



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Márta / March
2022



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p6



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES p2



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT p32



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT p14



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT p22

FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES



On 28th February, Clare County Council launched its first Innovation Strategy – Raising the banner for innovation by embracing our unique environment, people and resources to deliver for Clare.

Freedom of Information &: Data Protection:

2022 Year to date Statistics to 23/02/2022

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

- 2 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 1 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request e.g. Gardai.

Clare County Council Innovation Strategy

On February 28th 2022, Clare County Council launched its first Innovation Strategy – Raising the banner for innovation by embracing our unique environment, people and resources to deliver for Clare.

The launch was held in Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, where the Cathaoirleach Cllr PJ Ryan, Chief Executive Pat Dowling, Management Team, the Innovation Team and representatives from Ernest & Young were in attendance.

This strategy was developed through several workshops attended by the Innovation Team, Senior Team, Management Team and facilitated by Ernest & Young. Clare County Council is supporting the innovation vision set out in the Department of Enterprise and Reform's "Innovation Strategy for the Irish Public Service".

Innovation has been present, for some time across all directorates within the organisation, with several innovative projects successfully implemented. The Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us that we are often required to pivot dramatically and quickly change how we serve our public. The strategy sets out overall strategic innovative actions for implementation, as we go forward post pandemic These actions aligns closely with the priority objectives as set out in our Corporate Plan and Annual Service Delivery Plan.

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 February included:

- Announcement of Public Consultation Events for the Clare County Development Plan
- Announcement of the return of the Ennis St Patrick's Day Parade and a call for participants
- Local Authority Waters Programme Public Consultation Events
- Applications for Expressions of Interest in relocating the Púca
- Storms Dudley, Eunice, and Franklin updates.

Meeting of Shannon Group and five Local Authority Chief Executives



Pictured at a meeting of Shannon Group and Local Authority Chief Executives in February were: (back row, l-r) Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive, Galway City Council; Jim Cullen, Chief Executive, Galway County Council; Pat Daly, Chief Executive, Limerick City and County Council; Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Tipperary County Council; and (front row, l-r) Mary Considine, Chief Executive, Shannon Group; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; and Pádraig Ó Céidigh, Chairperson, Shannon Group.

Print and Graphic Design

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

Irish Language

February has been a busy month preparing for Seachtain na Gaeilge. This year's theme is 'Amuigh Faoin Aer', the 'Great Outdoors' and events will be taking place around the county. All events are free of charge. The full programme will be available from 1st March.

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 February, the Communications Office:



- Posted 42 times on Facebook, with total followers now 16,650, with 14,786 page likes. Posts earned 166,557 impressions with 13,951 engagements.



- Posted 39 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,586. Tweets earned 45,201 impressions and 1,380 engagements.



- Posted 7 times on Instagram with followers now 2,414.

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published in the period from 28th January 2022 to 21st February 2022 incl.

Short description	Notice published
Proposed Footpath Link to Tulla Athletics Club	11/02/2022
Integrated Technical Due Diligence Assessment Consultancy Services Team	06/02/2022
Quin Road Campus File Store Shelving/Racking and Lift Installation	04/02/2022
Provision of Services for Chough Pyrrhacorax, Peregrine Falco peregrinus and Seabird Surveys 2022	28/01/2022

FINANCE

Revaluation of Local Authorities deferred until 2023

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has agreed with the Commissioner of Valuation that the revaluation of rateable properties in 7 local authority areas, including County Clare, will be deferred until 2023.

The reason for this deferral is so that the impact of Covid-19 on the commercial property market can be assessed and reflected in the new valuations. The new valuations for County Clare will be published in October 2023 and will become effective for rates purposes from 2024 onwards.

The Valuation of commercial properties is an independent process outside of the Local Authority and The Valuation Office will be writing to individual ratepayers in Clare County Council, shortly to notify them of the changed timelines.

Minister Eamon Ryan visits Clare County Council



Pictured in Ennis are (l-r): Carmel Kirby, Director of Physical Development, Clare County Council; Senator Róisín Garvey, Green Party; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD; Leonore O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Ennis Municipal District; and Cllr Ann Norton, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District. Minister Ryan viewed the works on the Ennis Public Realm: Parnell Street, Laneways and Bow-ways project during his visit to Clare. Photo: Eamon Ward.

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD, was in Clare on 11th February where he visited Clare County Council projects, met with Council staff and spoke to Elected Members of the Council on climate.

During his visit to Clare, Minister Ryan viewed the works on the Ennis Public Realm: Parnell Street, Laneways and Bow-ways project. The project, which is substantially complete, represents an investment of over €5 million in Ennis Town Centre, funded through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Clare County Council.

Minister Ryan visited the Cloughleigh area of Ennis, to see work carried out to upgrade the energy performance of a typical Local Authority dwelling constructed during the 1970s.

Following a competitive tender process, the cost to provide the energy efficiency works listed was €40,000, of which €35,000 will be claimed from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government through the Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme. The post-works BER survey achieved an 'A3' BER rating.

Minister Ryan was greeted at Áras Contae an Chláir in Ennis by Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr PJ Ryan, Council Chief Executive Pat Dowling, and members of the Council's Management Team. Minister Ryan spoke with Clare County Councillors on climate in the Council Chamber. The Government's Climate Action Plan provides a plan to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and set a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.

Minister Ryan's itinerary also included a visit to Future Mobility Campus Ireland (FMCI), located in the Shannon Free Zone. FMCI been established as Ireland's first research and development centre for the future of mobility including connected autonomous vehicles, micro-mobility, smart cities, and advanced air mobility.

Speaking during the visit, Minister Ryan said: "This trip to Clare has provided a really valuable insight into how local authorities are implementing policies on climate, urban planning and business development.

"Whether it's redesigning town centres so that pedestrians and cyclists are given greater priority or retrofitting local authority housing stock to make them more comfortable and cheaper to heat, it's great to see the very real benefits that these changes are bringing for the people of Clare."

Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said: "Our meetings with Minister Ryan in Clare today were very productive and enabled us to brief the Minister on a range of issues in the county and to provide him with a first-hand view of some of the developments on the ground. I wish to thank Minister Ryan for being here today and I look forward to continued constructive engagement with the Minister and his Department in the future."

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, said: "I am very pleased to welcome Minister Ryan to County Clare today and to have the opportunity to update the Minister on progress in a number of areas. The Government's Climate Action Plan will pose both significant challenges and opportunities for the Local Authority sector and Clare County Council is committed to working with communities to deliver the step change required to meet our climate goals."

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during February:</p> <p>Eligibility Exercises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS Analyst Developer (Networks) • Fitter Plumber • Beach Lifeguard <p>Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Warden • Canteen Sporadic Cover • Senior General Services Supervisor • School Warden Panel West Clare MD <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <p>Open Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part-Time Receptionist Active Ennis, 2022 • Branch Librarian Panel, 2022 • Beach Operative Panel, 2022 • Library Assistant Panel, 2022 • Buildings Manager, 2022 <p>Confined Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Senior Engineer Panel, 2022 • Phoenix Surface Dressing Plant Driver Relief Panel, 2022
Learning and Development	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in February include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Pass • Fire Warden • 3-Day SLG Roadworks • Road Opening & Reinstatement Advanced • Road Opening & Reinstatement Basic • Health & Safety at Roadworks • Chainsaw • Forklift • Abrasive Wheels • Ride on Roller • Banksman • 1st Aid • Retirement course <p>Essential Skillz online courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security • Ergowize • GDPR • Health & Safety Induction • Manual Handling • Working in a Covid Era
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

Clare County Council announces Community Supports Scheme



Online applications are now being invited for the Community Supports Scheme 2022 which will see just under €600k being awarded under 13 separate grant support categories. Welcoming the launch of the Community Supports Scheme, Cllr PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council, stated that “this scheme will facilitate a large range of community groups, event organisers and local organisations in progressing their work and projects during 2022. The supports

available are wide-ranging and will support successful groups in the realisation of much needed projects in their respective areas in 2022.”

Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council, stated that “Clare County Council is committed to supporting and encouraging communities, voluntary groups and residents to take an active part in the development of their communities

and to improve the quality of life experience in their areas and the Community Support Scheme is a mechanism to provide this support.”

The schemes include Public Area and Amenity Enhancement, Community Development & Social Inclusion projects, Community Playgrounds, Burial Ground Maintenance & Provision, Community Wi-Fi, Best Kept Local Authority Estate, Arts & Arts Festivals, Irish Language, Christmas Lighting, Tourism Marketing and Promotion and Sustainable Tourism.

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council, said that “the scheme is very popular and supports the implementation of targeted actions of the Clare LECP (Local Economic & Community Plan) and it also aligns with the Clare Rural Development Strategy’s objective of rejuvenating rural communities across Clare over the next decade.”

“The funding allocated under the scheme, which is based on Clare County Council’s Annual Budget 2022 as adopted by the Elected Members, comprises 13 different support types,” he added. The online system will be open for applications from 9.00am, Friday, 18th February, 2022.

The closing date for submission of online applications is **5.00pm, Friday, 11th March, 2022**. Paper applications will not be accepted.

The online application system and scheme guidelines can be accessed from the website at <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/communitysupports/> or email enquiries to css@clarecoco.ie.

Fáilte Ireland site visit to Shannon Heritage Sites

On 3rd February, Donnacha as Project Lead and Head of Commercial Services hosted a site visit by Fáilte Ireland to the Shannon Heritage sites with a view to researching future capital investment needs.



Pictured at the site visit to Craggaunowen as part of the National Review of Shannon Heritage Tourism sites are Fáilte Ireland (Miriam Kennedy, Head of the Wild Atlantic Way, Paul Keeley, Director of Regional Development and Ruairi Dean, Product Development Manager) and Leonard Cleary (Director of Service), Donnacha Lynch (Due Diligence Project Lead) and Deirdre O’Shea (Council’s Head of Tourism).

Shannon Heritage Project Update

Clare County Council continues to engage with national government and Shannon Group PLC as part of a detailed and robust due diligence process to consider the potential transfer by Shannon Group PLC of Shannon Heritage (Clare-based sites) to Clare County Council as a subsidiary company.

As part of the process, experienced specialist services have been engaged to examine a range of topics including Human Resource, Operational and Financial, Property and Assets, Capital Investment, ICT, Legal and Taxation relating to the Shannon Heritage properties, namely Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Craggaunowen Bronze Age Park, Knappogue Castle & Gardens, and the retail unit within Cliffs of Moher Experience. Technical Due Diligence (TDD) reports are required as part of

the potential transfer of Shannon Heritage DAC to Clare County Council as a subsidiary company.

Clare County Council and Shannon Group are working with the relevant government departments to secure national funding for the proposed transfer.

In anticipation of national government approval, Clare County Council has commenced a recruitment process for six permanent tourism roles, the new positions will form part of a subsidiary company of Clare County Council. In relation to the impact of this transfer, Clare County Council's steering group are in regular communication and ongoing consultation with Shannon Heritage staff.

Regional Festival & Participative Events Programme 2022



The Tourism Department is pleased to announce that the Regional Festival & Participative Events Funding Support Programme 2022, funded under Fáilte Ireland, is open for online applications.

The aim of this Scheme is to support festivals and participative events in County Clare. The supported events must help to drive domestic and international tourism arrivals to Clare, win bed nights, stimulate local economic activity, and help to improve the visitor experience in the county.

Qualifying Conditions & minimum Eligibility Thresholds for 2022:

- The project must have a minimum expenditure of €10,000.
- The Festival or Participative Event should help **to attract** domestic and international visitor arrivals to County Clare.
- The festival/events must generate a minimum of 300 visitor bed nights in paid accommodation.
- The festival or event must take place during 2022.
- The Festival & Events Programme must include high-quality content and design.
- The event must have appropriate insurance cover.
- The Festival/Event must have an online presence with up-to-date information.
- The Festival/Event will take into account the actions needed to minimise the impact on the environment (e.g. minimising/eliminating single use materials etc).

Applications forms must be completed **ONLINE**.

Online applications can be made from **9am on Thursday, 17th February, 2022**.

