

COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

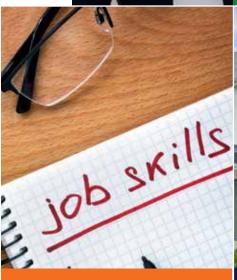
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meán Fómhair / September 2025









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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LCDC SICAP Regional Workshop - Tipperary



Left to Right: Catherine O Hara, Administrative Officer Rural and Community Development Clare County Council, Maria Farry, Manager, Programme Development Unit (SICAP/LEADER), Pobal, Deirdre Kelly, Principal Officer, Social Inclusion and Communities Unit, Department of Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht. Stephen Walsh, IFA Clare LCDC, Frank Cullinan Staff Officer Rural and Community Development Clare County Council, Juan Carlos Azzopardi: Development Coordinator, Programme Development Unit (SICAP/LEADER), Pobal.

The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG), in collaboration with Pobal, hosted a regional workshop in Tipperary on 9th July, focused on supporting the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). The event targeted administrative staff in local authorities who provide support to Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and LCDC members.

The workshop was chaired by Maria Farry, Manager of the Programme Development Unit (SICAP/LEADER), Pobal. Deirdre Kelly, Principal Officer, Social Inclusion and Communities Unit (DRCDG) delivered a comprehensive overview of SICAP. Her presentation outlined:

- The programme's objectives and target groups
- Operational framework and interaction between the Department, LCDCs, programme implementers, and Pobal
- Contract management roles and responsibilities
- · Reporting and compliance requirements

Juan Carlos Azzopardi, Development Coordinator with Pobal, provided a summary of the programme requirements and timelines. He also outlined the supports that are available to LCDC support staff and members, an overview of the Annual planning process, including financial management and administrative rules around:

- Goal apportionment
- Grants and payment instalments
- · Reporting obligations

The afternoon session included a joint presentation from Bridget Fitzgerald, Chief Officer, Kerry Local Community Development Committee, and Eamonn O'Reilly, Chief Executive Officer, Northeast

West Kerry Development on building effective working relationships between LCDCs and SICAP programme implementers. Key ingredients for successful collaboration included:

- Strong and positive engagement at all levels
- Capacity to design and deliver tailored responses
- Flexible oversight approaches
- Responsiveness to community needs
- Ability to leverage additional funding streams (e.g., transport, literacy, social farming)

They also highlighted ongoing challenges for SICAP including:

- Funding & Sustainability: Continued requirement for tendering due to EU Procurement Directive; funding levels remain below 2012 benchmark.
- Complex Guidelines: Navigating detailed SICAP guidance.
- Targeting Issues: Calls to reassess the use of deprivation indices in programme targeting

The workshop concluded with breakout sessions, where participants shared recommendations and feedback with the DRCDG to support continuous improvement in the delivery and impact of the SICAP programme Countrywide.

The official judging for the IPB Pride of Place in Clare



The official judging for the IPB Pride of Place Awards 2025, in association with Co-operation Ireland, took place on 8th and 9th July 2025. Clare County Council nominated four outstanding community projects to represent the county in this year's prestigious all-island competition, which celebrates the voluntary efforts of communities to improve local well-being, inclusion, sustainability, and pride of place.

Over the course of two days, the judges - Brendan McGrath (former Chief Executive Galway City) and Declan Nelson (former County Manager, Monaghan) visited each of the nominated projects, which included presentations, site tours, and engaging discussions with community members.

The judges commended the groups for their creativity, commitment, and the impressive impact of their work, noting the strong sense of community spirit evident throughout the visits.

Clare's Entries for 2025 are:

Creative Community - Obair, Newmarket-on-Fergus

A thriving social enterprise delivering an extensive range of community services, including Meals on Wheels, youth support programmes, a community crèche, and environmental initiatives. Judges toured the impressive facilities and learned about Obair's employment, training, and sustainability projects which underpin their ethos of inclusion and resilience.

Population 0-300 - Feakle Community Council

Steeped in tradition and volunteerism, Feakle showcased its vibrant community life, with highlights including the care and enhancement of the playground and graveyard, a variety of social inclusion activities, and the internationally renowned Feakle Traditional Music Festival. Judges praised the community's strong sense of identity and pride.

Climate Action & Biodiversity - Inagh Development

An inspiring example of rural climate leadership, Inagh Development impressed judges with their innovative and forward-thinking projects. These included geothermal and solar energy installations, biodiversity enhancements at the church grounds, upgrades to the scenic River Walk, and their comprehensive community energy masterplan.

Community Youth Initiative - Clare Comhairle na nÓg

Young people from Clare Comhairle na nÓg presented their impactful "Free Period Products Initiative" and accompanying short film "It Should Be Like Toilet Paper." The judges were deeply impressed by their advocacy, creativity, and the practical change they have achieved in promoting dignity and equality for young people.

The judges remarked on the calibre of all four entries, noting the innovation and passion evident across each community. Their positive feedback reflects the ongoing strength and vibrancy of Clare's community development work on the national stage.

The IPB Pride of Place Awards Ceremony 2025 will be held on Friday, 7th November 2025, at the Limerick Strand Hotel, hosted by Limerick City and County Council. The event will also be livestreamed on the Pride of Place website.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to all four nominated groups and thank them for representing County Clare with such distinction.



HEALTHY CLARE

Healthy Clare Core Fund

- Clare Garden Festival: Extending the Season

A total of 15 individuals attended a garending workshop, 'Autumn Gardening for Winter Harvests', under Clare Growing Communities on the 12th August. Supported by Healthy Clare, Clare Garden Festival and Clare Local Development Company, the aim is to work together with community gardens across Co. Clare assessing support needs. The workshop was facilitated by Jo Newton. Of the 15 individual who attended the event, all said they they left with skills and knowledge to continue growing at home.



Healthy Clare/Creative Ireland Micro Fund 2025

Clare Walks

Supported under the Healthy Clare Micro Fund and Creative Ireland collaboration, on 14th August, East Clare Walks hosted a Gratitude Practice and Self Care Journaling workshop in the Barn Yoga & Meditation studio in Killaloe. The workshop started with a talk on simple exercises to start a journey to practising Gratitude and Journaling. This was followed by a 2 km guided walk in Killaloe where participants were encouraged to take photos and notice their surroundings. On 21st August, a Seaweed Foraging talk took place on Quilty Beach. Participants were provided with information on different types of seaweeds, what they can be used for. Participants were also offered the opportunity to take part in a guided walk on Seafield Beach. To date over 50 people have taken part in the two events and the feedback has been extremely positive.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Mindful Walks

Clarecare Clay Therapy for Older Adults

This initiative has been hosted by Clarecare Day Services for Older People. These sessions involve individuals working with clay, exploring the range of emotions, thoughts and feelings that come with the sensation of working with their hands and moulding shapes that will help to bring up joyful memories and support positive mental health. For others, the shapes may be a means to support movement and dexterity of the hands. The classes focus on the sensory experience and how working in a creative manner can help relax the mind.



Clarecare

Killaloe/Ballina Active Retirement Association (KBARA)

Funding received from Healthy Clare fund, in partnership with Clarisford Park, enabled the group to build a temporary pétanque piste. Planning permission to create a permanent facility, complete with a piste, fencing, lighting, and seating was granted in June. The fund has been instrumental in raising awareness and sparking interest in pétanque within the community. The committee mobilised local resources and welcomed the enthusiastic help of up to 14 volunteers, shovels and rakes in hand, to prepare the playing surface. Next steps include training members and hosting an Open Day, inviting the wider community to come along, give pétanque a try, and share in the enjoyment of this inclusive sport.



Boules

Peer Led Wellness Café Walks

Supported under the Healthy Clare Micro Fund, Creative Ireland collaboration, The Peer Led Wellness Café has commenced a series of wellbeing walks engaging local historian Dr Jane O'Brien. Walking was proposed as an inclusive, healthy addition to the regular tea/coffee and chat. Funding has been used to support three short walks over the summer months, to take place 11:15am-12pm within the times that the weekly cafe members meet. Final walk in this series will take place on the 8th of September.



Café Wellbeing Walks

Events

Carrigoran Day Center, Seniors Information Event

Healthy Clare attened the Carrigoran Day Centre, Seniors Information Event with Clare Age Friendly County Programme on Friday 22nd of August. This event provided a great opportunity to network with key services and promote the work of Clare County Council Health and Wellbeing programmes to older people and their families.



Carrigoran Seniors Information Event

Collaboration

Literacy Proofing to Ensure Use of Plain English

Healthy Clare and the Limerick and Clare ETB Regional Literacy Coordinator worked together to develop a Plain Language version of one of their health-related documents, 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Clare'. This collaboration ensures that information shared with the public is clear, accessible, and easy to understand for all. By combining expertise specialist knowledge in the brochure and having the information presented in plain language, the partnership demonstrates how cross-sector collaboration can lead to practical, high-impact outcomes. This initiative highlights the importance of:

- Clarity: ensuring health information is written in simple, direct language.
- Accessibility: making documents more inclusive for people with varying literacy levels.
- **Collaboration:** pooling expertise from health services and adult literacy support to strengthen communication.

This joint effort stands as a strong example of best practice in collaboration, showing how working together can improve public engagement, build trust and support healthier communities.

Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo

Recent features, highlighting services in the Health and Wellbeing page include:

- **GROW:** A community of people drawn together by first-hand experiences of mental health challenges. Having found practical ways of helping each other recover from mental health challenges or life struggles GROW developed what they refer to as The Grow Programme.
- **ISPCC:** ISPCC is dedicated to enhancing the lives of children and young people. They provide a suite of relevant services, all under the Childline brand.

If you would like to see a Health and Wellbeing initiative promoted in the Health and Wellbeing page, reach out to the Healthy Clare Coordinator, samccarthy@clarecoco.ie

Clare Age Friendly Programme

Corofin, North Clare Agricultural Show 2025: A Joyous Celebration of Rural Life

On Saturday, 26 July 2025, the village of Corofin in North Clare came alive with the vibrant sights and sounds of the Corofin, North Clare Agricultural Show. The event drew crowds from across the region to celebrate the best of local agriculture, horticulture, and community spirit.

The show featured a dazzling array of competitions, from prizewinning vegetables and livestock displays to artisan crafts and traditional music. Families, growers, and enthusiasts gathered to share knowledge, showcase their talents, and enjoy the warm hospitality that Corofin is known for.

The Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager Shanelle Waring was delighted to attend, engaging with older members of the community and promoting inclusivity and wellbeing throughout the day.

