking with other UNESCO Geoparks and supporting the development of aspiring Geoparks is one of the core criteria of membership of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network and this is a busy month for us.

First of all we presented to the annual Irish Geoparks Forum on 7th December, an online event again this year which attracted 50 participants from all across the Island of Ireland. The theme was Climate Change and there were really interesting discussions ranging from the benefits of the international movement of promoting local food through the GeoFood brand, to how businesses can measure emissions, to monitoring and mitigation coastal erosion and flooding to managing increasing numbers of people using easily eroded mountain trails.

The 9th International Conference of UNESCO Global Geoparks was held on the Island of Jeju in South Korea from 14th to 16th December, with most attendees (over 400) participating online. There are now 169 Global Geoparks in 44 countries world wide and each Geopark contributed to a varied and

interesting programme dealing with sustainable development, scientific research, climate change, education and awareness, etc. The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark gave three presentations on Sustainable Tourism Strategies, on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies and on Fossil Research in the Geopark.



Tourism Ireland invited the UNESCO Global Geopark to present to the USA based Educational Travel Consortium on the Geopark as the best example of a sustainable destination in Ireland.

On 9th December the Geopark presented with the Burren Ecotourism Network on what we do and the experiences on offer. This is a welcome endorsement from Tourism Ireland of our many years of work and commitment to the development of sustainable tourism in the Geopark. The Educational Travel Consortium is a network of tour operators and travel planners in the US and are predominantly University Alumni Groups. They connect and educate educational affinity travel professionals to encourage positive impacts through tourism. A perfect fit for the tourism experience we are offering in the Geopark.

'On behalf of the ETC community and team, a grand thank you to Tourism Ireland for a sponsoring a masterful Sustainability webinar - full of substantive content, well prepared and delivered wonderfully engaging presentations. Positioning the webinar on the topic of sustainability was timely indeed - and it showcased Ireland in a powerful perspective. Given the amazing feedback we have received from participants, I can assure you that colleagues walked away with much more insight on Ireland and a heightened desire to visit. Indeed Ireland has set the bar for ETC's Let's Travel online series!'
J. Mara Dellipriscoli, ETC Founder

Town & Village Renewal Scheme



Kilballyowen Development Ltd have completed works on Halla Eoin, Kilbaha with assistance from a grant of €100k awarded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019. The group also received assistance from Cllr Gabriel Keating from his GMA. The works involved the restoration and renovation of an almost derelict Community Hall to create a multi-functional facility providing a functional community hall with new toilet and kitchen facilities alongside an

exhibition centre showcasing the history of the Little Ark. Halla Eoin is located adjacent to the Star of the Sea Church where the original "Little Ark" currently resides. The completed project has added to the tourist offering of the area as well as providing the local community with an attractive community space that will be used to facilitate numerous social events and activities.

RRDF Fourth Call for Category 1 Applications now open

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has recently launched the Fourth Call for Category 1 proposals under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF).

The Fund provides investment to support suitable projects in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas, which will deliver on the National Strategic Objective of Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities and achieve sustainable economic and social development in these areas.

Projects that will be funded under Category One are those that have **full planning permission** and other consents in place and are ready to commence at the date of application. The projects put forward will rejuvenate town centres, boost economic growth and footfall and make our rural towns and villages more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

There is also a strong focus on projects that involve transforming old or derelict buildings into remote working hubs, libraries, e-learning, cultural, enterprise, youth and community spaces.

The deadline for applications is **Friday, 29th April, 2022, at 12pm (noon)**.

More information on this funding can be found on the Department's Website gov.ie/drcd



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

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING



Minister Peter Burke visited John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road.

As another year draws to a close, we reflect on what 2021 brought and plan for a new year in hopeful anticipation of a year without a pandemic. Despite Covid-19, delivery of social housing was strong in 2021, output will be fully reported at a later date, but it should be noted that close to 300 approved social housing households were housed in Clare during 2021. Clare County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan was returned to the Department on 17th December; the plan outlines current and projected social housing delivery in the county with reference to current housing need and the objectives of Housing for All.

In December we welcomed Minister Peter Burke to Clare, the Minister visited John O'Sullivan Park, Lees Road and was updated on housing delivery, actions and issues in Clare.

At the time of writing, we are entering into another Covid-19 peak with a renewed focus on remote working and remote service delivery. We continue to deliver all services albeit this remains under constant review. The housing public counter remains open from 9am to 1pm and by **appointment only in the afternoon**. Appointments are facilitated only where the business of the appointment is deemed necessary by the appropriate line manager for the responsible service.

Social Housing Needs Assessment 2021

The 'census' date for the 2021 Social Housing Needs Assessment was 17th November, 2021. The total number of households qualified for Social Housing support, that are not in receipt of Social Housing support (Net Need), is **1,107**.

A number of housing applications were closed during this review, however please note this Council exhausted all efforts to contact applicants in advance of closing files for applicants who did not return the review form. In addition, files were closed if an applicant no longer required social housing support or was no longer eligible. Those whose files were closed can reapply for social housing support if they return to the jurisdiction. Any queries on this process can be answered by contacting the Housing Department on **(065) 6846572** or **(065) 6846403**.

2,624 LA stock tenancies	1,351 HAP tenancies	189 RAS tenancies
308 Leased properties	2,736 LA properties	3,514 LA Rent accounts

Housing in numbers

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

	Social housing*	HAP
Ennis	1,175	620
Shannon	609	149
West Clare	934	365
Killaloe	373	155
Inter Authority HAP		62
TOTAL	3091	1351

Housing need by Area of choice

AREA OF CHOICE	Transfer NO	Transfer YES	Grand Total
ENNIS MD			
CLARECASTLE	127	61	188
ENNIS	215	727	1239
Subtotal	639	788	1427
SHANNON MD			
CLONLARA	15	10	25
MEELICK/PARTEEN/ WESTBURY	63	68	131
NEWMARKET-ON- FERGUS	56	33	89
SHANNON	114	111	225
SIXMILEBRIDGE	27	30	57
Subtotal	275	252	527
WEST CLARE MD			
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	20	31	51
COROFIN/RUAN	41	43	84
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	80	85	165
KILDYSART/ BALLYNACALLY	16	14	30
KILFENORA	6	3	9
KILKEE/CROSS/ CARRIGAHOLT	38	46	84

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

KILMALEY	4	9	13
KILMIHIL	6	15	21
KILRUSH	55	79	134
LISDOONVARNA/ BALLYVAUGHAN	18	33	51
MILTOWN MALBAY/ MULLAGH/QUILTY	42	48	90
Subtotal	326	406	732
KILLALOE MD			
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/ WHITEGATE	59	94	153
KILLALOE	38	35	73
QUIN	15	12	27
TULLA/KILKISHEN/ BROADFORD	27	23	50
Subtotal	139	164	303
Grand Total	1376	1613	2989

*First area of preference only counted.

Please note these figures are correct as of 21/12/2021.

Summary of activity

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from 25.11.2021 to 14.12.2021)	29
Offers refused	2
Tenancies signed up	8
Tenancies terminated	4

Voids work programme (at end December):	
Voids/casual vacancies	40
Acquired properties (works on-going)	9
Average vacancy period	130 days
Number voids returned to stock	8
Average spend	€32,967.88

Housing Maintenance calls:	
December	271*

*to 20th December.

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.

	Dec to date	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	221	3,027

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing asb@clarecoco.ie

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

Covid-19 continues to impact on the capacity of the Council to undertake private rented inspections in tenanted properties, particularly with the increasing nervousness regarding the new variant. We continue to pursue the option of virtual inspections and to work with tenants and landlords to ensure the standard of private rented accommodation in the county is maintained in line with the new guidelines on minimum rented standards which issued in November 2021.

Virtual Inspection Invitations November:	100
Physical Inspections: November	17

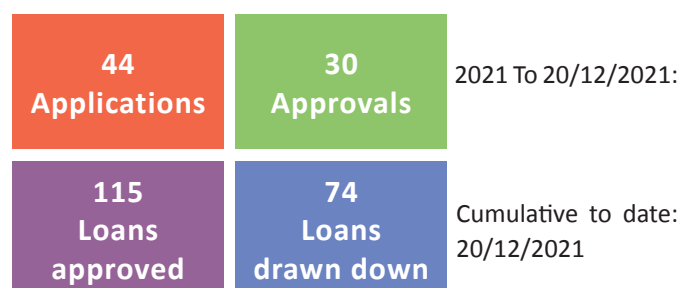
Housing Grants

Grants Approved for December 2021:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	3	45,000
Housing Aid for Older People	4	12,000
Mobility Aids Grant	4	16,000
Total	11	73,000

Local Authority Home Loan

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



Homeless

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

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period, 20th November to 16th December, 2021: 2 households exited from homeless services; of these 2 households; 1 was housed in own door properties through Housing First Project, 1 discharged to rehabilitation centre.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Homeless presentations from 20th November to 16th December 2021:

New presentations	24
Repeat presentations	89
Total presentations	113

Status as of 16th December, 2021:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	14	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	8	9	1
Westbrook	0	17	0	1
Ashford Court	7	11	13	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	4	0	4
TOTAL	13	55	23	9

Vacant properties

Clare County Council is continuing to review Vacant Homes in collaboration with the Municipal District Offices.

The Vacant Homes unit is continuing to seek ownership details on a number of properties that have been identified as potential long term vacant residential dwellings in each MD. No property inspections were carried out in December with 4 planned for January 2022.