The closing date for submission of online applications is **5pm, on Friday, 4th March, 2022**.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022



The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has recently launched a major €15 million fund that will support dozens of outdoor adventure projects across the country. The 2022 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) will provide funding for the development of new and existing natural amenities that facilitate outdoor recreation in the rural countryside. These amenities include mountain, lake, beach, bog, walkway, greenways and Blueway amenities. The scheme is part of the Government’s Action Plan for Rural Development and is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with Fáilte Ireland.

The 2022 scheme will provide investment ranging from €30,000 for small scale projects and up to €500,000 for large scale projects under the 4 project measures as set out below.

	Grant Level	Max No of applications
Measure 1 – Small Scale Repair/upgrade Works	Up to 30k	7
Measure 2 – Medium Scale Repair & Upgrade works and development of new trails	Up to 200k	3
Measure 3 – Large Scale Repair & Upgrade works and development of new trails	Up to 500k	1
Measure 4 – Project Development - Development Costs for strategic large-scale projects	Up to 50k	1

Community Groups who have a potential project that aligns with the Scheme requirements should in the first instance discuss same with the Rural and Community Development Officer (RCDO) for their respective area. Expressions of interest will be shortlisted and developed into funding applications for onward submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

All necessary consent must be in place at the time of making a funding application, i.e. planning permissions, landowner consents, insurance etc. In designated areas such as SACs, SPAs, etc, any necessary AA screening and other ecological assessments must be in place prior to submitting an application for funding.

Further details are available on the Council’s website.



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



Council staff support the Going Well Initiative

The Rural and Community Development Officers have recently engaged with the Clare Going Well project, which is run through the Micheal Cusack Centre. The programme coordinator has reached out to the RCDOs to generate contacts for the pilot community roll out of this Council and GAA supported initiative. A small pool of communities are participating in the pilot, which will inform future community delivery. With a focus on wellbeing, overall health and community, this pilot should be a great learning opportunity for

participants and the programme delivery team. The RCDOs wish all pilot project members well and look forward to learning about the outcomes in the future.

Overall the four Rural & Community Development Officers continue to generate positive connections across County Clare, with new organisations and communities contacting the team on a regular basis. Lately the RCDOs met with members of the new Clare HSE Health Promotion team to discuss how they could work together in supporting communities across Clare. The team continue to work with Councillors

Joint Policing Committee



The Clare Joint Policing Committee was held online on 21st February, 2022. JPC members from the Council, Gardaí, Community, Oireachtas, and elected Members attended both in-person and virtually along with members of the media. Chief Supt. Collieran presented a comparison of crime statistics from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022, noting that some of the figures had increased due to a high level of reporting to Gardaí. Advice from the Gardaí was sought by a member of the Older People's Council about scam phone calls, texts and emails. This provoked a lot of discussion between JPC members and Garda management.

Bernadette Dunne from Task Community Care gave a presentation on the Telehealth devices they supply to the Senior Alert Scheme. The Senior Alert Scheme is the only Government funded scheme currently to supply devices to those who are vulnerable in their home. Bernadette explained this could be elderly people, farmers living in social isolation or those living in a domestic abuse situation. The presentation was welcomed by JPC members and generated a lot of discussion and questions about the scheme.



New signage has been erected in a number of Clare County Council’s lawn cemeteries. The Council operates a lawn cemetery policy in 6 of its Burial Grounds, namely:

- Illaunmanagh
- Ballycannon
- Quin
- Scariff (new)
- Ennistymon (new)
- Parts of Drumcliff (Section E).

A Lawn Cemetery has a different layout from traditional burial grounds. It is designed to ensure ease of accessibility and maintenance. In accordance with Council bye-laws, owners of a right of burial in a lawn cemetery are not permitted to place items on the grave that would impede access and the safe cutting of grass. As we approach grass cutting season, the Burial Grounds unit will be encouraging all patrons of these Burial Grounds to assist Clare County Council throughout the grass cutting season

by removing any items from the surface of graves which may impede the grass cutting contractors.

The Lawn Cemetery model is a method of ensuring that the final resting place of our loved ones continues to be maintained for future generations, while also ensuring accessibility to the burial ground for family/visitors alike.



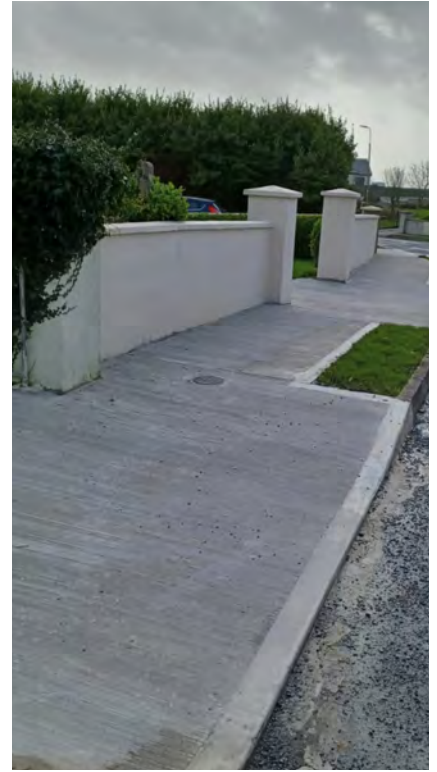
WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



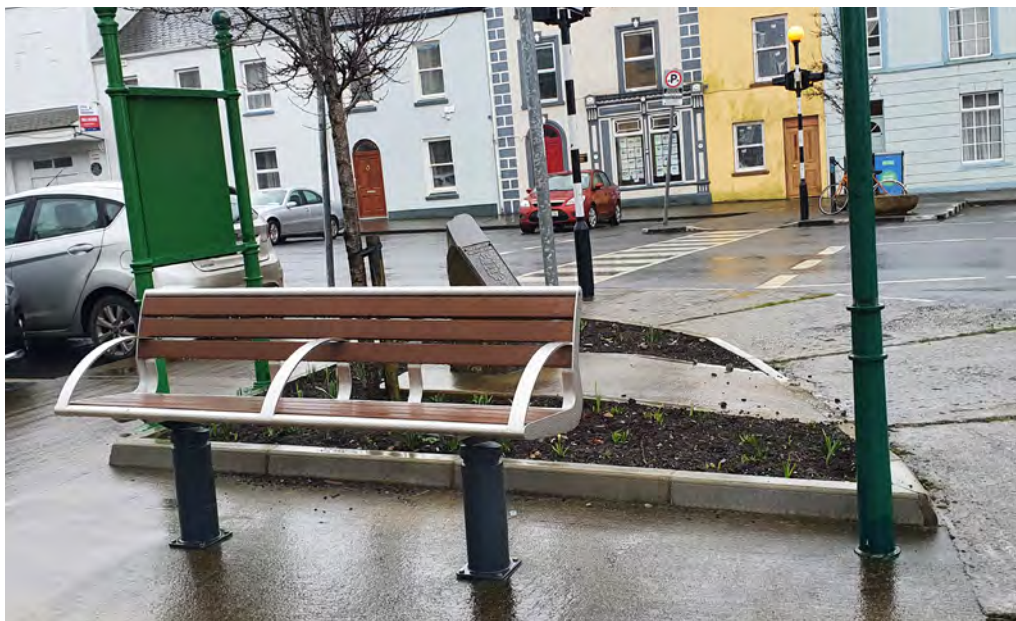
Active Travel - Disability Access, Kilkee.



Active Travel - New Footpaths in Kilmihil.



Active Travel - New footpaths in Shannon Heights, Kilrush.



Active Travel - New bench at Frances St, Kilrush as a result of a Walkability Study.



Removal of tree blocking R473 as a result Storm Franklin by the West Clare MD outdoor crew.



Further progress on the Fáilte Ireland Discovery Trail Project with the installation of the Doorway in Corofin.



Provision of bike rack, bike repair station and message board on the Miltown Road Carpark, Lahinch under the Eurovelo Route project.

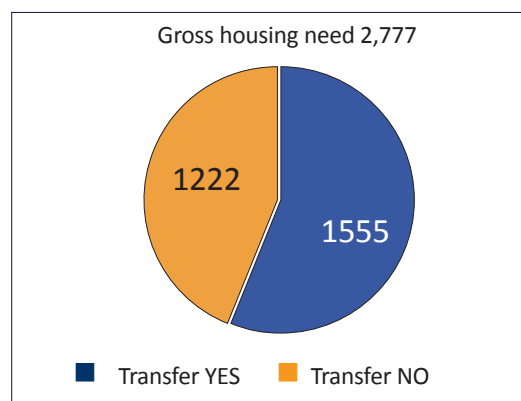
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

February was a month of storms, increased costs, uncertainty and change. March begins with hope that the pandemic is behind us and worry over the emerging situation in Ukraine.

The business of the local authority continues at pace with the housing public counter open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. This arrangement is to continue for the foreseeable as it enables staff to deal with the significant back office workload. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 or 065 6849403 to schedule same.

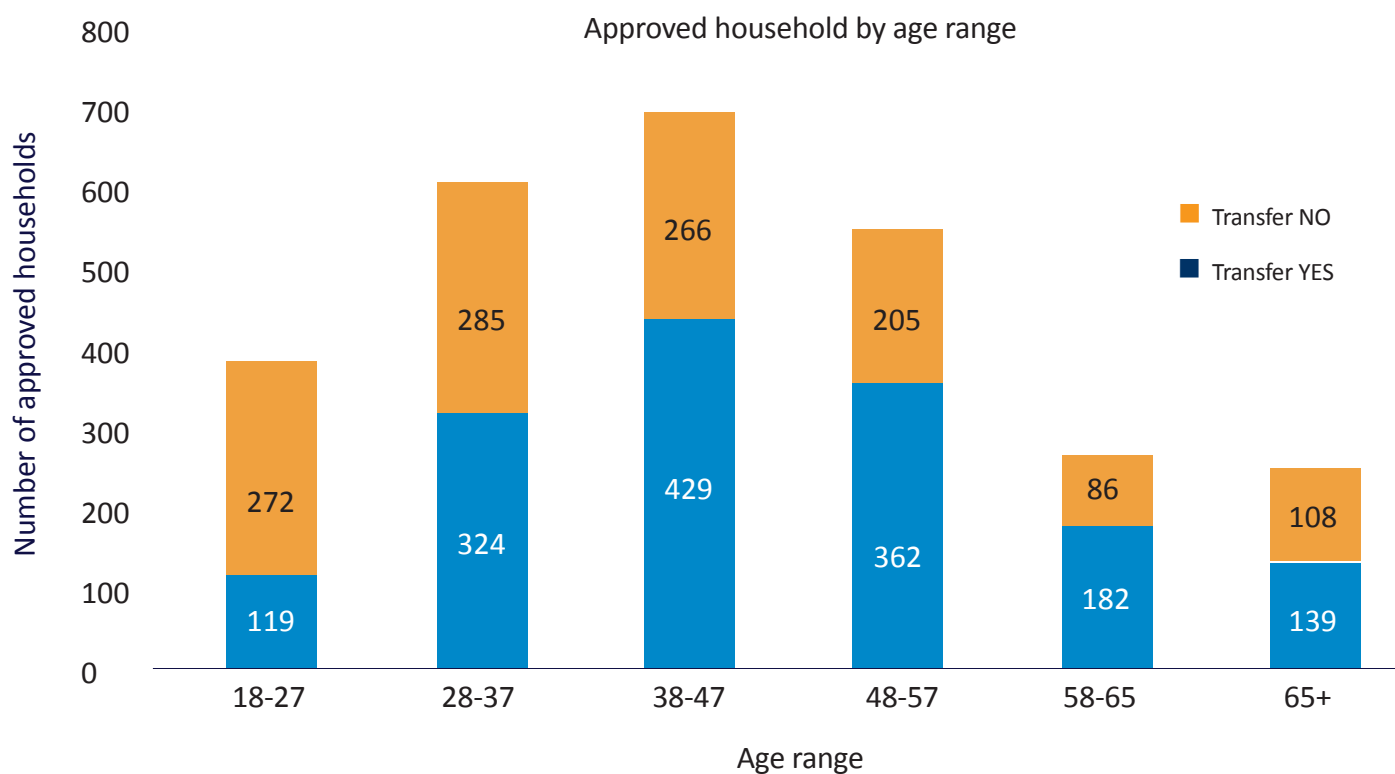
Housing need as of 24/02/2022



Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	BEDS APPROVED					Grand Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	
CLARECASTLE		126	26	11	1	164
CLONLARA		13	6	1		20
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	2	31	9	1		43
COROFIN/RUAN		48	23	2		73
ENNIS	5	900	180	65	2	1152
ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH		129	29	4		162
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE		112	29	5		146
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY		25	3	2		30
KILFENORA		6	2			8
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT		67	10	1		78
KILLALOE		52	8	3		63
KILMALEY		9	3			12
KILMIHIL		9	6	3		18
KILRUSH		91	29	8		128
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN		37	8	4		49
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY		77	40	10		127
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY		67	12	7		86
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS		66	13	5		84
QUIN		16	8	1		25
SHANNON		176	22	13		211
SIXMILEBRIDGE		37	6	7		50
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD		38	8	2		48
Grand Total	7	2132	480	155	3	2777

