



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

# TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Deireadh Fómhair / October  
2022



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## KPMG WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN – DROMOLAND 2022



Pictured at the Visit Clare Stand at the KPMG Women's Irish Open were (l-r): Eamonn O'Donnell, Director of Golf, Dromoland; Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer; Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Mark Nolan, Managing Director, Dromoland; Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council; and Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council. Inset: Clare.ie VIP Gift Packs from the event.



The 2022 Women's Irish Open took place at Dromoland Castle from 22nd-25th September, 2022. It was 10 years since the last Ladies European Tour event was held in Ireland.

Clare County Council were involved at an early stage with the planning for this event, together with Dromoland Castle, Forefront Sports Event Organisers, An Garda Síochána and others. Having been involved in a number of major events in the county in recent years, including the Irish Open in Lahinch and the All-Ireland Fleadhs in Ennis, Clare County Council was well positioned to bring its expertise to the table to assist in the organisation of this event and ensure that the reputation of the local authority and the county as a tourist destination would be enhanced as an outcome of the hosting of the event.

Before and during, a number of departments within the local authority contributed to the successful hosting of this event co-ordinated by Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer, with Dromoland, and the Event Management Organisers, Forefront Sport. The local authority's involvement included Shannon Municipal District, Tourism Department, Local Enterprise Office and Clare Civil Defence. A summary of the works undertaken includes the following.

Shannon Municipal District was active in the weeks leading up to the event to ensure that routes leading to the venue were well maintained, and provided co-ordination with TII on areas of mutual benefit, and provided assistance and advice to Dromoland before and during the event. The MD ensured all routes were available for use throughout the event, including the cycleway between Latoon and Newmarket-on-Fergus.



Pictured with Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, and Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O'Brien (centre), were: (l-r) Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise, LEO Clare; Senator Róisín Garvey; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council; Sean O'Farrell, Graduate, Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark; and Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer.



Pictured (l-r): Michael Woods, Tournament Director, Ladies European Tour; Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer; Barrie O'Connell, Head of Clients and Markets, KPMG in Ireland; and Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council.



Above left: Welcoming Paul Kelly, CEO, Fáilte Ireland, to the Visit Clare stand at the KPMG Women's Irish Open. Above right: Pictured at the Visit Clare stand with Minister of State for Sport, Gaeltacht and Defence, Jack Chambers TD, and Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O'Brien, were: Senator Timmy Dooley; representatives from exhibiting Clare businesses; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council; Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise, LEO Clare; and Clare County Council staff.

Clare County Council's Tourism Department engaged with media, both local and national, to promote Clare as an attractive destination for golf enthusiasts, as well as showcasing Clare's abundance of visitor attractions and activities. To mark the return of the Women's Irish Open, the Tourism Department produced a promotional VIP Gift Bag promoting the county for the 126 players, which was presented by Cathaoirleach, Cllr Tony O'Brien, at the Players Reception on Tuesday evening at Dromoland Castle. In addition, a newly designed Golf Brochure for Clare, with a strong Fly Shannon message, was launched at this event.

Together with the Council's Local Enterprise Office, Tourism staff engaged directly with the public in the Clare County Council Marquee based in the Golf Village during the event. The Local Enterprise Office showcased several businesses from Clare exhibiting artisan food, drink and photography. During the weekend the Marquee was visited by many guests including Cathaoirleach Tony O'Brien, Minister of State for Sport, Gaeltacht and Defence Jack

Chambers TD, and many local elected members, with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, also meeting with the Cathaoirleach, together with Head of Tourism Deirdre O'Shea and Head of Enterprise, Padraic McElwee.

Clare Civil Defence provided medical cover for the event, with a team of trained volunteers in attendance each day, together with Ambulances and first aid equipment. Mobile crews patrolled the course throughout the event and were positioned to respond to any incident in a matter of minutes. The Fire Service was involved in the lead-up to the event, working with the organisers to ensure that appropriate arrangements were in place in the event of an incident.

This was a very successful event for County Clare, with over 24,000 attending throughout the event. Clare County Council are proud to be associated with the KPMG Women's Irish Open 2022 and look forwards to working with Dromoland and others at future large events in County Clare.



Pictured at the launch of the Golf Brochure (l-r) were: Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer; Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Eamonn O'Donnell, Director of Golf, Dromoland; and Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council.



Work undertaken by Shannon Municipal District in preparation for the KPMG Women's Irish Open included coning of the R458 cycleway, north direction.

# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

2022 to date – statistics to 28th September 2022

	2020	2021	2022 (to 28th Sept 2022)
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	86
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8
Appeals to Information Commissioner	1	4	2
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	10
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	22

### 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 September included:

- Council Chief Executive welcomes An Bord Pleanála decision on Blake’s Corner CPO
- Illaunmanagh Burial Ground Extension opens
- Clare Culture Night Programme Released
- Bringing mobility, automotive and aviation leaders to Future Mobility Campus Ireland
- Council welcomes CLÁR funding for Clare community projects.

### Clare County Council supporting good causes

Áras Contae an Chláir in Ennis was lit up in support of worthy causes during September.

The Áras was lit up in purple to mark World Gynecologic Oncology Day on 20th September. World Gynecologic Oncology Day aims to raise awareness of the main types of gynaecological cancer.



To mark International Week of Deaf People and Irish Sign Language Awareness Week (19th-25th September), the Áras was lit up in blue on 23rd September.

Also in September, the Irish Names Quilt was placed on display in Áras Contae an Chláir. The Irish Names Quilt Exhibition was created to honour and remember those who died in Ireland from AIDS and HIV-related illnesses.



### 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 September, the Communications Office:



- Posted 47 times on Facebook, with total followers now 17,219



- Posted 39 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,790



- Instagram followers are now 2,602.  
(Statistics accurate as of 27/09/2022)

### Print and Graphic Design

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

### Audio-visual upgrade in Council Chamber

The Facilities, IT and Corporate Services teams worked together to complete an upgrade to the audio-visual equipment in the Council Chamber over the summer months. The upgrade involved replacement of end-of-life technology and the installation of hardware and software to facilitate hybrid meetings via Teams and microphone management. The system went live in early September. Some additional works are required to the tablespots which will be completed in the coming weeks.

Make Way Day 2022

Make Way Day, the campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share, returned to County Clare on Friday, 30th September.

Clare County Council supported the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) by raising awareness of the campaign in County Clare.

Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O’Brien, said: “Make Way Day focuses on individual responsibility, on looking at what we can all do immediately to help our fellow citizens get from A to B, a very basic right. Clare County Council is once again happy to work with DFI in supporting Make Way Day 2022 in County Clare.

“This campaign highlights the types of obstacles that stop people with disabilities in their tracks, including cars parked on footpaths, badly parked bicycles and bins left on footpaths. We should all be mindful of the impact of obstacles in our public spaces, not just on Make Way Day but every day.”

Martin Tobin, Chairperson, Clare Leader Forum, said: “Clare Leader Forum would like to work towards a more inclusive society where barriers are gone and where people with disabilities can live our lives to our fullest, on an equal basis. Obstacles in public spaces cause significant difficulties for people with disabilities. We look forward to continuing to work with the Council, on Make Way Day and beyond.”

Clare County Council is committed to consultation to ensure the views of people are at the heart of decision making when



Pictured with Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O’Brien, are members of Clare Leader Forum at Áras Contae an Chláir to raise awareness of Make Way Day 2022.

developing universally accessible public spaces and amenities.

Karen Fennessy, Clare Age Friendly Development Officer, Clare County Council, said: “County Clare continues to make great progress in improvements to accessibility of its towns through the delivery of consultative walkability studies of Ennis, Kilrush, Shannon Town, Shannon Airport and Kilkee. The development of Ennis as the first Age Friendly Town in Clare and Shannon Airport as one of the first Age Friendly Airports in the world is a huge achievement which we hope will improve the lives of older citizens and people living with disabilities who choose to live in or visit our county.”

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published publicly on eTenders in the period from 30th August to 26th September incl.:

Short description	Response deadline
Structural Engineer for Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project	16/09/2022
Civil Engineer for Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project	30/09/2022
Concept Development, Options Selection and Preliminary Design for Pedestrian/Cycling Facilities on Bridges under Active Travel Measures	23/09/2022
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	30/09/2022
Develop & Deliver a training programme to promote Autism Awareness	30/09/2022

Business Process Improvement platform and Customer Relationship Management platform	18/10/2022
Refurbishment of 2 x previously Owned Class B Fire Appliances	07/10/2022
LEO Clare Mentor Panel 2022	17/10/2022
Contract For Hedge & Verge Cutting On N67, N68 & N85 Co. Clare	03/10/2022
National Road Pavement Overlay Scheme N68 Parknamoney Sept 2022	12/10/2022
Proposed Active Travel Projects at Sixmilebridge and Ballycasey Close Green Area, Shannon for Clare County Council	14/10/2022

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
<b>Recruitment</b>	<p><b>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during September:</b></p> <p><b>Eligibility Exercises &amp; Desktop Shortlisting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifeguard Instructor Active Ennis Leisure Complex</li> <li>• Pool Duty Manager Active Ennis Leisure Complex</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A/Town Regeneration Officer</li> <li>• Application Support &amp; GIS Officer (IS Analyst Developer – Analogous Grade VI)</li> <li>• School Warden (Part-Time &amp; Sporadic Cover Ennistymon)</li> <li>• School Warden (Sporadic Cover Ennis MD)</li> <li>• Retained Part-Time Firefighters (Shannon, Ennis, Killaloe, Scarriff)</li> <li>• Lifeguard Instructor Active Ennis Leisure Complex</li> </ul> <p><b>The following competitions were advertised:</b></p> <p><b>Open Competitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professionally Qualified Social Worker Panel, 2022</li> <li>• Retained Part-Time Firefighter Panel (Ennis, Ennistymon, Killaloe, Kilkee, Kilrush, Scarriff &amp; Shannon)</li> <li>• Senior Staff Officer Panel, 2022</li> <li>• Lifeguard Instructor Active Ennis, (Permanent Part-Time) 2022</li> <li>• Application Support &amp; GIS Officer (IS Analyst Developer – analogous to Grade VI)</li> <li>• Information Systems Technical Support Officer</li> </ul>
<b>Learning and Development</b>	<p><b>Online Training programmes/Webinars/Information Sessions held in September include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agresso Requisitioners</li> <li>• Building Line Manager Capacity – Grade 5 &amp; Analogous</li> <li>• Change Management</li> <li>• Competency Based Interviewer Training</li> <li>• Developing a GPP Strategy Course</li> <li>• First Aid 3-Day Training</li> <li>• Grade 3 &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Grade 4 &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Junior Achievement Certification &amp; Information Programme</li> <li>• Maintenance of Strimmers &amp; Bushcutters</li> <li>• Manual Handling Full Training &amp; Practical</li> <li>• Microsoft Access</li> <li>• Pre-Retirement Course</li> <li>• PSDP Refresher Training</li> <li>• Telescopic Handler – New Entrants</li> <li>• Working Smarter Not Harder</li> </ul> <p><b>Essential Skillz online courses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Ergowize</li> <li>• GDPR</li> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Induction</li> <li>• Manual Handling Theory</li> <li>• Slips Trips &amp; Falls</li> <li>• Working in a Covid Era</li> </ul>
<b>Employee Welfare</b>	<p>Employee wellbeing supports continue to be made available to staff across a range of areas.</p>
<b>Unions</b>	<p>The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.</p>

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Official opening of new extension to Illaunmanagh Burial Ground



Pictured at the official opening of the Illaunmanagh Burial Ground extension on Friday, 23rd September, 2022, were: Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O'Brien; Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District, Cllr Michael Begley; local Shannon Municipal District Councillors (Cllr John Crowe, Cllr Gerry Flynn, Cllr Donna McGettigan and Cllr Pat O'Gorman); and Clare County Council officials.

On 23rd September, 2022, the new extension to Illaunmanagh Burial Ground, Shannon, was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tony O'Brien, accompanied by the Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District, Councillor Michael Begley, and Director of Rural Development, Leonard Cleary.

Located to the west of the existing Burial Ground, the extension lies on an elevated site overlooking the Shannon Estuary. Work on the 600-plot capacity extension was carried out by Custy Construction from April 2020 until completion in late 2020. The design of the lawn cemetery involves a new direction towards a public realm space where bereaved families can reflect in the comfort of nature and the scenic Shannon Estuary.



## Celebrating the 175th anniversary of the birth of Michael Cusack



Pictured at the Michael Cusack Centre in Carron, County Clare, at a ceremony marking the 175th anniversary of the birth of Michael Cusack, were (l-r): Tim Madden (Manager, Michael Cusack Centre), Dónal Ó hAiniféin (Chair of the Board of Michael Cusack Centre), Brother Sean McNamara (author and expert on Michael Cusack), Cllr Ann Norton (Leas Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council) and Larry McCarthy (Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael). Photo: Eamon Ward.

The 175th anniversary of the birth of Michael Cusack has been celebrated at the Michael Cusack Centre in Carron, the County Clare home of the founder of the GAA.

Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Larry McCarthy joined Leas Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Ann Norton, representatives from Munster GAA, Clare GAA, Clare Camogie, Clare LGFA, the Chair of Leinster GAA, LCETB, Clare County Council, Fáilte Ireland and the local community in the heart of the Burren for the first in a series of Cusack 175 commemorative events.

Mr McCarthy unveiled a memorial plaque and planted an ash tree in Cusack's honour outside the cottage in which he was born and has since been developed into a popular visitor attraction. On Tuesday next, exactly 175 years on from the day Cusack was born, the GAA President will lay a wreath at Cusack's grave in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery, while members of Clare GAA and representatives of the Michael Cusack Centre will place a wreath at the foot of Cusack's statue outside Cusack Park in Ennis.

Born on 20th September, 1847, Michael Cusack's love for education, Irish culture and sport led to the foundation of what is today the world's largest amateur sporting organisation. The GAA that he helped to establish in 1884 has since developed a presence in every parish and community in all of Ireland and worldwide.

Leas Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Ann Norton, said: "‘Citizen Cusack’, as he was known, is a true icon of Irish culture and reflects all that is good about the community and society of his time, namely the Irish language, Gaelic Games, and promoting Irish culture and tradition through education. This commemoration is recognition of the vision and role played by Michael Cusack and the GAA in supporting our communities."

Uachtarán CLG Larry McCarthy said: "The GAA today is an integral part of Irish life, deeply rooted in communities through more than 1,600 clubs in Ireland and more than 450 clubs around the globe. It is a lasting legacy and tribute to the work of Michael Cusack and the passion and energy which he brought to the formation of the GAA."

"We will be hosting a series of Cusack 175 events right up to September 2023," stated Dónal Ó hAiniféin, Chair of the Board of Michael Cusack Centre. "We are inviting anybody, of every GAA persuasion, to come to visit. It is a bit like connecting 'where we all belong' to 'where it all began'. Carron is the fabled story of where the GAA began."

"Though born during the Great Famine and reared in poverty, Cusack drew on the inspiration of the Burren landscape for his vision of life. The relevance of Cusack's work in the area of Irish culture and our native language is still being passed through the generations. Stories continue to be told and that is one of the main themes during the festivities held in Carron today," added Mr Ó hAiniféin.