Status as at 20/12/2021

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections
Ennis	2	
Killaloe	7	
West Clare	6	
Shannon	1	
TOTAL	16	0

Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Ashline, Ennis	40	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q2 2022
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Tulla	25	Under Construction.	Q4 2020	Q2 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Construction Contract in place.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII being prepared.	Q2 2022	Q3 2023
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII under Judicial Review.	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Clarecastle	2	4 Stage application to issue to DHLGH.	Q1 2022	Q4 2022
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII lodged.	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team.	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Subtotal	222			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission.	Q4 2021	Q2 2023
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	4	CAS – Project completed.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Construction to commence 9 to be delivered Q4 2022 15 to be delivered Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	69	CALF Turnkey 29 units to be delivered in Q4 2021 40 units to be delivered in 2022	Q1 2021 Q3 2021	Q4 2021 Q4 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis	18	CALF Turnkey - construction to commence	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Subtotal	139			
Total	361			

SPORTS & RECREATION



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

All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on www.activeennis.ie Clubs and patrons are reminded to exercise continued vigilance and comply with Covid-19 restrictions.

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

Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Once again, the facility is significantly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions with capacity in the facility reduced. That said activity continues in line with Government guidelines. Demand remains strong and we are anticipating increased demand in 2022, especially in January.

We continue to work with the swimming club and remain committed to reactivating the swimming lesson programme once the guidelines facilitate this activity.



Clare Sports Partnership

Clare Sports Partnership continue to work with clubs and the community in the active participation in sport in the county. For further details on activities please check out www.claresports.ie

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

52 home deliveries were made month to date, bringing the total number of deliveries to 5,870 for the year.




An accessible hour was established in the full-time libraries this month. Children and adults with additional needs are encouraged to avail of library services at this time.

Online Resources usage for previous month – e-audiobooks and Press Reader are the most popular e-resource services

1,428 E-Books	2,140 E-Audiobooks	734 E-Magazines
106 Online courses	2,075 Press Reader	50 Transparent Languages

Marketing

Social media stats for November:

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	19	5452	70	68	15/1590	0
	15	1963	64	215	99	1
	20	1573	77	683	12553	43

Total number of live events	21
Total number of online events	5
Total attendances at live events	107
Total attendances at online events	101



Making Christmas wreaths in Sixmilebridge Library.

Right to Read

Family Time at your Library is an annual event that occurs each December and is one of the four core activities of the Right to Read programme. The Family Time at your Library events aim to support a family-focused approach to reading with children as part of the national Right to Read programme and to increase awareness of the benefits of reading and promote reading as a fun, recreational activity for children. This year we had a mixture of live-online events from authors, illustrators and performers, as well as in-person events hosted by library staff. Events included storytelling, drawing, festive craft making, an intergenerational book-making workshop and drama workshops.

The Clare Library Scéal Trail moved to a new location for the month of December and took up residence in the garden space of Shannon Library. The Scéal Trail was visited by pods of children from junior classes and Early Learning Centres, enabling them to participate in a shared reading experience in the safety of an outdoor setting.

The Little Library Bags scheme continues to expand to new services throughout County Clare. Having supplied bags to all Early Learning Centres, After Schools and Childminders in Clare, Clare Library was delighted to be able to offer extra “Little Library

Bags” to additional services. These included the Reception Centres in Lisdoonvarna and Knockalisheen, Ennis Homeless Hub, Clare Haven, Clare Care, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and the Home School Liaison Teachers Network. These “Little Libraries” will assist practitioners in raising awareness with their service users about the importance of reading with their child as well as strengthening links with the library service.



Story-time in Scariff Library.

Work Matters

Five sets of Job Skills workshops took place in De Valera, Ennistymon, Kilrush, Scariff and Shannon libraries this month. This included a group of students from St Caimin’s Community. Jennifer L. Smith of Jayarel Consulting provided the workshops. This is part of the “Works Matters at the Library” initiative, supporting business and employment, and was funded by Dormant Accounts Funding.

Healthy Ireland

Clare Library continued to facilitate an online Basic Irish Sign Language course this month, an average of 5 people attended the weekly classes. A Flower Arranging Project for Nursing Homes and a Day Care facility in West Clare was delivered in partnership with Clare Library and the HSE and funded by Healthy Ireland At Your Library. Excellent feedback was received from the Activities co-ordinators and many residents thoroughly enjoyed creating festive pieces. An average of 9 people per venue took part in the initiative giving a total of 45 participants.

Creative Ireland

The “**Gifting Events**” took place in December in the Municipal Districts of the Ann McBride ceramic plates, this project was sponsored by Creative Ireland and administered by Clare Arts Office.

The glór funded workshops with secondary schools continued, these were based on the “Deliver” documentary about the perception and reality of being a young mother in Ireland today. The Festive Tickets programme with Direct Provision residents was also funded for various Christmas productions at glór. The Creative Ireland national office hopes to extend the programme from 2023-2027 and plans are being made to facilitate this.

Decade of Centenaries

A History Ireland Hedge School podcast entitled 'DeV and the Banner 1917-1926' will be launched on Friday, 17th December, as part of the Clare Decade of Centenaries programme. The panel will be chaired by Tommy Graham, editor of *History Ireland*, and includes Tomás Mac Conmara, Pádraig Óg Ó Ruairc, Joe Power and Martin Mansergh. The podcast will be linked from the Clare County Library website and social media.

Archives & Local Studies

An important new acquisition of papers has been offered to the Archives Service encompassing an estimated 600 boxes of material relating to Commandant Joseph Barrett (1888-1971) and his family. The papers include the revolutionary period 1916-1923, which include journals documenting such detail as execution orders and reconnaissance reports. The collection also includes a large collection of photographs, family papers, papers from Joseph Barrett's auctioneering business in Kilrush, letters and appeals relating to Military Pension Files and political pamphlets. It is an extremely valuable and important addition to the history of Clare. Suitable accommodation will have to be generated as well as cataloguing of the collection.

An additional collection is to be donated to the Archives relating to William Edward Armstrong Mac Donnell of New Hall (High Sherriff of Clare 1853). The collection consists of books, manuscripts, maps and photographs. It also includes collections of poems written by Clare Bards in honour of the MacDonnells of Kilkee and Kilone and has already generated great scholarly interest from leading academic institutions. This collection comprises of approximately 10 boxes which will have to be transported from the UK.

Work continues on the processing and production of a descriptive list of 19th-20th Century School Roll Books (c.200 volumes) from throughout Co. Clare. Many volumes need cleaning and are fragile. They will need suitable storage and in many cases conservation to ensure their preservation. Work is also continuing on updating the Poor Law Union descriptive lists to ISADg standards.

A quotation has been received for the acquisition of an online platform which will link with the already existing recently acquired Archives' database. This would have the facility to display the archival collections according to an international standard for archival description whilst also displaying the digital version of the archival item. Funding for the system will have to be sourced.

Clare Arts Office



Ronan from Rogu who performed in Ennis, Shannon, Killaloe and Lahinch.

Phase 2 of the Local Live Performance Scheme began. Over 40 events took place countywide including music, dance, poetry, fireshows and an aerial dance spectacle in Scariff. Events happened in Doolin, Ennis, Ennistymon, Lahinch, Killaloe, Kilrush, Knockerra, Shannon, Tubber and Tulla.

Giftng Ceremonies took place in Kilrush, Ennistymon, Ennis, Scariff and Killaloe with over 50 community members and groups, nominated by the Municipal Districts, presented with specially commissioned plates.

The Art of Place book was launched in glór, with photography commissioned by the Arts Office from John Kelly, photographer. The Ennis Players hosted the Drama at Ennis finals very successfully in glór. David O'Rourke completed 3 schools residencies in Holy Family, Ennis, Newmarket on Fergus and in Cloughleigh. One mentoring programme began with an artist with a disability. Three exhibitions took place in Scariff, Ennis and Kilkee and one film screened in Cultúrlann Sweeney in Kilkee.

Clare Youth Theatre continued to meet in glór and 2 performances for parents took place.

The Arts Office social media pages had a reach of over 195,000 primarily due to the Live Local Performance Scheme. The social media groups had 748 reactions to 212 posts and generated 1,730 likes. 38 events /posts were added to the website www.clarearts.ie and a further 13 were added to the Council website.

Clare Museum

A strategic management plan, a work plan, a Disaster Plan and a Care of Collections Strategy for the Museum were noted by the SPC in December. Once these are adopted by Clare County Council, the MSPI maintenance certificate will be awarded to the Museum. Sixty photographs of items that were accessioned into the collection in 2015 and 2016 have been captioned and prepared for uploading to the museum website. Research is being carried out on the Autograph Book of Kathleen Griffin dating to the 1917 East Clare By-Election won by de Valera, with a view to creating a document that will be useful to researchers in the future. The document will be put online. The research

material will also be used in the creation of a 'story screen' that will be in the Tourists Office, close to de Valera's car when it moves from its present premises.

A temporary exhibition of medals won by Kilkee athlete Willie Keane are currently on display. A drawing by Frederick William Burton, purchased by the Friends of the National Collections

for the museum earlier in the year, was conserved, cleaned and returned to the museum during the month.

Light sensors have been placed in the museum storeroom, ensuring that their use is kept to a minimum and they are not left on when nobody is in the store. New LED lights were also installed in the storeroom. Nine social media posts relating to local history and the museum collection were made.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Scarriff Office

Killaloe Municipal District continues to provide services via public counter in line with Government guidelines. Services will continue to be in line with Public Health restrictions and advice.