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



BASIS OF NEED	BEDS APPROVED					Grand Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	
Concluded that Mortgage is uns		25	2	6		33
Currently Dependent on Rent Su	1	1247	348	75	1	1672
Disability requirement - intel	3	76	3	5		87
Disability requirement - menta		60	6	2		68
Disability requirement - physi	1	110	16			127
Disability requirement - senso		3	3			6
Exceptional Medical or Compass		63	16	18		97
Homeless, Institution, Emergen	1	88	16	2		107
Involuntary Sharing	1	305	37	7		350
Overcrowded		72	26	29	2	129
Unfit		32	3	5		40
Unsuitable - Particular Househ		51	4	6		61
Grand Total	7	2132	480	155	3	2777

Housing allocations	
Offers issued (from 24.1.2022 to 22.2.2022)	69
Offers refused	2
Tenancies signed up	38
Tenancies terminated	8

Municipal District	PROPERTY STATUS			Total
	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	
Ennis MD	5	1181	31	1217
Killaloe MD		372	8	380
West Clare MD	1	930	41	972
Shannon MD	2	664	10	676
Grand Total	8	3147	90*	3245

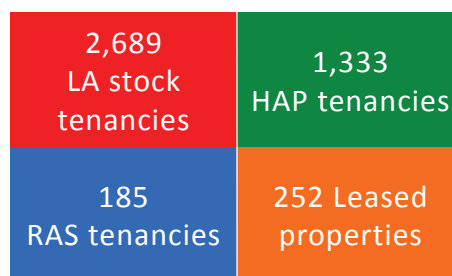
Housing Tenancies

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

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD
Traveller accommodation	4	6	2	0
Derelict properties	1	1	0	1
Projects	4	7	0	0
Casual vacancies	23	27	8	7
TOTAL	31	41	10	8

Average cost of returning casual vacancies to stock in February was €18,542 with an average vacancy period of 120 days



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.

	Feb to date	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	530	1,014

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

Private Rented inspections

The agreed target for private rented inspections to be undertaken by this Council in 2022 is 1,025. This equates to approximately 20% of the registered tenancies as per the RTB database (5128 registered tenancies in Clare as of the 1st June 2021). During the month of February to date 24 virtual inspections and 36 physical inspections of properties were undertaken. A significant ramping up of inspections is necessary to achieve the target set for 2022.

Housing Grants

Grants Approved for February 2022:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	11	142,853
Housing Aid for Older People	18	76,750
Mobility Aids Grant	25	122,692
Total	54	342,295

Grant approvals continue to issue based on the notification that up to 65% of the final grant allocation for 2021 can be committed pending official notification of 2022 grant allocation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Local Authority Home Loan

Demand for the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) remains strong since the relaunch of the Local Authority Home Loan on the 4th January 2022.

Full details on eligibility criteria as well as a Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on www.localauthority-homeloan.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 21st January to 17th February 2022: 2 households exited from homeless services to Local Authority Allocations.

Homeless presentations from 21st January to 17th February 2022:

New presentations	12
Repeat presentations	52
Total Presentations	64

Status as of 17th February 2022:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	7	10	1
Westbrook	0	17	0	1
Ashford Court	8	13	14	1
EA Families	1	1	1	1
EA Individuals	0	5	0	5
TOTAL	14	56	25	10

Vacant properties

In line with the commitment to addressing dereliction and vacancy in Clare the vacant homes unit is continuing to seek

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ownership details on a number of properties that have been identified as potential long term vacant residential dwellings in each MD. The Capital team has carried out inspections on 4 potential properties during February. The team are also considering the CPO process under the Housing Act for one vacant property.

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

Status as at 21/02/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	4		
Killaloe	5		1
West Clare	7	4	
Shannon	1		
TOTAL	17	4	1

Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Shauntraud Woods, Killaloe	4	Turnkey nearing completion.	-	Q1 2022
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Under Construction.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
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
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Part VIII Decision – 14th Feb. 2022	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.	Q2 2022	Q1 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Await determination by ABP.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	Q3 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH.	Q4 2023	Q1 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 1 approved.	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. Procuring Design Team	Q3 2022	Q3 2023
Subtotal	246			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V – sale to close shortly.	Q3 2020	Q1 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction 9 to be delivered Q4 2022 15 to be delivered Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	55	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) 15 units to be delivered in Q1 2022 40 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q2 2021 Q4 2021	Q1 2022 Q3 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction to commence	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVery Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Subtotal	135			
Total	381			

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Tim Smyth 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 personal responsibility with regard to their safety and the safety of others. All clubs and patrons are requested to leave facilities as they find them.

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



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 **Clare County Library**

Clare County Council was delighted to be awarded funding under the Sports Capital Grants announced on the 11th February last. Active Kilrush was awarded a grant of €71,824 for the development of a multi-use games area (MUGA) and Active Ennis was awarded a grant of €59,870 to upgrade the synthetic running track at John O’Sullivan Park, Lee’s Road. Work on the design of these projects will commence in the coming months as match funding is secured and resources become available to commence the detail design.

Active Ennis Leisure Complex

The leisure complex is now fully reopened with clubs and classes making a welcome come back. Swimming lessons have resumed as has much of the ‘normal’ activity within the facility. Up to date information on classes and activities can be found on www.activeennis.ie

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

Smart Phone classes for older people resumed in a number of libraries (De Valera, Ennistymon, Kilrush, Scariff and Shannon) this month. Some libraries are providing the classes in partnership with LCETB tutors and the local Resource Centre, the remaining are being provided by library staff.

30 deliveries and contact & collect service were provided this month.

Online Resources usage for previous month – e-audiobooks most popular

1,483 E-Books	2,609 E-Audiobooks	698 E-Magazines
688 Online courses	1774 Press Reader	70 Transparent Languages

Marketing

Social media stats for previous month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/Retweets/Reach	Comments
	36	5495	63	177	32	0
	15	1988	64	280	76	0
	17	1597	57	442	10,244	11

Total number of live events	20
Total number of online events	3
Total attendances at live events	107
Total attendances at online events	18



Little Library storytelling series in Corofin Library

Right to Read

As part of the Ireland Reads Day initiative, The **“Little Library”** is bringing a new series of storytelling events to Early Learning Centres and Crèches throughout February. The **“Little Library”** supports Early Learning Centres and School age childcare services to further develop little libraries in their settings with quality book titles in English and Irish. The focus of this initiative is to support early language and literacy development among children and build strong links between ELC and SAC services and libraries. During February ELCs accessed a range of storytelling events from local Clare story tellers who visited the care centres around the county in person or via the web. Library staff also visited local ELCs to read stories and tell the children about the library and invited them to visit the library.

Work Matters

A job skills workshop took place in Shannon Library this month. Further Job skills training is currently being planned.

Healthy Ireland

Three Healthy Ireland events were delivered online. Colette Nagle, yoga teacher, delivered an online class to 7 children from the North Clare Direct Provision Centre and she delivered 2 online classes to children aged 7 years and upwards during mid-term break on the 24th & 25th February. Colette combines mindfulness with yoga, whereby children derive great enjoyment and benefits such as enhanced flexibility, strength, co-ordination and body awareness.

Creative Ireland

The annual call out for submissions for the Creative Ireland Project Award was advertised in February. A total of 50

applications were received from artists, heritage groups, community groups and schools. Projects covered the themes of well-being of communities, cultural heritage and traditions, sense of place, heritage, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) and climate change.

Decade of Centenaries

The Decade of Centenaries Project Awards were granted in February. Grants were allocated to eleven projects focused on the commemoration of the revolutionary period in Clare. The awardees are the East Clare Memorial Committee for interpretative panels in East Clare Memorial Park in Tuamgraney, Killaloe-Ballina Local History Society for their summer lecture series and publication, Inis Cathaigh Kilrush Comhaltas for a Commemorative Concert, West Clare War of Independence Committee for a publication, Cnoc na Gaoithe, Tulla for their Liam Mellows project, Tulla Reaching Out for their Tulla Workhouse project, Lissycasey Historical Committee for their Remembrance Day and Time Capsule Project with local schools, Martin Bourke of Cratloe for his project on Nan Hogan, Clare Roots Society for their Garda commemoration and finally, Joe Ó Muircheartaigh for a radio documentary on Liam Mellows and his Clare connections. Decade of Centenaries funding is sourced from the Commemorations Unit of the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Clare Archives:

Letters from the Canon Philip Dwyer Collection dating from 1884-1947 have been added to the Clare Library photographic archives website. An application has been made to the Heritage Council to secure funding for preservation materials to accommodate a large archival collection which has been donated to the archives.

Each month the Archives Service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view material in the local studies library from the archives’ collection. An article by Rosita Boland, Irish Times was published pertaining to Our Lady’s Hospital Archival Collection. The digitisation project continues, a mechanical difficulty had caused a slight pause however this has now been rectified. The archive service’s building accommodation needs to be reviewed. The archivist is currently carrying out an inventory of the collections and the pending accruals it is to receive and the impact on collections and their preservation and accessibility.

Clare Arts Office



Fionn Angus from Fionnathan with Cllr. PJ Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council at the launch of the Embrace Associate Artist Programme. Photo: Maurice Gunning.

Flutterby, an initiative with Fidget Feet Dance Company, took place in the Market Building in Ennis and throughout the streets of Ennis, aimed at small children during the mid-term break. Artists Zara Starr and Shona MacGillivray began working with 7 people in the Dulick Centre, Ennis through the Embrace Programme for Arts and Different Abilities, whilst Shona MacGillivray completed a residency with 11 children in St. Anne's Special School. Fionnathan were appointed as Associate Artists on the Embrace Arts & Disability Scheme. Three residencies began in Boston NS, Cahermurphy NS and Stonehall NS with three artists working with 60 children.

Clare Arts Office assisted with 2 filming requests for productions in Fanore and the Burren as well as assisting in pre-production for locations for Smother Series 3. We launched a call with Screen Ireland to members of the public interested in making their private lands / buildings available for filming in, in the county. Clare Arts Office issued a call for 3 art commissions to take place as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme. Four exhibitions took place in Scariff, Ennis and Kilkee.

Clare Youth Theatre attended a gallery talk in Limerick City Gallery of Art. Clare Arts Officer participated in Age & Opportunity's Gathering event – offering one to one advice in 3 clinics.

Clare Arts Office social media pages and groups had 184 posts, receiving 557 reactions to posts, and the social media pages had a reach of 5,552. Six news items and 8 events were added to the website.

Clare Museum

Clare County Council members adopted the following documents required for maintenance of MSPI accreditation at the February meeting:

- Strategic Management Plan
- Work Plan for 2022,
- Disaster Plan
- Care of Collections Strategy

Once a copy of the minutes of adoption are submitted to the Heritage Council, the way is clear for the museum to receive its maintenance of accreditation certificate.