## New performance space and auditorium at Cnoc na Gaoithe officially opens



Pictured at the official opening of the new multifunctional performance space and auditorium at Cnoc na Gaoithe, the Tulla Comhaltas Cultural Centre, on 24th September, 2022, were (l-r): Siobhán O'Reilly, Administrative Officer, Clare County Council; Breda McNamara, Chairperson, Cnoc na Gaoithe Development Committee; Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD; Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council; Bernadette Haugh, A/Senior Executive Officer, Clare County Council; and Frank Whelan, Regional Officer, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

A new multifunctional performance space and auditorium at Cnoc na Gaoithe, the Tulla Comhaltas Cultural Centre, was officially opened by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD on 24th September, 2022.

The regeneration project restored a derelict site and building in the centre of Tulla and developed the facility that will further enhance and support the town's rich music and cultural heritage.

The project received €900,000 in funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). The Centre is situated in the heartland of East Clare, on top of the famous Hill of Tulla, an area renowned for traditional Irish music, song, and dance. The name 'Cnoc na Gaoithe' translates in English as the Windswept Hill, made famous by the late Kerry man Bryan MacMahon in his song 'Lament for Tommy Daly' in praise of the great Tulla and Clare goalkeeper, Dr Tommy Daly. The Sisters of Mercy donated the Tulla Convent and Primary School buildings to Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in October 2011. These buildings were developed into the Cultural Centre, known as Cnoc na Gaoithe.

The latest project has seen the construction of a state-of-the-art multifunctional performance space and auditorium in the former school building. This is used by the community as a:

- Performance venue for concerts, dramatic productions, musicals and other events with seating for 150 patrons
- Dance hall for céilís, dance functions and other entertainment purposes for the community
- Venue to teach set dancing, Irish dancing and other types of dance to locals and visiting groups
- Sports venue for indoor sports, such as football, soft ball and badminton
- Venue for keep fit activities.

Externally, the overall proposal allowed for the restoration of an old orchard garden on site, together with other landscaping, parking facilities and new entrances. Dilapidated out-buildings and other redundant matter on site were also removed. In all, the works significantly enhance the public realm of the site which sits in a central part of the town.

Welcoming Minister Humphreys to Tulla, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said: "As Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council and a Member of the Killaloe Municipal District, I am delighted to showcase this wonderful project at Cnoc na Gaoithe Tulla Comhaltas Cultural Centre. This current project is funded through the Department's Rural Regeneration and Development Fund together with match funding from Tomar Trust, which supported the construction of a state-of-the-art multifunctional auditorium in the former school building. This is a fantastic performance venue for concerts, dramatic productions, musicals and more, with seating for 150 patrons."

Chairperson of the Cnoc na Gaoithe Development Committee Breda McNamara says the facility allows them to meet the demands of the local community: "We are so delighted and grateful to the Department of Rural and Community Development for their support. The grant of €900,000, along with match funding from Tomar Trust, completed the restoration of all buildings and grounds of the former Convent of Mercy. We could not have achieved this without the ongoing support of the Minister who has followed our progress every step of the way. Huge thanks to Clare County Council, Rural and Community Department, Rural Development Directorate staff who partnered with us on this application, we could not have achieved this outcome without your support. Míle buíochas."



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

## 2022 CLÁR Programme

The following successful applications under Tranche 2 of Measure 1 of the 2022 CLÁR programme were announced on 13th September, by Minister Humphreys.

Please see link to the press release, which includes a list of the successful projects, here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/ed3c9-our-rural-future-minister-humphreys-announces-over-275-million-for-74-community-projects-nationwide/>

<b>Clare</b>	St Flannan's NS, Inagh	Inagh community car park – resurfacing carpark, disabled parking and green school biodiversity	€50,000.00
<b>Clare</b>	Doonbeg Tidy Towns	Fair green community sensory garden	€47,540.00
<b>Clare</b>	Miltown Malbay National School	MUGA	€50,000.00
<b>Clare</b>	Cloonanaha National School	Develop community garden & outdoor recreation area.	€50,000.00
<b>CLARE</b>			<b>€197,754.00</b>

### The Lifts of Moher



People with disabilities or reduced mobility can now fully enjoy everything the Cliffs of Moher Experience in County Clare has to offer courtesy of two electric buggies.

visited natural attraction from the viewing platforms overlooking the majestic cliffs to the iconic 19th century O’Brien’s Tower.

Operated by trained staff, the Burren Buggy and Wild Atlantic Shuttle provide visitors with a guided tour of Ireland’s most

Read more: <https://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/the-lifts-of-moher/>

## Ageing well at the Cliffs of Moher



The Cliffs of Moher Experience has partnered with JJ Corry Irish Whiskey to create a new series of Irish whiskeys finished in sherry casks in the iconic O'Brien's Tower.

Working with partner Cooper Casknolia and Bodegas in Montilla & Jerez, the casks have been seasoned for over 18 months before being filled with JJ Corry whiskey.

Read more: <https://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/ageing-well-at-the-cliffs-of-moher/>

## National Age Friendly judges visit Clare for shortlisting



The National Age Friendly Awards Judges visited Clare on 16th September for judging of four shortlisted projects for the National Age Friendly Awards due to be held in Dromoland Castle in October.

The four shortlisted projects are:

- Ennis Age Friendly Town
- Shannon Airport – joint first Age Friendly Airport in the world
- Garda outreach project to elderly during Covid
- New Age Friendly Housing development – Cúinne an Bhroic, Tulla.

As well as receiving detailed presentations from the project teams, the judges were brought on tours of Ennis town centre, Shannon Airport and Cúinne an Bhroic in Tulla.

Overall the judges seemed impressed with the work that is happening in Clare to respond to the ageing population. The project

teams were able to demonstrate the holistic nature of the projects to tackle, not just public realm improvements, but health and wellbeing, safety and security and social participation of older people in their communities. The inter-agency collaboration was also very evident.



## KPMG Women's Irish Open Tees Off At Dromoland



The Tourism Department assisted the Project Lead and Chief Fire Officer Adrian Kelly, event organisers at Dromoland Castle and Women's Irish Open and Clare Local Enterprise Office in the promotion of WIO 2022 with the following:

- Clare Echo and Clare Champion promotional media
- Today FM, Ian Dempsey Breakfast Show – Daily showcase of significant 'Play a round in Clare' prizes
- Clare FM Outside Broadcast
- VIP and Players Corporate Gift Packs, which included bespoke Visit Clare gifts and local produce (photograph above)
- Newly designed Golfing Brochure for Clare with a strong Fly Shannon message, all in preparation for future tournaments to come. This brochure is located here: [www.visitclare.ie/golf](http://www.visitclare.ie/golf).
- Visit Clare Photo bank has been enhanced with additional golf images for the county
- Up-to-date Social Media Promotion across all Visit Clare platforms.

## Green Flag for Vandeleur Walled Garden



We are delighted to announce that Vandeleur Walled Garden has won the Green Flag Award for the sixth year in a row! This award is the mark of a quality green space – recognising high environmental standards and excellence of visitor attractions. This achievement is down to the outstanding work, passion, and dedication of the staff to ensuring the garden maintains this excellent standard.

## RTÉ geological series, 'The Island' featuring the Geopark

September saw the release of the RTÉ geological television series, *The Island: 1.8 Billion Years in the Making*. The first episode of this insightful three-part series featured Dr Eamon Doyle from the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark who discussed the geological formation of the Burren and the changes that have occurred in the region over millions of years. *The Island* is just one of several big national and international geological productions that the Geopark has assisted with and have promoted the Burren on.

If you missed the three episodes of *The Island*, they are available to view on RTÉ Player at: <https://www.rte.ie/player/series/the-island/SI0000013005?epguid=IP000066944ndelegu>



## Tourism Department visit to Vandeleur Walled Garden



Pictured is the Tourism Department at a team meeting in Vandeleur. The team meeting was followed by a site visit to the works in progress for the reconstruction of the Stable block, under the project management of Ruth Hurley (Senior Executive Architect).

## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### West Clare



Works on the provision of a footpath in Ballynacally village.



Local improvement Scheme (LIS) works.



Works to improve footpath access for the mobility impaired in Kilkee.



Wall capping to a section of sea wall at Cappa. A section of the stone façade of the wall had previously come away from the RC supporting wall. These works are funded by the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works scheme.



Preparatory works for road reconstruction and resurfacing at Kiltumper. These works are funded by Kiltumper Wind Farm.



Repair of a bridge parapet near Cree. The parapet was struck by a car.

## North Clare



Lisdoonvarna Active Travel.



Spanish Point Active Travel.

# UKRAINIAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

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## National situation

At the end of September the number of displaced Ukrainian visitors had reached 50,000 nationally. There is still significant uncertainty about the direction of the conflict in Ukraine and migration continues across Europe. The average 7 rolling day figure shows that there are approximately 120 new visitors per day arriving to Ireland with Dublin Airport remaining the key point of entry with 87% of arrivals.

IPAS (International Protection Accommodation Service) continues to source accommodation across the country with localised shifts in activity such as third level accommodation or the changing of the tourism season also bringing about shifts in response – these changes have a natural impact on the movement of people within the country.

Approximately 64% of the arrivals are female with approximately one-third being minors. There is ongoing need in respect of accommodation, education, transport and medical services. There are approximately 11,000 enrolled in education and over 10,000 Ukrainian visitors in employment with key employment sectors being hospitality, wholesale and retail.

## County Clare

County Clare now has 2,900 (approx.) displaced Ukrainians accommodated across 29 service providers – accommodation ranges from the rest centre in Newmarket on Fergus to hotel accommodation and self-catering.

The team continues to work with Mid-West Simon to transfer people to pledged accommodation with 15 families placed in the last three weeks. We continue to work with accommodation providers, host families, agencies, NGOs, community groups and employers to find solutions that best suit the need.

## Community Response Forum

The Countywide Community Response Forum meetings on a bi-weekly basis with agencies sharing their insights and challenges in an effort to find solutions – and solutions are being found: By way of example the providers of the Local Link bus services were in a position to adjust route times and service levels in North Clare recently to address a transport difficulty in a local school while the Mid-West Simon were able to work with one of our Councillors and a local employer to link a family with a local host family and resolve a difficult commute to work.

A decision taken earlier in the summer to establish local response committees at four locations has proven beneficial.

Local meetings have been held in Shannon, Lisdoonvarna and Ennis in the last couple of weeks with Kilkee planned for this coming week. These meetings allow for discussion at local level and focus on local opportunities and projects to support our visitors.

Key topics range from childcare supports, transport, employment and integration measures – It is recognised across all groups that universality is key and that integration projects should involve all members of the community. The members of the Community Response forum work closely together when particular unfortunate events unfold and these responses are a credit to their professionalism, structures and long established inter-agency cooperation.

The recent meeting in Ennis saw the committee gather in the hub in Mna Ag Gaire where the Women's Shed have adjusted to provide a focal point with a pop-up shop and a range of training and integration programmes/sessions being run with the aid of the Clare Local Development Company, LCETB and Clare Immigrant Support Centre (CISC).



Hub at Mna Ag Gaire, Ennis.

## Ukrainian Services Development

The team in Clare County Council continues to adjust with Padraig MacCormaic recently taking up a post in Housing and Steven Hayes joining the team working on the accommodation side of our activity. Steven transferred from our Civil Defence who have worked tirelessly over the last number of months to provide emergency accommodation at short notice.

Clare County Council has recently advertised for the post of "Refugee Matching and Relationship Manager" which can be found on [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie)



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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## TRANSPORTATION

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### Roadworks Programme and Operations

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

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

Rollout of the 2022 programme of work is progressing well in all of the Municipal Districts.

Additional funding of €655,325 has been allocated to Clare from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Local Improvement Scheme. The additional funding will allow for works on a further 12 roads to be completed, bringing the total number of roads under the Local Improvement Scheme to be completed in 2022 to 26.

### Strategic Transportation

#### Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

The Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) document was approved by the National Transport Authority (NTA) Board during the summer of 2020. The LSMATS public consultation, to which all Members were invited, was launched by the NTA on 2nd September, 2020 and was on public display for an 8 week period up to 30th October. There were over 112 submissions during the process which the NTA have considered. The revised Draft LSMATS document was published on the 26th April 2022. There was a consultation period for 6 weeks until 10th June. A presentation of the revised draft LSMATS document was made by the NTA to the Physical Development SPC on May 31st, 2022 and a submission on the strategy was made by Clare County Council. Steering meetings were held by the NTA over the summer months and the NTA have prepared a final draft to present to their board. The NTA has informed us that the LSMATS has been approved by the NTA Board and that they are now in the process of finalising the documentation for publication.

#### Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the project is to improve the public transport service provision in Clare by improving scheduling, dealing with gaps in the service and by introducing

new public transport routes. Liaison and information sharing has commenced between the NTA and Clare County Council Municipal Districts and Road Design Section to support the NTA in a comprehensive rollout of the project. The local link from Kildysart to Kilrush was rolled out during 2021 as part of this project by the NTA.

#### Active Travel Programme 2022

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

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

- Construction works complete in Quin, Kilmurry, Boston Doolin and Ruan
- Construction works ongoing in Ennis, Kilmaley, Tulla, Dromindoor, Spanish Point, Lahinch and Lisdoonvarna
- Construction works to commence presently in Inagh, Miltown Malbay and Clarisford (Killaloe)
- Public lighting to be installed presently for The People's Park (Clarecastle) and Ballybeg
- Tender competitions advertised for Ballycasey Close (Shannon) and Sixmilebridge
- Option Selection phase being advanced Clare Road (incl. St Flannan's Drive), Tulla Road and Lahinch Road as part of development of the cycling network within Ennis
- Consultants to be appointed to advance Option Selection phase for permeability across bridges throughout the county.

#### Public lighting

Cork County Council published the tender for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in County Clare and four other counties on 1st October, 2020. Following the successful conclusion of the procurement process a contractor has been appointed as the Design Build Works Contract for this regional project. At present 52% of public lights in Clare have been changed to LED through the current maintenance contract.

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

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

## Road Design Office

### Current Projects: October 2022

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

### TII Road Safety Projects:

A progress meeting with the TII was held on 27th September, 2022.

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p><b>For the N85:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary and this is being progressed by the TII through their consultant.</li> <li>The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd junction should be incorporated in the Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area.</li> <li>The RDO carried out an extensive topographical survey of the N85 from Claureen roundabout to the start of the speed limit zone and are currently developing conceptual designs for this area</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.</li> </ul>
TII HD 17 Sites	<p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing.</li> <li>Interim measure proposed and being developed for N68/L2138.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N67:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 &amp; N67/L1016 now completed, conceptual designs for N67/L50222 and N67/L50221 are completed, and Feasibility Reports are being developed. Conceptual designs progressing for N67/L1022 and N67/1016.</li> <li>Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. Clare County Council has met with members of Kilkee Community Groups to get their input and consensus on aspects of the detailed design. Further meetings will be arranged once an analysis on the capacity of the proposed junction layout is be undertaken, the TII have committed to carry out this analysis. This is to alleviate some of the concerns raised by the Community Groups. Issues raised in the Road Safety Audit have been worked through and accepted by the Auditor, a public lighting designs has been completed. The Design Report is progressing with EIA and AA screening reports being sought.</li> <li>The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed. A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for this junction has been carried out. CCC and the Auditor are working on solutions for the issues raised in the report. A Feasibility Report is being prepared for submission to the TII.</li> </ul>

### Other Projects 2022

Project	Progress Update
Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022	The design process for these schemes is substantially completed and the projects have been circulated to the MDs for delivery.
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Construction works are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	15 bus shelters have been issued to tender subject to final approval from the NTA.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.</li> </ul>
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2022 feeding into the Clare County Cycling Network Project
Ennis Pedestrian Friendly & Park and Stride Assessments	Road Design in conjunction with the Ennis MD have developed a draft Ennis Pedestrian Friendly & Park and Stride Assessment Report.
Kilrush Cycle Routes Project	Road Design are currently collaborating with West Clare Municipal District to develop three new cycle routes throughout the Kilrush area. The cycle routes will incorporate a town, estuary, and heritage loop totalling 26km.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The construction phases has commenced is expected to be completed in 2022.
National Cycling Network	This is a project initiated by the TII and is being developed in conjunction with the RDO, Clare County Council. This project seeks to develop a cycling network connecting settlements with a population 5,000. At public consultation stage. Presented to Physical SPC in June.
Clare County Cycle Network	Draft strategy commenced in conjunction with the NTA and AECOM. Public consultation expected to commence in late September/October 2022.
Latoon Cycling Infrastructure	Part 8 endorsed by the Elected Members at September's Council Meeting
Pathfinder Project	The Road Design Office in Conjunction with the Ennis Md submitted a Pathfinder Project for Ennis Town.