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2021

At this time the planned work programme for 2021 is complete with all Restoration Improve and Restoration Maintenance works complete at a cost of €2,800,000 and €780,000 respectively. In addition, Drainage works (€204,000) and Discretionary Improvement Grant works (€170,000) are complete.

Five roads have been completed under the Local Improvement Scheme and two roads complete under the Community Involvement Scheme.

Drainage Maintenance Works

With the 2021 programme complete, the focus in January and February will be on maintenance of roadside channels around the Municipal District.

Footpaths Improvement and Replacement works at Hillcrest Grove, Kilkishen are substantially complete whilst works at Merriman Court, Flagmount are complete.



Beechwood Lawn, Bodyke – Upgrade December 2021.

Hedgecutting

Substantial levels of Hedgecutting were carried out on our Regional Roads in November / December 2021. These works are to improvement safety and visibility on our main routes.

General Municipal Allocation

An allocation of €227,000 was used by the Cllrs in 2021 for projects around the Municipal District. The technical team of the MD worked closely with Cllrs to identify and deliver many of these projects. Some projects will run into 2022.

CLAR

Clare County Council have completed significant infrastructural upgrades at Broadford which included kerbing, drainage and footpath work. This will provide upgraded connectivity within the village connecting schools and shops. This work continues on from the safety works carried out by Killaloe MD in Broadford last year.

Active Travel 2021: Killaloe MD Programme

Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Contract Awarded
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Going to Tender – January 2021
Droomindoora	Design complete, Tender preparation
Quin	Contractor In place. Works to commence in early 2022.
Clarisford Park Connection	Design complete, tender preparation.
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Contractor in place. Works Commenced.

Outdoor Performances in the MD

The MD works with the Arts office to facilitate 2 Christmas performances in the MD. December 18th saw an evening performance by 'Rogu' at the Green, Killaloe, and December 19th saw an Aerial Performance by Fidget Feet at Scarriff Harbour.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Ennis 2040

The Ennis 2040 team was delighted to receive a visit from Minister of State with responsibility for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD on Friday, 10th December, 2021. Minister Burke received a briefing on the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy and future implementation plans and also visited the offices of Ennis 2040 at the County Museum building, Arthur's Row.

The Ennis 2040 team is continuing engagement with key stakeholders, landowners, Government departments and local businesses on the Ennis 2040 plan. In 2022 the Ennis 2040 DAC will meet bimonthly and Kevin Corrigan COO will report in to Council during the year.

In December 2021 the Clare Co. Co./UL DAC was formed in order to make the SDZ application to Government in January 2022 and the necessary company registration paperwork has been sent to the CRO.



Strategic Projects

Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement & Mobility Plan January 2022

Clare County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary County Council, has prepared a *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan* for Killaloe-Ballina. The Plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe and Ballina, providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements. Central to all future developments in the linked settlements is the Killaloe Bypass and Shannon Bridge Crossing which will provide a western bypass for Killaloe town, a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon, undoubtedly changing travel and mobility patterns into and around both settlements. The objective of the *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan* is to proactively prepare, in a plan-led manner, the development of settlements post-operation of the bypass. An objective of the plan is also to propose several measures and interventions that can be undertaken in advance of the bypass

In December, following the earlier endorsement by Elected Members of Killaloe MD and Tipperary County Council via

the Nenagh MD, the Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan was endorsed by the full Council at December's meeting of Clare County Council.

The plan sets out a range of urban design and mobility enhancement and opportunity sites to capitalise further on the towns' assets to collectively expand the tourism product, attract increased visitor numbers and maximise local economic benefits. This *Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan* will inform future funding applications and town enhancement projects.





Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

The Draft Shannon Town Centre Masterplan is approaching the concluding stages of development. The second and final round of public consultation for the Draft Shannon Town Centre Masterplan concluded at 4:00pm, Monday, 20th December, 2021. In total, 8 submissions were received.

The Masterplan sets out a clear strategic framework for the renewed development of Shannon Town Centre, providing for a shared vision for its future development. It proposes to unlock the development potential in Shannon Town Centre and guide its built and economic development. Among the proposals set out in the draft Masterplan is the creation of an Innovation Campus in the town centre, an improved Main Street, the creation of a New Street and new Town Square, and the development of a 'One Shannon Hub' which will have multiple daytime and night-time uses and a local authority presence.

A non-statutory summary report on the feedback received from the public consultation event is being prepared for the Shannon MD Elected Members which will brief them on the summary of all submissions and observations made in relation to the final round of public consultation. Consultation with the Elected Members will continue with workshop meetings proposed to

be held in early January to consult on the issues raised and with a view to making any necessary further amendments.

In light of the consultation with the Shannon MD Elected Members, it is anticipated that the Final Plan will be endorsed by the Elected Members early in 2022. Following the endorsement of same, it is intended to make an application for funding under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) to Government in the new year for implementation of the Plan.

In December a presentation to Minister Peter Burke on the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan was provided by Liam Conneally, DoS, and Brian McCarthy, SP. The presentation focused on the potential of Shannon Town Centre to act as a catalyst for retail, innovation, commercial development and – in particular – the investment and by Clare County Council on the development of a Local Authority Civic Offices in the town centre and the commitment to the enhancement of the public realm. The presentation emphasised the collaboration of the executive, Elected Members of Shannon MD and the community and business stakeholders in Shannon to make the plan and the consequent requirement for significant investment from the State through URDF.

Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

In December, Enterprise Ireland announced funding of €1.75 million for the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre project. This is a significant boost to the project and it is hopeful that the project will be successful in the RRDF Category B award due to have been announced in late 2021.

This has allowed Clare County Council/Clare MEZ DAC to commence with the Expressions of Interest process for a preferred partner to operate the facility. This will be done under the Competitive Dialogue process and the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation.

The importance of obtaining a suitable maritime operator with extensive knowledge of this sector is paramount and will require significant time and effort by the SEI team in terms of procurement. The Expressions of Interest process for a potential operator resulted in 11 entities requesting access to the EOI documents for which 3 have now been qualified to proceed to Stage 2, the competitive tender by negotiation stage. It is envisaged that this 2nd phase will commence in Q1 of 2022.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

Following on from the Special Council Meeting held on 30th November 2021, the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 with associated Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report was placed on public display on 10th December, 2021 and will remain on display until 28th March, 2022, during which time written submissions and observations can be made by the following means.

**Online via <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/>
make-a-submission**

Or

In writing by post

Or

Via E-mail devplan@clarecoco.ie

The Draft Plan may be inspected during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis.
- Shannon Municipal District Office, Town Hall, Shannon.
- West Clare Municipal District Office, Town Hall, The Square, Kilrush.
- Ennistymon Area Office, Ennis Road, Ennistymon.
- Killaloe Municipal District Office, Mountshannon Road, Scarriff.
- At all public libraries in County Clare during opening hours.

Copies of the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 are also available for purchase from the Planning Department.

A series of public consultation events are planned to take place across the county subject to public health restrictions over the coming months as follows.

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Lisdoonvarna Pavillion, Lisdoonvarna	Tuesday 25th January 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Scouts' Hall (beside Ennis Parish Office), Station Road, Ennis	Wednesday 26th January 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Clonlara Community Sports & Leisure Centre, Clonlara	Thursday 27th January 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Kilkee Community Hall, Kilkee	Tuesday 1st February 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Killaloe Hotel & Spa, Killaloe	Wednesday 2nd February 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Clarecastle Community Hall, Clarecastle	Thursday 3rd February 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Kilmihil Community Hall, Kilmihil	Tuesday 8th February 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Tulla Cultural Centre, Tulla	Wednesday 9th February 2022	4.00-8.00pm
Newmarket on Fergus Community Hall, Newmarket on Fergus	Thursday 10th February 2022	4.00-8.00pm

This is the second stage of the Development Plan Review Process. Once this public consultation phase closes a report will be prepared by the Chief Executive on the submissions received and this will be submitted to the Elected Members for their consideration.

Ennistymon Masterplan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects, continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon plan. The Design team presented initial ideas to the steering group in December, and the design process will continue into early 2022. Public consultation continues to be a key part of the project and the Design Team will be initiating the second phase of consultation in late January.



Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continued in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement Strategy for the village of Corofin. A design team led by Hall McKnight Architects were appointed and there was a good attendance at the first public consultation event held in October. The public consultation process continued over November with engagement via an online portal, and targeted stakeholder engagement. The first stage of the public consultation process concluded in December, and the design team will issue their first interim report in January.



The Manchester Martyrs Monument

The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush will be repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Mid-West Lime Ltd have been appointed to carry out the repair works on site, and the works on this important historic monument are expected to commence in early January 2022.