With perfect weather and a joyful atmosphere, the 2025 show was a resounding success—an unforgettable celebration of Clare's agricultural heritage and the people who continue to nurture it.



Ennis West Age Action Group'

Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager, Shanelle Waring, alongside the Rural & Community Development Worker Niamh Wiley, recently met with members of the newly reformed Ennis West Age Action Group. Their visit marked a meaningful step in offering guidance, encouragement, and tailored support as the group embarks on a fresh chapter of community engagement and empowerment.



Clare Age Friendly Attends Successful Seniors Information Event in Newmarket-on-Fergus

On Friday, 22nd August 2025, from 1pm to 6pm, the Carrigoran Health and Wellness Centre in Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare, hosted a vibrant and well-attended Seniors Information Event. The gathering brought together a wide range of community services and support organisations; all focused on enhancing the wellbeing and independence of older adults.

Clare Age Friendly was delighted to attend and engage with attendees throughout the afternoon. The event provided a valuable platform for sharing resources, fostering connections, and promoting age-friendly initiatives across the county.

Visitors had the opportunity to explore health and wellness services, receive expert advice, and connect with professionals dedicated to supporting older people in Clare. The atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and filled with meaningful conversations and community spirit. Clare Age Friendly expressed heartfelt thanks to the organisers and all involved for their commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for older members of the community.





Funding Allocation in County Clare:

A total of €278,772 has been awarded to seven projects in County Clare, categorised into Measure 1 and the Project Development Measure. The funding will support a range of projects designed to improve access to outdoor recreational activities, including trail development, maintenance, and feasibility studies for future outdoor facilities. These investments contribute to both the local community's well-being and the region's tourism infrastructure.

Measure 1 - Small Scale Repair and Development of Recreational Infrastructure:

Group	Project	Grant Awarded
O'Briens Bridge Community Group	Resurfacing a 1km stretch of walkway to ensure safe and year-round access with crushed stone	€19,272
West Clare MD (Liscannor Community Development Group)	Liscannor Coastal Looped Trail (4.44KM from Liscannor Village to Clahane)	€40,000
West Clare MD (Fanore Community Development Group)	Fanore Recreational Trail (1.9km connecting Fanore Village to Fanore N.S.)	€40,000
Shannon MD (Newmarket-on- Fergus Tidy Towns)	Newmarket-on-Fergus Long and Short Sweep walking routes (8km)	€40,000
West Clare MD	Ennistymon Glen Walk - Repairs and maintenance works	€40,000

Total Measure 1 Grants for County Clare: €179,272



Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040



Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2024/2025 - Funding Allocations for County Clare

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) provides funding for the development, repair, and enhancement of outdoor recreational infrastructure, particularly in rural areas across Ireland. The scheme supports a wide range of projects aimed at promoting outdoor activities and ensuring access to safe, sustainable recreational spaces for communities.

On 14 August 2025, Minister Calleary announced €8.7 million for 221 outdoor recreation projects across the country. The funds allocated in this announcement relate to Measure 1 (small scale repair and development) and the Project Development Measure. Further announcements for Measures 2 and 3 will follow later this year.

Project Development Measure:

Group	Project	Grant Awarded
Clare County Council (Killaloe MD)	Parteen Riverside Walk - Feasibility Study for a Riverside Walk connecting Westbury & Shannon Banks to Parteen Village	€49,500
Clare County Council (Shannon MD)	Scariff Riverside Walk and Kayaking Facility - Design & Planning for canoe trail, slalom course, and white- water rafting	€50,000

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Total PDM Grants for County Clare: €99,500

Future announcements for Measure 2 (large scale infrastructure projects) and Measure 3 (promotion of outdoor activities) are expected later in the year, which may bring additional opportunities for Clare's outdoor recreational development.



O'Briens Bridge - Previous funding

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM, LOCAL STUDIES & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

Clare Libraries



Minister Buttimer visited De Valera Library

Library staff were delighted to welcome Minister of State Jerry Buttimer (Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht; Department of Transport) to De Valera Library in Ennis on Thursday 3st July.



Kilkee Library Book Launch

The book launch of 'Once Upon A Kazka: Stories from Ukraine' was held at Kilkee Library. This Clare Youth Services project was a compilation of stories created by seven young authors, with the guidance of Cortney O'Farrell and Melissa Blunnie and launched by local author Maeve Chambers.

De Valera Library hosted a Clare FM outside broadcast on 12th August with library staff contributing to Alan Morrissey's Morning Focus programme which focussed on the work of the Ennis Municipal District. An exhibition by the Clare Traveller Community Development Project was held for this year's Council Day where work by Traveller women was displayed. The total number of events in libraries over the Summer are listed below.

Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	255
Total audiences at in branch events	4,001
Total number of outreach events	14
Total audiences at outreach events	745
Total number of deliveries to homes	4
Total number of Little Library Bags issued for those starting school in Sept	52

IT classes and services

Staff from Clare Libraries attended an information session titled 'Al in Everyday Life', with tutors Aoibhe Hickey and Marie Edmonds from LCETB. Library staff responded to 1,276 IT queries from the public throughout the library network.

Online Resources usage - the reading of e-magazines and e-newspapers continues to be one of the most used online resources in Clare Libraries

2,077
E-Books

4,682
E-Audiobooks

15,433 ePress (magazines & newspapers)

90 Online
Courses

37 Transparent
Languages

Marketing & Social Media

Staff updated the Clare Libraries page on the Clare County Council website and all Digi Screens in library branches were also updated.

6 6

Events and Outreach:

Library staff hosted an information stand at the Carrigoran Seniors Information event on 22nd August. Heritage Week events included Basket Weaving in Ennis and Kilrush libraries, workshops/talks on "Currachs, Canoes and Neamhóga of the Shannon Estuary" and the "Hen Harrier" in Kilkee library and an opportunity to meet a community Archaeologist in Scariff library. Heritage Week events were uploaded to www.heritageweek.ie. A workshop on Creative Writing with Mary Murphy was organised for Ennis Library on 21st August. Promotional materials were designed and printed.

Printed Materials:

A leaflet on the 'Surnames of Co Clare' was produced for the Local Studies Centre and distributed to the Tourist Office and the Woodstock hotel who often get genealogical questions which are referred to the library. The Daniel O'Connell 250 commemoration programme was produced, and marketing materials were organised for the Skills for Life programme - posters and bookmarks were printed and pull ups ordered.

Library Social Media activity

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
f	8,657	109	155,788	3,300
0	2,871	172	12,189	527

Children's Services



Children's Badge Making Workshop in Tulla Library

A The annual Summer Stars Reading Adventure began in June in all library branches and runs to the end of August. This non-competitive national initiative encourages children to continue reading during the summer holidays and earn rewards for their efforts. Activities to promote the reading initiative in Clare libraries are held throughout

the summer and craft sessions, creative writing, chess, art workshops, wildlife talks, and Irish language comic book camps were just some of the free events for children during July and August.

Healthy Ireland

A Health & Wellbeing initiative took place in DeValera Library on 11th July with a walk-in health check in collaboration with HSE nurses. Attendees were offered free blood pressure checks, diabetes screening, and general health advice. A total of 40 individuals availed of this valuable community health initiative. "Creative Mindfulness" Workshops for children were held in August in Kilrush, Kildysart and Ennis libraries. Kilrush library hosted two workshops facilitated by Sonia Millar with a total of 22 children participating, engaged in activities designed to help them identify and manage their emotions. Sonia also delivered a workshop at Kildysart Library, with 16 children taking part and three sessions took place in De Valera Library on 14th August.

Creative Ireland Programme

During July and August, Creative Ireland Clare funded a range of cultural initiatives across the county. Supported events included the Féile Brian Ború festival in Killaloe-Ballina, which celebrated local heritage through music, storytelling, and family-oriented activities. Also in Killaloe, the Neuro Stage Summer Camp provided a creative and inclusive space for neurodivergent young people, incorporating drama, movement, and sensory engagement. The "Drawn to Ennistymon" project facilitated community interaction through drawing workshops and a public exhibition exploring the town's identity. Additionally, the Heritage Office, as part of the Cultural & Creativity Team, received funding for the Clare Cillíní Survey, which will be published on the Clare iCAN website and was launched during Heritage Week 2025. This initiative aims to increase public access to and understanding of culturally significant burial sites across Clare. The Birds of a Feather Shared Island-funded project is currently preparing for its final gathering, which will bring together over 50 women from Ennis, Ballinasloe, and Inishbofin for a three-day exchange in Belfast focused on craft, enterprise, and storytelling.

Project Development Measure:

as part of the Cultural & Creativity Team, received funding for the Clare Cillíní Survey, which will be published on the Clare iCAN website and was launched during Heritage Week 2025. This initiative aims to increase public access to and understanding of culturally significant burial sites across Clare. The Birds of a Feather Shared Island-funded project is currently preparing for its final gathering, which will bring together over 50 women from Ennis, Ballinasloe, and Inishbofin for a three-day exchange in Belfast focused on craft, enterprise, and storytelling.

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Local Studies and Archives



Daniel O'Connell 250 with l-r Michael Talty, HelenWalsh, Seán Lenihan, Declan Barron, Cathaoirleach Paul Murphy and Siobhán Mulcahy.

The Local Studies Centre and Archives have received a donation of a Daniel O'Connell letter relating to his duel with John D'Esterre in 1815. The letter was sent to his second, Major William Nugent MacNamara of Ennistymon. Thanks to Colm Hayes and Frances Madigan of the Old Ennistymon Society for the donation. The O'Connell 250 Commemoration was held on the 9-10th August, with several events being held in the Local Studies and Archives Centre in Ennis. An exhibition of books, documents and ephemera relating to Daniel O'Connell was held through the month of August. Declan Barron (Newpark House) advanced the loan of several documents for the exhibition. Lectures by Prof Patrick Geoghegan and Prof Maurice Bric were held in DeValera Library and a documentary on O'Connell was shown, all events were well-attended. The archiving of John Holohan family papers (Feakle Auctioneers and public representatives) is ongoing. The publication "Forgotten Lives" by historian, Rita Mc Carthy was launched in the Local Studies section on 21st August by Prof Bernadette Whelan, this book tells the story of the County Clare Mother and Baby home known as the County Nursery which existed from 1922-1932. Over 100 people attended the launch, and the highlight of the evening was the address from survivor Jimmy King who is now 94 years old. The workhouse was demolished in 1936.