Eurovelo Cycling Infrastructure Doonbeg and Kilkee.

### Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2022

The Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €602,000.

- AA Screening: Currently Preparing Tender Documents for 2022 Bridge Projects. Tenders returned Consultant appointed. Screening process ongoing.
- Bolooghra Bridge: Contractor currently on Site, Works to be complete by mid October.
- Killestry Bridge: Works complete.
- Scariff Bridge: Works complete.
- Cavanagh's Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned. Contractor Appointed
- Cooraclare Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned. Contractor Appointed
- Drumullan Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Gortnamearacaun Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Ahaclare Bridge: Works complete.
- D'Esterres Bridge: Works complete.
- Annagore Bridge: Works complete.
- Roadford Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.

#### River Fergus Walk

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

- Ballynalacken Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Drehidnalacken Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Cloghaun Beg: Contractor on Site.
- Friars Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Mauricesmills Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Carrowkeel Bridge: Works complete. Snagging ongoing.
- Clooncat Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Addroon Bridge: Contractor on Site.
- Drummindoorra: Repair Works out to tender.
- Turkenagh: Repair Works out to tender.

The Top Level H&S Objectives approved by the Safety Management Committee in February 2022 have commenced implementation with face to face briefings delivered on Health & Safety across a range of Departments with the following H&S Training scheduled for delivery by the end of 2022:

- Online Modules for Slips Trips and Falls/Manual Handling being rolled out between now and year end for all Indoor Staff.
- Bespoke Training scheduled for all Location of Underground Services (LUGs) Trained Staff in the use of detection equipment in October 2022.
- Serious Incident Training scheduled for each MD by year end.
- 5 Half Day Training sessions in the TM Dashboard Manual scheduled for 3 day SLG Trained staff and engineers/technicians in Oct/Nov 2022.
- 2x1 Day Line Manager H&S Training courses scheduled in Oct/Nov 2022.

## Health and Safety

The Health & Safety Team's schedule of Annual Safety Statement & Risk Assessment reviews in addition to their schedule of Safety Inspections and Internal H&S Audit is underway for 2022.

## General Design Office

### Ballyallia Amenity Park Enhancement Works

Public consultation of a proposal has been opened to the public by way of an online portal along with a face-to-face event on 8th September at Barefield Community Centre. 32 written submissions have been received and are currently being assessed with modifications to the design being made.

A second public consultation is to be held in mid-October.



### Ennistymon Digital Hub Basement Refurbishment

Following the issuing of an Invitation to Tender to carry out the refurbishment of the Basement Level of the Ennistymon Digital Hub, a Building Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works. Works to commence in October and completed by mid-December.



### Upgrade Works to Fanore Beach WC

An Invitation to Tender has been submitted on eTenders for a Building Contractor to carry out refurbishment works on the Fanore Beach WC building. Receipt of tenders due end of September, 2022.



### Town and Village Renewal Schemes

#### Corofin Town & Village Renewal Scheme

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

#### Clonlara Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Topographical survey completed, preliminary design proposals forwarded to local community for consultation and feedback. Part VIII application to be lodged in October 2022.

#### Shannon (Drumgeely) Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Public presentation on 23rd September for proposed public realm upgrade. Part VIII application to be lodged in October 2022.

#### Sixmilebridge Access Steps Handrail

Tender drawings finalised and approved. Gone for pricing March 2022. Works to start on site 21st September.

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## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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The PMO continue to progress a number of major capital projects. Significant works have been completed on the ground in Killaloe and Springfield along with the positive news from An Bord Pleanála confirming the Ennistymon Inner Relief Road (Blake's Corner) CPO application without modification. Other projects progressed include:

### Clonaunhinchy Flood Relief Scheme

The situation here remains the same. Not all Landowners impacted by this proposed scheme have yet agreed to make their lands available as required. Until and unless these are all submitted, unfortunately, the project cannot progress any further.

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

Clare County Council was delighted to receive positive

confirmation from An Bord Pleanála in late September confirming the Compulsory Purchase Order for the N67/N85 Inner Relief Road Ennistymon (Blake's Corner) scheme without modification. Following expiry of the required standstill period, we will then be able to move forward to the next stage of the project.

### Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

The Main Works Contractor, John Sisk & Company, is making good progress with access and enabling works now substantially complete for the new Bridge Crossing on both the Clare and Tipperary sides of the river. It is expected that piling activities will commence in the coming weeks. In addition, works to the Main Construction Compound adjacent to the Shantraud Woods Housing Development on the R463 have been progressed with some site offices and welfare facilities now in place for the expanding site team.

Enabling works are also progressing in parallel at the following locations.

- Kilmastulla River Bridge crossing
- Lands adjacent to the Limerick/Nenagh/Ballybrophy Railway line near Shannonside Business Park on the R494
- Lands adjacent to the proposed Ballyvally roundabout on the R463 Killaloe to Tuamgraney Road.

Other works include archaeological monitoring, ecological monitoring & property pre-condition surveys along with geotechnical investigations along the route corridor and erection of H&S measures around overhead power lines. The few remaining Land Acquisitions are currently being progressed, mostly by agreement. The next Arbitration date is set for early November.

Detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works carried out on site in 2021 is ongoing. Following the provision of all these results to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd, the final reports can be prepared, and a public presentation organised. Construction is expected to take up to 3 years and a detailed works programme will be provided by Sisks once they have engaged with the major stakeholders, suppliers and subcontractors.



East Pier Jetty on the Killaloe Bridge Project.

### Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

Following the Public Participation Day (PPD) held in mid August, the Scheme consultants JBA/JB Barry have produced a summary report of issues arising. They are also currently calculating costs associated with the three fluvial & pluvial options and sub-options. They will commence the Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) of those options in the coming period. The MCA will analyse and score each option under the following headings:

- Technical
- Social
- Economic
- Environmental/Cultural

This assessment forms part of the process in determining the preferred option. Furthermore, the Consultant's environmental and Ecology team continue to progress related elements of the scheme with an electro fishing survey due to be completed in the coming week along with further treatment of Japanese Knotweed planned.

The CCTV contractor has issued their final report on the surface water drainage survey which is currently being reviewed. For information purposes, the Project Website [www.kilkeefrs.ie](http://www.kilkeefrs.ie) has been updated with the options drawings and related documents, including the questionnaires from the August Public Participation Day.

### Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

Following Landowner consent, the Ground Investigation works have now been substantially progressed on site by Priority Geotechnical Ltd. There remains some slit trenching works on the junctions of Lees Road (L4180), Drumcliffe Road (L4599) & (L4182) and the Drehidnagower Road (L4587) which should be completed in the coming weeks. The results of these investigatory works will assist RPS Consulting Engineers, to finalise the road design, land-take requirements and prepare the scheme drawings and specifications for a competitive Tender process for the works in 2023. We have also commenced engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding the acquisition of the necessary lands required for the road element of the scheme.

### Lough Donnell Culvert Repair works

Site Investigation works were carried out in September which will inform the detailed design which has now commenced. Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland is ongoing,

### Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

Disappointingly, the now NTA approved LSMATS excludes the LNDR in its current form. However, Clare County Council is committed to this much needed strategic project and is hopeful of its inclusion in the next review of LSMATS.

### N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

The Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage is currently ongoing. Following extensive consultation with all major stakeholders such as TII Road Safety Section, NTA, the Gardai, Shannon Airport and Shannon Commercial Properties, significant progress has been made in terms of junction design development, active travel measures, access strategies, scheme land-take requirements, construction methodologies and works sequencing.

Nationwide Data Collection Ltd have now furnished the team with the final traffic survey data which will allow further assessment and consideration of traffic volumes in the area. Earth-Sound Geophysics Ltd have recently completed the Archaeology & Geophysical Surveys of the site and the results of these surveys are awaited as part of the process of archaeological assessment and risk management for the scheme.

In parallel, works are progressing in relation to the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a pre-application consultation meeting with An Bord Pleanála has been arranged for early October. Following this meeting, Fehily Timoney & Co are holding a Workshop to start the EIAR development process with CCC, TII and the Mid-West National Road

Design Office in preparation for Phase 4 – Statutory Processes. Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website [www.shannon-access.ie](http://www.shannon-access.ie)

### N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme

TII have now given approval for us to seek tenders from suitable qualified Technical Advisors to progress this much awaited scheme. The Council, in conjunction with the Mid West Regional Road Design Office (MWRRO) are completing the necessary information gathering to complete the Project Brief with a view to publishing the tender at the earliest juncture. It is expected that the tender competition will commence in Q3 2022.

### Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)

Irish Water are continuing with the enabling works and water-mains upgrade at Bank Place, High Street and O'Connell Street. In parallel, the Contractor Shareridge, is replacing the Medium Voltage cable infrastructure through the works area. These works are necessary to ensure the long-term integrity of the towns water, sewer and electrical supplies and will minimise the long-term need for future excavation of utilities. The contractor is now at an advanced stage of completion and has commenced restoration of the foul main between Station Road and Carmody Street, having completed all works at Bank Place, O'Connell Square, and elsewhere in O'Connell Street. Irish Water/Shareridge have a Public Liaison Officer in place who is available to discuss and inform all affected businesses on matters relating to the works programme.

Related to same, the Council continues to liaise closely with the URDF Section of the Department who are the Approving and Funding Authority for the project and are awaiting final approvals. Tender submissions have been received from shortlisted contractors in respect of awarding the main contract works. It is envisaged that contracts will be awarded following review of tender proposal and submission of Final Business Case to URDF. Once approval has been granted, works are expected on site in early 2023.

We will continue to engage with Elected Members and affected business owners/residents as the work progresses to keep everyone informed of developments.

### Quin Flood Relief Scheme

Enabling works will commence on site in early October following the appointment of a Contractor for the necessary tree clearance works. The AIA (Archaeological Impact Assessment) is also progressing with some trial holes and slit trenches planned before the commencement of the more substantive wall/embankment construction works on site.

### Remediation of sites containing ACM

Our Technical Advisors, Fehily Timoney & Co continue to progress the detailed design for this project. A subcontract has been awarded in respect of additional topographical surveys

required. FCO are in the process of developing a Preliminary execution and contracting strategy for review by Clare County Council in respect of informing tender documents for the main works contract. In the meantime, the sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with our agreed approach following consultation with the EPA.

### Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The additional Coastal study regarding Estuary water levels, as required under the Limerick City & Environs FRS is now complete. The consultant has submitted the new levels for review and approval. These levels will then be considered in the Shannon T&E FRS for the design of the embankment crest level. Our Scheme consultant, RPS, has submitted the Hydraulic Report (fluvial elements only) for review and approval. Considering the new information regarding the Estuary water levels, it was agreed that this report will be updated with the coastal chapters in the future.

The RPS geotechnical team have commenced the design of the preliminary embankment option. This is due for completion in early November while the RPS Environmental team are currently preparing to carry out this year's wintering bird survey. Meanwhile, the Project Team is also preparing a specification for an independent third-party geotechnical check on a portion of those preliminary options.

Clare County Council and their consultants continue to meet with the project team of the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road to coordinate design interface and share relevant survey data and information. Shannon Airport's maintenance works on the embankments are now complete and the contractor has de-mobilised from site. Further information on the scheme is available on [www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com](http://www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com)

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

'Public Consultation 2' is currently underway and is on display at the Kilrush Public Library and the Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee as well as online on [www.clarecoco.ie](http://www.clarecoco.ie) Feedback may be submitted until 30th September 2022. As part of this public consultation phase, members of the Design and Project Team were available at well attended information evenings at Kilrush and Kilkee Libraries on September 14th and September 15th to advise the general public and affected landowners and to answer any queries or concerns that anyone may have had. West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon) – 'Public Consultation 1' will be on display in early October in Ennis, Corofin and Ennistymon. Further details will be communicated in local media in the coming weeks. As always, we would welcome comments or suggestions from interested parties and members of the public which can be emailed to [pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie](mailto:pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie).

**Springfield, Clonlara FRS**

Construction work on the embankments is now complete except for a final 30m section at the location of the outfall pipes from the pumpstation. Anti-erosion matting, topsoiling and hydroseeding is also complete. Work has commenced on the toe drains along the foot of the embankment. Reinforced concrete walls have been constructed along the main culvert on the Illaunyregan Stream. The two penstocks (which form the flood protection barrier) have also been installed at the downstream side of the twin culverts by a specialised contractor. A demonstration on the operation of the penstocks will be carried out

for Clare County Council staff shortly. The pump chamber has been constructed and rock armour provided along the sides of the realigned Illaunyregan stream. The two pumps are on order with the suppliers. The diverted culvert will now be decommissioned and the Illaunyregan stream returned to its original course. Work on the civil elements of the land raising area at Cottage is complete and landscaping has commenced. Drainage work is also completed on the site. The scheme is progressing well and the weather of late has been favourable. The scheme is due for completion in late November 2022.

**Springfield, Clonlara FRS**



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Pre-scheme.



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Current status of embankment.



## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during September:

- Chainsaw Operator Training Course
- Chainsaw Supervisor Training Course
- Bronto Aerial Appliance Operator Course.

### Crane Rescue Exercise

Clare County Fire and Rescue Service carried out a Line Rescue Exercise with Kilcawley Construction at the construction site of the Ennistymon Education Campus. Members of the Ennistymon and Ennis Fire Brigades and a Clare County Council Health and Safety Officer were in attendance. Kilcawley Construction Health and Safety Advisor and Crane Driver also participated in this exercise.



### Women’s Irish Open, Dromoland

The 2022 Women’s Irish Open took place from Thursday 22nd September to Sunday 25th September at Dromoland Castle. Clare County Fire & Rescue Service engaged with the organisers of the event in relation to the licensing process. Shannon Fire Brigade were onsite for a familiarisation visit of the venue prior to the event taking place.