The Outdoor Public Space Scheme

With funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the process to procure a multi-disciplinary design team was initiated in November, and will conclude in January. The delivery of the project will support communities across the county in delivering their cultural offering while enhancing the experiences of those visiting the towns and villages in a Covid-19 compliant manner.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during December (up to close of business on 21st December) and also gives the year to date totals. In comparison to the same period in 2020, this is an increase in the number of planning applications received of 375 representing a substantial increase of 38% year on year. In addition, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period last year by 321.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	Up to & incl 21st December 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of planning applications received	94	1369
No. of Planning Decisions made	89	1161
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	3	29
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	13	345
No. of Section 5 applications	3	71
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	3	53
Submissions received regarding Compliance	18	361

Planning Enforcement

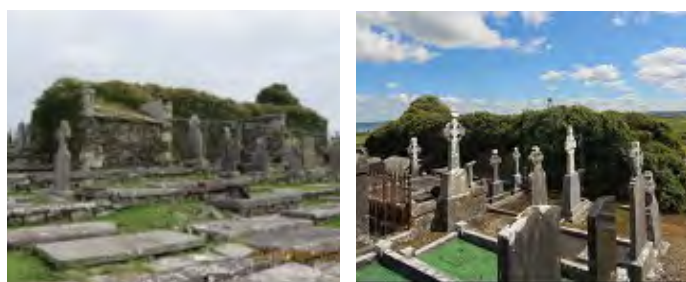
The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning enforcement during December, together with the year to date totals.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	Up to 21 December 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new complaints received	2	290
No of Files Opened	7	113
No. of Warning Letters issued	4	96
No. of Enforcement Notices served	4	31
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	2
No. of Enforcement files closed	0	48

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Clare Medieval Churches Condition Report and Conservation /Repair Proposals

Dermot Nolan & Associates, Historic Buildings Consultants & Consulting Engineers, with Cathal Crimmins Architect have produced Condition Reports and Conservation /Repair Proposals for Templemaley Medieval Church (Ennis), Kilmaley Medieval Church, Killimer Medieval Church (Kilrush), Killchreest Medieval Church (Ballynacally- Kilrush), Killofin Medieval Church (Kilrush). The commissioning of the above listed conservation plans are in response to the Medieval Church Survey for County Clare, 2011, which was the most extensive study of its kind since the letters of O'Donovan and Curry in 1839. This survey found that a third of the 170 medieval churches surveyed had disappeared in the intervening 172-year period, while a third are in a dilapidated condition and are at serious risk of disappearing. Approximately 55 churches were found to be in good structural condition, mainly due to the presence of intact or partially intact roofs. According to this survey the spread of ivy and increasing rainfall rates in recent years is causing immense structural damage to County Clare's medieval churches.



Draft OPW Biodiversity Action Strategy 2022-2026

The Planning Department made a submission to the OPW strategy, the implication of which for County Clare were presented at the Economic Development SPC meeting in December.

Lesser Horseshoe bat roost in Dromore, Ruan

The Heritage Officer has been liaising with Heritage Council on phase 1 of works to secure the bat roost building in Dromore, Ruan. This building is one of the most important maternity roost for Lesser Horseshoe bat roost in Ireland, thus is significant for the survival of the population of rare and endangered Lesser Horseshoe bats in Ireland.

Planning the heritage programme for 2022

The Heritage Officer has been meeting with local community interests and heritage organisations to plan a heritage programme of work for 2022. In addition to meeting with the Heritage Council on their plans and programmes for next year.

Conservation and Built Heritage Historic Towns Initiative

Details for the Historic Towns Initiative were released on 17th December. The deadline for applications is Thursday, 3rd February, 2022.

The Historic Towns Initiative is a joint undertaking between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the Heritage Council. Last year, €1.5m in funding was awarded under this scheme, providing local employment and economic stimulus.

Stream 1 will focus on capital works projects, with a particular emphasis on projects which bring floor space into residential use. Emphasis is placed on projects that encourage private owners and/or occupiers to invest in appropriate conservation-led works and repairs, projects that address dereliction and residential vacancy, the conservation of landmark buildings, streetscape conservation projects, and conservation-led public realm works which encourage investment from other sources. A maximum of €250,000 is earmarked, per successful town and may be phased over two years.

Stream 2 will support applications to deliver a heritage-led regeneration plan which will examine the existing heritage of a town and determine what conservation focused interventions are required. €40,000 is to be awarded per each successful town under stream 2. A total of €2 million in funding will be available for local authorities in 2022.

The programme is intended to support a small number of towns in 2022. Funding will be allocated on a competitive basis.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- The Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. In 2021, 119 applications have been approved and €647k paid out to successful applicants.
- Mentoring: Throughout 2021, over 330 clients have been assigned mentoring which offers businesses specific one to one advice and supports. We recently held a review meeting with a number of our mentors to obtain feedback on how our many small enterprises were coping with the wider economic challenges. Outside of the hospitality and entertainment sectors, overall the feedback was largely positive with many of our small businesses performing strongly despite the current challenges.
- Training: LEO Clare continued to see strong demand for online training support offering during the month. The main topics of interest to Clare enterprises were Start Your Own Business Programmes, Search Engine Optimisation and Video Marketing workshops with 50 clients taking part. LEO Clare have provided 1,450 participants with training throughout 2021.

December Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their final evaluation meeting in early December. Overall throughout the year LEO Clare have approved funding for 30 businesses of €788,720. More importantly LEO Clare have released funding €739,830 which is significantly ahead of previous years reflecting many small businesses investing in their business.

2022 Training Programme

Throughout December Local Enterprise Clare have been organising their 2022 training programme. Currently, 41 training courses and workshops have been organised with further programmes to follow. Training courses include our Start Your Own Business, Digital Marketing courses, LEAN and Food Starter Programmes.

Look For Local Campaign

During December LEO Clare launched the Look for Local Campaign to encourage people into buying local this Christmas and beyond. An advertising campaign was conducted in local newspapers which showcased businesses in all four of the Municipal Districts in Clare. The campaign was then officially launched by An Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan.

Local Enterprise Offices are urging consumers to continue their support of local businesses when they are shopping for products, services and experiences for Christmas. The Look for Local campaign is supported by Enterprise Ireland and the Local Authorities.



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

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

Enquiries to the Property Management Unit on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios, etc. have continued to increase this year, which is indicative of increasing levels of activity in the property market in the county generally.

The renewal of the Shannon allotment agreements are currently being done with some new allotment holders getting an allotment for the first time. The site is managed in conjunction with the Shannon Allotment Association and works need to be done as a result of the recent storm.

The advertisement for the letting of lands will be published in early January 2022.

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

Facilities Management

Plans are at an advanced stage for a new footpath from Áras Contae an Chláir to New Road, which will improve pedestrian access to our Headquarters. In Quarter 1, 2022, works will be done on the large trees to the rear of the building with a focus on making them safer and still retain screening for the residents to the rear. We have engaged with the residents on this matter.

Casual Trading

Activity in December focused on the Christmas Market in Abbey Street Car park in Ennis from 2nd to 5th December and an increase in levels of activity in towns for the Christmas season. We are currently working on the renewal of the annual licences for 2022.

Derelict Sites

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

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in December and the year to date.

Derelict Sites	December 2021	Year to date 2021
No. of new files opened	5	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	2	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	2	4
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	0	25
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	0

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

December was a busy month as projects ended and our outdoor teams changed their focus to the winter maintenance programme. Early in the month Storm Barra brought severe wind and rain across the country and our teams ensured that all works were secured, minor damage was made safe and that the blue light services were supported in their responses.

Works to deliver the Town and Village Renewal Scheme project underway in Sixmilebridge ended during the month with the new streetscape now in full use ahead of the festive season. During the summer the team in the Municipal District worked with the School of Architecture from UL to consider the opportunities for the town – Notice was received in December that Sixmilebridge has been selected as one of the towns in the country to receive Master Planning funding under the ‘Town Centre First’ initiative in 2022.



During the month the MD acknowledged the Green Flag Award for the Shannon Town Park. It has long been recognised that our town park does not achieve these standards without the input from a number of groups and agencies locally. With the support of our councillors our team maintain the infrastructure/upgrades in the park while the Shannon Leisure Centre have a role to play in the ongoing monitoring of the equipment.

The Shannon Social Economy Machinery Ltd. maintain the park on a daily basis and An Garda Síochána provide ongoing support, particularly for events. In achieving this award the Shannon Municipal District reached out to Dromoland Castle for assistance with the judging element of the award and they were gracious in their supports.

Again, this year the Municipal District organised the ‘Christmas Message from Shannon Town Park 2022’ as part of the ‘To Be Irish at Christmas’ event, an initiative by the Department of Foreign Affairs. On a crisp evening earlier this month Cathaoirleach John Crowe was accompanied by Santa Claus and Mrs Claus in sending a message from the community in Shannon to friends and family abroad. Six musicians from Shannon Town then performed seasonal music from the Band Stand in Shannon Town Park.

This event was recorded and streamed onto Clare County Council’s YouTube Channel. While not advertised, those taking a winter’s walk in the park were treated to some fabulous music and a treat! The message from Shannon Town Park can be viewed here - [A Christmas message from Shannon Town Park 2021](#) (Clare County Council's YouTube channel).

Our roads programme continued late into the year and we are delighted to note that two of our Active Travel funded footpath projects in Meelick and Ballycasey have been referred to the National Transport Authority for approval to next stage.



During the month the footpaths contractor continued works in the Drumgeely area of Shannon Town – These works were supported through the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) by local councillors.

This year marked the second anniversary of the passing of Cllr. Mike McKee RIP. At a small ceremony in the Shannon Town Park this month a plaque in memory of Cllr. McKee and his service to the community in Shannon Town was unveiled.



A Christmas message from Shannon Town Park 2021

190 views · 4 days ago



Clare County Council

We bring you a Christmas message from Shannon Town Park, County Clare, with musical performances by our local talent, ...

New

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Transportation

The 2021 roads programme was completed in all of the Municipal Districts.