Research on the Kathleen Griffin autograph book was completed from the 1917 East Clare By-election. The Museum is now in a position to consider how to promote the autograph book and how to make the research available for this unique item. An application was submitted to the Heritage Council for funding for a new accessible website. If the application is successful, the museum will only have to provide 20% of the required funding. Successful applicants will receive notification in mid-April and the website will have to be online by mid-September.

A number of items were donated to the museum collection in the past month, including two pairs of RIC handcuffs, and an original certificate of donation related to the fund raising for the Manchester Martyrs statue in Kilrush. There were 11 social media posts during the month. Photography of the collection continued during the month with c 200 photographs taken.



KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Work is ongoing on the finalisation of the Schedule of Municipal District works for 2022. This programme is to be presented for adoption at the Killaloe MD meeting in March. The programme will focus on priorities as detailed in the PSCI and as identified by Councillors across the MD.

Tulla Footpaths

Works began on the upgrade of footpaths in Tulla town. Works will be ongoing throughout February, March and April. A separate Active Travel project, linking the town to the Athletics club has been tendered. It is hoped that this project will commence during the summer. The total spend on these infrastructural upgrade projects amounts to circa €0.5million.

Quin Footpaths and Public Realm:

Works are continuing in Quin on the upgrade of existing footpaths and the construction of new footpaths in the village. The works will result in inclusive pedestrian connectivity throughout the village.



Quin Village works

Kilmurry Footpath Works

Work to upgrade footpaths and provide better connectivity to the school have been completed in Kilmurry.



Kilmurry Village works

Active Travel 2021: Killaloe MD Programme.

Project	Status
Tulla footpath remediation	Contract started February 2022
Tulla connection to athletics grounds	Project out to Tender
Droomindoora	Design complete, Tender preparation
Quin	Contract works ongoing
Clariford Park Connection	At Tender
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Works Complete

Weather Events

Storm Eunice and Storm Franklin weather events hit Clare in February 2020. The MD crews were active in the clean-up of many roads around East Clare resulting from the high winds. The Fire Service also attended to a number of call outs in the East Clare area.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI)

Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

The inclusion of the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre as a specific Action (Action 5.5) in the new Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for the Mid-West is a significant commitment by Enterprise Ireland to the development of a world class Maritime Training facility in West Clare. The SEI team have now completed an

in-depth analysis in terms of the Operational Model, VAT and Corporation Tax which would be applicable to the establishment of the Training Centre. In tandem, the potential options in terms of the Agreement Type and Operating Model have also been through a rigorous examination in line with the Public Spending Code. The final drawings are also now completed together with all Planning, Environmental and Flood related reports.

MID-WEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN TO 2024		
Action 5.5: Establish a world class Marine, Renewable, Science and Climate Change Centre in Kilrush.		
Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Clare Maritime Economic Zone DAC led by Clare County Council	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Enterprise Ireland industry-partners others	Q3, 2022
<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Two of the three County Clare blackspots identified by the 2017 Census were in the West Clare towns of Kilrush and Kilkee. Clare Maritime Economic Zone in Kilrush (Clare MEZ) is an initiative by Clare County Council to provide specialist infrastructure, accommodation and development space for a range of different maritime related niche businesses. This will enable significant enterprise growth not only in Kilrush but also in the wider West Clare area.</p> <p>It delivers on the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan, which provides a framework for development along the Shannon Estuary and seeks to realise the objectives specifically relating to the maritime industry, renewable energy, tourism and research.</p> <p>The Vision for the facility is to create a vibrant, publicly accessible, world-class educational, training and cultural/tourism centre specialising in Marine, Renewable, Science and Climate Change. The project will restore a derelict building at the heart of the maritime infrastructure located at Kilrush Marina, refocusing the site and the wider area, on the opportunities provided by its location on the Shannon Estuary. This will provide economic, rural development and social benefit to West Clare in a manner that respects the historical maritime connection which Kilrush and West Clare has to the Estuary and the wider Atlantic Ocean.</p> <p>The training facility will deliver new job creation opportunities for the local community and act as an economic stimulus with wider regional positive impacts offering new opportunities on a significant natural asset unique to the region and to Ireland. The facility proposed is to be designed, built and equipped to enable it to satisfy the requirements to achieve accreditation by international training bodies. These include OPITO (Oil and Gas), IMO STCW (Maritime) and GWO (Global Wind Organisation) while also being suitable for training numerous other emergency and rescue scenarios.</p> <p>The facility will be the only facility in Ireland, solely dedicated to the STCW, OPITO and GWO standards. Its remit will be to cater for the safety training of multiple sectors to ensure safe transit home for all workers. Its focus will be to train and upskill workers locally, nationally and internationally. This will make it highly desirable as a "one stop shop" for training on the international stage.</p>		
<p>Action Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site preparations commence. • Clare MEZ open and operational with delegates attending for courses. 		

While the application for RRDF funding announced in January was unsuccessful the project specific feedback received on the application from the Department will be utilized to inform a

further RRDF funding application under Category 1 which will be made in April 2022.

SIFP for Shannon Estuary

Offshore renewable energy

ESB Moneypoint have commenced pre-application consultations with An Bord Pleanála in relation to the establishment of a fabrication facility for the construction and assembly of floating offshore wind turbines at Moneypoint ESB generating station at Moneypoint. The consultation is in accordance with section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. This is an extremely positive first step in the planning process for the future development of the Offshore Renewable Energy sector off of the Clare coast and more specifically for the enabling infrastructure which will be required on the northern shore of the Shannon Estuary at Moneypoint to realise this significant economic opportunity. Clare County Council will continue to assist where possible with this application process.

Shannon Estuary Taskforce

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment issued a call for expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals for membership of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce on 22nd February. To fulfil the commitment in the Programme for Government, the Terms of Reference for the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce are to:

1. Assess the strategic strengths and comparative advantages of the Shannon Estuary from an investment and enterprise development perspective, in a national and international context;
2. Scope potential areas of opportunity for the Shannon Estuary and specify policy and investment requirements to exploit those areas of potential;
3. Assess the current connectivity of the region and make recommendations as to how this could be enhanced;
4. Specify the actions required from national and local government, as well as from other stakeholders, to exploit those areas of potential; and
5. Produce a Report and associated Action Plan with specific steps in areas of potential.

The Taskforce Report will be presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. It will subsequently be considered by Government. There will be a programme of engagement with the relevant local authorities as part of the Taskforce's work.

Clare County Council has led the development of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary which identified strategic locations/areas of opportunity in a sustainable environmentally led manner. Clare as the lead Local Authority has driven the implementation of the SIFP to the benefit of all areas of the estuary. Clare County Council through the CE/Economic Directorate will apply to be a member on the Estuary Task Force to ensure County Clare's vision for the Estuary is protected, maximised, and prioritised in the Task Force process and final report.

Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

Following the adoption by the elected members of Shannon Municipal District on 18th January, edits to the plan and the conclusion of the Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment documents continued in February.

Roche Masterplan

Following the grant in early February 2021, of a 10-year planning permission for the phased demolition and remediation of the Roche Facility in Clarecastle, work has now commenced on the preparation of background studies and the consideration of the scope of a future Roche Masterplan. The preparation of the Masterplan will be informed significantly by the preparation and outcome of the Draft Clare County Development Plan and the development and remediation on site. Engagement with Roche and the Clarecastle community on the scope of the proposed masterplan is continuing. Screening for both Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment have now also been completed and are due for consultation with the Statutory Environmental Authorities this month.

FORWARD PLANNING

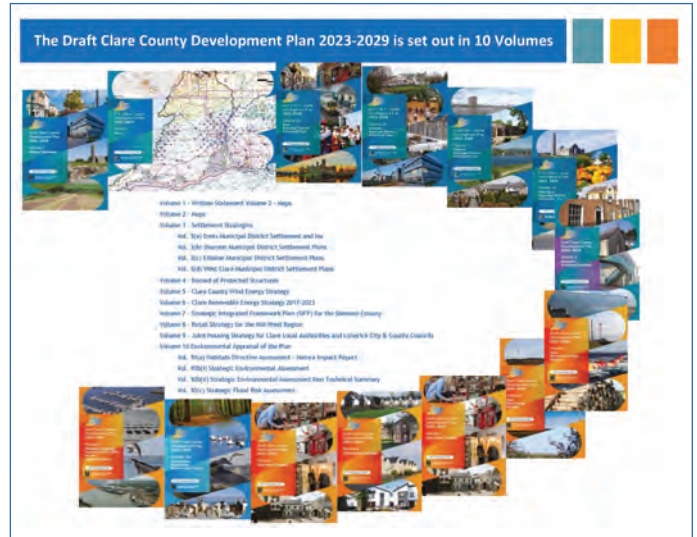
Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The public consultation process for the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 has continued throughout February with 6 out of a total of 9 consultation events held to date.

The turnout for these events has been very positive with over 420 participants. The Forward Planning Team will man a stand dedicated to the Draft Clare County Development Plan on St Patrick's Day to further raise awareness and provide an opportunity for people to have their say. The displays provide information on key policy areas included within the 10 volumes of the Draft Plan including renewable energy, housing, towns and villages, economic development etc. Guidance on the development plan process and how to make a submission is also readily available.

Those attending the consultation events represent varying interests including individual, business and community interests and the events provided a valuable forum for answering questions and providing information on the Draft Plan.

An extensive media campaign is ongoing and has included media articles and advertisements in *The Clare Champion* and *Clare*



Is there anything you think should be changed? If so, it's important that you let us know...

Submissions to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029

Submissions and observations with respect to Volumes 1-10 of the Draft Clare County Development Plan may be made in writing to:

- **Online:** <https://clarecdp2023-2029.clarecoco.ie/make-a-submission/>
- **In writing to:** Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, Planning Department, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare, V95 DXP2
- **By Email to:** devplan@clarecoco.ie Subject headline should read 'Submission to Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029'

The deadline for receipt of submissions/observations is 4pm on Monday 28th March 2022. Please note late submissions will not be considered.

Please make your submission by one medium only.

NB: As this is a public consultation process, submissions may be made available for public viewing and consequently personal details such as address, e-mail address or phone number should be submitted on a separate sheet accompanying any submission or observation.

Your participation is crucial

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS on the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will take place throughout the County as follows, subject to Covid-19 guidance in place at the time:

<p>LISDOONVARNA PAVILLION, Lisdoonvarna Tuesday 25th January 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>	<p>CLARECASTLE COMMUNITY HALL, Clarecastle Thursday 3rd February 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>
<p>ENNIS SCOUT HALL (beside Ennis Parish Office), Station Road, Ennis Wednesday 26th January 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>	<p>KILMIHIL COMMUNITY HALL, Kilmihil Tuesday 8th February 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>
<p>CLONLARA COMMUNITY SPORTS & LEISURE CENTRE, Clonlara Thursday 27th January 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>	<p>TULLA CULTURAL CENTRE, Tulla Wednesday 9th February 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>
<p>KILKEE COMMUNITY HALL, Killee Tuesday 1st February 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>	<p>NEWMARKET ON FERGUS COMMUNITY HALL, Newmarket on Fergus Thursday 10th February 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>
<p>KILLALOE HOTEL & SPA, Killaloe Wednesday 2nd February 2022 4.00-8.00pm</p>	

#haveyoursay

COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Volume 5: Clare Renewable Energy Strategy 2023 - 2029.

- Solar Energy
- Marine Renewables
- Offshore Wind
- Energy Storage
- Renewable Transport
- Community Energy
- Biomass
- Renewable Heat

Energy Demand has grown by 5.5% from 2010 to 2020.

Community Energy

- Installation of individual and community scale renewable energy projects;
- 22 'Sustainable Energy Communities' already in Clare;
- Potentially a significant contribution to achieving Clare and national renewable energy targets;
- Growing support from Government through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

Wind Energy Strategy

To be reviewed in accordance with the forthcoming national Wind Energy Guidelines.

Clare seeks to enhance its existing position as a location for renewable energy production and as a leading contributor to national targets:

- Total electricity demand in Clare in 2020 was 722 Gwh.
- Total renewable electricity generated in Clare was 721 Gwh.

Echo, radio interviews and daily community diary announcements over the three week period of the consultation events, as well as a Council social media campaign and dissemination of information on the consultation events to the PPN, parish councils and schools throughout the county.