### Class B Fire Appliances

Capital Grant Aid Funding has been approved for the purchase of 2 additional second-hand Class B Fire Appliances. Upon delivery, minor refurbishment works will be required before the vehicles go operational. The appliances will improve the age profile of Class B Fire Appliances within the Brigade.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Aug 2022	Sept 2022 (Up to 26.09.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	93	53	712
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	3	3	66
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	18	1	68
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	7	2	48
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	4	5	51
Number of Commencement Notices Received	40	26	296
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	3	14

*(Note: In the September Monthly Report, the June figures related to 1st to 26th August due to timing of report)*

## Clare Civil Defence

### Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel, Ennis as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.
- Vintage Tractor Show in Newmarket on Fergus
- Charity Cycle held in Lisdoonarna

### Civil Defence Response at the Women's Irish Open

Twenty-five members of Clare Civil Defence provided medical cover for the Women's Irish Open held in Dromoland Castle. Medical coordination for the event was provided by the Civil Defence Officer in conjunction with the Medical Director, Dr. Kerr Livingston. Cover was provided by the members 13 hours per day for a seven-day period. Mobile crews patrolled the course on golf buggies which enabled the crews to respond to any incidents within a matter of minutes. A field hospital was established on the Sunday before the start of the tournament by the members that allowed for a sterile environment to treat

any patients who may have needed treatment. Several people were treated throughout the week for minor injuries with one person being referred to University Hospital Limerick for treatment of a pre-existing condition. Overall, the medical response for the tournament was very successful and great appreciation is due to the volunteer members of Clare Civil Defence for the extremely professional and time commitment given.



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## ENVIRONMENT

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### Environmental Awareness

#### Energy Awareness Day event and Sustainable Development Goals Week

The staff Energy Awareness Day event and Sustainable Development Goals Week event took place this month in the foyer of Áras Contae an Chláir.

The event also has an accompanying Have Your Say webpage: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/european-sustainable-energy-week>, where information about energy awareness, home energy upgrade grants and supports, and electric vehicle

grants and supports being provided by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. An online Staff Travel to Work Survey is being conducted on this Have Your Say page.

The Sustainable Development Goals Week event also has a Have Your Say page: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/clare-sdgs>, which provides information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how they can be used in our daily lives. A Sustainable Development Goals Survey is also being conducted on this Have Your Say page.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

### Solid fuel regulations

New regulations for solid fuels will come into effect from 31st October this year. These are aimed at improving air quality for everyone. A print and social media campaign was carried out to help raise awareness with business and householders.

### Other campaigns

The following were also promoted as part the The Clare Echo Green Clare page initiative - solid fuel regulations, dog control and fouling, cigarette littering as well as the Mattress Amnesty Day at Kilrush Mart (8th October 2022).

Adverts raising awareness on household waste byelaws, illegal dumping, and the Bin It or Bring it Home campaign were also placed in the Clare Echo Going Green Feature. This was complemented by an editorial piece on the Environment Section.

## Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	September 2022	Jan-September 2022
Planning applications (Domestic)	60	371
Planning applications (Large Developments)	2	22
Planning applications (Forestry)	6	92
Planning applications (Agriculture)	1	10
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	2	14

Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	5	43
Pollution complaints received	9	106
Warning & advisory letters issued	1	7
Enforcement actions (\$12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0

## Gardening

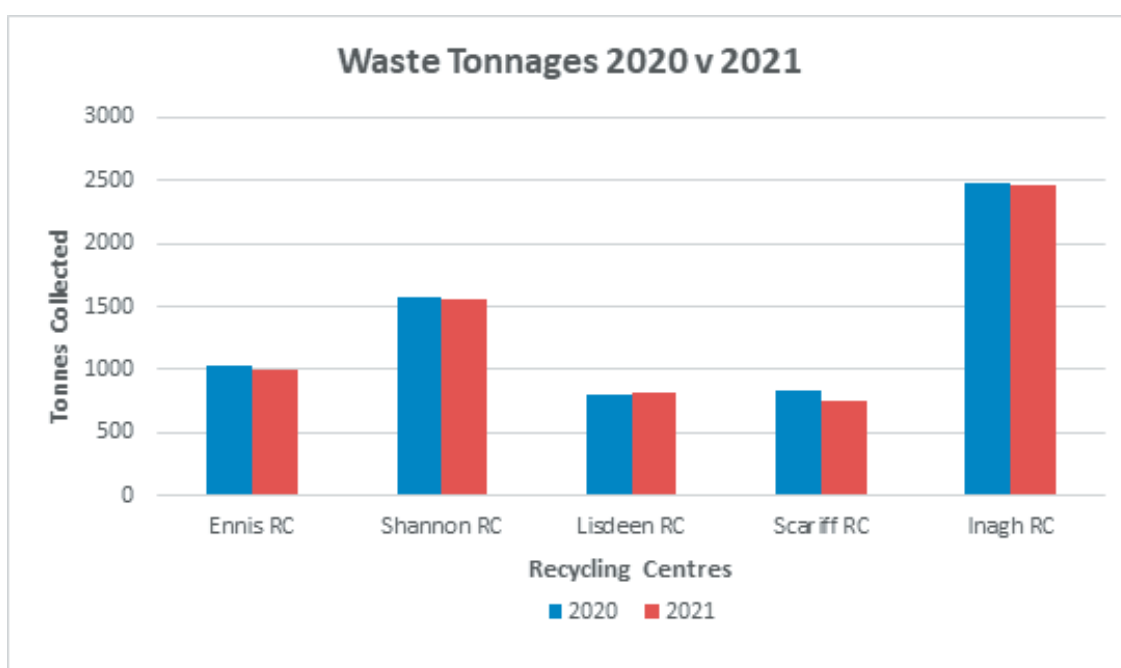
The Gardening Team has commenced enhancement works of an existing planted area at Áras Chontae an Chláir. A core aim of this planting is to align with the actions of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and showcase how pollinator friendly planting can be implemented in existing urban spaces. Works are nearing completion and shall be finalised in early October.

The focus within the Gardening Team has shifted towards planning for Spring and Summer 2023. Planting programmes for public areas are being developed with a renewed focus on maximising impact utilising pollinator friendly and perennial plant species, while the planting and over wintering of young plants and flowers for the spring has already begun at the gardening depot.

## Waste Management

### EPA Waste Survey Report

Annual Waste Collection Data for 2021 has been compiled by the Environment Section and submitted to the EPA's Waste survey Section in September. The results of this have shown that waste collection across all the Civic Amenity Sites remained consistent in comparison to 2020. For the purposes of this data collection exercise waste is considered municipal domestic waste (black bag rubbish) and recycling material. The chart below highlights the statistical trend:



- Ennis Recycling Centre waste tonnages decreased by 4%
- Shannon Recycling Centre waste tonnages decreased by 1%
- Lisdeen Recycling Centre waste tonnages increased by 1%
- Scariff Recycling Centre waste tonnages decreased by 9%
- Inagh Recycling Centre waste tonnages decreased by 1%

### Bring Banks

Bring banks are currently in the process of being reinstalled on a trial basis in Shannon, adjacent to the Shannon Municipal District Offices. A number of Clear, Brown, Green Glass Banks and a Can Bank will be available to access 24 hrs a day. The site will be monitored in the coming weeks and months by the Environment Section and the local MD office. This data will assess both usage and dumping activity.

## Waste Enforcement

### An Taisce Clean Coasts

There has been an increase in the number of voluntary Beach Clean Ups organised in recent weeks. Clare County Council have initiated a meeting with the An Taisce Clean Coasts representatives to streamline the application process and lead to increased co-operation between Community Groups, An Taisce Clean Coasts and Clare County Council.

### Green Hub

Over the past year, materials to assist with improved waste segregation within the commercial sector have been made available to businesses and organisations on the “mywaste” platform.

A new component is now being introduced into the delivery of the Commercial Waste Campaign and the creation of **Green Towns/Green Hubs**.

The aim of the **Green Towns/Green Hubs Project** is to initiate 6 ‘green towns/green hubs’ nationally during 2022/2023, where the Commercial Waste materials will be widely utilised within a designated area, ideally a town/city (or part thereof). Clare County Council nominated Kilkee to be designated as a green hub. The results of the selection process will be known in the coming weeks.

Businesses, public offices or community spaces within a designated area will be encouraged to utilise the materials to assist with improved waste segregation. The objective is to lead to increased levels of segregation. It is also hoped that this could aid further discussion and action on circular economy (such as widening the use of reusable cups, encouraging the use of the food waste segregation in the hospitality sector etc.

### Bicycle Recycling Scheme for Ukrainian Refugees

Under this initiative, people were invited to bring unwanted bikes for FREE to any of our Recycling Centres around the County, for repair and onward distribution to Ukrainian refugees living in Co. Clare.

To date up to 40 bikes have been delivered throughout the County, with a similar amount currently ready for distribution. Clare County Council is continuing to link in with the Clare Local Development Company (CLDC), to respond to requests for bikes, submitted by the Ukrainian Co-ordinators in CLDC, using funding secured under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, in line with the principles of the Circular Economy.

### Mattress Amnesty Day

Also under the **Anti-Dumping Initiative**, a FREE household mattress collection day is scheduled for October 8th at Kilrush Mart. A similar event was held last year at the Central Waste Management Facility in Inagh. This year, in response to requests from West Clare Councillors, a West Clare venue has been chosen. It is hoped to hold similar days at other Municipal District locations next year.

Details of the upcoming event will be advertised on local media this week.

### Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to complaints relating to waste and litter. In total, 57 complaints relating to waste and litter were received in September to date. They have all been investigated and are being closed out.

### Dog Fouling

The Waste Enforcement Team provide support to the Municipal Districts, in providing stencils, signage and disposal bags. The mobile audio warning devices are being moved this week in response to identified busy dog walking locations. The number of dog fouling complaints received in September to date is 4, a reduction on previous months. We will continue to link in with the county Dog Warden to promote the message of responsible dog ownership.

### Notifications of Controlled Burning

In total, 12 notifications of controlled burning were received and processed in September to date, as per the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009.

## 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.

### Future Delivery of Water Services.

The WRC published a framework document on 24th June for the future delivery of water services for consideration by the relevant parties. This framework document will assist in ensuring a stable operational environment is maintained as the water sector completes the transition to a national water services authority. There have been no further developments regarding the framework.

### 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 26th August, 2022, up to and including 21st September, 2022. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 25 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 3 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 303 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 3 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received during the period
- 121 Service Requests (SRs) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 31 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 5 were for planned works i.e. mains replacement, tie-in of new water mains and water outages. There were 22 unplanned outages for burst watermains, water outages, meter exchange and water leaks. 4 Communication notifications issued for step testing and water discolouration.

#### Water Operations

Considerable resources have been deployed throughout the summer months involving tankering and network management to maintain supply during the prolonged dry spell of weather.

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

- Church Drive, Clarecastle – Burst Watermain
- Kilmaley Road, Beechpark – Burst Watermain
- Shalee Drive, Cloughleigh Estate – Burst Watermain
- Cusack Road, Ennis – Burst Watermain

- Various leak repairs from Larsens – Tulla Road
- Knocknamana, Clarecastle – Burst Watermain
- Kilkeady WTP x 2 – Burst Watermains
- Carran WTP – Burst Watermain
- Hermitage , Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Steeles Terrace, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Remedial Action List upgrade ongoing in Corofin Water Treatment Plant.
- Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non Domestic Programme.
- Shareridge watermain replacement - O Connell Square/ Street Ongoing
- Tankering to Carran WTP during dry spells in July & August – None in September.
- Existing Borehole testing in Carran WTP – Ongoing
- ESB Outage in Clarecastle – 17/09/22 – Water Outage – Lissane, Clarehill & Claremount
- Leak Repair works ongoing in Drumcliff Reservoir – IW/ AQS

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

- 30-8-22 Burst Watermain Doonbeg
- 1-9-22 Burst Watermain Lisdeen 225mm
- 3-9-22 Burst Watermain Doonbeg
- 25-9-22 Burst Watermain Lisdeen
- 26 and 27-09-22 New Doolough Network Flushing (CCC)

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

- Cliffs of Moher reservoir bypass, cleaning, and reroofing, (AQS and CCC)



- Circular Road Ennistymon Mains Upgrade



- 19-8-22 Burst Watermain Moy Lahinch
- 2-9-22 Burst Watermain 225mm Liscannor

- 16-09-22 Burst Watermain 100mm Miltown Malbay

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

- Sixmilebridge – Burst Watermain
- Aidan Park Shannon – Burst Watermain
- Tulla Road Kilkishen – Burst Watermain
- Booster Pumpset, Cratloe – Works completed
- Whitegate – Leak Detection step testing
- Cratloe – Burst Watermain
- Meelick – Burst Watermain
- Tulla – Watermain Connection
- Shannon – various watermain bursts in Aiden Park, Tradaree Court and Ind Estate
- Tuamgraney – Step testing and meter install at Industrial estate
- Kilmurry/Sixmilebridge – Burst Watermain
- Tankering to Tulla & O Brien’s Bridge for drought period to assist demand on network
- Potassium Permanganate Dosing unit install at Castlelake WTP – Ward & Burke – Operating since Mid Sep

**Water Conservation**

- Leak Detection Works – East Clare – Shannon, Kilmurry, Kilkishen, Quin
- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare – Clarecastle Bridge DMA, Clarehill DMA & Cusack Road
- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare - Acoustic Logger Installation – Ballybeg DMA, Ennis
- Leak Detection Works – North Clare – Killaloe DMA – Acoustic Logger Installation
- Fix Operation – Various locations – Tuamgraney, Scarriff, Tulla & Mountshannon
- Larsens – Find crew – Kilmaley Road Pumps DMA & Tulla Road DMA
- SES -Find Crew – Castlequarter/Ballinfonta DMA

**Wastewater Operations**

Proactive maintenance works were carried out at Tulla WWTP in early September. The works involved the emptying and cleaning of the existing clarifier including a condition assessment of the tank and all associated equipment. The wastewater operations crew successfully managed to keep the plant operational and compliant while the clarifier was out of commission.

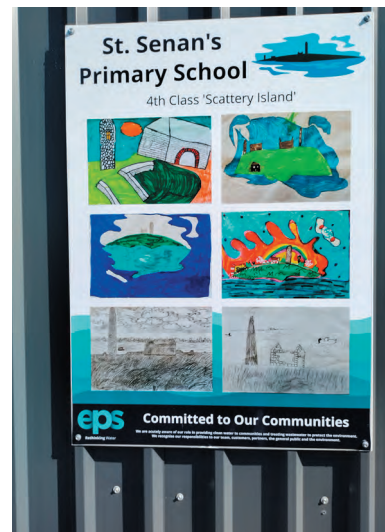


Several minor upgrades were carried out at both Newmarket-on-Fergus and Sixmilebridge WWTps. These works included the repair and replacement of pumps, upgrade to ferric dosing equipment, repairs to inlet screens and the installation of safety handrails on site.

The Iniscarragh pump station in Ennis has also been fitted with new pumps and guide rails within the last month. These works will help increase the pumping efficiency at the site and limit the number of interventions required by repair crews.

**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. Work on pipework and tank fit out is continuing. The rising main from Frances Street to the new WWTP has been constructed with a road closure and traffic diversions in place. The cofferdam for the new storm storage tank at Frances St Pump Station site was constructed and most of the storm tank walls are in place. Completion of the overall scheme is due in mid-2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near Skagh Point.



**Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme**

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

The contractor has installed the rising main in the land adjoining the N85, from the Clareabbey WWTP to a point opposite the Maxol service station, and also along the R458. Construction of the new pumping facility commenced at Quay Road. Works are programmed to be substantially complete by the end of November.

When complete this project will end the discharge of raw sewage to the Fergus at the Quay in Clarecastle.

### Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant

Construction of the Liscannor project is ongoing. The scheme 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. Mechanical and electrical works are ongoing. Work on the pipelines is complete.

Completion of the scheme is due in early 2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near the pier in Liscannor.



### Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant

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

### Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant

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

### Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

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

planning application will commence in early 2023.

### Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

It is proposed to construct additional treatment facilities and a new 400mm diameter rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. It is anticipated that the planning application will be lodged in late 2022. Subject to all statutory consents and a tender process, it is anticipated that a Contractor would be appointed during 2023.

### Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Construction is continuing at the WWTP site. Works are continuing in the construction of the percolation area. The overall scheme is due for completion in 2023.

### Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

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

- 1. New Doolough Water Treatment Plant** – This plant is the regional treated water source for West Clare covering the large geographical area in the county and the third largest plant by volume produced. The project will modernise the treatment technology at the plant which will allow it to achieve the desired quality of output during events which cause high turbidity at the source. Works to upgrade filters, and construction of the new sludge thickener and lamella clarifier have been completed. Installation of the new sludge press is complete. Site surfacing and reinstatement works are underway. Testing and commissioning works are underway.
- 2. Corofin Water Treatment Plant** – this plant provides water to the town of Corofin. The project will modernise the treatment processes on site which will enable production of water to the desired standard during high turbidity events in the source lake. Works are nearing completion with the main treatment process now complete and ready for testing with the sludge handling process to be constructed in Phase 2, once the temporary plant is removed. Work is underway to finalise the telemetry system and to detail the testing of the new equipment.
- 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. Ordering of works materials has commenced and the contractor has established a compound on site and commenced site preparation works.

### Rockmount Water Treatment Plant\ Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Construction of the reservoir is now substantially complete, with testing of the new reservoir and demolition and removal of the old tank to be completed before year end.

### 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. Civil Works on the inlet storm tank and ESB substation are now well advanced. The project is expected to be complete in Q1 2023.

### Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. The output of this stage of the project is a feasibility study report which will inform the decision on the most appropriate option to develop capacity in the plants. The consultant is now preparing options reports for each plant.

### Ennis Drainage Area Plan

This project involves the gathering of all available data on the wastewater network in Ennis and surveying and monitoring of flows in the network. This information will be used to build a hydraulic model of the network. The hydraulic model can be used to model future growth in the town and accurately identify where upsizing of pipework/pumping infrastructure might be required. It will also be used to identify where groundwater is infiltrating into the network adding unnecessary additional loading. It will allow Irish Water to have confidence in obtaining the best value for money on network improvement. The consultant is reviewing the available data and preparing a surveying contract for Ennis wastewater network.

### Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 64 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 314 assets, 211 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water. Three were determined to be duplicate or not

water assets since the last report.

The 103 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

Report prepared / Pending / Internal Query (14 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 7 assets under further query and 7 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (56 assets)– This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities. The majority of assets in this category are folios under third party ownership but where long standing use and some evidence of previous land dealing is present. Irish Water are now advocating that property in long term operational possession but not in the Council name be obtained by the adverse possession process. Circular L1 2022 has confirmed department support for this approach. All assets which have not yet transferred will be examined to see if they can be progressed using this method.
- Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets)–At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- Outstanding assets to be reported on (33 assets) – These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to submit to Irish Water for their consideration on the best approach to proceed with. Many of the remaining assets have been examined and various routes being explored to close these out.

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

### Rural Water Programme

The replacement of 4.2km of the Ballycar GWS Mains is due to commence on the 10th October pending approval of a Road Closure Notice. The works are due to take place over a 12week period which shall bring it into the new year. Works on the connection of 6no houses to the Portdrine No.2 GWS on the N18 dual carriageway at Cratloe are awaiting license approval. Works to replace a section of 600m of the Clohanes GWS have just received approval and it is hoped to complete design and progress to tender in the coming weeks. All the above works are to be completed under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme.

Invitations for the submission of bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme from the Department of



Housing, Local Government and Heritage are still awaited. Engagement continues with GWS's wishing to progress works under the upcoming programme.

The Mountrivers Group Sewerage Scheme (Doonbeg), Breaffa South GWS (Miltown Malbay) and the Annagh North GWS (Miltown Malbay) were all progressed to the public network following confirmation of taking in charge earlier this month. This brings this year's total of schemes taken in charge to 7 inclusive of 6 Group Water Schemes and 1 Group Sewerage Scheme.

Kilmaley Inagh Group Water Scheme and Toonagh Dysert Group Water Schemes were recently honoured with Excellence Awards in Quality Assurance and Water Safety Planning from

the National Federation of Group Water Schemes at their recent Annual Conference in the Hudson Bay, Athlone. A great achievement for both schemes and recognition of the work and commitment that the schemes display in supplying water to their respective communities.

57 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

### Ennis – Finalist in 'Ireland's Friendliest Town' 2022

Ennis has achieved Top 5 status in Ireland's Friendliest Place (AIBMS Retail Excellence Awards). Ten retailers across town took part, achieving very high scores from the mystery shopper as well as getting advice on areas for improvement. The next stage of the process is a public vote, which will determine who will be named Ireland's Friendliest Town. The window for voting is from now until October 17th with the overall winner being announced on November 12th.



### Ballyallia Amenity Park Enhancement Works

The first public information evening for this project took place in Barefield Community Centre on Sept 6th from 5-8pm and was well attended. An online public consultation was conducted in parallel with all maps and drawings available for viewing. A number of people used this platform with submissions coming from residents and users of the Lake. It is envisaged that a second public consultation will take place in October.

### Enhancing the streetscapes

O'Halloran Painting contractors have been appointed to undertake the painting of street furniture in Ennis during 2022 and 2023. The recent fine weather provided an opportunity to advance this work.



**CLÁR – Kilnamona**

Kilnamona was successful in 2020 under measure 1 – support for schools/community safety measure. The work has recently been completed which includes pedestrian crossings, foot-paths, signage and lining, facilitating a connection between the school and the community centre.



The small works team carried out repairs, removed and de-weeded areas of heavy overgrowth in Clonroadbeg and Cloughleigh River Walk throughout the month of September.



Cloughleigh walk before

**Maintenance Works**

Reinstatement works were carried by the Ennis MD small works crew to areas of the Aras carpark this month.



Cloughleigh walk after

Ennis MD engaged the services of Protectit – an outdoor cleaning specialist to deep clean areas of the recently constructed public realm project on Parnell St.



**Bicycle Stands**

Bike stands and service station have been installed at the plaza area in Clarecastle



# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Clare County Council, in conjunction with Limerick City and County Council, was delighted to partner with 'Motion by Electronomous' to bring leading global players within the mobility, automotive and aviation ecosystem to the brand-new Future Mobility Campus Ireland in Shannon in September. Founders, investors, mobility startups, OEM's, Tier 1s, technologists and organisations like Cubic Transportation Systems, Freenow, Jaguar Landrover, Dell, Tier Mobility, Bolt, IDA, Taoglas and Enterprise Ireland, gathered at the Future Mobility Campus Ireland for an action-packed day of hands-on workshops and panel debates to discover the technology that is changing how we move people and goods, and to help shape future mobility. Liam Conneally, Director of Economic Development, sat on a panel discussion with the IDA, Jaguar Landrover CEO, and Provisio CEO which focused on 'Identifying, fostering and keeping talent to ensure growth in the Tech and Mobility Sector'. The Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan sets out our commitment to

driving the region from an innovation and digital perspective with a specific action to develop and expand advanced mobility capability at the Future Mobility Campus Ireland. This event provided a great opportunity to get further insight into the talent and skills possessed in the industries in Co. Clare and the MidWest region.

### Ennis 2040

Ennis 2040 have commenced an innovative competition with the Transition Year Students in Ennis. Student projects will focus on sustainability and the student's vision for a sustainable town in 2040. Projects will be around several sustainability topics such as transport, waste, food, biodiversity and energy. Winners of the competition will present their findings to the Ennis Municipal District Councillors in Spring 2023. We look forward to working with the students and teachers on the development of their vision and projects.

## STRATEGIC PROJECTS

### Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

Following the publication of the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan (January 2022), background work and stakeholder engagement commenced in August in preparation for the anticipated URDF call by the end of this year. It is intended to submit an application to seek capital funding for the delivery of key proposals set out in the masterplan and in particular, for the delivery of the proposed 'One Shannon Hub' municipal building and associated public realm enhancement strategy, which will form a significant component of the URDF application. Significant discussions with a range of stakeholders continued in September with a view to a collaborative approach and getting support for an URDF application.

### One Shannon Hub

The One Shannon Hub building, to be located on a site in Shannon Town Centre acquired by Clare County Council will combine Local Authority Civic Offices, an Adaptable Performance Space, Community Library, Co-Working facilities and Workshops. These facilities will include education and training spaces for local businesses, exhibitions and cultural events. Above all, it will be a meeting and usable space for the local community. The delivery of the One Shannon Hub, identified as a specific objective in the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan, achieved a positive and significant milestone in September. The tender process for the procurement of an Integrated Design Team and Integrated Project Management and Quality Surveyor Services

for the delivery of the proposed 'One Shannon Hub' project and associated public realm enhancement strategy closed 12th September. Following an assessment of the Tenders, preferred Integrated Design Team QS teams were identified in mid-September. Formal correspondence will issue shortly to the successful tenders, with the appointment of the consultants scheduled by the end of October 2022.

### Roche Masterplan

Following consultation with the Clarecastle community earlier in the year, and the completion of environmental reports and assessments including Screening for both Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment, the Roche Masterplan is under preparation. A SEA scoping report has been completed with the Draft Roche Masterplan is scheduled for completion in November 2022.

## FORWARD PLANNING

### Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Chief Executive's Report on the 1,015 written submissions received during the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 public consultation time period was issued on the 10th July 2022 to the Elected Members for their consideration. The report sets out a summary of each submission and the Chief Executive's response and recommendation for each. A series of informal workshops have been held throughout September with 15 workshops held to date and which will conclude in the first week of October 2022. The workshops which are being held at Municipal District level will facilitate Elected Members to consider those submissions which relate specifically to their respective areas. Two workshops for the full Council have also been held to consider more strategic policy issues. The Elected Members have until late October 2022 to consider the Chief Executive's Report and to agree by resolution at a Special Council Meeting any proposed material alterations to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. Any proposed material alterations agreed require the Council to determine if an appropriate assessment and/or strategic environmental assessment are required and if so, to specify how long is required for these to be undertaken. This will determine the exact date for when the proposed material alterations to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will be placed on public display for a further period of public consultation, however it is anticipated this will be towards the end of 2022.

### Sixmilebridge Town Centre Masterplan

Clare County Council is working with the design team at Allies and Morrison Ltd in the preparation of the Masterplan for Sixmilebridge funded under the national "Town Centre First" initiative. This has included a number of online meetings including a baseline presentation by the Design Team. In addition, preparations are well underway for the forthcoming Stage 1 Initial Public Consultation Event for community representatives and local business owners and a Walkability Audit of the town centre, with the assistance from local Councillors John Crowe and PJ Ryan, and Clare County Council's Age Friendly Team.

Invites to the Public Consultation Event and Walkability Audit have issued and both events will be held on the 4th October 2022 at the Bridge Active Building in Sixmilebridge. The next stage of the process will include a presentation of emerging proposals by the design team to Clare County Councillors, and to the local community and other stakeholders at the second stage of public consultation due to be held in November.



### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The RZLT, proposed under Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland, 2021, and introduced by the Finance Act 2021, will come into effect from 2024. The purpose of the tax is to activate existing planning permissions as well as zoned and serviced residential and mixed use lands to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations. The Forward Planning Team have engaged with stakeholders, including Irish Water and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, to identify lands that fall within the scope of the tax and work is well underway in mapping these lands. Draft Mapping will be placed on public display in early November and submissions invited from landowners and the public.



### 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. This enhancement plans seeks to provide a framework for the future development of the town. Following on from a well-attended public event exhibiting the enhancement plan, the steering group met in September to discuss a draft of the final report. It is expected that the final report will be issued in October.



### Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) are working in partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. A multi-disciplinary design team led by Hall McKnight Architects has been appointed to prepare the plan. The second stage of public consultation was a public event held at the Corofin Community Hall on the 14th September. This was well attended by the community and their input is invaluable for the future development of the plan. The public consultation event is supplemented by a series of targeted consultation meetings with key stakeholders, and an online questionnaire has been launched to maximise levels of engagement. The second stage of public consultation will conclude in October.



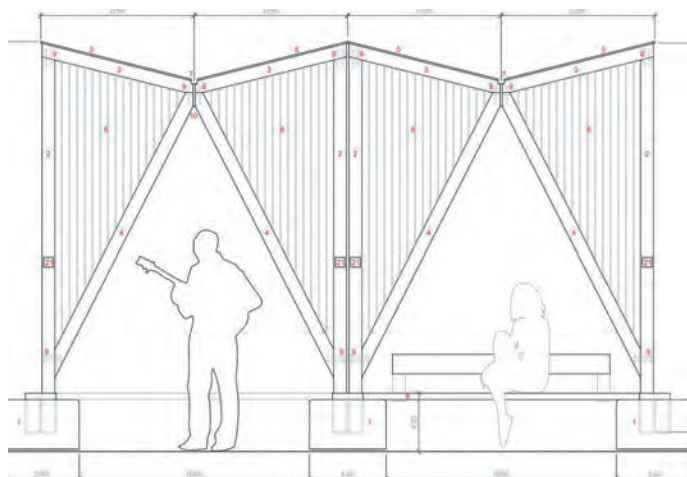
### The Manchester Martyrs Monument

The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush is being repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Works progressed well in July, and the restored railings were installed in August. Work on the monument reached practical completion in September and the restored monument will be officially unveiled by Clare County Council in early November.



### Flexible Outdoor Structures

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



### Hastings' Farmhouse, Shannon

Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna have got some funding from the Heritage Stewardship Fund, promoted by The Heritage Council. The funding for Hastings Farmhouse,

a protected structure and a rare building type of historic and architectural significance. The Fund provides support to bodies who have responsibility for the care of heritage objects and those who play a key role in the heritage infrastructure of Ireland and are vital to the delivery of national policy and plans. The partnership between Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna is a key step in safeguarding the heritage of Hastings Farmhouse. This project will look to put in place key structures and frameworks which will guide the future development of this protected structure and to determine a cost plan for proposals developed. A draft cost plan was issued to the steering group in September. A primary goal of this project is to increase accessibility to the site, and works will be undertaken to allow better access for all members of our community. These works are expected to commence in October.



## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	September 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	102	880
No. of Planning Decisions made	79	786
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	3	23
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	18	178
No. of Section 5 applications	2	62
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	6	43
Submissions received regarding Compliance	25	292

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	September 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	20	137
No of Files Opened	19	94
No. of Warning Letters issued	19	126
No. of Enforcement Notices served	2	19
	0	1
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	1
No. of Enforcement files closed	1	40

## TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES

Significant activity is underway on a number of housing estates, as per the list hereunder.

**Maigh Dara, Quin** – The substantial remedial works contract to upgrade roads and footpaths within this development has now been completed, to a very high standard.