Clare Museum



Creative History Camp in Clare Museum

Two Creative History Summer Camps were held in July with facilitator Aideen Sweeney with children aged 6-9 and 10-13. Both were fully subscribed and all children enjoyed getting to know the Museum artefacts. A Daniel O'Connell exhibition was held as part of the O'Connell 250 Commemoration. The museum borrowed items from the Newpark House collection for temporary display and digitised three of O'Connell's letters in the long-term collection, making them fully accessible to the public. A blog entry on O'Connell was researched and written for the museum website.

Two events were held during Heritage Week: a drop in information morning on Community Archaeology by Archaeologist Tori McMorran on 20th August and the launch of the Clare Cillíní Survey by Michael Houlihan, held in conjunction with the Heritage Office, on 21st August. Over 100 items were catalogued during this period and these items will now be photographed and uploaded to the website. There were 14 social media posts during the period, promoting museum activities and highlighting aspects of Clare history.

Clare Arts Office

Súil art gallery welcomed 536 visitors from June 1st - August 12th. Súil opened its exhibition RISK/REWARD on June 28th and held a formal launch attended by 25 artists and visitors on July 3rd. The exhibition was launch by Jess Tobin the Director of Limerick Printmakers, a collective with over 70 members. The exhibition features the work of 23 printmakers based across the mid-west. In collaboration with Limerick Printmakers, Súil hosted 4 printmaking workshops, including screenprint, letter press and etching. The workshops catered for ages 6-9, 10-12, teens and adults, 6 other exhibitions took place in Ennis, Scariff and Kilkee.

The "Riches of Clare" concert series took place in glór ever Wednesday over the summer, culminating in a performance at Feakle Festival in August. Over 1,000 audience members enjoyed music performed by 36 musicians. "Nourish", the County Arts Development Plan 2025 – 2029 was adopted by the Rural Development SPC on 15th July. Clare's "Culture Night" programme was launched which will see with over 40 events taking place in 17 towns and villages countywide on 19th September 2025. Almost 2,000 people attended over 25 events in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee, over the summer months, the busiest attendance since COVID. Music, theatre, talks and films had full attendance as had art and drama workshop in August.

Almost 500 people attended 'O'Connell' in glór, a special commissioned theatre and music piece, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Daniel O'Connell. Commissioned by the Arts Office and funded by Clare County Council and the Dept of Culture, Communications and Sport it was written, produced and directed by Diarmuid de Faoite. The Arts Office attended the Film Officers AGM at Galway Film Fleadh and assisted with 6 film productions in Ennis and West Clare over the summer months, 4 arts slots took place over the summer on Clare FM and the Arts Officer also featured on the Clare FM Roadshow in Mountshannon.

Social Media

Facebook 16/07/25-12/8/25						
	Views	Post reach	Page Likes	New Page followers	Total followers	
Clare Arts Office	7,559	3,560	2.9k	8	3,572	
Cultúrlann Sweeney	16,765	7,373	1.9k	18	2,184	
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	692	367	555	1	555	
Riches of Clare	28,133	10,926	2.8k	45	3.045	
Clare culture night	238	71	1.9k	0	1,309	
Arts In Clare Group					3,702	
Clare Trad Group	5,736				2,908	
Instagram 16/7/25-12/8/25						
Account	views	Followers	reach			
Suil art gallery	5,228	290	1,811			

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 25th August 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	135	118
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5	3
Appeals handled by Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	4	0
Data Access Requests - Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	13	6
Data Requests - Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0	0
Data Access Requests - Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	29	17

Communications

The Communications Office communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of issues of local and national interest.

24 media releases were issued from July 1 - August 21, 2025, including:

- Clare and Tipperary County Councils Confirm Dates for Trial Pedestrianisation of old Killaloe-Ballina Bridge
- New 24-hour car park opens in Ennistymon town centre
- Clare County Council organises Daniel O'Connell Commemorative Programme to Commemorate the 250th

anniversary of the Liberator's Birth.

- Clare County Council Announces Countywide Programme for National Heritage Week 2025
- Clare County Council announces Hedge Cutting Scheme for 2025

Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels to maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In the period July 1 - August 21, 2025, the Communications Office:

- Posted 83 times on Facebook, with total followers now 23,253.
- Posted 57 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers over 8,883.
- 79 Posts on Instagram followers are now 4,963.
- (Statistics accurate as of 21/8/2025)

Register of Electors

Project work on Register of Electors continues within the Franchise Section, in advance of the migration to a national database. Work includes identification of duplicate records and deceased electors. The project also involves adding complete addresses for townlands and polling stations. By the end of 2026, all 31 Local Authorities will be on Voter.ie, which will be replacing Ireg and Check the Register.

Business Innovation

The Innovation team continue to progress projects that will improve efficiency in the services provided.

In our latest project, the GIS team in collaboration with the Environment team, successfully digitised the Litter Pollution and Quantification Survey forms and developed a comprehensive Survey App and Management Dashboard. The forms capture detailed data on litter types—including food residues, takeaway packaging, cigarette-related waste, plastic and metal packaging, and deleterious items like dog fouling and hazardous waste. They also assess litter visibility, distribution patterns, bin conditions, and contributing factors such as pedestrian traffic or nearby businesses. The new digital

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solution streamlines field data collection, improves accuracy, and enables real-time monitoring and analysis. The dashboard provides actionable insights for targeted clean-up efforts and policy planning. The app and dashboard are now live, supporting more efficient environmental management and reporting.

Clare County Council Awards Highest Honour to Dr. Mick Guinee

Clare County Council awarded a Civic Reception to Dr. Mick Guinee, founder and Chairman of Ei Electronics, in recognition of his contribution to the economic and social development of County Clare and beyond.

The event, held at Áras Contae an Chláir on Friday evening (June 13), was attended by elected members, senior council officials, family, friends, and business leaders. The reception marks the highest honour that Clare County Council can bestow.

Dr. Guinee, a native of Cork, founded Ei Electronics in 1988 following a management buyout of the El Company in Shannon. Under his leadership, Ei Electronics has grown into a world-class Irish-owned multinational, specialising in fire and home safety technology.



Bust of Dr. Brendan O'Regan Unveiled in Ennis

Clare County Council honoured one of the county's most celebrated pioneers with the official unveiling of a bust of Dr. Brendan O'Regan at Áras Contae an Chláir in Ennis on June 13th last.

The ceremony celebrated Dr. O'Regan's extraordinary legacy in industry, tourism, and peacebuilding, and was attended by elected members and family members of the Sixmilebridge native.



Visit of Minister Kevin Boxer Moran to Aras CCC

Minister Kevin Boxer Moran & officials from the OPW met with the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, Elected Members & members of the Management Team of Clare Co Council on 24th July at Aras Contae an Chlair to discuss issues of strategic importance related to his areas of responsibility.









KILLALOE MD

Clare FM Summer Tour from Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience, Mountshannon and Killaloe Library

One of the stops in the Clare FM Summer Tour was broadcast from the recently opened Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience in Mounshannon on the 14th of August. Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer gave an overview of the Killaloe MD operations, initiatives and key projects that are underway in the MD. Jackie Dermody, Analyst Developer at Digi Clare outlined the progress of the Scarriff Community and Enterprise Digit Hub which is phase 1 of the RRDF Scarriff Regeneration Funding Category 1 and the economic and social benefits it will bring to the area. Siobhán Mulcahy, County Arts Officer, highlighted the creative spaces of Tulla Stables Artist Studios and Edna O'Brien Library Gallery and the local Arts Festivals.



Killaloe Library was the final stop on the Clare FM Summer Tour, broadcasted on the 28th of August. Brian McCarthy—Senior Planner / Killaloe MD Co-ordinator spoke to Alan Morrissey of Morning Focus, on the latest projects undertaken by the MD including the Trial Pedestrianisation as part of the Killaloe Ballina Town Enhancement and mobility plan, Tobermuragh Park Improvement and Mountain Bike Trail feasibility Study.

Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer was also interviewed given the historic location, showcasing the cultural heritage of Loug Derg, Brian Ború fort and St. Flannan's Cathedral. While Aldo Andreucetti, Executive Chartered Building Surveyor, General Design Office, interview covered the new Sports Activity Facility in Ballycuggaran due to open in October which is funded through Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth and Clare County Council.

We would like to thank all the participants for their valued contribution to these shows.

Pedestrianisation Trial for Killaloe Bridge

The trial pedestrianisation of the old bridge linking Killaloe and Ballina began on Monday, 28 July 2025 and will continue until Friday, 17 October 2025

Killaloe outdoor crews prepared for the pedestrianisation by installing temporary signage, large flower planters, benches and tactile paving.



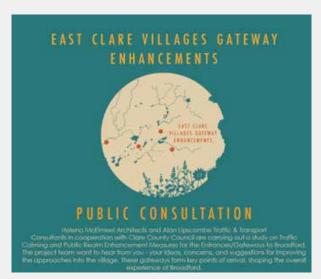
During the trial, several Sunday Family events have taken place on the Bridge. Killaloe MD acquired temporary Car Park facilities at Abbey Street for the duration of these events.



Temporary Car Park

The trial, provided for under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, aims to pilot a more pedestrian and cyclist-friendly route on the old town centre bridge between Killaloe and Ballina. The trial will also allow for the gathering of further details on traffic flow and pedestrian movements internally between the towns, and for the measurement of the social, economic and tourism benefits.

Pilot Project on Traffic Calming and Public Realm Enhancement designs for the Entrances/ Gateways into villages in East Clare



Following the appointment of Consultants, the Pilot Project commenced with a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, starting with the Walk & Talk visits to the selected villages of O'Callaghan's Mills, Broadford, Quin and Kilkishen in August. In attendance, Community representative and residents, members from Road Policing Division for Clare and Tipperary, Elected Members and Helena McElmeel / Alan Lipscome Traffic consultants and Declan Flanagan, Senior Executive Engineer. An on-line survey for all four villages was launch seeking ideas, concerns and suggestions for improving the approaches into the villages and will be available until 4th of September. In addition to this, residents are invited to 'Walk-In' event to express their views in person at their local Community Centres in September.

It is anticipated that that following this engagement, the developing concepts and designs will be drafted by October.

HOUSING

The housing public counter will remain open to the public, without appointment, from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 to schedule same. The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291 or by email: hat@clarecoco.ie. Our Ukrainian support team can be contacted on 065 6846577 or by email: offerahome@clarecoco.ie. Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at integration@clarecoco.ie

Clare County Council Housing Grants online application

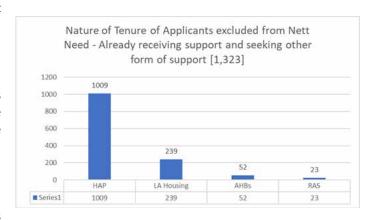
Our Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People are now available online through our website. This is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce paperwork, improve the speed of grant processing, and allow applicants to see the progress of their grant throughout our approval process.

Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,209 applicant households

(78%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Current Housing need as of 25/08/2025			
Total Households on List	2,811		
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,323		
Net Need	1,488		



Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved

Count of	BEDS APPROVED			
FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Total
ENNIS	990	181	68	1239
SHANNON	170	33	13	216
CLARECASTLE	162	29	7	198
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	120	20	6	146
KILRUSH	92	19	7	118
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	82	23	2	107
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	66	26	11	103
COROFIN/RUAN	68	15	1	84
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	71	10	1	82
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	55	15	2	72
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	53	13	2	68
KILLALOE	45	15	2	62
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	42	9	3	54
SIXMILEBRIDGE	37	10	4	51
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	36	10	6	52
CLONLARA	27	9	1	37
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	31	7		38
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	22	5	3	30
QUIN	16	4	2	22
KILMIHIL	9	4	2	15
KILMALEY	11	1		12
KILFENORA	4	1		5
Grand Total	2,209	459	143	2,811

Newly Qualified Applicants





Housing Allocations

Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment 2025

Clare County Council is currently preparing a Summary of Social Housing Needs Assessment for 2025, in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009. All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to complete this assessment for households who have been approved for social housing support. The purpose of the Assessment is to identify the level of social housing support need across County Clare and is an important tool for informing national housing policy. We are contacting households who have been approved for social housing support to confirm that they still require social housing support. Each applicant must confirm their requirements to the Council by completing the assessment form which has been issued. Households who are approved for a social housing transfer and households who are HAP and RAS tenants are not included in this assessment

Completed forms are to be returned by households prior to 5th September 2025.

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.

New Development at Derg Gardens, Scarriff

Clare County Council continues to work with the Approved Housing Bodies in relation to the delivery of social housing. In this regard recently advertised on the CBL website were 3 no 3 bedroomed houses and 2 no 2 bedroomed apartments located at Derg Gardens Scarriff. The allocation process in relation to this development is now completed and the nominated households have been forwarded to Inis Housing who will be managing this development. This development is delivered via CALF funding.

New Development at Beal an Inbhir Kilrush

The Allocation process in relation to the new social housing development situated at Beal an Inbhir Kilrush is currently in progress. This development which was recently advertised on the CBL website comprises 8 units made up 4 no 3 bedroomed houses and 4 no 2 bedroomed houses. This is phase 1 of this development and phase 2 will be advertised at a later date.





Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

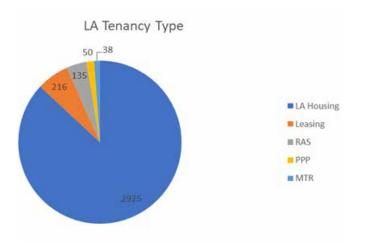
There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 27 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Five properties have been sold to date in 2025. It is expected that more sales will be completed in Q3 of 2025.

Having consulted with elected members in relation to maintaining our newer stock we have agreed that properties purchased or built since 1st January 2016 will not be available for sale under this scheme. This can be reviewed at end of current Housing Delivery Plan period in 2026. We have also agreed that 1-bedroom properties and specially adapted units will not be available under the scheme.

Housing Tenancies:

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

	25th August, 2025					
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total			
Ennis MD	1	1,288	1,289			
Killaloe MD	0	371	371			
Shannon MD	5	750	755			
West Clare MD	2 965 967					
Grand Total	9 3,374 3,382					



There are 135 RAS tenancies and 216 lease tenancies (126 long-term and 90 short-term leases). There are 1009 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing Bodies are providing approximately 1,044 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties, except where they provide a portion of the capital funding from their own resources. These properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System. Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accomm.	5	7	1	0	13
Projects	6	5	1	2	14
Casual Vacancies	28	19	10	10	67
TOTAL	39	31	12	12	94

Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continues to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, to deal with queries as well as inspecting properties and providing the necessary advice and support. The team is extremely active in carrying out tenancy visits. It should be noted that the no. of visits carried out is testament to the more proactive approach being taken by the team in engaging with tenants.

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing asb@ clarecoco.ie . Listed hereunder are details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

	Total year to date
Complaints rec'd in relation to breaches of Tenancy	383
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	27
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	33
Abandonment Notices issued	7
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	33
Repossession Orders	0

The team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and traveller accommodation sites and have a very visible presence to manage any issues arising. Proactive engagement with tenants also takes place to help prevent antisocial behaviour, to facilitate the inspection of local authority sites, to arrange specific meetings with tenants, as well as general engagement with local communities.

Private Rented inspections:

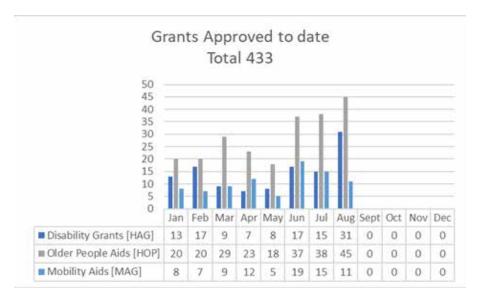
Inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 607 properties to date this year.

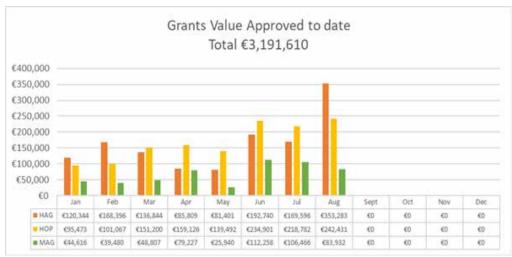
Housing Grants:

A big demand continues to exist for the Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. There are 433 grants approved to date this year and we are approaching our current annual budget allocation. This may result in further approvals being delayed until 2026. Details of these grants are available on Clare County Council's website. We encourage applicants to apply online through the following link:

Housing grants | Housing | Services | Clare County Council

Grants Approved 2025:





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
There are currently 73 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:



Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan was introduced on the 22 July 2024. This is a government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of derelict and non-habitable homes. The property must be eligible for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, whether derelict, non-habitable or simply vacant.

Full details on the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator can be found on https://purchaseandrenovationloan.ie/ 3 LAPR Applications have been received to date.

The Homeless Action Team

The number of presentations including complex cases continue to rise where individuals and households are experiencing difficulties and concerns around hospital discharges, prison releases, family or relationship breakdown, addiction or mental health concerns and dual diagnosis. this continues to place immense pressure on the Homeless Action Team on a monthly basis.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and family household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports, which in turn averted the need for emergency accommodation and avoided entering homeless services. HAP services have increased this quarter with a small increase in those accessing and availing of HAP supports. Other individuals and families were supported in accessing emergency accommodation either within our services or through private establishments.

The Homeless Action Team continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options at a time when accommodation is in high demand generally.

Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare Homeless Action team continues to engage with all necessary stakeholders, service providers and local supports to adopt a collaborative approach to the tackling of Homelessness.

Emergency Accommodation Status as of 1st August 2025

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge (apts)	0	4	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	6	7	1
Westbrook	0	17	0	1
Ashford Court	9	14	14	1
Clann Nua	0	12	0	1
EA Families	27	37	46	7
EA Individuals	0	85	0	11
TOTAL	41	188	67	24

Exits from Homeless Services:

Clare Homeless Action Team continues to focus on exits from homeless services.

During the period 7 June to 1 August 2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing		
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	13	
Admitted to hospital	0	
Excluded	1	
Residential Treatment	0	

Tenancy LA	2
Returned to family/friends	1
Prevention Tenancies	0
Other	24

In addition to the above numbers many other households engage with our homeless services on a daily basis.

Affordable Housing Schemes for County Clare

CCC continues to run Expression of Interest (EOI) Campaigns seeking proposals on options to deliver affordable homes in County Clare. CCC are also engaged with developers with potential for Part V affordable delivery.

To date, CCC have received approvals for access to the Affordable Housing Fund for the following developments:

- Tulla Rd Ennis 10 units (with Developer).
- Lahinch Rd Ennis 6 units (units allocated and at acquisition stage).
- Shannon 10 units (All units allocated and at acquisition stage).

CCC are currently engaged with other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme. There is an online information portal at https://affordablehomes.ie/ providing general information to the public with regards to affordable housing.

Serviced Sites for New Homes – Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund.

The Governments current "Housing For All" plan provides for Local Authorities to make serviced sites available for sale to eligible purchasers through the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund. The sites in towns and villages across the country will be made available at discounted rates for qualified individual purchasers who wish to build their own home.

It is CCC intent to provide for Croi Cónaithe sites in Lisdoonvarna and Feakle with progress to date being as follows:

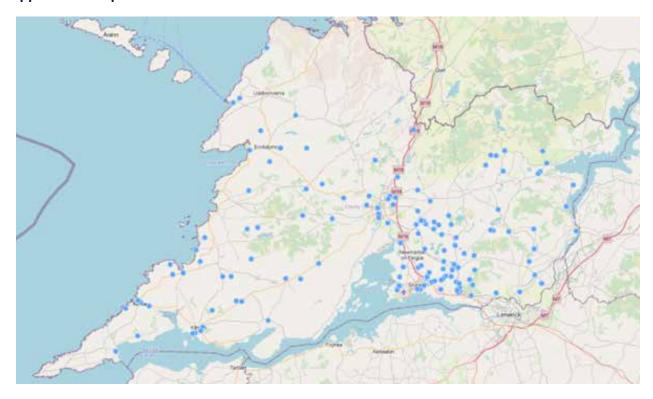
- Lisdoonvarna Design team appointed. Surveys complete, design complete & developing planning application.
- Feakle Need assessment complete. Surveys complete & procuring design team.

Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

The Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme went live in mid-July 2023, for private dwellings, with the finalised Act, regulations, updated YQA's (Your Questions Answered) & Ministerial Guidelines published.

On the 7th of November 2024, The Minister approved an increase in the grant cap from €420,000 to €462,000.

DCB Application Map



Homeowners can submit applications to the Defective Concrete Block (DCB) Scheme online via the Clare County Council (CCC) website. The site provides comprehensive guidance and resources to assist applicants throughout the process. A step-by-step instructional video titled "How to Make an Application" is also available to further support homeowners.

For additional assistance, CCC's DCB Team is available to respond to queries. Homeowners can contact the team via email at dcb@clarecoco.ie or by phone at 065-6846385, 065-6846468, or 065-6846309.