The students of Scarriff Community College who participated in



the pre-draft public consultation process, which culminated in a virtual discussion on their submission with the Killaloe Elected Members will get the opportunity to see how their submission has been considered in preparing the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 when they visit the Council Chamber in person on 6th March.

Over 80 written submissions have been received so far and the deadline for receiving submissions is the 28th March, 2022. 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.

Sixmilebridge Town Centre Masterplan

Funding of €100,000 has recently been allocated to Clare County Council under Phase 1 of the Government’s Town Centre First Policy to prepare a Town Centre Masterplan for Sixmilebridge town centre and immediate surrounds.

The masterplan will provide a co-ordinated approach to developing a vision for the town and will include a detailed study of the area and identification of key projects and actions which will revitalise the town centre, for example, the refurbishment/

repurposing of vacant/derelict buildings, development of key underutilised town centre sites, traffic management, place-making etc. The masterplan will be key to leveraging additional funding from multiple funding streams including the Government’s Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), Town and Village Renewal Scheme etc. and will ensure a co-ordinated programme of investment for the town into the future. A brief for the preparation of the masterplan is currently underway.

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 the award-winning Hall McKnight Architects has been appointed. The design team commenced the design process in February, and this is heavily informed by the findings of the first stage of public consultation and baseline research. The design process will continue into March.

The Manchester Martyrs Monument

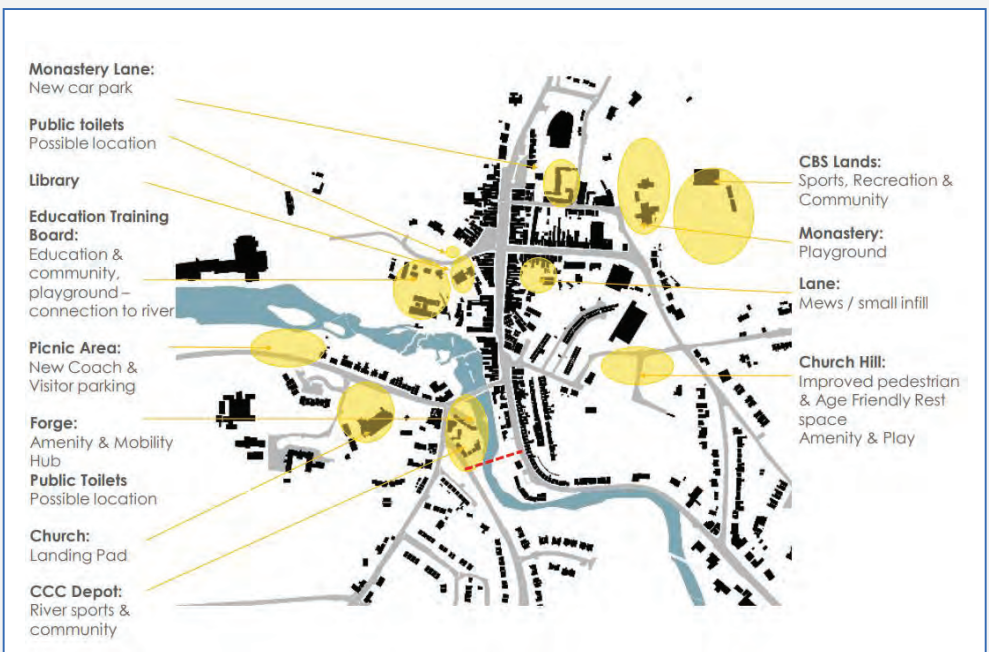
The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush will be repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Mid-West Lime Ltd have been appointed to carry out the repair works on site. Works on this important monument continued through February. The wrought iron railings are being repaired off site by a specialist heritage blacksmith. The repair of the stonework will commence in late February, and this will continue into March.

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 design team has been

Ennistymon Enhancement Plan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon Enhancement plan. The steering group met in February, where the Design Team presented initial design proposals. Public consultation continues to be a key part of the project and the Design Team will hold its second public consultation event in Ennistymon at the end of February, where it will present initial design proposals to the local community.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning applications during the month of February up to and including 25th February, 2022, and also gives the year to date totals. To date the number of applications received is in line with 2021. However, the number of decisions issued in the year to date is ahead of the same period in 2021 by 24, with a lot of applications received pre Christmas decided upon in this period.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	February 2022 up to & incl 25/2/2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	111	172
No. of Planning Decisions made	86	171
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	2	6
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	24	37
No. of Section 5 applications	7	14
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	4	7
Submissions received regarding Compliance	39	75

Planning Enforcement

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

LANNING ENFORCEMENT	February 2022 (up to 24/2/22)	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	12	23
No of Files Opened	1	7
No. of Warning Letters issued	3	11
No. of Enforcement Notices served	0	1
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	0
No. of Enforcement files closed	1	1

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP)

The Heritage Officer is applying for National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) funding to undertake biodiversity projects in Clare County Council, including the following in order of priority:

1. Clare County Council Invasive Alien Species (IAS) online web resource in collaboration with the Clare County Council Environment Section.
2. Review of the extent of the Knotweed species and Giant Hogweed problem and elimination programme undertaken by the Municipal Districts Offices in Clare County Council.
3. Habitat re-survey with a focus on fens and geological features of conservation value in the Ennis Municipal District
4. Survey of rare, threatened, and characteristic plants of the Burren 2022. The project aims to determine the current distribution, abundance, and conservation status of these plants of the Burren. The work will extend work carried out in 2021, where 30 species were recorded, and an additional 35 species will be recorded in 2022.
5. Clare Barn Owl survey and nest box project.
6. A study of the Quagga mussel in the Shannon catchment: distribution, ecology, and risk of dispersal.

Reading your local landscape course

We are recruiting participants to begin Reading your Local Landscape course, which is starting in March in Miltown Malbay. This is the seventh time this course has been offered in Clare and is a collaboration between Clare County Council and the Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board and funded by Clare Creative Ireland.

The course consists of a series of modules delivered through lectures, case studies and field trips to sites of interest within the local area (indicated by red outline in map), group research and discussion.

This course aims to provide the participants with:

- A knowledge and understanding of the natural, built, and cultural resources of the study area
- The necessary skills to undertake further research and work in local heritage interpretation
- Opportunities to identify landscape resources which could be utilised to enhance your employment opportunities.

Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual



Presentation and discussion on the Clare Biodiversity programme and the role of the Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual at the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting in February.

Pictured is Minister Eamon Ryan launching the Clare Biodiversity Best Practice Manual on his visit to Clare.

Community Foundation for Ireland Environment and Nature Fund

Twelve community groups in Clare have received support to employ an ecologist and develop Biodiversity Plans under Community Foundation for Ireland Environment and Nature Fund in 2022.

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022

At least fifteen Clare communities received support in applying for the Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2022 in February.

Heritage and Biodiversity community funding opportunities still current include the following:

1. LAWPRO to extend the deadline of the Community Water Development Fund (CWDF) to Tuesday, 15th March, at 12 noon from the original deadline of Tuesday, 8th February.
2. A funding call is current for Wetland's conservation, the call closes 2nd March, 2022.

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

Applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Historic Structures fund closed on 24th January. Applications have been assessed and applicants will be notified in mid-March

of their funding allocation.

Heritage Stewardship Fund

The Heritage Council has announced the Heritage Stewardship Fund. The objective of the Heritage Stewardship Fund is to support and build the capacity of staff who play a key role in the heritage infrastructure of Ireland and are vital to the delivery of national policy and plans. The fund is open to Local authority-based museum curators, archivists, archaeologists, architectural conservation officers and biodiversity officers. The Heritage Council is allocating approx. €500,000 to this scheme in 2022. The maximum award per project will be €25,000. Match funding of 25% from the applicant is required. The Heritage Council envisage the average offers to be in the €15,000 range and that approximately 20-30 projects will be supported by this scheme. The closing date for applications is 16th March at 5pm.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Projects that support the management and conservation of heritage objects to accepted professional standards
- Projects that facilitate increased access to heritage with a special focus on inclusion
- Projects that communicate the importance of heritage through advocacy work
- Projects that relate to climate change preparation for resilience through conservation planning

- Projects that support partnership and networking events that address common challenges and needs
- Projects that provide community training, traditional buildings skills, advice, and support to increase access to and awareness of heritage
- Interpretation projects that address the needs of people with disabilities
- Projects that support decision making and policy development for the management of heritage assets
- Data collection and research relating to Ireland’s heritage that can be used for formulating future policy and advice particularly urban initiatives
- Publications of national relevance.

More information is available at: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/heritage-stewardship-scheme>

Community Monuments Fund

The closing date for the Community Monuments Fund applications was 15th February. Total funding available nationally for projects under Community Monuments Fund 2022 will be €5,000,000.

The Community Monuments Fund invests in archaeological heritage and helps owners and custodians of archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.

Applications are to be assessed by Clare County Council and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage by 1st March. More information is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d21e3-community-monuments-fund-2022-call-for-projects/>

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions

The table (right) shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in February, together with the totals for 2022 to date.

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

All of the allotments in Shannon have now been allocated and it has been great to be able to take some people off the allotment waiting list for this year, for the first time since moving to the new site. Works arising from the recent storm are being arranged.

All of the grazing agreements have now been signed following the tendering process conducted in January.

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

Facilities Management

Work was completed on the construction of a new footpath from Áras Contae an Chláir to New Road, which will greatly improve pedestrian access to our Headquarters. Neville Civil Works Ltd were the contractors and the works of the General Design office in designing and supervising this project is appreciated.

Additional work was completed this month on the removal of a number of large trees adjoining privately owned property to the rear of the car park, with a focus on making them safer and still retain screening for the residents to the rear. In addition, the Facilities Team have commenced a programme of

power-washing the parking spaces and pathways in the car park and this is being completed when the building is closed.

In line with the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions, the office arrangements are being reviewed, taking account of national guidance and the need for a careful and measured return to the new normal.

Casual Trading

No new licences were granted this month. A selection process has been undertaken for one location, the licence will be granted on completion of all documentation.

Derelict Sites

The Council is in receipt of enquiries regarding the proposed new grant for people to re-develop vacant or derelict properties into permanent residences. As no formal notification of this grant has yet been received, we will retain contact details so that we can advise those interested when we receive the details from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. It is intended that it will provide a stimulus to owners of vacant and derelict properties to take action to return them to habitable properties or to commercial use.

We continue to see a real impact on the ground from our work on derelict properties, with a number of them being brought to market during February, and some more at planning stage, demolition stage or with plans for refurbishment. This is not to say that there are not many challenges in dealing with derelict sites as we come across many issues which need to be resolved. However, with time and effort, working with owners and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and re-vitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table (right) provides a snapshot of the activity in February and the year to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021.

Significantly in 2022 to date, four notices for the compulsory acquisition of derelict sites have been issued and published.

The properties in question are:

- House at No 4 An Garrán, Mountshannon, Co. Clare
- House at No. 3 St Senan’s Terrace, Kilrush, Co. Clare
- House at Cloughleigh Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
- House at 111 Dun na hInse, Clareen, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Derelict Sites	February 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	2	8	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	5	9	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	1	4	4
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	1	1	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	1	4	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	1	1	0



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE



Pictured (left to right): Padraic McElwee (Head of Local Enterprise Office Clare), Cllr PJ Ryan (Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council) and Sean Torpey (Torpey Hurleys).

Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme

The Enhanced Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. In February, seven applications have been approved while seven grants were drawn down.

Mentoring

LEO Clare continue to receive a strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In February 10 mentoring applications have been assigned.

Training

LEO Clare continued to see strong demand for online training support offering during February. The main topics of interest to Clare enterprises were Start Your Own Business Workshops, Managing Online Business workshops, Digital Marketing workshops and continued completion of long running programmes with over 45 clients taking part.

February Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their first evaluation meeting of 2022

in February. Four projects totalling €178,823 were approved for funding including three Business Expansion grants and One Agile Funding.