Maigh Dara Before

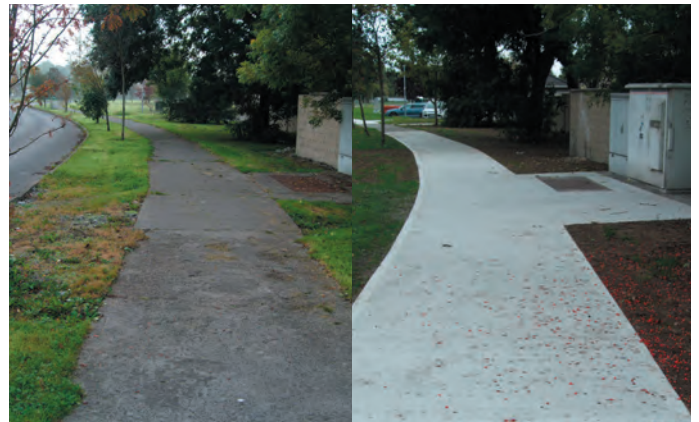
Maigh Dara After

**Shanballa, Lahinch Road Ennis** – Remedial Works are progressing and resurfacing of the main roads within the development will commence in early October.

**Noughaval Drive, Doora** – The tenders received are currently under review, and it is anticipated that works will commence in Q4, 2022.

**Moinín, Kilkee** – The preparation of tender documents is nearing completion and these works will be advertised on eTenders in Quarter 4, 2022.

**Cappahard, Tulla Road, Ennis** – Works on this substantial contract are progressing satisfactorily and these works will be completed by the end of 2022.



Cappahard Before

Cappahard After

**Derg View, Scariff** – Contractor will be appointed during the first week of October and works will commence immediately and are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

**Cúl Daire, Lissycasey** – Closing date for receipt of tenders was the 29th September, 2022 and the tenders received are currently under review. It is anticipated that works will commence before the end of the year.

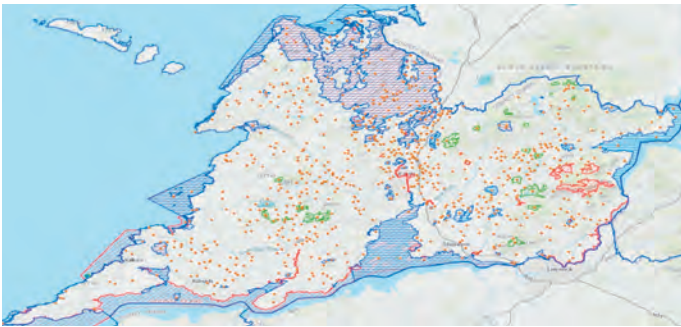
## HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### Clare Wetland Survey

The Clare Wetland Survey is being undertaken by Wetlands Survey Ireland at present as part of a three-year project. The total wetland area in County Clare is estimated at 23,440 ha based on the Clare Wetlands Study in 2008. This represents 7.4 % of the entire county. The study in 2008 identified 34 wetland types (22 of which are listed in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive, and nine of these are priority habitats) in County Clare. In terms of the main habitat types in County Clare, the results suggest that on a county basis, the 23,440 ha of wetland recorded, cover the following percentage of the county:

- Lakes 2.57%,
- Bogs and wet heaths 2.52%,
- Fens & flushes, marsh, reedbeds and wet grassland cover 1%,
- The remaining 1% has been assigned to unknown wetland type awaiting more detailed habitat survey.

Clare wetland database hold information on 810 sites in total (within and outside designated areas). 231 occur within areas designated for nature conservation (28%). The remaining 589 are outside of designated areas (72%). There is little or no information on 406 wetland areas in County Clare, with some survey information (habitats/species etc) for the other half.



Location of identified wetland sites in relation to areas designated for nature conservation in County Clare.

### Shanakyle Bog Restoration

Shanakyle Bog near Kilrush is approximately 30 ha in extent and was historically managed for domestic peat extraction operations up until the 1980's, was brought to light by the Clare County Council Habitat mapping in 2008. Much of the original peat mass has been removed and a significant section to the south of the bog is now managed for commercial forestry operations. Shanakyle Bog Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project is a locally led European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project administered by Shanakyle Bog Restoration Group and located near the village of Parteen, County Clare. The project is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's (DAFM) locally led EIP scheme under the Rural Development Programme. Aspects of the project involve the restoration and rewetting of 30 acres of raised and cutover bog; creation of a wildlife pond; installation of bat roost boxes and bird nest boxes for protected and endangered species; managing 10 acres of grassland for wildflower meadow to link in with the All-Ireland

Pollinator Plan; creation of a nature trail; and eradication of scheduled and high impact invasive species. The project focuses to promote biodiversity and climate action through collaboration with the farming and local community, nature conservation groups and third level educational institutions.

The Heritage Officer gave a presentation on the Council's Biodiversity programme and the Clare Wetlands project 2022 at the Shanakyle Bog Restoration and Habitat Enhancement Project European Innovative Partnership Official Launch, which was launched by Minister Pippa Hackett, Minister of State at Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine.



Shanakyle Bog restoration and rewetting.

### Barn Owl Survey

The Barn Owl Survey is now completed with an estimated 22 pairs of Barns Owls breeding in Clare. This is less than was anticipated. The current known breeding range of Barn Owls in County Clare in 2022 is more extensive (+ 285%) compared to the breeding range ten years ago recorded by the Bird Atlas (2007-11) but less extensive (-15%) than fifty years ago as recorded by the Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland (1968-72). Barn Owl nest boxes are being allocated at the moment and arrangements are being made to have the boxes erected throughout the county in the coming weeks.

### Workshop on Invasive Alien Species (IAS)

Clare County Council has commissioned the expertise of Prof. Joe Caffrey of INVAS Biosecurity Ltd. to review IAS treatment in the Clare Municipal Districts. This work aims to assist and advise the Council in the treatment of such species.

A round-table discussion took place with the Engineering and roads staff to discuss practices and problems with IAS treatment in the Municipal Districts, the approaches taken to these operations, the level of contact with the contractors doing the treatments, and any problems encountered. The workshop was followed by site visits to Invasive Alien Species (Knotweeds and Giant Hogweed) treated sites in County Clare. A draft report has been prepared on the review undertaken to date.

### How LAs can address the Biodiversity Emergency

The Heritage Officer attended the National Biodiversity



Conference “How Local Authorities can address the Biodiversity Emergency” in Limerick.

### Local Biodiversity Action Plan

In the month of September, two Local Biodiversity Action Plans were launched in Clare. The Cratloe Local Biodiversity Action Plan was funded by Clare Local Development Company and the Lisdoonvarna Local Biodiversity Action Plan was funded by Community Foundation.

### Community Foundation grants for biodiversity plans is now Open.

Community Foundation grants for biodiversity plans is now open for applications. The closing date is 4.00 pm Friday 7th October: [https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/community-biodiversity-grants?fbclid=IwAR0GgTKLDZ3R-n1Xx-715tOgKnynoYZTzqN9Oip\\_oWC3YI4p9IINFEW\\_BRLA](https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/community-biodiversity-grants?fbclid=IwAR0GgTKLDZ3R-n1Xx-715tOgKnynoYZTzqN9Oip_oWC3YI4p9IINFEW_BRLA)

### Have your say on Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan

A new National Biodiversity Plan is being prepared by the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and they are seeking feedback from the public on the draft plan. The plan sets out the priorities and actions for addressing the biodiversity crisis in Ireland from 2023-2027. All groups and individuals who are interested in Clare’s biodiversity are invited to take part in the consultation. The draft plan, and an online survey can be found here: [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - Public Consultation on Ireland’s 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan ([www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)), or you can email your comments directly to [NBAP.Consultation@housing.gov.ie](mailto:NBAP.Consultation@housing.gov.ie). The deadline for submissions is 9th November.

### Lisdoonvarna Heritage Plan

Clare County Council in partnership with Lisdoonvarna Fáilte are working with a multi-disciplinary team led by Drake Hourigan Architects to undertake a Heritage Plan for Lisdoonvarna. Extensive public consultation is ongoing and draft designs are being prepared for a number of sites and proposed projects in Lisdoonvarna. A draft of the Lisdoonvarna Heritage Plan will be made available for further public consultation in Lisdoonvarna on the 26th of October, with the final plan to be completed and launched by the end of 2022.

### Kilrush Collaborative Town Centre Health Check

Masters’ students from Queens University Belfast undertook a Kilrush Collaborative Town Centre Health Check in Kilrush in September, in conjunction with Kilrush Town Team, the Heritage Council and Clare County Council. All information collected will feed into a Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CHTHC) for Kilrush. The planning students undertook detailed land use studies using CHTHC methodology, they undertook online questionnaires, foot fall counts and vehicle counts. Car parking (on-and off-street) utilisation rates were recorded, as well as a walkability audit including permeability, legibility and floor scape maintenance and quality was completed. A consultation with young people from the local secondary school took place as well as interviews with key actors in Kilrush. A summary of the group’s work will be edited into a shorter presentation, which will

be delivered online to key stakeholders on the 5th of October. A short report will be drafted summarising the project, which will incorporate feedback from the summary presentation.

### Heritage programme 2022

The heritage projects funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Creative Ireland and the Heritage Council are reaching their final stages for 2022, with draft reports being prepared for review and funding recoupment. Survey of the Rare and Endangered Plants of the Burren, Survey of American skunk cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) along the lower stretches of the River Blackwater in County Clare, a comprehensive online resource about Invasive Alien Species (IAS) for the public, community groups as well as Local Authority staff, which will assist in giving the correct advice on how to identify, manage and treat IAS and the continuation of the Hares Corner, ponds, woodlands and orchards with Burrenbeo are being concluded and reported on for 2022 at the moment.

### Clare Community Archival Network iCAN

Along with the existing four heritage community groups that are part of the Clare iCAN network (Kilkee, Scattery Island, Shannon and Clarecastle), there are now three new Clare Groups (Kilkeedy, Clonlara and Tulla Heritage Groups). A meeting is being organised for everyone to get acquainted and to make short presentations on their group/activities/plans for their community archive. The aim is to find out more about the groups and to welcome and support them as they start out on their iCAN journey.

The Network (iCAN) took part in the iCAN network meeting in Cloughjordan where they met with Cloughjordan Community Development at the Thomas MacDonagh Museum. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Museum and the Create Digital Memories project, after which a visit was arranged to Scohaboy Bog to hear about their award-winning peatlands conservation project.

### Clare Community Archaeologist Service

Edel Barry continues to work with communities in Clare, visiting archaeological sites and advising on appropriate conservation work, best practice and providing advice on funding for conservation of archaeological sites. A preliminary report has been prepared on the project undertaken to date. This role is funded and administered by Clare County Council and co-funded by the Heritage Council.

### Creative Ireland Strategy

The Heritage Officer is working as part of the Clare Culture and Creative team to develop the new Clare Culture and Creativity Strategy, the vision of which is to embed culture and creativity into the activities, sustainability and growth of communities in County Clare.

### Clare Cillíní survey

Clare Cillíní survey is continuing with 75 Cillín sites surveyed to date, which have been uploaded to the Clare Heritage website. It is hoped to finalise and launch the survey in 2023.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- The Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. So far in 2022, thirty-seven applications have been approved.
- Mentoring: LEO Clare continue to receive a strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In September 12 further mentors have been assigned bringing our current annual number of mentoring assignments to 139
- Green For Micro/LEAN/Digital Start: As part of our supports Local Enterprise Office Clare have approved the following supports to help businesses in 2022. This includes 12 Green for Micro applications, 10 LEAN applications and 2 Digital Start Applications
- Training: LEO Clare held eight training courses over the month of September which saw over 190 participants. These included training digital marketing and start your own business. LEO Clare also began it's new Export programme for businesses and a new Management Development programme.

### September Evaluation Committee Meeting:

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their fourth evaluation meeting of 2022 in September. Four Business Expansion grants and one Priming grant were approved for funding in the total sum of €172,000. Student Enterprise Awards Launch

LEO Clare launched Ireland's largest student enterprise programme was with a total of four induction days around the county in September. To meet demand with have had to schedule a further induction day in early October. In total thirteen secondary schools have attended including over 800 students. The students will compete across three categories, Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Each student enterprise is challenged with creating, setting up and running their own business, which must show sales of their service or product.

### KPMG Women's Irish Open

LEO Clare was delighted to be a part of the Clare County Council tent at this year's KPMG Women's Irish Open. As part of the event, five local businesses that are clients of LEO Clare participated in showcasing and selling local produce to visitors of the golf.

Sales for the participating enterprises exceeded expectations, as well as offering those businesses an opportunity to promote their products to a wide audience on a national and global scale.



L-R Ellen Quinn, (Hurst Botanicals), Kasha Connolly (Hazel Mountain Chocolate), Sean Fitzgerald (Cratloe Sheeps Cheese), Aoife Lenihan (Siar Photography) and Eric Flynn, (JJ Corry Irish Whiskey).

### National Ploughing Championship

LEO Clare was represented by Catriona Considine of Moher Cottage at this year's National Ploughing Championships in Co Laois.

Moher Cottage who are supported by Local Enterprise Office Clare is a family owned and run business beside the Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare. Situated on their farm in what was previously their cowshed and pigsty, it is now a design led destination store selling our own gifts and also supporting local Irish businesses, selling their beautiful Irish products.



Denise Schepers and Caitriona Considine of Moher Cottage at National Ploughing Championships.

### Mid West Regional Skills Event

LEO Clare was in attendance for Septembers Mid-West Regional Skills Event in Modular Automation, Shannon where State bodies and Colleges showcased training opportunities for employees of Shannon base companies.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

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

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

In addition to the Table below, significant property transactions are underway which will add to the economic development of the County and these are related to individual projects.

Transaction	Sept 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	2	4
Licence to use property / building	1	12	11
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	22	22
Deed of Transfer signed	0	15	12
Contract for Sale signed	0	0	3
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	5	3
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	3	6	7
Allotment Agreements signed	0	39	39

### Casual Trading

As most of the events and festivals were held up to August / September, no additional casual trading licences were issued this month. Continued vigilance is needed around the County to ensure that only those with licences are trading in the designated trading areas.

### Derelict Sites

To date this year, 53 new derelict site files have been opened and represents a significant effort by the Derelict Sites Team to take action against derelict properties throughout the County. This is the highest level of activity in any one year since the Act was first introduced in 1990/1991. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and gaining an understanding of the reasons why the properties are in a derelict stage. A number of owners have brought the properties to the market and some are at 'sale agreed' stage with engagement with the new owners ongoing to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing the outcome of sales agreed in late 2021 and early 2022 with planning applications for refurbishment and commencement of works on individual properties. This is not to say that there are not many challenges in dealing with derelict sites as we come across many issues which need to be resolved. However, with time and effort, working with owners, financial institutions and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

This month, the improved property highlighted is in St. Patrick's Terrace in Kilkee, where works have been completed and this former derelict property is not on the market. It is important to recognize the effort put in by the owners to improve their properties. The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in September 2022 to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021. This is a very significant increase on activity throughout the whole county.

Derelict Sites	September 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	1	53	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	1	27	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	1	18	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	0	14	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	5	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	4	0

### Grants Scheme for Vacant and Derelict Properties

The announcement by Government of grant aid for the refurbishment of vacant properties, for occupation as a principal private residence is very welcome. Details of the scheme for towns and villages can be found on the website with all the information on the scheme, frequently asked questions and the application form for the Grants scheme - gov.ie - Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme (www.gov.ie) We have notified owners that we are engaging with and all solicitors in the County of the Scheme as it may be of interest to them dealing with properties where it may be applicable, particularly first time buyers who are buying and intending to do up vacant or derelict houses in

towns or villages for their permanent residence. We are awaiting confirmation as to whether or not this grants scheme will be extended to properties in rural areas.