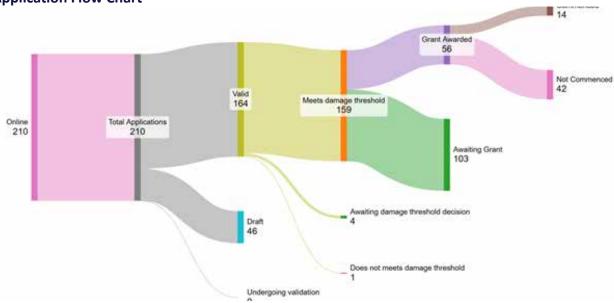
CCC continue to administer and validate applications received through the online portal. CCC maintains active engagement

with both the Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), fulfilling all associated responsibilities.

To date, CCC have issued 56 Remedial Option Grants, with a total value of €17,300,732. An additional 103 applications are currently pending further input from the Housing Agency, with grant determinations to follow.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is conducting a review of the current I.S.465 standard concerning deleterious materials, on behalf of the DHLGH. The public consultation period has concluded, and the NSAI are now reviewing the submissions received.





CCC carried out information evenings in Q2 in Ennis & Shannon. The focus of these evenings was orientated towards applicants who have received their grant option. These events were attended to capacity with positive feedback from attendees.

CCC intend to hold further information evenings and walk in clinics in various locations in 2025, to target people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application and other elements of the DCB application process.

Clare County Council continue to engage with the DHLGH to ensure social houses affected by DCB are included in a similar scheme.

Update on capital programme:

Direct build projects currently under construction include the Back Road project in Kilrush, the Doonbeg project, the Gort Road, Ennis project, the Shallee Drive/Cloughleigh Road project and the Moore Street, Kilrush project. These projects are all progressing well. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design and construction across the county.



Progress on Back Road, Kilrush housing development



Progress on Gort Road, Ennis housing development - Kitchen Installations



Progress on Doonbeg housing development - kerbing & services



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Body sector have been busy during July and August in progressing with their individual housing programmes. In August, 16 no. units in Phase 3 at Loughville, Ennis was completed by Tuath Housing Association (see photo image). This final Phase of the development consists of 3-bed semi-detached dwellings, which will provide much needed homes for families on our social housing waiting list. It is also the first housing development completed by Tuath Housing Association in Clare and we look forward to further engagement with them in relation to further housing projects.



Completed 16 units at Loughville Ennis by Tuath Housing Association, August 2025

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Completed – T. Key Construction Stage - T. Key	Q3 2023	Q1 2025 (10) Q3 2025 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Completed – T. Key	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Completed – T. Key	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	28	Construction Stage - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Construction Stage	Q1 2024	Q3 2025
Circular Road Ennistymon	4	Construction Stage – T. Key	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Review	Q3 2025	2026
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Construction Stage	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Doonbeg Lands	8	Construction Stage	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Construction Stage	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Construction Stage	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Construction Stage	Q3 2025	Q4 2026
Drumcliff Rd, Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	-	-
R2 Lands Lisdoonvarna	25	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH	Q1 2026	Q2 2027
Subtotal	180			

Approved Housing Body Projects	No. of units approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg.Assoc) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 3)	Completed	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey	13 (Phase 2)	Completed	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 2)	Completed	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	34	Completed: Phase 2 - 18 units Completed: 22/08/2025 Phase 3 - 16 units	Q2 2024 Q3 2024	Q2 2025 Q3 2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q3 2025
Ballyminogue, Scarriff (Inis Housing) CALF Turnkey	5	Under construction	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Acha Bhile, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	4	At procurement stage for appointment of consultants	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	3	At procurement stage for appointment of consultants	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
5/6 Ashfield Close, Ennis (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	6	At procurement stage for appointment of consultants	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Bruachlan,Westbury (Co-operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Const.	22	Contractor appointed	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Subtotal	125			
Total	305			

Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

The Clare Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 sets out overall targets for Clare County Council:

- 51% reduction in Clare County Council's own emissions
- 50% energy efficiency increase by 2030

A key requirement of the Plan was the identification of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) and the Kilkee/Loop Head Peninsula has been designated as the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Clare County Council.



A key objective of the Plan is the retrofitting of the Social Housing Stock across the DZ, which currently number 136 units. The Housing Section are liaising with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and will prepare a Business Case to seek funding under a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan for the retrofitting of these houses.

UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

Recent CSO figures show there were1050 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 33 granted per day. There are currently 5,052 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing an increase of 4 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 1073 people accommodated in 25 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 138 people compared to previous figures. The remaining people are accommodated in residential settings, in formal hosted arrangements, through the Irish Red Cross and Clare County Council's Offer-a-Home scheme. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 468people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

Formal extension of the Temporary Protection Directive is expected to be announced shortly. It has been agreed at European level to extend the directive to March 2027 and Ireland is expected to follow in line with this EU Council Decision.

Local Authority Integration Team



The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities. Their purpose is to help coordinate the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations.

The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community.

Who do LAITs support?

LAITs provide support for:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP)
- People who have been granted refugee status or other forms of protection, such as subsidiary protection or permission to remain
- Refugees who have been resettled in Ireland through a government programme
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)

How is the support provided?

LAITs operate under the principle of 'Integration from Day One'. This means that LAITs provide integration support to people who need it as soon as they arrive in Ireland.

What services do LAITs provide?

The work of LAITs isn't meant to replace existing services. Instead, LAITs help connect people with the existing services that are most suitable for their needs. This includes things like:

- Being a direct contact for new arrivals, helping them with any problems they might have when dealing with public services
- Connecting new arrivals with services like legal help, childcare and healthcare
- Connecting new arrivals with services that improve their ability to live independently, like job training, English classes, education, and apprenticeships
- Guiding new arrivals through the process of applying for financial support, medical help, child benefits, and other services they might need
- Holding meetings in local areas and using community development principles to help those who attend
- Supporting people if they face racism or other unfair treatment, helping them report it to the right authorities
- Helping vulnerable new arrivals get in touch with nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and other services if they need extra help

How do I contact my Local Authority Integration Team?

You can contact LAIT's by email on integration@clarecoco.ie

Minister of State Visit

On Thursday 3rd July – Fiona Cahill (Integration Team) met with Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Jerry Butler, during his recent visit to the East Clare Community Cooperative in Scariff. The visit provided an opportunity to highlight the ongoing work in community integration, social inclusion, rural development taking place in the region to support a more inclusive and vibrant East Clare.

Clare Healthcare Access Project



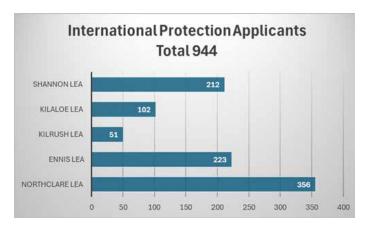
The LAIT were delighted to partner with our colleagues in the HSE to research how Primary Care Service's can be tailored for a changing society . Work is ongoing and we await the findings but input was received from members of our new communities and the County Integration Forum .

Centre for European Volunteering Capital

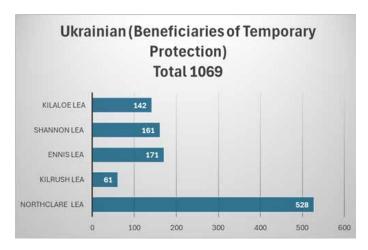
Clare is in the running to become the European Volunteering Captial 2027. Representatives of Clare County Council and Clare Volunteer Centre travelled to Brussels in July for the official presentation of the "candidacy certificate" for the prestigious European Volunteering Capital 2027 title, a key part of the bidding process. https://clarecoco.ie/your-council/[news]/clare-candidate-for-european-volunteering-capital-2027.html

Irelad

There are currently 944 International Protection Applicants accommodated in 12 Centres across County Clare.



There has been some consolidation of accommodation properties over the summer months with the closure of several of the Ukrainian accommodation centres. There are now 1069 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection accommodated in 22 Multi Occupancy accommodation Centres throughout the County.



NORTH CLARE LEA

Official Opening of Monastery Lane Car Park

During the reporting period West Clare MD North proudly held the official opening of a new 48-space public car park on Monastery Lane, Ennistymon. This vital infrastructure project, located in the heart of the town, will significantly ease congestion, enhance accessibility, and support local businesses by providing convenient parking for residents and visitors alike. Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the car park reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to improving amenities across North Clare. The development was welcomed by local representatives and marks a positive step forward for Ennistymon's town centre.





Lisdoonvarna Benches

The benches located in Lisdoonvarna Square were recently restored to pristine condition by Clare County Council crews. This maintenance work enhances the visual appeal and comfort of the public space, contributing to the overall amenity of the town centre. It is a welcome enhancement in advance of the match making festival in September.



Clare FM Summer Tour

As part of Clare FM's Summer Tour, the Ennistymon Digital Hub proudly hosted a live broadcast of the station's flagship show, Morning Focus. The event showcased a vibrant cross-section of North Clare's community, featuring interviews with local community representatives, business owners, and cultural leaders. Highlights included discussions on infrastructure developments and council/community collaborations. The broadcast also celebrated local achievements in sport and entrepreneurship reinforcing Ennistymon's role as a dynamic and engaged community hub



Storm Damage Repairs

Clare County Council undertook essential storm damage repairs at Blake's Corner in Ennistymon, addressing structural and safety concerns following recent adverse weather conditions. The works focused on stabilising affected infrastructure and restoring public safety in this historically significant and high-traffic area.





Hurricane Erin

High tides associated with the remnants of Hurricane Erin impacted the Doolin Pier resulted in significant storm debris being thrown onto the adjacent car park. Clare County Council crews responded promptly, initiating clearance operations and implementing temporary closures to ensure public safety. While the surface of the car park remained largely intact, the volume of displaced rocks and sea material required urgent attention. The incident underscores the vulnerability of coastal infrastructure to extreme weather events and the importance of rapid response measures.



Low Cost Safety Scheme, Ardnacullia, Ennistimon

Clare County Council has progressed a Low Cost Safety Scheme in Ardnacullia, Ennistymon, aimed at improving road safety through targeted infrastructure enhancements. The scheme focuses on junction improvements and visibility upgrades in areas identified as high-risk, following local assessments and community feedback. These works form part of a broader strategy under the North Clare Integrated Transport and Traffic Plan, which prioritises cost-effective safety interventions across the region.

Pedestrian crossing at Miltown Malbay NS

A pedestrian crossing upgrade at Milltown Malbay National School under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 as been completed. The works included the installation of a new raised controlled pedestrian crossing on the L-2029 Mullagh Road, replacing the existing road-level crossing. The upgrade also features new tactile paving, raised kerbs, and enhanced road markings and signage to improve safety for pupils and pedestrians in the area.