Local Enterprise Week 2022

LEO Clare launched details of the upcoming Local Enterprise Week. The initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices takes place from 7th to 11th March with over 220 events for businesses and entrepreneurs taking place in person and online across the country.

The theme of this year's Week is "Making It Happen" and is focused on helping businesses to look forward and to future proof themselves for the years ahead. The full listings for the week and have been announced with 10 events taking place in Clare.

Along with the specific local events the Local Enterprise Offices have 12 national Spotlight events that are available online, taking place across the week and open to all small businesses and entrepreneurs across the country. These events are free to join online and cover everything from digitalisation and exporting to future proofing your business and boosting your business online.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Upgrade of Roads and Footpaths

During the month of February the footpath contractor for the MD has substantially completed works in Shannon Town. Works have now commenced in Newmarket-on-Fergus and Parteen with new paths and lighting being installed at Greenpark.



Seasonal Maintenance

Our own crews have continued their winter maintenance role with the impact of Storm Eunice, while not creating significant damage, highlighting the importance of these works in terms of surface water and gully and road maintenance.

In addition to winter maintenance the 2022 Schedule of Municipal Works is currently being finalised and our crews have continued on the ground preparation of 2022 road-works programme.

Following a successful programme in 2021 the Grass Cutting contractor, Eir Landscapes, has commenced preparation works in advance of first cut in March of the 130 hectares of maintained grassed areas across Shannon MD.

Town & Village Renewal (TVR)

Our capital programme continued during the month with design on the Parteen Town & Village Renewal project brought to an advanced stage. The project here will involve the installation of a new pathway between the national school and Kiquane Graveyard, a key piece of infrastructure for local residents and walkers alike.

The Bunratty 'Town & Village Renewal' project is progressing

through Stage 1 Design Works and the team are consulting with the local development association who initiated the project.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund (ORIS)

During the month the team from the MD Offices and Rural Development met with community representatives in Newmarket on Fergus to begin the Outdoor Recreation project to link Kilnasoolagh Park with its views of the turlough to O'Regan Park and on to the Mid-Clare Way. The meeting involved a walk through the town.

The Drumgeely 'Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme' project to upgrade the walkways to the Shannon Embankments behind Drumgeely and complete the link to the walkways in the Free Zone has been tendered. The tender assessment is complete and letters of Intent and Regret have issued.

Town Centre First

In Sixmilebridge, the MD Team are working with elected members and a project team in the Planning Department to initiate the 'Town Centre First' master-planning process.

Active Travel

The Active Travel project for new footpaths in Meelick is progressing, with letters having issued to landowners impacted by the design, seeking their support and to commence discussions.

Other Initiatives

After a long wait the MD received the new Basketball Hoops for the Shannon Town Park. The surface infrastructure was already installed as part of the original project and with the support of Cllr Donna McGettigan and the interest of the local 'Jets' Basketball Club, and indeed the wider community, the team in the Municipal District Office sourced and installed this new feature, open for all to use.



Pictured with Cllr McGettigan were budding basketball stars with Nick Kirby from the Shannon Jets and Patricia O'Neill from Shannon MD.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Strategic Transportation

The Funding allocations for the 2022 Roadworks Programme are as follows:

TII	€ 5,982,840
DoT	€34,917,364
NTA	€ 5,298,000

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

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

Connecting Ireland

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

Road Works Programme and Operations

Road Design Office

Current Projects: February 2022

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

TII Road Safety Projects

A progress meeting with the TII was held on the 19th January 2022.

in a comprehensive rollout of the project. The local link from Kildysart to Kilrush has been rolled out during 2021 as part of this project by the NTA.

Active Travel Programme 2022

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

Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. Following the successful conclusion of the procurement process a contractor has been appointed as the Design Build Works Contract for this regional project. At present 46% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

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

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

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">• Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TII HD 17 Sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 & N67/L1016 now completed, conceptual designs for N67/L50222 and N67/L50221 are completed and Feasibility Reports are being developed. Conceptual designs progressing for N67/L1022 and N67/1016. Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. A comprehensive traffic and pedestrian survey was undertaken in early August, a Stage 1 Road Safety Audit has been 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 has been developed. A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for this junction has been included with Minister Place.
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Low Cost Safety Schemes 2021

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

Other Projects 2021/2022

Project	Progress Update
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works for 2021 are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	Works on the last remaining bus shelter at Newmarket commenced on Monday 28/02/22.
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.
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2022. Collaboration with IT & GIS has also commenced to find an optimal solution to develop an information map available for public view/download as an app.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The Department of Transport has allocated €70,000 for 2022 as a Specific Improvement Grant to complete the works commenced in 2021.

Bridge Rehabilitation

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €602,000.

- AA Screening: Currently Preparing Tender Documents for 2022 Bridge Projects. Tenders returned Consultant to be appointed
- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed. Consultant appointed. Contractor appointed. NIS completed, environmental issues to be resolved prior to commencing works.
- Killestry Bridge: Contractor on site, works 90% complete.
- Scariff Bridge: Contractor appointment ongoing.



Bus shelter.

Health and Safety

The Clare County Council Annual Safety Report 2021 is being compiled in January/February 2022 in order to evaluate the Health & Safety Performance of the organisation and set Health & Safety Objectives for continuous improvement in Health & Safety during 2022.

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

The Clare County Council Covid-19 Response Plan has been updated by the Health & Safety Section to Revision 7 reflecting the significant easing of restrictions and issued to all staff for implementation.

General Design Office

Shannon Heritage Technical Due Diligence Tender

Clare County Council requires Technical Due Diligence reports to be carried out on various Shannon Heritage properties located around the County of Clare and include:

1. Bunratty Castle & Folk Park
2. Craggaunowen Bronze Age Park, including Castle & Crannóg
3. Knappogue Castle and Gardens
4. Retail Unit within Cliffs of Moher Experience.

These pre-acquisition reports are required prior to the properties potentially being purchased by Clare County Council.

An Invitation to Tender was published on the Official Journal of the European Union eTenders website on 4th February with a response deadline date of 14th March, 2022.

Áras footpath

A new pedestrian footpath has recently been completed at Áras Contae an Chláir by Neville Civil Works Ltd. Problematic sewer lines servicing



the fire station building were re-laid and rectified, along with new ducting and drainage works. Tactile paving was installed at pedestrian crossings and new Tobermore paving was used. A new plinth was also constructed with ducting to the Áras building to facilitate electric and data supply to the main entrance gates.

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

Sixmilebridge Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Coir Infrastructure appointed as main contractor. Construction works started in August 2021. Works concluded December 2021. Final accounts and payments currently being agreed and finalised with Cuddys QS.

Barefield Town & Village Renewal Scheme

JF Building & Civils was appointed as main contractor and works began on site on 20th September and are progressing

in accordance with the approved programme of works. Works complete.

Corofin Town & Village Renewal Scheme

topographical survey finalised and on file. Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

Parteen Town & Village Renewal Scheme

topographical survey concluded, preliminary design proposals, options and cost estimates ongoing.

Surveys

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

Mapping/Drawing

- CPO mapping for Killaloe bypass – ongoing
- Tenant Purchase Scheme land transfer mapping – ongoing
- Issue maps prepared – Lease and Sub-lease of site for proposed new outdoor gym area in O'Briensbridge.

Block 2, Ballymaley Business Park, Ennis

A Part VIII application has been submitted to the Planning Authority for the re-purposing of an existing building, located at Ballymaley Business Park, Gort Road, Ennis, for the purpose of developing a modern flagship facility. The specific focus for the facility will be to nurture and retain indigenous early stage enterprises (with a particular focus on future technologies) and provide an advance location for Foreign Direct investment (FDI). The delivery of this project in conjunction with the Ennis 2040 Economic Strategy will be an initial statement of success and will not only benefit Ennis in the current climate but importantly will help to develop and grow a forward looking business eco-system aligned to a town with a growing population and an entrepreneurship culture.

The proposed development will include:

- Change of the use of the building from Light industrial purposes or similar and a call centre to an Enterprise and Innovation Centre;
- Erect an entrance canopy and covered walkway to the east of the building and cycle parking with a canopy to the north;
- Carry out changes to the elevations by the addition of double doors to the east and north elevations and windows to the west and north elevations;
- Erect Branding signage on the south, west and north elevations; and
- All ancillary Site and Building works including EV charging points, PV panels to the roof and a Patio Area.



CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The main updates relating to major projects during the month of February are as follows.

Clounahinchy Flood Relief Scheme

Landowner agreements were issued last month, and the Council now await the return of the signed agreements. The cost estimate for the scheme is being revised and Clare County Council need to ensure that the project remains viable in accordance with OPW requirements. Assuming that the project remains Cost Beneficial and pending return of all landowner agreements, Clare County Council will then be able to engage with the OPW regarding the necessary funding for the Detailed Design and Appointment of a Contractor and move forward with the scheme at the earliest juncture.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

Work is now complete on the flood relief scheme and the contractor Ward & Burke have moved off site. There have been several flood events in recent weeks and the scheme has operated efficiently and in accordance with the design. Works have also been completed on the riverside walkway and the facility is now open to the public and proving very popular with walkers and cyclists alike. It is hoped that the Minister for State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Mr Patrick O'Donovan will visit to inspect the works shortly. Work is continuing in consultation with the OPW and our consulting engineers regarding the updating of the Flood Maps which will highlight the benefiting areas protected by the scheme. It is hoped to have these completed in the coming weeks.

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

We are still awaiting the decision from An Bord Pleanála regarding confirmation or otherwise, of the CPO following the Oral Hearing which was held in June 2021. This decision will inform our next course of action in relation to the overall project.

Errinagh Canal Bank Walkway

Works have commenced onsite, with site clearance and branch removal being completed as a priority in advance of the bird nesting season. The works will involve restoration of a section of the original pathway which has become overgrown and somewhat impassable in recent years. As well as clearing vegetation and overhanging branches, the works will involve resurfacing with compacted limestone. These improvement works will ensure that this amenity is preserved for the continued recreational benefit of walkers and runners alike.

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. The works as proposed would be completed as an interim measure in advance of this wider proposal.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

Delighted to advise that the Letter of Acceptance for the main scheme works was issued to John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd. on 16th February last and consequently, the pre-start meeting is now scheduled for early March. It is expected that the project works will commence on site soon thereafter.

The Department of Transport have also now approved the award for the Site Supervisory roles/Resident Engineering Staff as required for the Main Contract. The Project Management Office have recently issued the Letters of Intent & Regret and the standstill period has now lapsed. Subject to the provision of certain requested information from the Most Economically Advantageous Tenderer who are RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd., the Letter of Acceptance will issue shortly thereafter.

Other works ongoing include:

- The electricity diversion works have now been completed following the slight delay due to the aftermaths of Storm Barra.
- The results are awaited from the detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works carried out on site in 2021. Following the provision of these results to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd the final reports can be prepared and the public presentation organised which is expected to take place later in 2022.
- The remaining Land Acquisitions are currently progressing by agreement by Clare County Council and its agents.
- Following a request from Killaloe Boys National School, members of the project Team provided a presentation to 5 & 6 class of the Flythrough Animation of the project which was recently uploaded to the Clare County Council webpage and is accessible via the link below: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/killaloebypassflythrough/>

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

Site Investigation works are ongoing along Marine Parade. The initial data logs have been submitted for the consultant's review. The consultant has issued an updated Options Development document which considers the potential solutions to deal with flood risk in the Atlantic Stream. The task of finalising the options for detailed consideration will continue throughout March. Both the Hydrology and Hydraulics reports have been updated to account for the completion of the consultant's coastal modelling and overtopping study. The reports have been issued for approval by CCC and OPW. The CCTV contractor has carried out

some additional surveys around Well Road to assist the consultant in the development of solutions for dealing with surface water in this area. The final wintering bird survey was carried out in early February and the Nesting bird surveys will be carried out in March where exact locations of nests within the field will be identified. 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)

This matter is still before the Courts with a Hearing date of mid July 2022. If favourable, we will be able to move forward with this important project to include further Surveys, Geotechnical Investigations, Detailed design and engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding acquisition of the necessary lands.