### Compulsory acquisition of derelict sites

To date in 2022, the CPO acquisition process is completed on three properties and we are working with the housing Department to return these properties to living accommodation, following refurbishment or re-development. A further CPO is awaiting registration by the Property Registration Authority. These are the first CPO's of Derelict sites initiated by the Council since 2014.

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## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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Photo of Women's Irish Open Welcome promotional sign supplied and erected by Shannon MD.

### Women's Irish Open Golf event

Shannon Municipal District was proud to work with the organisers of the Women's Irish Open Golf event in September to assist and ensure that all public realm enhancement, other environmental and preparatory works were carried out in advance of

the commencement of the tournament in Dromoland. It was a hugely successful event with the team in Shannon Municipal District working diligently and doing their part to ensure all visitors to the area had an unforgettable experience. The inter-agency approach was very much to the fore over the four-day event. Shannon MD is looking ahead to supporting the event again in 2023.

### Summary of Ongoing Works and Activities

- O'Garney Heights to Sixmilebridge footpath is continuing, capacity has been increased outside the GAA grounds with new parking spaces lined.
- Line marking across a number of other locations were completed.
- Meelick Active Travel – continuing contact with Landowners.
- Drainage works at several locations have been carried out.
- Grass cutting contract has continued with the 13th cut currently under way. The fourth cut and lift of the designated Biodiversity areas was completed in September.
- Upgrade of Illaunamanagh carpark has been completed.

### Update on Town and Village Renewal Schemes

- Bunratty TVR, a tender for works is currently being prepared.
- Drumgeely TVR, a public consultation event took place on Friday, 23rd September.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## SOCIAL DIRECTORATE

September brings the end of the summer season with school/college/work routines re-established. The summer months traditionally would see reduced demand for some services. However 2022 did not yield any slowdown with sustained demand for services during July and August and this continues to show increased demand through September.

## HOUSING

### Social Housing Needs Assessment 2022

The Council has commenced the 2022 Social Housing Needs Assessment with over 500 applicants written to seeking updated information to assess their continued qualification for social housing supports. All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to complete this assessment for all persons who have applied for social housing support.

The purpose of the Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The "count" date is 1st November, with returns to Department to be completed by November 29th.

This Council is contacting certain applicants who qualified for social housing support prior to 3rd of September 2021 to confirm that they still require social housing support. Each applicant has been requested to confirm their requirements to the Council by completing the assessment form which issued on the 1st September together with a covering letter explaining the process. As part of this process they will need to submit details of income for previous 52 weeks in accordance with national social housing guidelines. Applicants who have qualified for social housing after 3rd September 2021 will not be written to as their file would have recently been assessed so there is no need for them to be reassessed or to contact the Council unless there is a change in circumstances. Transfer applicants, HAP and RAS tenants are not included in this assessment. Any applicants who were reviewed in last 12 months have not been contacted either as their files were reviewed recently

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

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

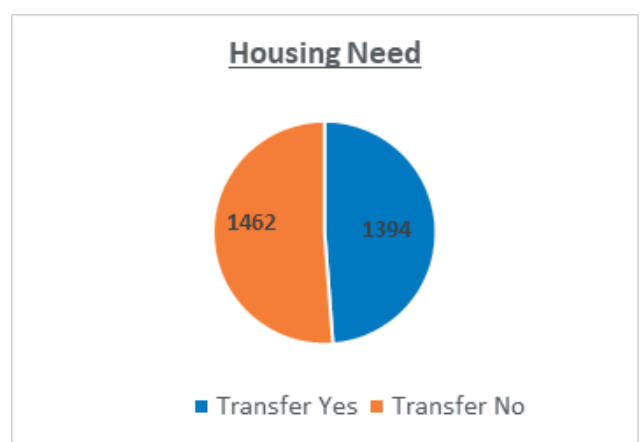
on social media, making reminder calls where appropriate.

### Social Housing Demand

The demand for social housing support is ever increasing in spite of the fact that the Council has allocated more than 200 properties in 2022 to date. New Income limits came into affect on October 1st and it is expected this may further add to demand. The housing public counter remains open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call **065 6846334** or **065 6849403** to schedule same.

### Housing need as of 29/09/2022

- Gross Need 2,856
- Net Need 1,462



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

BEDS_APPROVED						
FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Grand Total
CLARECASTLE		136	31	10		177
CLONLARA		18	6	2		26
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	2	34	10	2		48
COROFIN/RUAN		54	21	3		78
ENNIS	6	914	186	72	2	1177
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	1	111	22	5		139
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	1	135	24	4		164
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY		22	4	2		28
KILFENORA		6	1			7
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT		71	11	1		83
KILLALOE		57	10	3		68
KILMALEY		10	3			13
KILMIHIL		9	7	2		18
KILRUSH		98	31	7		136
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN		42	10	3		55
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY		77	36	10		123
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY		73	14	7		94
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS		58	17	4		79
QUIN		17	7	1		25
SHANNON		183	24	15		221
SIXMILEBRIDGE		35	5	2		49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD		35	5	2		42
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2170</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2856</b>

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

The base line income limit for a single person has increased from €25,000 to €30,000. There is an increase for additional adults of 5% each upto maximum 10%. There is a further increase of 2.5% for each additional children, with no maximum.

Prior to New regulations			
	1 Adult	2 Adults	3+ Adults
	€25,000	€26,250	€27,500
1 Child	€25,625	€26,875	€28,125
2 Children	€26,250	€27,500	€28,750
3 Children	€26,875	€28,125	€29,375
4 Children	€27,500	€28,750	€30,000
5 Children	€28,125	€29,375	€30,625
6 Children	€28,750	€30,000	€31,250
7 Children	€29,375	€30,625	€31,875

From October 1st, 2022			
	1 Adult	2 Adults	3+ Adults
	€30,000	€31,500	€33,000
1 Child	€30,750	€32,250	€33,750
2 Children	€31,500	€33,000	€34,500
3 Children	€32,250	€33,750	€35,250
4 Children	€33,000	€34,500	€36,000
5 Children	€33,750	€35,250	€36,750
6 Children	€34,500	€36,000	€37,500
7 Children	€35,250	€36,750	€38,250

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Housing Allocations

All of the properties at Cnoc na Scoile, Ashline, Ennis are now occupied. Demand for these 40 units was extremely high with an average of 150 bids on the Choice Based Letting (CBL) website for each property type. In total over 60 adults and over 60 dependent children have been allocated homes in this new development. Nine of the properties are occupied by applicants who were either homeless or were in emergency accommodation. In addition, the social mix in this development includes a mix of incomes and 85% of the households are in employment.



Cnoc na Scoile, Ashline

One tenant who recently received keys to her new home at Cnoc na Scoile, Elizabeth Colleran, said: *"I am writing to thank your whole team with regards to the help and support the team showed me during my turmoil times in my life & my daughters."*

*From the first time where I had to get emergency accommodation with Clare County Council (which saved my life) to Wednesday September 14th being handed over the keys to our new home at Cnoc Na Scoile, I am so grateful & cannot express the feeling it gave to myself & my daughter, for this we are so indebted to you all but especially the Allocations Team for their professionalism, their kindness & their support to me at all times.*

*Thanking you again & will take great care of our forever home."*

Phase 1 of the social housing development at Cluain Greine, Drehidngower Road, Ennis which comprised 16 units is also fully allocated and included a mix of two bedroomed houses and apartments together with three bedroomed houses. Phase 2 of this development was recently advertised on the CBL website, and the intention is to have these units allocated towards the end of October. The new social housing development at Baile na mBan, Ballard Road, Miltown Malbay was advertised on the CBL website from 31st August to 6th September last. There was a large interest in this new development. The Allocations Team have reviewed the list of applicants who expressed an interest through the Choice Based Letting System. Letters of offer of accommodation are being issued to successful applicant households since late September with all tenancies expected to be in place by early November.

Offers issued (from (22.08.2022 to 19.09.2022)	23
Offers refused	2
Tenancies signed up	22
Tenancies terminated	6

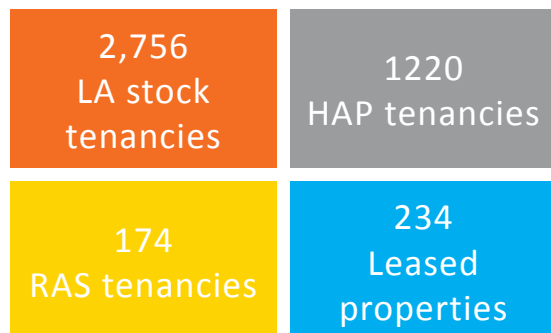
### Housing Tenancies

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

PROPERTY STATUS				
Municipal District	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ennis MD	6	1227	26	1259
Killaloe MD	5	396	9	410
Shannon MD		682	6	688
West Clare MD	1	934	36	971
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3239</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3328</b>

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD
Traveller accommodation	5	6	3	0
Derelict properties	0	2	0	0
Projects	1	9	0	0
Casual vacancies	20	19	3	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>

### Tenancies



### Estate Management

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

	Sept 22	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	325	5,257

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing [asb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and 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**

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Private Rented inspections

Work to achieve the target for private rented inspections (1,025) is continuing, with 108 physical inspections being carried out in September. These inspections were carried out on HAP, RTB, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that were received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards.

### Housing Grants:

Grants Approved for September 2022

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	2	€25,000
Housing Aid for Older People	3	€10,000
Mobility Aids Grant	13	€42,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>€77,000</b>

### Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie)  
Loans data for 2022 up to 23/09/2022:

<b>47</b> Applications Received	<b>19</b> Loans Approved	<b>2 Loans Drawn Down</b>
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### Homeless Services

Demand for homeless services in Clare are unprecedented for this time of year. At the time of writing emergency accommodation is at capacity with a waiting list in place for access to accommodation. The Council continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation however this is proving challenging due to competing demands for accommodation in the County. 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 19th August 2022 to 15th September 2022: 13 households exited from homeless services: 5 to L.A. Housing: 1 to AHB Housing: 1 Private Rented: 2 Own Front Door: 4 Discharged.

There was 40 new Homeless Presentations from 19th August 2022 to 15th September 2022, and 191 repeat presentations.

	2022	Same period 2021	Year to date 2022
<b>New presentations</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Repeat presentations</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1300</b>
<b>Total Presentations</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1584</b>

Status as of 15th September 2022

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	4	10	1
Westbrook	0	15	0	1
Ashford Court	9	15	22	1
EA Families	2	2	2	1
EA Individuals	0	6	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>9</b>

### Traveller Accommodation

Under section 17(1)(a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, Clare County Council are currently carrying out the mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024. The Council invited input into the review process from various bodies, organisations, and relevant stakeholders and 6 submissions were received as part of the consultation process. A report on these submissions is being prepared for discussion by the SPC, prior to submission to the November Council meeting for approval.

In Circular Housing 31/2022 the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage introduced a nationwide Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme. The Scheme is to support the provision of Traveller specific accommodation though local authorities to provide preferential loans to Travellers to purchase their own caravan/mobile home on halting sites for use as their primary residence. An information sheet setting out the terms and conditions of the scheme was circulated to all Traveller specific accommodation sites. To date, 15 applications have been received and these applications are currently being reviewed.

In July 2022, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage confirmed that it had secured Dormant Account Funding for measures that provide supports/facilities in Traveller specific accommodation and invited applications for funding from Local Authorities. Clare County Council submitted an application and was successful in securing €17,400 in funding for measures that address economic, social and educational disadvantage.

### Vacant properties

The Vacant Homes Unit continues to target vacant properties across the county and we have recently agreed the sale of two properties which will be brought back into use under the Buy and Renew Scheme once refurbishments are complete. Confirmation of the CPO which is currently underway on a vacant unit has been published and is now available for public viewing. Notice to Treat will follow with a view to bringing this unit back into use.

Status as at 30/09/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	0	0	0



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## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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Killaloe	2	2	1
West Clare	3	1	1
Shannon	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

The public are encouraged to register vacant properties on the website [www.vacanthomes.ie](http://www.vacanthomes.ie). Properties registered on this website are investigated and assessed for suitability for redevelopment/purchase. Following the announcement of the new Croi Conaithe Scheme there has been a notable increase in the number of properties logged on this website during the summer months.

### Croi Conaithe (Towns Fund)

There is a big interest in the Croi Conaithe (Towns Fund) Scheme since its introduction and this is reflected in the number of enquiries received. 7 no. applications have been submitted and these are currently being assessed with further information requested from the applicants in some cases.

Further enhancements to the The Croi Conaithe Grant Scheme include:

- An extension to incorporate derelict farmhouses for use as a principal private residence, and details are awaited from the Department on this.

- Ready to Build Scheme; Serviced Sites for New Homes. This Scheme was announced by the Minister on 21st September last. Serviced Sites for new homes, are to be made available by local authorities in towns and villages to potential individual purchasers at a discount on the market value. The land is to be from existing Council landbanks or to be purchased for this purpose. Discounts of up to a maximum of €30,000 are to be made available.

### New County Library Construction Project

Construction commenced on the new library building on Thursday 28th April 2022. Progress to date is on programme, with an overall completion date of Q4 2023.

The project involves the construction of a 2,321m<sup>2</sup> building on the glór site, comprising two floors of public library space. The local studies centre will be accommodated in this building, along with a separate art gallery. Additionally, the County Library HQ will be located on the third floor. The state-of-the-art new build will provide a key resource for research, study, recreation and art in a centralised location adjacent to the well-established glór theatre.



Progress photograph from September 2022

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## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Update on capital programme:

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction	Q4 2020	Q3 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Part VIII Approved. Stage 3 complete. Currently out to tender for construction contract.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII has been quashed by the High Court – awaiting the formal High Court order.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Clarecastle	2	Stage 1-3 application under consideration by DHLGH.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Determination issued to ABP and awaiting outcome.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Stage 3 awaiting Departmental approval.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Stage 2 awaiting Departmental approval.	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 awaiting Departmental approval.	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. CENA appointed to support project development.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Cluain Gréine, Lifford, Ennis	61	Turnkey acquisition contract signed CCC have taken possession of Phase 1 Phase 2 & Phase 3 due Q3 2022	-	Q3 2022
Main Street, Mountshannon	4	Turnkey acquisition contract signed – Expect to take possession Q3 2022	-	Q3 2022
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>224</b>			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction 9 in Q4 2022 15 in Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	40	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) (15 units delivered in Q1 2022) (24 units delivered in Q2/2022) 16 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction in progress	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVerry Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen	16	CALF Turnkey – Department approved 6 units to be delivered in Q4 2023 10 units to be delivered in Q1 2024	Q4 2022 Q1 2023	Q4 2023 Q1 2024
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>134</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>			

## SPORTS & RECREATION

### Active Ennis Leisure Complex



The “Rock and Roll” inclusive class for the Brothers of Charity, Enable Ireland and the Irish Wheelchair Association is creating quite the buzz around the Complex and is an excellent addition to our class schedule consisting of half Sumba half Meditation. Full details of the classes are available on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)

### Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park/Lees Road etc.

Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park and Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road have both retained their ‘An Taisce Green Flag’s awards for another year.