Barrier Installation

Clare County Council has completed the installation of a protective barrier at Ballyvaughan Pier as part of ongoing coastal infrastructure improvements.





Street Cleaning in the MD

Extensive street cleaning operations are undertaken by West Clare Municipal District North on a weekly basis however, the response to two major seasonal events during the reporting period id of note. Following the exceptionally busy Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy Festival in Miltown Malbay, which drew thousands of visitors and saw temperatures nearing 30 degrees, Council crews carried out deep cleaning of streets and public spaces to restore the town's appearance and hygiene standards in the early morning hours on a daily basis. Similarly, after the August Bank Holiday weekend in Lahinch, which experienced high visitor volumes, targeted cleaning measures were implemented to manage litter and maintain the town's coastal environment. These efforts reflect the Council's commitment to maintaining public amenities during peak tourism periods.









Road Resurfacing R460 Inagh to Miltown Malbay Road

Clare County Council recently carried out road resurfacing works along the R460 route between Inagh and Miltown Malbay, with a particular focus on the section at Letterkelly and Clounanahagh. These improvements were undertaken to enhance driving conditions and road safety on this key regional corridor.



SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Footfalls for Active Ennis Leisure Complex & Lees Road June 2025

Footfalls for June in the Active Ennis Leisure Complex were lower compared to the previous June in 2024 this may be due to two swimming events that were held in 2024 that were not held in 2025,

	Total June 2025	Previous year (June 2024)	Average per day June 2025	Average per day June 2024
Active Ennis	12,686	17,009 (\square 36%)	368	567 (↓36%)
Lees Road	16775 Vehicles 1586 Pedestrian gate		559 Vehicles 53 Pedestrian gate	

Aqua aerobics

Our aqua aerobics is held Tuesday and Friday morning at 10am and Monday and Wednesday evenings at 8.45pm. This class is extremely popular, and numbers have been soaring lately with up to 65 participants at a time. It provides a fun and active workout as well as a great community spirit.



Healthy Clare Newsletter

We issued infographics to the Healthy Clare Newsletter for June, the blog post was "How to Maintain Muscle Mass as you Age" and "Healthy dietary choices for men's health".





Family Membership

In July we launched a Family Membership for summer, running from the 1st of July to the 31st of August. It is expected this offer will increase our membership numbers as well as enhance the sense of community within our Leisure Complex. The Family Membership in July is to encourage families to engage in physical activities together, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

Intensive swim weeks

Intensive swim weeks were held for Children over 4 years of age and ran for each week in July and August. Lessons were held Monday to Friday and will also be held for the first 3 weeks of August. These intensive swim lessons help children already doing lessons to maintain and improve their water confidence, while it is an opportunity for children new to lessons to build their swimming and water confidence.



Teen Gym

Teen Gym hours have changed with the school year coming to a close. We have increased the hours available for teens to use the facilities in the morning and afternoon from 11am to 1pm on weekdays. Teen Gym remains very popular for young gym users and helps them get used to a gym environment.

Art Classes

In July and August we held art classes with Sophie in our meeting room. These proved to be very popular with each date booking out very fast. There were many fun and exciting workshops to choose from such as Fairy door making and funky bird house decorating. We received great feedback from the participants and Sophie hopes to continue running workshops.



www.activeennis.ie www.activekilrush.ie

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



General Updates

- 3v3 Basketball Tournament Partnership with Shannon Jets: A basketball tournament was held on Sunday, June 29th at Shannon Town Centre. The event featured age groups from Under 12 to Senior, with 4 teams participating in each category.
- CSP were one of two LSPs with ORO's to attend the
 workshop on Responsible Behaviour in the Outdoors.
 This was held in Sport Ireland and led by the national
 governmental steering group. The research report was
 created by The Behaviouralists. As stakeholders we agreed
 a position on responsible behaviour relating to issues such
 as littering, dog ownership, behaviour around livestock,
 planning and preparation for outdoor activities and
 overcrowding at popular visitor sites. We then worked
 to create marketing ideas on how to communicate these
 behaviours to different users of the outdoors.



Women in Sport

- Our Women in Sport lady's beginners golf programme finished in East Clare Golf Club. The ladies had 8 lessons and 6 sessions on the driving range. All participants have now been offered discounted membership rates with East Clare Golf Club and will be available to avail of additional lessons and driving range time.
- We partnered with West Coast Surf Club to run a introduction to longboard surf programme for ladies. The lady's membership to surf Ireland was paid for before the

- programme began so they can continue with lessons with the club after the initial programme ends. There are 8 ladies taking part on the course. There was a huge waitlist so we will be hoping to run another programme after the current one finishes.
- The Her Moves teen girls indoor rock-climbing course took place in Suas Climbing Centre. There were 6 participants on the programme and 4 of them have now joined the teen climbing group that takes place each week.
- The Women in Sport Leadership participants took part in an Erasmus Trip to France in June. 8 ladies and 2 Clare Sports Partnership staff travelled to Rennes to investigate social sports and organisation structure in France with the aim of developing similar initiatives and bringing those ideas back to their own clubs.

Older Adults

- Weekly exercise classes continue to run with tutors delivering to over 300 older adults in County Clare.
- Activator Poles Training has commenced with HSE physios to allow them to deliver to their clients.
- A 6 week Try Pickleball programme with Clare Pickleball with 48 people taken part with 30 people being older adults.





TOURISM DEVELOPMENT





Clare Delegation 2025 with Milwaukee Irish Fest Board President

Clare Tourism Showcases the Banner County at Milwaukee Irish Festival



Presentation from Clare to Irish Ambassador



Cathairleach of Clare Cllr Paul Murphy



Cllr Mary Howard showcasing Banner Hurling Skills



Clare Delegation meet Irish Ambassador to the US

A tourism delegation led by Cathaoirleach of Clare, Cllr Paul Murphy, and Director of Service for Tourism Development, Siobhan McNulty, proudly represented County Clare at the Milwaukee Irish Festival last weekend, promoting the region as a premier international visitor destination.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Held on the scenic shores of Lake Michigan, the Milwaukee Irish Festival is the largest celebration of Irish culture in the United States, drawing over 130,000 attendees. The Clare delegation engaged with visitors through a vibrant and interactive showcase, featuring a County Clare putting green, a Banner Hurling Wall, and immersive VR experiences provided by GlobalVam, offering realistic imagery of Clare's breathtaking landscapes. The team also highlighted Clare's achievement in securing international GSTC Certification, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable tourism.

Ambassador of Ireland to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason, visited the Clare exhibit to learn about the county's latest promotional efforts and innovations.

With over 1.2 million American visitors to Ireland in 2023—contributing an estimated €1.7 billion to the economy—Clare's presence at the festival was both timely and strategic. Irish heritage remains strong in the U.S., with 31.5 million Americans claiming Irish ancestry. In Wisconsin, that figure rises to 10.6%, with some counties exceeding 15%.

This year's festival saw a notable increase in awareness of County Clare, thanks in part to the convenient Chicago-Shannon direct flight, making the Banner County more accessible than ever to U.S. travellers.



Cathaoirleach of Clare, Cllr Paul Murphy with the Russell family originally from Clarecastle and now U.S. based.

Fáilte Ireland Site Visit to Inis Cealtra



Clare County Council were delighted to welcome a delegation from Fáilte Ireland including Paddy Matthews, Head of Irelands Hidden Heartlands; Orla Carroll Director of Product Development; Fiona Monaghan, Head of Outdoor Activities; Mary Stack, Head of Attractions and Paul Hayden, Head of Programme, Just Transition to the new Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience in July.

The visit reinforced the working relationship and support from Fáilte Ireland's Ireland's Hidden Heartlands team on this project. The delegation also enjoyed an in-depth tour of Inis Cealtra with local historian Ger Madden.

Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Dry Stone Walls of the Burren Conference



The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark supported the first multi-party conference on the Stone Walls of the Burren following the inscription of Irish Dry Stone Walling on the UNESCO Global Representative list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Partners and speakers included Common Knowledge, Irish Natural Stone, Burrenbeo Trust, Burren National Park, North Clare Community Group, Archaeologist Michael Lynch, tour guide Rory O Shaughnessy, writer and artist Gordon D'Arcy, local farmer Pat McCormack. Patrick McGurn of Acres Burren Aran and Dom Keogh of Momento Mori Stone. Dr. Eamon Doyle gave a workshop on fossils in the Burren stone walls as well as participating in a panel discussion and Carol Gleeson participated in round table discussions. Over 70 people attended and it is planned to make this an annual event.

EUROPARC Membership for Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark is

now a member of the EUROPARC Federation, the international organisation of European protected areas. The EUROPARC Federation is dedicated to practical nature conservation and sustainable development of Europe's biodiversity, fostering holistic landscape



approaches in its management. The National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Heritage Council and Wicklow Uplands Council are

the only other members in the Republic of Ireland. Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust and Mourne Heritage Trust AONB Partnership are members in Northern Ireland.

Visit Clare Marketing and Promotion

Visit Clare Social Media

Weekly spotlight posts continue across the Visit Clare social media platforms to promote local tourism business i.e. Accommodation, Activities, Dining or Event providers, welcoming new businesses to the website, and continuing to highlight our local natural attractions.

Funday Sundays – Summer promotion, get ready to experience the very best of County Clare

Funday Sundays Monthly Prizes



The Tourism Department has teamed up with top local activity and attraction providers to promote our wonderful County during the Summer period.

Each month we are spotlighting local activities and attractions with top prizes on offer, to promote all the County has to offer. August Prizes included luxurious afternoon tea at Dromoland Castle or tee off with a round of mini golf at 18Putts followed by some fun footgolf at Munster Footgolf.

For those who love the great outdoors, there was a chance to enjoy a thrilling fishing adventure with Atlantic Edge Angling. Families also had the chance to win a wonderful getaway with a stay at The Inn at Dromoland and enjoy a magical day out exploring Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Loop Head Lighthouse. www.visitClare.ie/Sundays

Family Fun events for Killaloe-Ballina Pedestrianisation Trial

Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council have announced a series of family-friendly events that will take place on Sundays throughout August and into September, as part of the trial pedestrianisation of the historic bridge linking Killaloe and Ballina.

The events run from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. each Sunday and began on the 10th August.

Activities will include children's entertainment on the bridge itself, water-based showcases and participative events, as well as cultural activities. A number of events also aligned with National Heritage Week, offering families a chance to engage with local history and culture. to Clare Countyl.