Miltown Malbay Flood Relief Scheme

Negotiations continue with the main Landowner involved and a meeting has been arranged in the coming week to progress and hopefully finalise same. Thereafter, we will be able to appoint a successful contractor and complete the works at the earliest juncture.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The Options Selection Report has now been finalised and presents the Preferred Option to be taken forward to the next stages of the scheme development. Details of same are available on the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie

The Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage has commenced which will see the preferred option being developed technically and environmentally, to identify and mitigate Scheme impacts, to progress further development of the scheme design including the layout and junction arrangements, to establish land-take requirements and to progress the scheme through to the Statutory Processes. Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete.

The Design Team are currently assessing the information requirements so that the necessary scoping surveys (Topographical, Archaeological, Traffic & Transport etc) can be developed and procured during this Phase. 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 with the receipt of the initial testing logs being considered by the consultants. 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

N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme

Data Gathering from previous work done on this project is now ongoing and a Heat Map of the areas of concern is being developed. This will inform the Project Brief and the scope of the

works with the intention of going out to Tender in April/May followed by the appointment of the successful Tenderer in late June/July. Funding of €100,000 has been allocated by the TII in their 2022 Budget to advance this project.

Piers and Harbours

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine has issued application forms for the Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme which will replace the 'Fishery and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme' for the next 2 years. The PMO are working with the Municipal District Offices to identify potential projects and will submit funding applications in the coming month.

Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)

Design development is nearing completion, further to conclusion of slit trenching and topographical surveys in January and February 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. Irish Water and ESB will be completing major replacement of essential infrastructure in advance of Streetscape works. All going well, Streetscape and Irish Water works are expected to commence in mid-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.

A briefing was held with elected members during February at which progress and schedule was outlined. The design is now well advanced with a view to issuing for tender in Q2 2022. There will be an opportunity for key stakeholders to review the design once detailed drawings have been finalised which is expected to be in the coming weeks.

Remediation of sites containing ACM (Asbestos Containing Material)

It is anticipated that we will be able to appoint technical advisors in the coming weeks, pending completion of procurement due-diligence. In the meantime, as always, the sites continue to be monitored by Council staff, having been rendered safe following the carrying out of temporary works in consultation with the EPA.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The hydraulic model build for the scheme is nearing completion. Scheme consultant RPS have carried out two hydraulic workshops during which the methodology for this element of the design has been largely agreed with CCC and OPW. Validation and calibration of the model will continue well into March. Several meetings have been held between CCC, OPW and RPS to discuss the intricate overtopping/breach analysis methodology for the scheme. RPS will present their proposal and recommendations for this at the March steering group meeting. As part of this analysis, the RPS geotechnical team have progressed with elements of slope stability analysis along some stretches of the existing embankments. Nesting bird surveys will be carried out in March where exact locations of nests within the field will be

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

identified and recorded. Maintenance works to the existing SAA embankments is progressing as planned. Further information on the scheme is available on the project website at www.shanontownandenvironsfrs.com

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

The Main Construction works are currently paused on the scheme due to weather and poor ground conditions. It is expected to recommence in late March/early April subject to suitable ground conditions. Minerix are continuing their work on the Geophysical survey, and this is expected to be completed shortly. Groundwater monitoring is being carried out in tandem by Priority Geotechnical Ltd. Environmental monitoring is also being carried out during the suspension to comply with our obligations and protect the habitat. Some removal of vegetation was undertaken in February in advance of the nesting season restrictions. On a related point, the ESB have recently begun to release additional volumes at the Parteen Weir due to heavy rain. At the time of writing this was 90m³/sec which is unlikely to have any significant impact on the site, but we will remain vigilant in this regard.

Bournapeaka Pier, Ballyvaughan

Delighted to report that Clare County Council has completed works on the repair of the pier at Bournapeaka in Ballyvaughan. The mid-section had collapsed and was unsafe. Clare County Council have now replaced the entire mid-section of the pier

which involved removal of the failed section of pier, constructing a new section in reinforced concrete and piling the structure to provide stability. The existing cut stones that formed the edge of the pier were carefully removed, recorded, and replaced in the same position.

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

The Project Team are progressing the Route Options Report and Drawings in accordance with the 'Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways'. Environmental Surveys are continuing which will underpin the Route Selection Process. The team are also preparing for Public Consultation 2 which will commence in the coming month or so.

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

Following post tender due diligence, Clare County Council are to formally appoint the successful Consultant for Section 2 of the West Clare Railway Greenway (Ennis to Ennistymon), imminently. The successful Consultant in conjunction with Clare County Council will then commence working on the Route Options Selection Process. Public Consultation will be carried out in accordance with the 'Code of Best Practice for National and Regional Greenways'. Any comments or suggestions from members of the public are welcome and can be emailed to poadmin@clarecoco.ie.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during February:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training
- Hiab Crane Training held in Ennis and Shannon Fire Stations
- Winch Operator Training held in Ennistymon and Scarriff Fire Stations
- National Instructor Course held by National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management in Ennis Fire Station Training Centre.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	January 2022	February 2022 (up to 18.02.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	84	38	122
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	8	4	12
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	7	5	12
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	5	2	7
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	4	4	8
Number of Commencement Notices Received	27	21	48
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	0

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

Recruitment Promotional Video Clip for Retained Fire Service Personnel



Clare County Council continues to recruit Retained Fire Service Personnel for a number of Fire Stations in the county. This is an ongoing process with a number of recruitment drives each year, depending on numbers of retirements/resignations. As part of the current recruitment campaign, Clare County Fire & Rescue Service has produced two media clips to further inform members of the public of the variety of roles that the Fire Service provides in Clare, which have been uploaded onto the Council's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

This then provides a link to Clare County Council's Recruitment Page, where a second media clip is available. This clip contains interviews with Fire Service personnel together with further video of the role of the Fire Service in Clare.

Storm Eunice – Status Red Wind Warning

The Council's Severe Weather Assessment Team met and reviewed the various weather models relating to both Storm Dudley and Eunice, providing updates to Management Team and social media as required. On Thursday, 17th February, at 16.34pm, Met Éireann issued a Status Red Wind Warning for Clare which came into effect from 3.00am to 8.00am, Friday, 18th February, 2022. During the Status Red, all fire crews were on standby in their seven Fire Stations. This was to ensure that in the event of a call-out, personnel did not have to travel to work during the Status Red period. There were no callouts during the Status Red period.



Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- National Hurling League match in Cusack Park.
- Teenage Discos held in the Queens Hotel, Ennis and Hydro Hotel, Lisdoonvarna as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members transported an ambulance and rescue watercraft (RWC) to Dublin for the fitting of Civil Defence decals (signage).

Members' Training & Professional Development

- Senior Team members met to discuss the Return to Training

Programme. A training regime for the next six months was agreed and adopted.

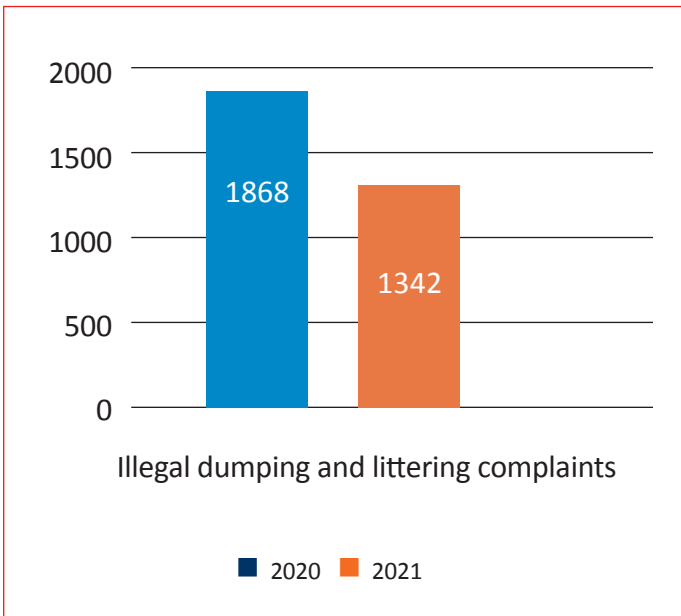
- Members attended an Induction Session given by the Assistant Civil Defence Officer on the training programme for the next six months.
- The Civil Defence Officer met with Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students to agree a recommencement date for the EMT Course which had been suspended due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Two members successfully completed an Emergency First Responder (EFR) on-line examination.
- Members attended Swiftwater Responder Training on the River Fergus.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

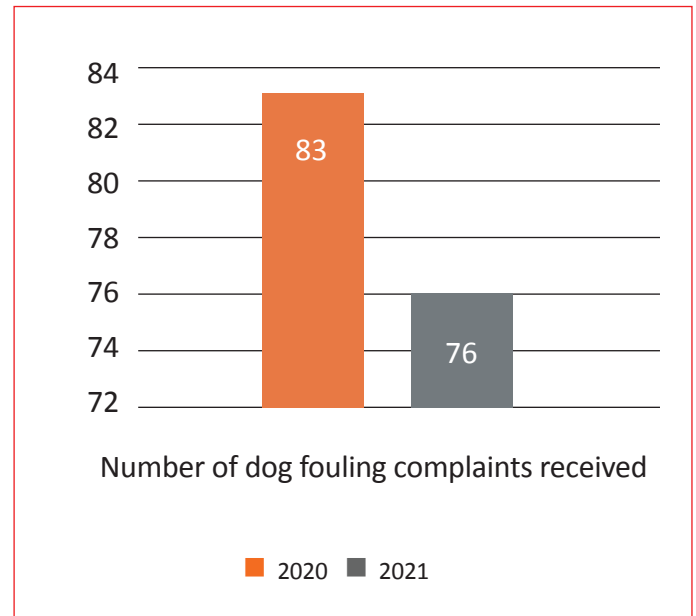
Illegal dumping and littering complaint trends 2020/2021

Statistical analysis of illegal dumping and litter complaints



Graph 1: 28% drop in illegal dumping and littering.

received by the Environment Section shows a significant reduction from the period 2020 to 2021. Graph 1 depicts a 28% drop in illegal dumping and littering complaints while graph 2 shows a 9% drop in dog fouling complaints.



Graph 2: 9% drop in dog fouling complaints.

An Taisce Green School Assessment visits

Green school assessment visits commenced in February and will continue through to the end of March 2022. Thirteen schools to date have indicated that they will be applying for their Green Flag award for the school academic year 2021/2022. Many schools are not applying this year due to

Covid pandemic affecting delivery of the programme.

Environmental Campaigns

During February, we promoted several environmental messages promoting good environmental practice, including:

Campaign detail	Promotion details
<p>Water Framework Directive Two online public meetings took place on 15th Feb and 17th Feb. There was a focus on water quality and the Draft River Basin Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community groups News items on web @ClareCoCo @GreenerClare social media
<p>Dog Owner Responsibility The following message relating to dog control was promoted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't let your dog roam and leave poo in public spaces Owner picks up – it's the law All bags are litter... even compostable ones. Love Your Dog; Love Your Walk; Love Your County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clare Echo Green Clare Page advert @GreenerClare social media @ClareCoCo social media School talk – Bridgetown NS
<p>Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Creative Ireland funded initiative: Stories of Change, Community Consultation – The Clare Edition. This online event is due to take place on the 2nd March 2022. Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Online information Clinic – 2nd February 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> @GreenerClare social media Clare County Council staff

Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	February	2022 to date
Planning applications (Domestic)	46	70
Planning applications (Large Developments)	1	0
Planning applications (Forestry)	6	8
Planning applications (Agriculture)	4	4
Inspection of Section 4 licensed premises	1	1
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	0	4
Pollution complaints received	5	15
Warning & advisory letters issued	2	2
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0

Laboratory & Technical Support

Rural Water

Drinking water data and statistics from Group Water Schemes and private commercial supplies was compiled, approved and uploaded to the EPA data portal by the 28th of February deadline. The data includes all the monitoring, which Clare County Council Environmental Laboratory undertakes that is not covered by the Irish Water SLA.

River Monitoring Programme 2022

Clare County Council is required to collect 295 river water samples in 2022. The calendar for sampling was agreed with the EPA in December last with the sampling spread evenly over the 12 months. The second round of sampling was completed in the third week of February.