The new meeting room in Tim Smythe Park is starting to gain traction with bookings from the Gardai and ‘Connecting for Life’, the national office for suicide prevention. Once broadband is installed and AV connected this facility will see significant usage.

All clubs and patrons are requested to leave facilities as they find them. Any operational issues or queries can be reported by email to [info@activeennis.ie](mailto:info@activeennis.ie)

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



### Youth Activities – September update

#### • Primary Schools

- Have been registering with us for the new academic year 22/23
- Programmes we are offering include
  - Playground markings
  - Sportshall athletics
  - Active storytime
- 5 primary schools are receiving basketball taster sessions

#### • Post-primary Schools

- Programmes we are offering to TYs this term include

- Get Going Get Rowing
- Sportshall athletics
- Tug of War

#### • Community Youth

- Teen girl’s beginner gym programme in partnership with Hustle Fitness, Ennis is beginning on October 7th from 4.30pm – 5.30pm. This is a 6-week after school programme aimed at teen girls who participate in little to no physical activity

#### • Healthy DOJO Programme

- An 8 -week physical activity programme specifically for HSE staff in the Ennis area, in conjunction with the HSE. 20 participants in total, attending exercise sessions in Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park.

#### • National Play Day 2022

- We are working in conjunction with the Clare County Childcare committee to distribute active play packs we created, to various accommodation centres where the committee are supporting play sessions with Ukrainian children and families

#### • Active Communities Report

- Open Water Swimming: 62 people took part in 4 locations
- Her Outdoors Week: 65 Females took part in 8 different sports over the course of the week
- Running: 162 Took part in CSP running programmes since May
- Walking: 42 took part in our July Walking Challenge

#### • Women in Sport

- 8 ladies took part in a four-week sailing Programme in Kilrush / 10 ladies will take part in an intermediate surf programme with West Coast Surf Club in the coming weeks.
- Currently, 36 ladies will participate in our intermediate swimming programme in Lahinch, Ennis & Shannon.

#### • Kilrush Sports Hub

- Capital funding is provided to the local sports club. All clubs are taking part in taster sessions during September, with over eighty children taking part so far.

#### • Shannon Sports Hub

- Capital funding was provided to seven sports clubs. Currently, 40 people are participating in the Couch to 5K programme.

#### • Club Development

- The club development webpage has been updated to include sections with resources for committees and coaches. Coaching network form has been set up and

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## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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so far over 40 coaches have signed up. 160 clubs have been emailed about upcoming safeguarding and disability courses.

- **Membership Bursary**

- Two cases have been approved after a key worker in Shannon applied. One is a wheelchair user who has financial struggles and has a toddler. They have been provided with pool membership. Another is a teenage boy who has a rare medical condition and has been provided with a pool membership. Currently one other case is being processed.

- **Volleyball Posts**

- Two beach volleyball posts have been erected in Kilkee. A teenage "try it out day" was recently run and attracted many locals to watch and see the new amenity in use. Volleyballs have been brought for local community use. Currently a sign on how to use them is being prepared.

- **Older Adult Support**

- We presently have 20 groups supporting 430 older adults in both indoor and outdoor setting
- June GFL League didn't take place due to Covid fears. 4 local leagues took place with 54 participants A county

league will take place in October 2022

- **TY Wheelchair Basketball/Hurling**

- 10 sessions across 4 schools have been booked in for October/ November

- **Activator Indoor Walking Poles Training**

- 7 Tutors trained and face to face practical workshops delivered in the Care settings. Sessions by tutors being carried out at present.

- **Inclusive Summer Camps**

- We ran 3 Inclusive summer camps with Clare GAA, Derg AC and Bridge Utd /FAI that catered for 108 children with a disability. The resources of the NGB's provided made sure it was a great success. We hope to expand it to 5 camps next summer

- **Inclusive Clubs**

- Off the back of the summer camp success 2 of inclusive clubs, Corofin GAA All Stars and Eire Og GAA All Stars, are scheduled to demonstrate their skills before the county football final at the end of October

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

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### Clare County Library

Five Home Energy Saving Kits were made available to borrow in a number of libraries this month. With 5 easy-to-use tools and 6 practical exercises, this kit allows people to get a better understanding of the energy usage in their home, problem areas that may need attention and ways to improve energy efficiency. The Home Energy Saving Kit was designed by Codema, the Dublin Energy Agency, and is available to borrow from libraries in almost all counties including Clare.



Chasing turtles in Ennistymon Library's sensory space




Ennistymon Library is making its multi-purpose room into a sensory space every Thursday for children with additional needs. The space is available to be booked by families or schools. Post Covid, the library service has continued to service those individuals who are housebound with 31 deliveries made to library members this month.

Online Resources usage continue in popularity with 2,535 audiobooks accessed in the last month.

1410 E-Books	2535 E-Audiobooks	664 E-Magazines
192 Online courses	1859 Press Reader	69 Transparent Languages

Marketing

Social media stats for previous month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	149	6638	52	356	48,723	22
	17	2060	26	86	19	0
	11	1697	20 & 27	107	4533	0

Total number of live events	92
Total attendances at live events	633

Right to Read



The welcome mat made in De Valera Library as part of the “World of Welcome” programme

Clare Libraries has begun a new inclusive arts and education programme with local primary schools called “World of Welcome”. The programme consists of a five-week course that encourages children to celebrate diversity through the arts. Pupils will visit their nearest library branch each Monday to attend interactive workshops with arts practitioners where they will explore the topics of diversity and inclusion through puppetry, drama, music, creative writing and podcasting. Arts practitioners include children’s author Debbie Thomas, musician Niamh O’Brien, podcaster Oisín O Cualáin, puppeteer Sarah Fuller and actor and theatre maker Zara Starr. The “World of Welcome” programme is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Decade of centenaries

The programme for History Week has been finalised, it will take place from 3-7th October. Contributors will include Joe Ó Muirheartaigh, Mike Hanrahan, Paul Minihan, Joe Queally, Eoin Shanahan, Dr Brian Hughes, artists Mick O’Dea, Marie Connole and David O’Rourke and children’s author Judi Curtin. The programme will include a mixture of online lectures and in-branch talks in Kilrush branch and in DeValera Library in Ennis. Ennis will also host an event by Cuimhneamh an Chláir on oral history and storytelling ‘Bringing Stories to Life: sharing tales from 1912 to 1923’. Events will also be held in glór and Clare Museum. All events are free of charge and the programme can be viewed at [www.clarelibrary.ie](http://www.clarelibrary.ie)

Healthy Ireland

Clare Libraries will deliver a total of 10 “Healthy Ireland at Your Library” events this month. Daisy McCann delivered a yoga online workshop with 25 people participating including many Nursing Home residents. Grainne Travers, a nutritionist, shared some great tips on how to support the immune system and gut health to an audience of 21 people in Miltown Malbay Library. This event also took place in Shannon Library.

Other events included a talk in Corofin Library by Pius Murray on the Hidden Benefits of Walking, including a guided walk of the Corofin Heritage trail. Dipankar Biswas, play therapist, facilitated a 2 hour workshop for children in Scariff Library. Trish Cleary, a yoga teacher delivered an online workshop and in-branch classes in Tulla Library and in Kildysart Library.

Clare Archives

The Barrett collection is being rehoused and catalogued. The collection is quite extensive and it is expected that it will be fully processed by December. The purchase of material to rehouse the collection was funded by the Heritage Council. An exhibition to showcase this took place in Heritage week in Kilrush Library.

Each month the archives service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view the material from the Archives’ collections. Queries relating to retention schedules and disposal of records has also been dealt with this month. Material continues to be digitized from the Managers’ Orders Collection. A selection of documents relating to Comdt. Joseph Barrett’s activities during the War of Independence and Civil War from the Barrett Collection have also been digitised in a project funded by the “Decade of Centenaries”.

Clare Arts Office



PRISM Artworks at Bindon Street Car Park, Ennis by Negative Space Art Collective

Clare Arts Office was shortlisted in two categories in the Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Two new artists, one Ukrainian, moved into the EASI Studios in Ennis. All studios countywide are now operating at full capacity. Creative Ireland “Music in Health Care Settings” began with

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

performances in Kilrush, Ennistymon, Raheen Woods and Ennis. The Arts Office PRISM art scheme saw 8 new artworks appear throughout the town of Ennis.

Culturlann Sweeney's film season began with a full house for "An Cailin Ciuin", followed by concerts by Kris Dreaver and the Job of Songs for Culture Night. Forty events took place throughout the county for Culture Night in 33 locations countywide. Clare Youth Theatre's weekly workshops returned and the young people participated in "Call and Response", A Creative Youth Partnership Festival. The call out for proposals for the Artist in Schools and the Embrace Arts and Disability Programme took place. The Arts Officer addressed the Artists Circle in glór providing information

on supports for artist. The Arts Office assisted 3 requests for filming in Clare, 2 crews seeking permission and one location manager looking at potential shooting locations.

Nine free live performance events took place through the Local Live Performance Scheme in Doolin, Ennis, Killaloe, Kilrush, Mountshannon and Shannon. Three exhibitions took place in Kilkee, Scariff and Ennis including an exhibition of commissioned artworks in the County Museum to mark the Decade of Centenaries. Social media activity continues with 43 posts submitted on Clare Arts office pages with a reach of 4405 people. There were 152 posts on social media groups generating 536 reactions.

### Clare Museum



John Rattigan and the Ambassador of India and his wife visiting Clare Museum this month.

The Museum curator has been creating content for the new Museum website which will be completed by 15th October. About 400 photographs have been uploaded to the database in preparation for export to the new website which will have a searchable database. The Museum currently has an Italian university student on work experience. He has been engaged in photographing the Clare Embroidery Collection for the museum website. Four schools have visited the Museum this month. Wifi was installed in the galleries in the Clare Museum. This will allow the curator to livestream workshops from the museum into classrooms around the county with the support of Clare Education Centre.

A number of items were donated to the museum during the month, the most significant acquisition involved the purchase of a collection associated with Georgina Frost, thanks to funding from the Decade of Centenaries.

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Works are ongoing regarding the delivery of the SMDW 2022. The restoration maintenance (surface dressing) works have been successfully completed. The remaining restoration improvement works are expected to be completed before the end of November.

23205152	Restoration Improvement Regional	25%
A119	O'Callaghan's Mills Village R466	
A120	Bodyke Junction R352	
A121	Croaghrum R352	Complete
A122	Ballyblood R462	
24205149	Restoration Improvement Local	82%
A123	Ballyhickey L7192	Complete
A124	Harrisons' Pub to R-352 L4074	Complete
A125	Craggaska L3180	Complete

A126	Dooglaun L8018	Complete
A127	Garruragh L4084	Complete
A128	Merriman, Flagmount L8185	Complete
A129	Bodyke Junction to CCC depot L4066	
A130	Slievanore L8022	Complete
A131	Mountain Park L41301	Complete
A132	Leacarrow Lower L8182	Complete
A133	Cregg Cross to Boleynagoagh North L4036	
A134	Poulagower L80501	Complete
A135	Arndataggle - ESB L3072	Complete
A136	Clonlea, Kilkishen L7008	Prepped
A137	Sallybank L3042	Complete
A138	Ballycuggaraun Pier L8205	
A139	Ballycar South L7062	Complete
A140	Kilcornan L7010	Complete
A141	Woodfield to Ahaclare L30143	Complete
A142	Ballycar North L30321	Complete
A143	Kilmurry to Mart Road L3020	Complete
A144	Old Ballycar Road L7186	Complete
<b>23105039</b>	<b>Restoration Maintenance Regional</b>	<b>100%</b>
A145	Whitegate to Derrainey R352	Complete
A146	Scalpnagown to Derryulk R462	Complete
<b>24105145</b>	<b>Restoration Maintenance Local</b>	<b>100%</b>
A147	Bealkelly to Ballyheefy L4128	Complete
A148	Killuran Beg L7203	Complete
A149	Slieveanore to Corlea L8022	Complete
A208	Crusheen to Tubber L4120	Complete
A209	Harrison Pub to Rathclooney L4074	Complete
A210	Cragroe Cross to Beckman Coulter L8150	Complete
A211	Toome to Ayle Cross L4056	Complete
A212	Kilkishen to Nash's Cross L3002	Complete
A213	Ballycullen to Coolycasey Cross L3018	Complete
A214	Ballycullen L7030	Complete
A215	12 O'lock Hills L30101	Complete
A216	Castlecrine to Ballyvorgal L3016	Complete
A217	Rathluby to Kilcornan L7010	Complete
A218	Belvoir to Killanena L7008	Complete
A219	Ballyblood L7016	Complete
A220	Toonagh L8178	Complete
	<b>Drainage Works</b>	<b>8%</b>
	R-352, Cloonolia	
	R-352, Cloonamirren	
	L-4132, Ballyvannon	Complete
	River Greaney	
	R-466, O'Callaghan's Mills	Complete
	Powercourt Tulla	
	Cragroe Cross	

	Maghera	
	Ayle, Feakle	
	R-461, Drumandoora	
	R-462, Derra	
	L-3016 Ballyvorgal	
	Springmount, Kilmore	
	R-471 Coolycasey (600m from the cross)	
	Upper Cloonfadda	
	Killaderry, Doon Lake	
	Carrownakilly	
	Carmody's Cross	
	<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>25%</b>
	R-352 Mountshannon	Complete
	L-4128 Beakelly	Complete
	L-8056 Core	
	L-7080 Ballygreen Killaloe	
	R-465 Roo East, Ardnacrusha	
	L-70802 Glen Road, Magherareagh, Killaloe	
	L-4060 Kiltannon, Tulla	
	L-8152 Kiltannon, Tulla	
	<b>LIS</b>	<b>50%</b>
	24605039 LIS 2022 DROMOD	Complete
	24605040 LIS 2022 DERRYVINNAN	Prepared
	<b>CIS</b>	<b>80%</b>
	24505094 CIS 2022 - Gortanisk	Complete
	24505095 CIS 2022 - Glendree	Complete
	24505096 CIS 2022 - Kiltannan	Complete
	24505097 CIS 2022 - Rathlaheen	Complete
	24505098 CIS 2022 - Snata Cooper	Prepared



CIS Road



As part of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022, both drainage improvement works, and climate adaptation works have begun.

Works have been completed on four CIS roads at Kiltannon and Glendree, Rathlaheen and Gortanisk. Preparational CIS works are complete at Snaty (Cooper) job.

#### Active Travel 2022 Summary:

Project	Status
Quin	Works complete
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Works complete
Tulla - Footpath remediation	Construction works ongoing
Tulla - Footpath to Athletics Club	Construction works nearing completion
Drumandoora	Construction works ongoing
Clarisford Park Connection	At Tender stage



Tulla Athletics Footpath Active Travel

#### Kilkishen Low-Cost Safety

A draft design has been completed. A Section 38 process is currently underway and following this the works can commence.

#### Scarriff RRDF

Design works are nearing completion of the Town Car Park element of the Scarriff RRDF project. It is expected that the Car Park element and the Multi Service Centre hub element will be submitted for Part V111 approval over the coming weeks.

#### Footpath Projects

Design and Procurement processes are complete for the Footpath remediation projects at Whitegate and at O'Reilly Park, Tulla. Contractors have been appointed. Work has commenced on the Whitegate project. Works at Tulla will follow on from the Whitegate project.