KILRUSH LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA, WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025

Over the course of the summer months the West Clare MD continued delivery of the 2025 Schedule of MD Works.

We continued the Road Restoration & Improvement (or RI) - road reconstruction (including road recycling) and resurfacing - element of the Schedule.

Restoration Improvement Works.

We completed RI works in

- Clooneylissaun
- Dysert
- Cloonlaheen East
- Garrynagry
- Kilmaley
- Erribul
- Coolmeen
- Lissycasey
- Ballyea
- Ballymacooda
- Sheeeaun (CIS)



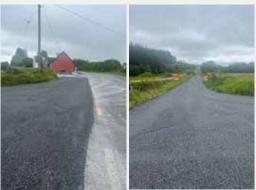














We commenced Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) Local Improvement Scheme.

Feighroe



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

Recruitment Competitions July & August

Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Firefighter
- Communications Graduate
- Acting Senior Engineer
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Senior Library Assistant
- Health & Safety Officer

- Technician Grade 1
- Apprentice Computer Networks Associate
- Beach Operatives North Clare
- School Warden
- Retained Station Officer Killaloe
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship
- Traffic / Litter Warden

Interviews

- Assistant Scientist
- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Firefighter
- Communications Graduate
- · Health & Safety Officer

- Acting Senior Engineer
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic
- Senior Library Assistant
- Health & Safety Officer
- Technician Grade 1
- Apprentice Computer Networks Associate

The following competitions were advertised:

- Apprentice Computer Networking Associate
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeship
- Retained Station Officer Killaloe
- Technician Grade 1
- Beach Operatives North Clare
- IS Cyber Security Analyst (Grade VI)

- School Warden
- Technician Grade 1
- Permanent Canteen attendants (FT & PT)
- Executive Engineer
- Temporary Assistant Engineer
- Acting Senior Executive Engineer
- Winter Maintenance Truck Drivers (Salting Routes)
- Velocity Patcher Drivers Panel

TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS

JULY & AUGUST

 Raising Awareness - Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme.

Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Being an Active Listener
- Communication Skills
- Health & Safety Induction
- Identifying Stress in your Team
- Managing Performance Effectively
- Neurodiversity Awareness
- Providing Great Customer Service
- Slips, Trips & Falls
- Time Management
- Tips for Writing Effectively

Health & Safety:

Manual Handling



Employee Wellbeing

- The July & August Wellbeing Focus updates on the Clare County Council Well-being Hub were focused on the Environment and Family Health.
- The Financial Wellbeing Programme featured a webinar about retirement planning. One to one financial clinics were offered to all staff as well as a se-ries of webinars planned for the rest of the calendar year.
- Mental Health and Human Rights in the Workplace Webinar.
- VHI Webinar Embracing Change: Strategies for Personal and Professional Growth.

Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

FINANCE

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) payment Reclassification Appeals Scheme

In early July 2025, the LGMA confirmed that the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment (DETE) had received sanction from DEPNDR for the reclassification grant scheme. This scheme is specifically targeted at businesses that received support under the ICOB1 (Increased Cost of Business payment 1) scheme but did not receive funding through ICOB2 (2nd payment) or Power Up Grant (PUG) and believe they should have been classified under the Hospitality, Retail or Beauty sectors.

The closing date for applications was Fri, 29th Aug 2025.

Clare County Council made relevant businesses aware of the targeted scheme and has to date received 70 submissions.

The review of submissions has commenced, and the Finance Department envisage that payments will be made to businesses by the end of September 2025.

PROCUREMENT

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 30th June to 26th August 2025 inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Provision of Email Marketing Services to Tourism Sites	6364263	29/09/2025 13:00	Open
Affordable Housing - Clare County Council Is Seeking Expressions Of Interest For The Provision Of Turnkey Housing Developments For Delivery Of Affordable Housing Across County Clare	6013014	30/09/2025 16:00	Preliminary Market Consultation
Shannon Municipal District Junction Improvement Works Bothar na Luachra and Cronan Park, Tullyvarraga, Shannon, Co. Clare	6282824	28/08/2025 12:00	Open
Renovations and Fire Up-Grade Works at Laurel Lodge, Ennis, Co. Clare	6269960	05/09/2025 16:00	Open
N68 Tullagower Pavement Overlay 2025	6259938	22/08/2025 00:00	Open
Provision of consultancy services under the Green for Business Programme	6170984	22/08/2025 12:00	Open
Ennistymon Public Realm Enhancement Works	5724726	05/09/2025 12:00	Open

ICT

ICT delivering new and improved digital services

The ICT team played a key role in expanding our digital services in August. ICT supported the rollout of an in-house litter inspection system and migrated the Fire Cert system to the cloud, allowing staff to access these tools securely from anywhere.

By digitising our processes, we've reduced paperwork, eliminated the need to manually data entry back at the office and improved reporting. Inspectors can now generate and share reports instantly, making it easier to track results and monitor trends.

Our new dashboard gives both managers and inspectors a clear overview of vital information, making it simple to monitor progress and share key updates. Altogether, these improvements empower our teams to make better decisions and continuously refine the way we work.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town Centre First

THRIVE Ennis - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

Thrive Strand One payment declaration and Performance reports have been submitted to the Southern Regional Assembly to draw down funding. Collaborative meetings with the DHLGH and OPW Staff took place on the 18th and 28th July in relation to Thrive Strand Two Application. A funding decision on the Strand Two Application is due from the Southern Regional Assembly in September on proposals to repurpose The Cloister building into an Arts/Community hub.



L-R Ken Curley & Terri Sweeney-Meade (OPW), John Olney & Nicola Matthews (DHLGH) Carmel Shaw (OPW), Joan Tarmey & Sean Lenihan (CCC), Des Lowry (OPW) & Christine Grant (NMS).

Meeting with CCC and OPW staff on 28th of July



L-R Joan Tarmey, Ken Curley, Michele O'Dea, Sabrina Commins & Carmel Shaw.

Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

The Town Centre First Department continues its work with the Kilrush Town Team and the West Clare Municipal District to advance the Town Centre First plan for Kilrush. Hassett Ducatez Architects provided presentations on the Pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members in the West Clare Municipal District and to the Kilrush Town Team. Public Consultation on the Pre-Draft Plan will take place in the coming weeks.



Kilrush Town Team Pre Draft Presentation to Kilrush Town Team on 18th August

Lisdoonvarna Project Development Measure.

Grafton Architects has been appointed for the provision of a Public Realm Design for the Town Square & environs and the development of an associated Planning Application to consent stage. This project will produce a high-quality architecturally designed public realm space for the town square and environs in Lisdoonvarna. Funding to construct the project has yet to be secured under a suitable funding scheme.



FORWARD PLANNING

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026 and BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne and Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O'Sullivan, announced on the 25th July 2025, the opening of applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026, including a dedicated funding stream for historic thatched buildings. BHIS supports owners and custodians of historic buildings to maintain and conserve the important structures which form an essential part of Ireland's cultural landscape.

Grants applicants under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme may receive a maximum grant of €50,000 under the scheme, which must represent no more than 80% of the project's total cost. Buildings/structures eligible for funding under the scheme include:

- Protected structures (i.e. those on the local authority's record of protected structures)
- Proposed protected structures (i.e. buildings the local authority has proposed to add to its list)
- Structures in Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs are defined by the Local Authority)
- Vernacular buildings (max grant for these is €30,000).
- Historic Shopfronts

Under the BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme it aims to protect the heritage value of historic thatched roof buildings across Ireland, including dwellings and other structures. The maximum grant available is up to €20,000.

Further details about Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026 and BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme are available at https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/2026-built-heritage-investment-scheme-and-bhis-historic-thatched-buildings-scheme.html.

The closing date for receipt of applications for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026 and BHIS Historic Thatched Buildings Scheme is Friday 26th September 2025.

Section 57 Applications

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

Section 57 Declarations	July/August 2025 up to & including 27/08/2025	Total (Valid)
Year to date 2025		
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	4	18

HERITAGE

Clare Heritage Week 2025

Clare Heritage Week 2025 was a tremendous success with 100 events held throughout the County, including 4 online digital projects.

Heritage Week certainly fulfilled its aims of bringing communities together, creating connections, learning something new and show-casing local heritage. All day community gatherings took place throughout the county and event organisers reported excellent attendances.

Kilrush Heritage Quarter held their own mini Heritage Week with over 30 events. Kilfenora put on a varied programme, showcasing their significant religious and musical heritage for exam-ple. Craggaunowen and Bunratty Castle & Folk Park hosted a joint programme of events.

The OPW had a diverse range of activities and open days at the Friary in Ennis and on Scattery Island. The Clare Libraries hosted traditional basket weaving demonstrations, Archaeology in a Box and Forgotten Lives: The Story of the County Clare Mother and Bady Home book launch.

Traditional skills demonstration and talks featured prominently during the week as well as archaeology and town and village guided tours. Other activities included film screenings, folklore and music sessions, workshops, exhibitions, traditional skills demonstrations, guided trails, walks and biodiversity events.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Launch of Clare Heritage Week, 2025 Photograph at slipway in Liscannor to launch Clare Heritage Week: from L to R: Carol Dollery, Vice Chair Liscannor Development Group, Ann Daly, Atlantic Way Gallery, Cllr. Paul Murphy, Cathaoirleach Clare County Council, Siobhan McNulty, Director of Services for Tourism, Jan Godfrey, Thomas Quinlan, Liscannor Development Group and Congella McGuire, Clare County Council Heritage Officer.

Liscannor Heritage Group were the worthy winners of the Clare County Heritage Award for their Heritage Week Event 2025 of Placemaking Heritage around the Cliffs of Moher, Liscannor, Co. Clare

A Heritage Week event was held in Kilkee, *Digital Cliffs: Exploring the Archaeology of Loop Head in 3D*. The presentation took the audience on a virtual tour of the dramatic coastline of Loop Head, County Clare, through an interactive 3D model created using high-resolution remote sensing technologies, giving a fascinating insight into the archaeology and heritage of Loop Head.



Digital Cliffs event in Kilkee during Heritage Week, 2025. Photograph from L to R. Tori McMorran, Clare Community Archaeologist, Congella McGuire, Clare County Council Heritage Officer, Dr James Bonsall, Finn Melia and Jeff O'Neill archaeologists from Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS) based in Kilrush at the Digital Cliffs event in Kilkee during Heritage Week.



Loop Head, Dermot and Grainia's Rock

Launch of the Clare Cillíns Survey

The Clare Cillíns Survey was launched and published on the Clare Heritage website https://heritage.clareheritage.org/during-clare- Heritage Week 2025.