Drinking Water Monitoring

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

Wastewater Treatment Plants

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

Monitoring is spread throughout the year with the second round completed in February.

Gardening

Landscaping Projects

Landscaping works are nearing completion at the Drumbiggle Public Park. We have planted various species of pollinator friendly plants as well as adding bark mulch and decorative stone to enhance the area.



Drumbiggle garden.

White thorn, wild cherry and alder trees have been planted at Inagh Central Waste Management Facility, with pollinator friendly native wildflower areas to be planted in the coming months.

Gardening works have also started at the Shannon Municipal District office. New hedging as well as native willow trees and heather plants will enrich the offices front garden. Perennial plants will be planted in a raised bed area in the coming months, which will provide blooms throughout the summer months.

Waste Management

Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP)

Onsite Screening for the soil protection layer has been complete and is being used to cover the exposed plastic liner. Excavation of the final cells of the integrated wetlands is progressing and getting ready for topsoiling.

Civic Amenity Sites

All sites continue to operate as normal. Garden Waste Quantities are beginning to increase, while the demand to dispose of Bulky Waste such as couches and armchairs remains high.

Repairs have been carried out to handrailing at Shannon Recycling Centre recently to ensure the safety of all customers on site.

Waste Enforcement

Burning of Waste – Agricultural Exemption

On 15th February 2022, Circular WP02.22 Re: Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI No. 51 of 2022) was issued. This advised Local Authorities that the exemption provided for under the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 286 of 2009) as amended, is to be extended until 1st January, 2023. This exemption exists to allow farmers, as a last resort, to dispose of wastes generated by agricultural practices by burning. Clare County Council's Environment Section processes more than 100 notifications of intent to burn annually.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

A total of 123 complaints relating to litter and waste have been received in February. These are currently being investigated and appropriate enforcement action will be taken where required. A total of 3 litter fines were issued in February as a result of evidence found in waste. We have issued 4 Section 14 Notices in February.

Legal Proceedings

Clare County Council have initiated legal proceedings against landowners for the holding and disposal of waste in a manner likely to cause environmental pollution. We have also taken action against individuals for non-payment of fines. These cases are listed for Ennis District Court in February.

End of Life Vehicles

Prosecution proceedings have been initiated against the suspected importers of Specified Vehicles throughout Co. Clare.

Dog Fouling

In response to complaints of Dog Fouling, additional stencils have been placed in specified locations and patrols have been increased in the affected areas. The Audio Anti- Dog Fouling warning speaker has been re-located to problem areas. They will be placed in all Municipal Districts as required.

In addition to this, social media was used to highlight the topic on all of Clare County Council social media platforms. The Dog Warden continues to address the issue and promote responsible dog ownership on his Tuesday morning Clare FM slot.

WATER SERVICES

Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Section of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement and the 2022 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water. All protocols and working procedures relating to Covid-19 are being adhered to in the delivery of the service. We are currently 1% under budget on operations expenditure.

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 22nd January, 2022, up to and including 17th February, 2022. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 13 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Emergency Work Order was received during the timeframe
- 281 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 2 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received
- 147 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 9 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 8 of these were for unplanned burst watermains, mains repair, ESB power outage and 1 Communications notification for water supply interruption.

Water Operations

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

- Mill Road – Burst Watermain
- Gort Road Industrial Estate – Cross Connection – Increase supply options
- New Road (x2) Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Clon Road Ennis – Burst Watermain
- College Road – Burst Watermain & Valve Install
- Kilmaley Road – Burst Watermain
- Elm Park – Burst Watermain
- Steeles Terrace – Burst Watermain.

In **West Clare Area**, the following outages occurred:

- Watermain burst repairs at Doonmore, Bansha, Doonbeg, Killadysert, Moveen, Ennistymon, Ballyvaghan and Rineen.
- Monastery Lane watermain rehabilitation completion – cast iron replacement.
- Killadysert Reservoir Inlet replacement completion.

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

- 03-02-22 Leak/ Burst in Kilkishen
- 11-02-22 Burst in Kilkishen
- 11-02-22 Burst on Killaloe Road after Blackwater Bridge, Ardnacrusha
- 14-02-22 Burst on Killaloe Road after Blackwater Bridge, Ardnacrusha
- 15-02-22 Burst Rossmadda PS, Ardnacrusha.

Water Conservation

In January, the Operations Crews continued water conservation activity in Shannon/Cratloe/Kilkishen in East Clare; In Mid Clare – Crusheen/Sandfield/Clarecastle.

The Find Team (Find and Fix Team) were operating in the following areas:

- West Clare – Lislanahan DMA/Burren Hill DMA
- North Clare – Acoustic Logger Installation – Kilfenora DMA & Kilshanny DMA.

The Fix crew (of the Find and Fix Team) carried out repairs at various locations in the Kilkee/Doonbeg area.

Wastewater Operations

The upload of data to Irish Water’s Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) to facilitate the compilation of the Annual Environmental Reports (AERs) for the 23 wastewater discharge licensed sites in Clare was completed by the deadline of 14th February.

The diversion of the Bunratty rising main sewer was completed by Shannon based crew. The works involved diverting 250m of 8” rising main from beneath the Tradaree landfill site.

The East Clare crew continued the construction of drying beds at Lackyle Heights Waste Water Treatment Plant. The drying beds will play an important role in the management and control of sludge on the site.

Irish Water Capital programme

Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant

The new scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant near Skagh Point, a new rising main, additional storm storage and upgrade of the existing Francis St pumping station. Construction works are ongoing at the site of the new WWTP. The site compound, site fencing and hoarding are in place. The ESB overhead line has been removed. Sheet piling for primary settlement tank excavation is programmed for the last week in February. Works at the Frances Street pump station site are



Kilrush WWTP site 17th Feb. 2022.



Kilrush WWTP site 28th Jan. 2022.

programmed to commence in late February. 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 March 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.

Liscannon Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannon wastewater treatment plant and the new pumping station is on-going. EPS is the main Contractor. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. At the wastewater treatment plant site, the storm tank, sludge tank, primary settlement tanks, and inlet tank have been constructed. Works are continuing on the pipelines in the vicinity of the harbour which will discharge treated effluent to the existing outfall. To facilitate this work, a temporary road closure is in place along New Houses Road. At the pump station site, the effluent pipework is being constructed.

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 Liscannon.

Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. EPS is the



Above left: Tanks in place at the WWTP in Liscannor. Above right: Excavation for manhole at the pump station in Liscannor.

Design/Build Contractor. Irish Water's design team have produced a draft route and site selection report. Site investigation works to determine ground conditions are programmed for early March. A pre planning meeting was held in early February. 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 in late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Draft land and wayleave drawings have been produced. Site investigation works commenced on 14th February to determine ground conditions, depth to rock etc. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall at Intrinsic Bay. Liaison with the Consultants on the Kilkee flood defence scheme is ongoing so as to identify any conflicts between the two schemes at an early stage and plan accordingly. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence by mid-2024 with completion in late 2025. When the new wastewater treatment scheme is in place, the existing Victoria Pump Station can continue to pump the Victoria stream via the existing rising mains during the bathing season.

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 will hold Workshop 2 on the 3rd of March to discuss the Feasibility Study Report recommendations and determine the preferred solution. The project can then proceed to the next stage.

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. River flow details have been agreed therefore the storm storage requirements at the treatment plant and level of treatment to be provided are now being finalised. The draft layout drawings of the proposed upgrade to the treatment plant will be produced. A revised pre application consultation request form has been submitted to the Department in relation to the Foreshore Licence. It is anticipated that the planning application for the upgrade scheme will be lodged during Q2 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 are ongoing on the new wastewater treatment plant. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Demolition, excavations and foundation works have taken place and tank construction is programmed to commence in late February. Improvements to the existing network in Kilfenora are also planned, the extent of which will be determined by surveys of the existing sewers. The Contractor will liaise with local residents regarding these sewer surveys. 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, with upgrades to the existing filters being carried out. 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 the new filters in place and the building roof now reconstructed, 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 in April 2022.

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Preparatory works and site investigation have been carried out. The final design has been submitted for assessment and works are due to commence in the next fortnight.

Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed:

1. Athlunkard Bridge to Larkins Cross, Athlunkard – replacement of 1,034m of 375/300mm trunk main with a 450mm diameter main is underway.
2. Tullabrack to Gower, Kilrush – replacement of 1847m of substandard 150mm main with 180mm diameter main – underway.
3. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór – at design stage.
4. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage.

Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & 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 have been awarded and the final design is under consideration. The contractor has moved onto site and works are expected to commence in March 2022 with a completion in February 2023.

Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. 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.

Ennis Drainage Area Plan

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

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 385 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 62 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 323 assets, 207 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 116 assets remaining to be dealt with are divided into the following four categories:

• Report prepared / Pending / Internal Query (15 assets)

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

- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (48 assets)**

This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities – 13 assets are with the NSPO for agreement for transfer or to ascertain or if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015. When they are approved Irish Water will issue a letter to Clare County Council confirming their approval.

- **Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets)**

At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.

- **Outstanding assets to be transferred (53 assets)**

These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to make a robust case for first registration with the PRAI in the Councils name. These will then be transferred to Irish Water. Irish Water are examining new routes to register assets for which inadequate evidence is available to allow the PRAI to carry out a first registration in the Council's name.

Rural Water Programme

Works under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme continue with the completion of upgrade works to the pumping station for the Leitrim Shyan GWS. Works on the scheme in relation to upgrade of service fixtures and fittings is hoped to commence in early March. Works on the replacement of 1.4km of mains is commencing on the Dough GWS (Spanish Pt) in the latter end of the month. Works to complete the replacement of a 4km section of mains of the Ballycar GWS is due to go to tender in the coming weeks. All 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%. Works are also due to be completed on the Ballinacarragh Cluster GWS with the replacement of the existing pump set under Measure 3 – Scheme Enhancements.

Three no schemes awarded funding under the '19-'21 programme remain without works completed – Quilty Seafield GWS (€100,000 Allocation) , Clohanes GWS (€35,000 Allocation) and Ranaghan GWS (€437,000 Allocation). Significantly the aforementioned schemes allocation is at 100% Funding. To date the Rural Water Programme have not received the submission of necessary documentation to progress works.

Overall, Clare has delivered on 94% of its allocation over 42 projects as opposed to a nationwide average figure of less than 40%.

We are awaiting the invitation of funding bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Significant engagement has been undertaken with a number of Group schemes in respect of bid submissions on their behalf.

No scheme transferred to the public water network in February with 2no schemes currently with Irish Water for consideration. 9 no applications have been received to date in 2022 under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply'.

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



ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Tree management/maintenance programme



- Formal tree inspections have resumed and tree maintenance contractors are engaged to clear the backlog of requests which accumulated during the pandemic. During this time only emergency works were undertaken.
- “Ash dieback” is appearing among the ash trees, several mature trees have been recommended for removal. It is expected that most of the ash trees will eventually succumb to this infection.
- Tree trimming will cease between March and September this year to facilitate the bird nesting season.
- A tree replacement schedule has been agreed with the gardening section to compensate for trees being removed as part of the management programme. This tree planting is underway this week.

Roadworks Programme

Dropped kerb and tactile paving were installed as part of an uncontrolled crossing installation at Abbey Street car park.



Rubber bark mulch was installed as tree surrounds on Bank place, making the area around the trees safer, cleaner and low maintenance.



Two disabled parking bays were installed at the Fairgreen in Ennis.



Minister visits site of upgraded public realm

As part of his schedule on a visit to Ennis, Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications walked Parnell Street from Woodquay junction to O’Connell Square, to get an appreciation of the completed public realm works which were part funded from URDF.

Smart parking solution for Ennis

This project is being funded under Cisco’s ‘Country Digital Acceleration’ programme. Ennis MD collaborated with Ennis Chamber and the Western Development Commission, to highlight parking challenges in Ennis and convince Cisco that Ennis would benefit hugely from a technology based solution. Cisco along with their software partner Danalto announced that the bid was successful and are gearing up to deploy the solution.