The following grant amounts were claimed during 2021: DoT €27.4m, TII €4.5m, NTA €1.3m.

Across the Municipal Districts the following road projects were completed:

Regional & Local Roads

- Restoration Improvement Projects (road reconstruction/overlay) – 113
- Restoration Maintenance Projects (surface dressing) – 108
- Road Drainage Projects – 77
- Bridge Refurbishments – 26
- Low Cost Safety Schemes – 10
- New Bus Shelters – 12.

National Roads

- Improvement work carried out at 8 locations on the National Secondary Road Network.

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

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

Connecting Ireland

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

Active Travel Programme 2021

Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on 29th March, 2021. The total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,986,000

and this allocation has been broken down into 28 projects which was progressed through a Grant Applications submission. Each project also requires NTA approval at the various developmental stages of the projects. To date, 24 of the 28 projects have received project approval. The design, statutory processes and construction stages for the projects are at various stages of progression.

Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. The procurement process is ongoing and a preferred bidder for the Design Build Works contract has been identified. At present, 46% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

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

Clare County Council has, in 2021, completed the retrofitting of all the decorative lights in County Clare where the internal lighting components were removed and replaced with LED technology to upgrade the existing decorative lights. This project reduces the impact on the environment by retrofitting these lights instead of replacing them and also achieving a reduction in energy consumption.

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

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

Road Works Programme and Operations

Road Design Office

Current Projects: December 2021

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

TII Road Safety Projects

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

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

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021

- Application for 2022 LCS Schemes submitted to the Department of Transport.

Road Number	Location of LCS	Description of Proposed LCS	Progress Update
R352	R352/ Corrovorrin junction, Tulla Road, Ennis	LCS to improve the traffic movements of the junction from Kevin Barry Ave onto the R352.	Works completed
Junction of R462 & R471	Pedestrian crossing in the Square, Sixmilebridge	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point across on the R462 in Sixmilebridge	Works completed
R478/L10381	Doonagore	Improve sightlines approaching R478 from southern side L10381.	Design is completed. Landowner agreed required to set back an entrance pier and fence. Delivery is postponed until landowner agreement is finalised.
L4190-7/L8272-0	Lismulbreeda	Warning signs and to slow down traffic on the approaches to the bend.	Works completed
R463/R466	O'Briens Bridge / Bridgetown Junction	LCS with new signage and lining. Improve sightlines by removing existing vegetation.	Works completed
R352	R352 Spancill Hill to Tooreen	Renew existing road lining, cut back vegetation, SLOW markings on road, 80kph repeater signs, centre and edge lining	Works completed
L-3050-0	Clonlara primary school on the L3050-0	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point at the primary school in Clonlara.	Works completed

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

R476/L5260	Kilnaboy	Improve sightline exiting the L5260 on to the R476. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Works completed
R465-82	Broadford National School on the R465	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School, the GAA sports grounds and a housing estate.	Works completed
L2050	Cahill's Hill on local road from Killmer Ferry to Cooraclare	Improved signage and a pull in area for motorists.	Works completed
L4058-2 & L4062	L4058/L4062 junction in Feakle	Provide a controlled pedestrian crossing point serving the National School and two housing estates.	Design is completed. Safety review completed. Not progressing, further to public consultation.
R460/L1010	Lough Bunny	Improve sightlines onto the L1010 from both sides of junction. Improving signage and lining at the junction, removing vegetation.	Works completed
L4611-0	L4611-0 Newpark Ennis	Provide a controlled crossing point. Where footpaths are discontinuous.	To be incorporated as part of an NTA active travel project. Not progressing as a LCS.

Other Projects 2021/2022

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	Funding of €182,000 was secured from the Department of Transport (DoT) for the implementation of the EuroVelo route signage in County Clare. Procurement is completed and the signage installation is near completion. Consultation with community groups has commenced to identify optimal locations for map boards and cycle stands. Marketing and promotion of the route is being progressed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	The NTA have approved funding for 6 new bus shelters (Kilkee, Lisdoonvarna, Crusheen, Newmarket on Fergus, Limerick Rd Ennis, and Westbury) and upgrade works for 5 existing bus shelters in Shannon. The contractor has been appointed and construction works commenced in early June. Bus shelter civils works are complete in Crusheen, Lisdoonvarna, Kilkee, Ballycasey, Oakwood, opposite Oakwood, Drumgeely, Fergus Roundabout and Westbury. Works are progressing at Radisson Blu. The bus shelter in Newmarket on Fergus is delayed due to supply chain issues with the NTA's bus shelter supplier and will now commence in Q1 of 2022.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
LIS Applications	240 applications reviewed.
Circular RW 10/2020 - Active Travel Measures Allocations 2020	2020 element completed. Active Travel Carry Over List – Surveying and designs have initiated in conjunction with the MDs. Cycle lane and road Line marking from the Clare Inn Roundabout to Clonmoney is completed. Refurbishment of the masonry bridge at Latoon is completed. Construction of cycle lane connectivity under M18 has commenced.
Circular RW 09/2020 - Climate Change Adaptation Allocations 2020	2020 element completed.
Circular RST 04/2019 Safe Overtaking Width for Cyclists Signs	Clare County Council received an allocation of €29,350 from the Department of Transport for the provision of safe overtaking width signs for cyclists. Installation is being progressed through the MDs and this process is ongoing.

Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2021. Collaboration with IT & GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
NTA Active Travel Circular (2021)	Funding for the Active Travel 2021 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on 29th March, 2021 and the total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,986,000. 24 detailed project applications have been approved by the NTA. The design, statutory processes and construction stages of these projects are at various stages of progression.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	A Specific Improvement Grant Application for R352 (Henchy's Cross) upgrade was submitted to the Department of Transport on the 18th November 2020. The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The project will continue into 2022.
Circular RW 06/2021 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021	A funding application was submitted to the Department of Transport (DoT) on 26th March, 2021. Funding of €699,350 has been approved. Projects near completed.

Bridge Rehabilitation

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

- AA Screening: Consultant appointed, screening report to be issued by 30th April, 2021. Report issued 2 bridges to proceed to NIS stage
- Bunratty Bridge: Meeting National Monuments 14th June to discuss possible repair works. Meeting held. National Monuments not in favour of repair solution. Repair options been explored
- Stonepark Bridge: Works complete
- Smithstown Bridge: Works complete
- Ballyalla Bridge: Works complete
- Sragh Bridge: Initial investigation carried out 16th March. Structural investigation completed. Atkins Consulting currently carrying out assessment of bridge. Topographical survey completed
- Corlea Bridge: Works complete
- Pollagoona Bridge: Works complete
- Derrynacaw Bridge: Works complete
- Latoon Masonry Bridge: Works complete bar snagging
- Derrycon Bridge: Works complete
- Cloonolia Bridge: Works complete
- Finnor Beg Bridge: Works complete
- Ardnacaraa Bridge: Works complete
- Lough North Bridge: Works complete
- Clochan Samhan Bridge: Works complete
- Furror Upper Bridge: Works complete
- Cloghaun Beg Bridge: Works complete bar snagging
- Honan's Bridge: Works complete bar snagging
- Dereen Bridge: Works complete
- Ballynacally Bridge: Works complete
- Cahircon Bridge: Works complete.

Other Bridge Works

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

Health and Safety

During the past month the Health and Safety Team revised the CCC Covid Response Plan to Rev 6 following recent announcements by the Government regarding Covid-19 and continued to provide support and guidance to the Crisis Management Team and all Departments of Clare County Council on the implementation of the relevant control measures.

The Health and Safety Team continued to progress their Schedule of Workplace Risk Assessment and Safety Statement reviews and their Programme of Safety Inspections in accordance with the revised CCMA Local Authority Services Framework. An Internal H&S Audit of the Clare County Council Occupational Health & Safety management system was commenced in November 2021 and concluded in December 2021. Clare County Council has adopted the LGMA/LASOG Traffic Management Guidance Manual and training on its use and implementation has been delivered to Traffic Management Designers and Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks Cardholders by the Health and Safety Team. Monitoring of the revised Traffic Management Guidance commenced from 1st June with focused Inspections of Traffic Management arrangements at Roadworks. Additional Training on Traffic Management Design was delivered to a group of Technical Staff in September with training in Traffic Management Software scheduled for November 2021. The new traffic management system is mandatory from 31st December, 2021.

General Design Office

Surveys

- CPO and APE lines set out via GPS on Killaloe Bypass, as per request from Capital Projects.

Property Assessment report

- Vacant house – The Old Rectory, Mountshannon. Acquired by CCC as proposed visitor centre for Inis Cealtra.

Mapping

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass – ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Revision of way-leave drawing for storm water lines, Miltown Malbay.

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Barefield – JF Building & Civils was appointed as main contractor and works began on site on 20th September. Works now completed.

Corofin – Topographical survey completed.

Sixmilebridge – Coir Infrastructure appointed as main contractor. Construction works started in August 2021. Works now completed.

Parteen – Topographical survey is concluded, preliminary design proposals ongoing.

The Lane, Cappahard, Ennis

Works on the new footpath at The Lane, Cappahard, part of the Active Travel Programme 2021, are completed.

Works included the upgrading of the surface water network, new kerbing, footpath, new boundary wall, new public lighting, landscaping and tactile surfaces to the pedestrian crossing.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

As we start into a new year, the PMO team are looking forward to progressing a range of projects. 2021 finished positively with the announcement in late December by the Minister of increased funding allocations for our National Road and Greenway projects. Prior to Christmas breakup, we were also permitted by the Department of Transport to issue the Letters of Intent and Regret for the Killaloe Bridge and Bypass project. While we still await the Minister's final approval to award the contract, this step is very positive. The key updates across our main list of projects are as follows:

Cloughaninchy Flood Relief Scheme

Agreement has finally been reached with a key stakeholder that threatened whether the scheme could progress or not. The remaining land agreements are now being finalised and will be completed early in the new year. The next step is now to obtain final OPW approval and the funding allocation to progress the project through detailed design and procurement of a contractor.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

The scheme provides flood protection to the residential areas of Ballybeg, Abbey Court, St Flannan's College and the Quin Road Industrial Estate and work is substantially complete with only a small number of minor issues remaining to be done. Once completed, the Contractor will vacate the site and hand back responsibility for same to the Council. This will allow us to complete the remaining works to the Riverside walk and open the area for public use. In parallel, work is continuing in consultation with the OPW and our consulting engineers on updating the series of Flood Maps for the area which will detail the benefiting areas and inform the Insurance Industry accordingly.

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

A decision from An Bord Pleanála is expected in the New Year which will inform our next course of action. In anticipation of a favourable outcome, TII have allocated funding for 2022 which will enable the detailed design to be completed, preparation of

the tender competition documentation and the necessary land acquisition at the earliest juncture subject to confirmation of the CPO by An Bord Pleanála.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for same has now been concluded which will support us in identifying what elements of the works can be done as an interim measure to restore the existing pathway for the many pedestrians who continue to walk it for exercise and recreational use. Members will be aware of the wider proposal for a Greenway/Blueway from Limerick City to Scarriff. This will of course require more extensive environmental assessment as part of that project development. TII has allocated funding in the 2022 budget which will enable this project to be progressed through the initial stages of development.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Following tender review, assessment and clarification meeting with the preferred contractor, the Tender Assessment Report has now been formally issued to the Department for their consideration and Ministerial approval. Once received, we will be able to appoint the Contractor to commence construction of this significant infrastructural project with works expected to commence on site in the Spring 2022.

In parallel, the Project Management Office have initiated a tender competition for the various Site Supervisory roles necessary. The tender documents were published on the eTenders platform on 10th December, inviting shortlisted framework consultants to tender for these site-based roles. The tender return date is mid-January 2022. Following review and assessment, it is envisaged that this commission will be awarded to the preferred tenderer in late January/early February and in advance of the proposed Main Works Contract commencing. Other works ongoing include:

- The electricity diversion works continue to be progressed by the ESB and its contractors with traffic management and power outages being co-ordinated with all affected residents and landowners. Substantial completion of these works is envisaged by the year end, with some minor snagging and reinstatement works programmed for completion in January 2022.
- The advance works contractor, Coir Infrastructure Ltd, are programmed to return to site early in the new year to complete some additional fencing and site clearance works, which will conclude their contract with us.
- The detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works continues and the results from which will assist in the preparation of the final reports and public presentation in early 2022.
- Clare County Council and its agents have also made significant progress in completing the Land Acquisition process with most agreements now in place and a small

number to be concluded early in 2022.

As 2021 ends, significant progress has been made “on the ground” with the construction of a Bat Roost, Invasive Species Treatment, Archaeological Investigations, Utility Diversions and Enabling Works, including site clearance, demolition and fencing of lands required for the scheme. The Project Team are looking forward to 2022 with the anticipated commencement of the Main Works Contract, which, when complete, will deliver a much-improved quality of life for residents of both Heritage Towns and surrounding communities of East Clare and North Tipperary whilst providing a much-needed boost to the local economy and tourism sector of the region.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

The Project Team are currently focussing on progressing the Initial Options Assessment for the Victoria and Well Streams. The consultant’s updates on the assessment will be reviewed by the Steering Group in early 2022. The intricate wave overtopping model continues to develop following close liaison between the steering group and RPS Coastal. The initial data logs from the early trial holes have been submitted by the Site Investigation contractor and are under review by JBA. Site Investigation work will continue into 2022. Progress on the scheme and upcoming works is also available on the project website at www.kilkeefrs.ie alongside associated scheme literature and our project information video.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

We are still awaiting a final resolution on the Court proceedings taken against the Members' decision to approve the Part VIII application for the road element of the above. The case has been allocated a date for Hearing on 19th July, 2022, and if favourable, we will then be in a position to move forward with this important project to include the necessary Geotechnical Investigations, detailed design and engagement with the relevant landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

Negotiations are continuing with a key landowner, and it is hoped to conclude these early in the new year. If agreement cannot be reached, we will have to consider what alternative options may be possible. If there isn't a technically, environmentally, and economically available alternative, the proposed scheme may not progress, and the status quo will have to remain.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The Public Display of the Preferred Option for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme concluded on Monday, 6th December, 2021, and all observations received are now being considered by the Project Team. The purpose of this non-statutory public display was to inform the public

and stakeholders of the Preferred Option developed for the project, the work undertaken to date and the programme for advancement of the project. This preferred option will be further developed as part of the next stages in the development of the project. Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) will progress following the selection of a Preferred Option, based on both technical and environmental inputs, to a stage where sufficient levels of detail exist to establish land-take requirements, to identify and mitigate Scheme impacts, and to progress the scheme through to the Statutory Processes Phase 4. Phase 3 is expected to progress up to mid-2023.

Following the Wintering Birds Season, Priority Geotechnical Ltd are scheduled to return to site in early April to complete the remainder of the ground investigations. Following completion of the slit trench works on site, laboratory testing and analysis of excavated material is now progressing. The results of these investigatory works will help inform the emerging route selection process. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website: www.shannonaccess.ie

Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)

The Project Team continues to advance this much anticipated project. Survey works are necessary to advance the design and to this end, slit trenching to identify underground services are planned for early in the new year. This will require night-time work and a road closure to minimise the impact on business in town. With regard to procurement of the main works contractor, documentation has been issued on eTenders portal for submissions from interested contractors for consideration for shortlisting for tender process. Contractor submissions are due by year-end following which evaluation and shortlisting will be completed in January 2022.

The design team and Clare County Council are liaising with utility companies and other stakeholders in the interests of streamlining the construction schedule and ensuring that future utility needs are accommodated where possible. All going well, construction is expected to commence in mid to late 2022 further to consultation with business owners and the public, as engagement with key stakeholders and interested parties will be key to the success of this project.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)

Tender submissions have been received for the appointment of Technical Advisors for the final remediation of all sites. Submissions will be assessed and evaluated in the new year. In the meantime, sites are continuing to be monitored by Council staff, having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The Hydraulic Assessment and Model Build activities continue to progress, with the next workshop planned for early 2022 involving the Steering Group and the RPS hydraulic team leads. A site visit was held in early December involving CCC, OPW and RPS Geotechnical team to view the high-level early options for the main coastal embankments. RPS will continue to progress this element of the scheme into 2022 which will include a full review and assessment of the site investigation results expected early next year.

The RPS ecology team continues to update the schedule for environmental surveys into 2022 including the completion of the ongoing wintering bird survey and planned spring surveys for nesting birds and mammals. The SAA maintenance works to existing airport embankments will be ongoing into Spring 2022. A new project newsletter is available on the project website at www.shanntownandenvironsfrs.com as well as other information on the scheme. As requested at the December meeting, a briefing for the Shannon MD Councillors has been arranged with the Consultants being in attendance at the January meeting of the Shannon Municipal District.

Spanish Point Minor Coastal Protection Scheme

The old fence which was overhanging the cliff above the new rock armour revetment has been removed and new fencing is currently being constructed. The fencing is due to be completed before year end which will complete the outstanding works in this scheme.

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

The main works are currently suspended on the scheme due to poor weather and ground conditions with the expectation to resume again onsite in the Springtime. In the interim, Priority Geotechnical Ltd have been appointed by Clare County Council to carry out ground water monitoring and two site visits have been carried out. Following a tender process, we are about to appoint contractor to carry out a geophysical survey at the location. The public roadway has been cleaned and all damaged edges have been repaired.

Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Limerick City & County Council in conjunction with the OPW are progressing the implementation of the Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme. As this scheme incorporates parts of Clare including Westbury, Shannon Banks and Gillogue, Clare County Council are assisting Limerick City and Council on the project. A virtual consultation event on the project website at www.floodinfo.ie/limerickfrs was held by the consultants RPS for a 4-week period from 18th November until 17th December. Several submissions have been made and some in person consultations arranged. A Project Newsletter is available for viewing and/or download and a Feedback Form is also available for completion. Work has begun on the Bathymetric survey

and the Topographical surveys required for the project. As a result, agents on behalf of Limerick City and County Council will be on the ground gathering information on topography. They have been issued with identification papers by Limerick CCC. A tender process for the appointment of a Ground Investigation contractor is presently underway.

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

The design team and Clare County Council are continuing to develop route options and study constraints in order to identify the emerging preferred route. Several possible route options and the emerging preferred route will be on Public Display as part of a second Public Consultation exercise to be held in January 2022. Interested parties will be encouraged to review and comment on the various proposed routes and the

emerging Preferred Route. Winter Ecological Surveys are ongoing. We welcome any comments or suggestions from members of the public and all affected landowners. TII, who have recently taken over from the Department of Transport as the Sponsoring Agency for Greenways, have allocated additional funding to the Kilrush-Kilkee Section which will enable the Design Team to move the project on to Planning stage and thereafter to Tender stage.

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

Tender submissions for the appointment of Technical Advisors for Engineering & Environmental Consultancy services have been received and have now been assessed. The preferred bid will now be sent to TII for approval. To advance the works in the interim, TII have provided funding towards this project in their 2022 allocation.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during December:

- Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers Course
- Water Awareness Courses held in Killaloe, Kilrush and Kilkee.

Storm Barra



The widespread compliance with the 'stay at home' Status Red alert in Clare during the Status Red alert undoubtedly saved lives given the extent of fallen trees and flying debris around the county. The closing of schools and businesses, together with the safety messaging both locally and

nationally, greatly helped to shape people's reaction to the seriousness of the weather event.

Fire Brigades across the county attended weather-related incidents from early Tuesday morning, 7th December, until

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, 8th December, dealing with fallen trees, cables, and property damage. There were no reported accidents to the Fire Service during the Status Red alert.

During the Status Red, all our fire crews were on standby in their seven Fire Stations, and attended incidents based on risk assessment of the weather conditions at the time – in all they attended over 50 separate incidents across the county, ranging from branches and minor debris/corrugated sheeting to multiple trees blocking main routes. Throughout the

night firefighters worked hard in ensuring that trees and debris were removed to ensure that routes remained accessible for the public and for emergency services.

As part of Clare County Council's recovery planning for this event, the Council extended its emergency call handling, with reported damage being captured during the evening/night, for distribution to the Municipal Districts early on Wednesday morning, 8th December.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Nov 2021	Dec 2021 (Up to 17.12.21)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	62	104	864
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	8	3	74
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	8	3	68
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	2
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	6	3	43
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	4	3	42
Number of Commencement Notices Received	30	20	389
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	2	13

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

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following event:

- Munster Club football match in Cusack Park.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members of the Boat Crew collected ring buoys in the River Fergus, Ennis.
- Members provided assistance at blood clinics for the

Irish Blood Transfusion Service in the West County Hotel in Ennis.

- Members attended an online meeting with the Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) in relation to Storm Barra and made all necessary preparations prior to the storm.

Members Training & Professional Development

- New members attended water rescue craft training.

ENVIRONMENT

Covid-19

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

Environmental Awareness

Leave no Trace training webinar

The Leave no Trace training which was provided on the was offered to all Clare County Council staff and Councillors. This webinar outlined the benefits of the Leave No Trace approach, how it is relevant to Clare County Council, how Leave No Trace engage with communities and how Clare communities can become involved. A You Tube link of the webinar is available to staff and Councillors who were unable to attend and would like to learn more about Leave no Trace – email greenerclare@clarecoco.ie for the link.

An Taisce Green Schools programme

During December, our Environmental Awareness Officer continued to host Green School support meetings across the various themes to teachers working on the Green School Programme.

Environmental Campaigns

During December, we promoted several environmental messages promoting good environmental practice in terms of good waste management practices and climate action.

Campaign detail	Promotion details
<p>Green Christmas The Green Christmas campaign was rolled out over December encouraging householders to think green over the Christmas period. Included was an Upcycling Competition in conjunction with Healthy Clare and promotion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste prevention EPA Stop Food Waste initiative MyWaste.ie Clare County Council Recycling Centres Bin It or Bring It Home, litter campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media Release The Clare Echo Green Clare Page adverts Clare Champion advert Clare FM adverts Web page updates @ClareCoCo social media @GreenerClare social media
<p>Dog littering Promotion of dog owner responsibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green School presentation @GreenerClare social media
<p>Cigarette littering Promotion of the impacts of cigarette littering on the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> @ClareCoCo social media @GreenerClare social media
<p>Illegal dumping of Green Waste Promotion of the impacts of the illegal dumping of green waste on the environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert @GreenerClare social media

Christmas Tree recycling

The Council have arranged for advertising of a Free Christmas Tree recycling event to be held in early January. Therefore, if you if you chose a real tree this year, you can recycle it for FREE at the following designated locations around Co. Clare from 10th January to 15th January, 2022.

- Central Waste Management Facility, Ballyduff Beg, Inagh
- Lisdeen Recycling Centre & Transfer Station, Kilkee
- Scariff Recycling Centre & Transfer Station
- Shannon Recycling Centre
- Gardening Section, Gort Rd, Ennis (adjacent to Cois na hAbhna, drop-off point outside the gates).



Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	December	2021 to date
Planning applications (Domestic)	39	450
Planning applications (Large Developments)	3	14
Planning applications (Forestry)	16	324
Planning applications (Agriculture)	11	22
Inspection of Section 4 licensed premises	10	60
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	4	23
Pollution complaints received	4	214
Warning & advisory letters issued	1	12
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	6

Draft National Inspection Plan for domestic wastewater treatment systems 2022-2026

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff presented a workshop on 17th December to domestic wastewater treatment system Inspectors on the new National Inspection Plan (NIP) for domestic wastewater treatment systems 2022-2026. The EPA have published the draft NIP for domestic wastewater treatment systems 2022-2026 for public consultation. The NIP for domestic wastewater treatment systems is prepared by the EPA and implemented by water service authorities under the Water Services Act. The total number of inspections to be carried out by Clare County Council will increase from 39 to a minimum of 77 per annum as part of the 2022-2026 plan. Link to draft plan below.

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/corporate/consultations/-consultations/national-inspection-plan-2022--2026-draft-for-consultation.php>

Laboratory & Technical Support

All sampling under the following programme is complete and all data has been submitted to the relevant agencies for review.

1. Drinking Water Monitoring
2. Small Water Supply Schemes
3. Bathing Waters
4. Group Water Schemes
5. River Monitoring Programme 2021
6. Private Waste Water Treatment Systems.

Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Works have continued on site during December. Liner repair works and testing of same have been completed. Screening of the onsite material is continuing and the base layer of the Wetlands area is complete. Capping of the bottom section of the exposed liner is nearing completion.



Bring Banks

Bottle Bank Sites around the county will be monitored over the Christmas period. Additional collections have been arranged for a number of sites during this time.

Civic Amenity Sites

Sites will open between the Christmas and New Year period in order to provide a regular service to the public. Skips will be

emptied prior to this to ensure maximum capacity is available at the sites during the festive period.



Approved Waste Collectors

The links below provides waste collection and waste facility permit information provided by the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO). Offaly County Council on behalf of all Local Authorities host this web page. It provides information on Certificate of Registration Sites, Waste Facility Permit sites and Authorised Waste collectors.

We would encourage people disposing of waste to do so in an environmentally responsible manner and, as such, the public can confirm operators' credentials on the link below.

<http://www.nwcpo.ie/permitsearch.aspx>

<http://facilityregister.nwcpo.ie/>

Waste Enforcement

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan

In line with the RMCEI plan, the Waste Enforcement Team continues to carry out planned inspections. During December, the target areas were Solid Fuel Retailers, Advertising Signage and Certificate of Registration sites.

Solid Fuel Inspections

As we are still in the winter season, there is a continuing focus on businesses in the Low Smoke Zones for compliance with the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations. Inspections of both premises and of delivery vehicles by our Community Wardens is still ongoing, with the end goal of improving the quality of air in the Specified Areas.

Advertising Signage

The Community Wardens continue to contact businesses to remove advertising signage from public places, in line with the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.

Certificate of Registration Inspections

Letters were sent to 22 Certificate of Registration sites requesting records of waste quantities and types accepted during a specified period in 2021. This will ensure compliance with the Certificate of Registration conditions and provide assurance of environmental protection.

Certificates Of Registration New Applications

Under the Waste Management (Facility Permit & Registration) Regulations 2007, as amended, 3 Certificates of Registration were granted in December, bringing to 11 the number of Certificates of Registration granted in 2021. We have recorded 275% increase on the number of applications submitted last year.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter related complaints in December. A total of 87 complaints relating to litter and waste were received to date in December. All of these will be followed up and appropriate enforcement action taken if required.

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

In total 2 Notices were issued under Section 14 of the Waste

Management Act 1996, as amended in December. We also issued 7 litter fines in December, as a result of evidence found in waste by our Environment Wardens.

Dog Fouling Audio Tannoy Device

Anti-Dumping Initiative money was used to install a motion-activated, mobile tannoy device at various locations throughout the county, in response to complaints received about dog-fouling. A total of 15 different locations throughout the county have been targeted to date. The device advises the public to clean up after their dog fouls. It has proven to be a useful tool in response to complaints of Dog Fouling.

Air Quality

The EPA have requested Clare County Council to locate 5 Sulphur Dioxide monitors in specified locations around Ennis. These diffuse tube monitors will be sent to an EPA accredited laboratory for analysis and the EPA will notify the Council of results when available.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

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

Water Services Operations

Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity/work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 25th November, 2021, up to and including 16th December, 2021. The figures do not, however, reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 5 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 198 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 101 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 25 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. Of these 23 accounted for unplanned works for water outages/burst water mains and power outages, the remaining 2 relate to step testing and leak detection works.

Water Operations

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

- Ballyline Meter Install – Ennis
- Crusheen Valve install & Leak on Tulla Road
- Knocknamana – Clarecastle – Burst Watermain
- Quin Bridge leak – Burst Watermain
- Ballaghboy Doora – Burst Watermain
- College Road, Ennis – Burst Watermain

- RAL upgrade ongoing in Corofin WTP
- IW Contractor – Shareridge replacing ~800m AC watermain in Tobertaiscain, with various outages occurring as a result.
- 250m of 50mm WM being replaced by CCC area crew in Carran network – Carran PWS
- Leak Detection Works – Crusheen DMA & Sandfield DMA.

In West Clare Area

The following outages occurred:

- Watermain flushing at Liscannor and Ennistymon Town
- Watermain burst repairs at Milltown Malbay, Cloonbony, Tullabrack, Churchill-Ennistymon, Crag-Lehinch, Tullygarvan-Lehinch
- Cloonulla Reservoir inlet repairs at Killadysert PSZ
- Storm Barra power outages at Knocknagarrhoon, and at Milltown Malbay, Rockmount, Rineen, Glendine
- Electrical fault power trips at Old Doolough WTP and at Fanore-Kilmoon
- Planned ESB outages at Rockmount and Drumellihy.

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

- 30-10-21 Burst Watermain 15 inch AC Corbally
- 05-11-21 Burst Watermain SEC (Barry's Shop)
- 06-11-21 Burst Watermain Rossmadda
- 22-11-21 Burst Watermain Castlebank
- 03-12-21 Burst Watermain Ardnacrusha (Roo Road)
- 09-12-21 Burst Watermain Castlecrine to Moygalla line
- 15-12-21 Burst Watermain O'Briensbridge
- 17-12-21 Burst Watermain Sixmilebridge bridge

Moygalla and Clonmoney Reservoir Cleaning and Upgrade Works are ongoing and consist of the following:

- Reservoir bypass upgrade
- Network replacement and repair
- Inlet, mixer, outlet, and scour valve upgraded and replacement
- Spindle upgraded and replacement
- Pressure management and leak detection
- Upgrade of level control technology
- Upgrade of telemetry
- Reservoir cleaning and commissioning
- Upgrade of access road infrastructure.

Water Conservation

In November, the Leakage Find Crews continued water conservation activity in Shannon (Clonmoney Reservoir & Shannon Town) District Metering Areas (DMAs).

The Find & Fix Crews concentrated activities in West Clare with leaks repaired in Kilkee, Ballyvaughan and Ennistymon DMA. Leak detection works are currently taking place in Drumellihy Doonbeg DMA.

Wastewater Operations

EPA site audits were carried out at both Quin and Kilkishen WwTPs in December.

The diversion of the Bunratty rising main sewer commenced in November by the Shannon based crew. The works involves diverting 250m of 8" rising main from beneath the Tradaree landfill site.

Repairs and modification works to a Stehlar Wheel at Tulla WwTP commenced in late November. The 5m diameter wheel plays an important role in the wastewater treatment process. Works are due to be complete before Christmas.



Stehlar Wheel at Tulla WwTP.

Minor upgrade works commenced at the Lackyle Heights WwTP. CCC water services crews commenced the install of sludge drying beds which will assist with optimising the treatment process at the site.

Irish Water Capital programme

Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

The new scheme will comprise 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 to commence on site in January 2022. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Completion of the scheme is due in mid-2023.

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

Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

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

The tenders were assessed and a recommendation made to the Irish Water approvals committee. It was approved by Irish Water in mid-December. Construction works are anticipated to start on site in early 2022 and the project is programmed to be completed within 9 months. Temporary traffic management will be required at various times on Quay Road and on the R458 northwards to the Killadysert Road junction area.

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor wastewater treatment plant and the new pumping station is ongoing. EPS is the main Contractor. The scheme will comprise a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. At the pump station site, construction of the emergency storm storage tank is complete. In mid-December 2021 installation commenced of the rising main and gravity sewer across the regional road and on the road to the WWTP site.

Completion of the scheme is due in early 2023.

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



Construction of storm storage tank at John P Holland Park, Liscannor.

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Irish Water's design team have produced a draft route and site selection report. A topographical survey has been undertaken and land maps are in draft form. The next stages involve the production of draft site layout drawings and pre-planning discussions. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in early 2024 with completion in autumn 2025.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. Landowners were contacted by Irish Water and issued with letters in relation to topographical surveys and these surveys have taken place. Draft land and way-leave drawings have been produced. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by late 2023 with completion in mid-2025. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor.

Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

The draft Feasibility Study Report investigates various options including locations for a new plant in each town or a new combined plant which would serve both towns. Costings have been revised and Irish Water intend to schedule a Workshop 2 in early 2022 to discuss the Feasibility Study Report recommendations.

Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct a new pumped 400mm diameter rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. The design process is ongoing in relation to storm storage requirements at the treatment plant and level of treatment to be provided. A higher standard of effluent will result. The majority of the rising main route is along the R458 with the final sections along the motorway service road, which is a public road north of Dromoland east roundabout, and a land parcel owned by Clare Co Co. Pre-planning discussions will be held between Irish Water and Clare Co Co. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged during Q1 2022. Following planning, approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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

A temporary waste water treatment plant has been installed on site to cater for flows during the construction phase. Further temporary works have taken place on site in advance of construction of the permanent works. The storm storage tank and

control building are being retained for incorporation into the new treatment plant. Improvements to the existing network are also planned, the extent of which will be determined by surveys of the existing sewers. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.

Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

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

1. New Doolough Water Treatment Plant – This plant is the regional treated water source for West Clare covering the large geographical area in the county and the third largest plant by volume produced. The project will modernise the treatment technology at the plant which will allow it to achieve the desired quality of output during events which cause high turbidity at the source. Works are underway at the plant. The intended completion date is June 2022.
2. Corofin Water Treatment Plant – This plant provides water to the town of Corofin. The project will modernise the treatment processes on site which will enable production of water to the desired standard during high turbidity events in the source lake. Works are currently underway with intended completion date of June 2022.
3. Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant – This plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. The project will modernise the treatment processes at the plant as well as bringing the plant production capacity to the required level. Design work is ongoing and it is expected that construction will commence early in 2022.

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Works are to commence on site in January 2022.

Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed:

1. Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross, Athlunkard – replacement of 1,034m of 375/300mm trunk main with a 450mm diameter main will commence Q1 2022.
2. Toberteascain, Ennis – replacement of 75/125mm main with 180mm diameter main and replacement of public side services has commenced.

3. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush – replacement of 1847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main – 80% completed.
4. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór – at design stage
5. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage.

Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

Work at this location includes the construction of a new inlet works and screens, and a new storm tank. The inlet works will provide improved screening of materials coming into the plant to both protect and optimise the downstream treatment process to improve discharge standards. The stormwater tank will allow capture of flow during rainfall events for later treatment through the plant. The work will also involve the construction of a new ESB substation. The works are currently at tender stage. It is anticipated that works will start on the upgrade in early 2022.

Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

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

Ennis Drainage Area Plan

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

Asset Transfer

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

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

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (27 assets)**

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

- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (43 assets)** – This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities- 13 assets are with the NSPO for agreement for transfer or to ascertain or if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved Irish Water will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.
- **Property Registration Authority Ireland (1 assets)** – At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- **Outstanding assets to be transferred (56 assets)** – These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with the PRAI in the Council's name. These will then be transferred to Irish Water. Irish Water are examining new routes to register assets for which inadequate evidence is available to allow the PRAI to carry out a first registration in the Council's name.

Rural Water Programme

Works continue under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 with the replacement of the existing Ballinruane GWS mains progressing and this shall be completed in early 2022. Tender Submissions have been received for mains replacements works on the Dough GWS (Spanish Point) with the appointment of a contractor due in early 2022. Both of the above works fall under Measure 5 of the Programme which is for the transfer of schemes to the public network and is funded at 100%. It is hoped recent engagement with the Ranaghan and Ballycar GWS will result in upgrade works commencing in early 2022. A further 3 schemes awarded funding under the '19-'21 programme remain without works completed – Quilty Seafield GWS, Clohanes GWS and Doonmore GWS.

The compilation of bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme continues with the Clare Rural Water Programme working with a number of schemes to put applications in place for the programme. Although we are now at year's end and also at the end of the existing 3-year programme, the Department are yet to invite for bid submission for the new MARWP due to commence in January.

A further 4n GWS's submitted to IW for Taking in Charge by the Rural Water Programme have progressed to the public network at the start of December – Feenagh GWS (Sixmilebridge), Tullaher GWS (Doonbeg), Cloonoolia GWS (Mountshannon) and 2 sections of the Kildysart Coolmeen GWS. This brings the total no. of schemes taken in charge in Clare in 2021 to 18 representing a significant 93.5km of group water scheme network to transfer across to public mains. The progression to the public

network was greatly welcomed by the schemes to transfer with many wishing to progress for a number of years.

The significant number of applications under the ‘Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply’ under the Rural

Water Programme continues with applications received in 2021 now standing at 105.

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

Roadworks Programme

Works were completed on a new roundabout at the junction of Watery Road and Drehidnagower Road. These works were carried out by Mazono Ltd. as part of the adjacent housing development.



Watery Road.

Low Cost Safety Scheme – Corrovorin

The new roundabout at the Tulla Rd/ Kevin Barry Avenue junction was completed in Q4 as part of the 2021 Low Cost Safety Scheme.



Christmas in Ennis

The ‘Christmas Village’ in Abbey Street which ran over four days this year was a huge success. It was a great team effort between the organisers and various sections of the Council to ensure this event was run in a safe environment. EMD together with Ennis Chamber and Clare FM ran a competition for a ‘very important child’ which was given huge support by the business community in Ennis. Together with the Arts Office, EMD have welcomed and facilitated a number of popup music and dance performances, including a fire show at the Height on 19th December.