The Clare Cillíní Survey will raise awareness of the 144 cillíns found across County Clare, while remembering the souls of the many children buried within them. It is hoped that by bringing attention to these sites, local communities will reconnect with their local cillíns. Clare County Council is delighted to be able to publish the information collected by Michael Houlihan during the Clare Cillín survey.



Photograph from L to R. Tori McMorran, Clare Community Archaeologist, John Rattigan, County Museum Curator, Cllr. Mary Howard, Mayor of Ennis, Michael Houlihan who completed the Clare Cillíní Survey, Congella McGuire, Clare County Council Heritage Officer, Annie Birney, who prepared the Clare Cillíns Survey material for publication on to the Clare Heritage website https://heritage.clareheritage.org/

The Clare Heritage website (iCAN)

The Ruan-Dysart History Group are the most recent local heritage group to join the Clare Heritage iCAN Network and now have their own website on the portal https://ruan-dysart.clareheritage.org/

Geological Survey Ireland - Geoheritage Programme Grant Scheme 2025/26

Geological Survey Ireland Geoheritage Programme is supporting the development and sustainability of Ireland's geoheritage through community based and community driven geoheritage

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

out-reach initiatives, including education, and geotourism to promote community engagement and development of geoheritage awareness.

Geological Survey Ireland invites applications by 24th September 2025 for the Geoheritage Grant fund for 2025/26 up to a maximum of €10,000 per project. Further details on their web-site: https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/geoheritage/activities/geotourism/Pages/GSI-Geoheritage-Grant-Funding-.aspx

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Peatland Rewetting Project nominated for Excellence in Local Government Award

'Knocknahila Bog Peatland Rewetting Project' has been nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award under the category 'Sustainable Environment and Biodiversity'. This is one of three nominations representing Clare County Council at the awards ceremony which is scheduled to be held in Dublin on the 27th of November 2025. The project is led through the role of Clare County Councils Biodiversity Officer working in partnership with a local farmer and Knocknahila Community Biodiversity Group and involved rewetting 27 acres of blanket bog near Mullagh, Co. Clare. The project is funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) and Clare County Council.



Knocknahila Bog Peatland Rewetting Project is nominated for an Excellence in Local Government Award

National Heritage Week 2025: Biodiversity Events

To celebrate National Heritage Week, Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer with the support of the Heritage Council organised a butterfly identification workshop with renowned butterfly expert Jesmond Harding. The indoor workshop was held at Michael Cusack Centre in Carran where Jesmond covered the types of butterflies that occur in the Burren. This was followed by an outdoor session at a site manged by Butterfly Conservation Ireland for the rare butterfly species, Marsh Fritillary.

Inis Artists displayed their art exhibition on the Lesser Horseshoe Bat at Sean Lemass Public Library in Shannon during National Heritage Week. The project is supported by Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Creative Ireland Clare.







Butterfly Identification Workshop took place at Carran, County Clare (Common Blue Butterfly)

Consultation on the Draft Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2031

The Draft Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2031 opened for public consultation which ran from the 25th of July to 25th of August 2025 inclusive. The Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2031 will provide a framework for biodiversity action over the next six years with the aim of halting biodiversity loss in County Clare. The consultation phase provided members of the public an opportunity to provide observations and submissions on actions proposed under the Draft County Biodiversity Action Plan. In person consultation events were held at the Public

Library in Shannon, Scarriff and Ennis and to coincide with National Heritage Week events also took place at Vandeleur Gardens (Kilrush) and Michael Cusack Centre Carran. Details of the consultation phase can be viewed at https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/draft-clare-county-biodiversity-action-plan-2025-2031







In person consultation events were held at the Public Library in Shannon, Scarriff and Ennis, Vandeleur Gardens (Kilrush) and Michael Cusack Centre (Carran).

Public Engagement with Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan

The National Parks and Wildlife Service have launched a new website https://www.restorenature.ie/ for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity. The website aims to act as a portal for public engagement with the development of Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan. The Plan will set out national restoration needs and measures under the Nature Restoration Law and is due to be submitted to the EU Commission by 1st September 2026. The website will provide updates on the work of the Independent Advisory Committee on Nature Restoration and publish the details of Leaders' Forum workshops and public-facing Communi-ty Conversation events.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the months of July & August. Sixty seven percent of planning applications received in these months were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	July	August to 27/8/25	2025 to date
No. of planning applications received	115	71	795
No. of Planning Decisions made	125	65	680
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	9	2	36
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	13	17	148
No. of Section 5 applications	13	6	74
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	4	3	25
Submissions received regarding Compliance	23	20	171

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

July 2025 (24th June to 31st July inclusive)	2025 to date	
New complaints received	36	161
New files opened	20	92
Files closed	13	52
Warning Letters issued	40	176
Enforcement Notice issued	3	47
Legal	0	19

August 2025 (1st August to 24th August inclusive)	2025 to date	
New complaints received	16	177
New files opened	11	103
Files closed	0	52
Warning Letters issued	7	183
Enforcement Notice issued	3	50
Legal	0	19

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- Mentoring: LEO Clare has had a substantial demand for oneto-one mentoring support. To date, 277 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 56 of those assigned during the month of June.
- Training: Businesses participated in a range of training programmes over the summer months, in the areas of Start Your
 Own Business & Artificial Intelligence training.
- Productivity Supports: With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various produc-tivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in September, LEO Clare have processed applications for 24 Digital for Business, 20 Green for Business and 7 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 13 Energy Efficiency Grants and 5 Grow Digital Vouchers.

Blas na hÉireann Clare finalists:

The finalists for Blas na hÉireann, The Irish Food Awards 2025, were announced in August, with 5 exceptional producers from Clare making it through to the final stage of Ireland's most prestigious food awards. The finalists shortlisted in their respective categories - Burren Smokehouse, Leo at Home, Lúnasa Farm, Óir Tonics and Sweet N Green - were judged by a network of expert judges, including chef, buyers, academics, restaurateurs and industry leaders, which is a huge achievement. LEO Clare will support the 'Best in County' award, which will be announced in Dingle on 3rd October 2025.

LEO response to tariffs:

In association with PWC and Enterprise Ireland, LEO Clare clients have been able to avail of a series of webinars providing guidance on how to navigate the complexity of the new tariff agreement between the EU and US. In addition, we have dedicated export mentors available to assist businesses as they deal with the impact of the new tariffs

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 25th August and the corresponding figures for 2024.

The property market in the County continues to be quite active, albeit that there is a shortage of supply, particularly in the residential sector. The Property Management unit continues to assist many solicitors acting for their clients on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc. We are also processing a number of applications for first registration of Council property to ensure they are properly registered with Tailte Éireann.

Transaction type	July and August 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	2	6
Licence to use property / building	2	6	14
Grazing Agreement for Lands	1		
Deed of Transfer signed	2	11	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	0	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	1	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	1	1	4
Allotment Agreements signed	4	40	40

Property Capital Projects

There are a number of capital projects at planning stage or at tender stage:

Tullyvarraga Community Hall upgrade

The Property Team is working with the Committee for the Hall and the Shannon Municipal District Team to assess the upgrade and re-habilitation works needed to address continuing defects in the building. This will also give an opportunity to see how the building can be improved to meet the needs of the community.

• Bellevuve House, Harmony Row, Ennis

Works have commenced on the upgrading of this property, which is a protected structure. The works include an upgrade of Mechanical and Electrical services, which has not been done in 30 years. This project will also provide energy efficient measures, meeting room space, canteen and improved office space.

Casual Trading

This has been a busy Summer season for Casual Trading activity with many events and festivals being held in the Summer months. There are challenges to be met to ensure all traders are managed, do not create disruption or waste management issues when operational and this is a key focus of the team for this year. In addition, there are a number of unauthorized traders setting up around the County without licences and we have to be vigilant in ensuring they do not continue to operate without a licence in a public place.

DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 285 derelict properties at 20th August 2025. We continue to have high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their legal/technical representatives. Initial engagement with the owners or their agents is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to gain an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, we commence engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing a consistent number of planning applications for property refurbishment/extensions, and it is clear from driving around the county the level of work ongoing on individual properties. We are advising property owners of the vacant property refurbishment grant if the property is suitable for residential use. With time and effort, working with owners, financial institutions and other departments, there are definite options for positive redevelopment and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

These photos give just one example of the transformation undertaken by the owners of this terraced house in an East Clare village.





Before

After

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in July and August 2025, figures for the year 2025 to date, with comparative figures for the full year 2024. There are 99 properties included in the Derelict Sites Register at 20th August 2025.

Derelict Sites	July/ August	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	15	43	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	13	32	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	8	22	43

			1
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	1	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	16	33	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	2	7	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	1	5	5

Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government is promoting a CPO activation programme for local authorities, with targets for the number of CPOs to be done by each local authority. The Table below sets out the status of CPOs commenced by the Derelict Sites Team in Clare County Council since 2022 to the current year. It is important to note that the CPO process can be lengthy and complex.

	commenced	Current Status
2022	6	3 - CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and the other one commenced in February 2025.
		1 - was paused and is being re- commenced in 2025
		1 - CPO completed and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works
		1 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	3 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in Taillte Éireann
		1 - CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024 - Planning application received for re-development
		1 To be refurbished by Housing Department
		2 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. One is sale agreed and two are being prepared for sale.
		1 - Options for the building are being assessed at present
		1 - Objection received and CPO process has re-commenced in 2025
		1 - Works are being commenced

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2024	4	4 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. Property is being pre- pared for sale.
2025	7	1 - CPO process commenced in last Month
		5 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide a revolving fund for CPOs of properties in the town of Ennis with the objective being that they would then be sold on the open market. We work closely with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the particular emphasis is on properties that have potential for residential use. Two such CPOs are with the PRA for registration. Actions taken on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market or making plans for site development.

Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on properties on the Derelict Sites Register is ongoing and notices of valuation have issued to properties as detailed in the table below. Four owners had appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and while decisions are awaited on two appeals, one appeal was rejected and one was withdrawn. The levy is an annual levy while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. Assessment of valuations and billing of the levy will be further progressed during 2025 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict Sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function, up to and including CPO of properties.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as at 20th August 2025. All other properties on the Derelict sites register are being valued for the purposes of the Derelict sites levy.

Derelict Sites Levy	July/ August 2025	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy was billed	1	24	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	€19,250	€319,410	€124,110
Amount collected	€18,859	€44,859	€14,300
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	9	34	26

Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	9	26	18
Number of properties where the notice of valuation was appealed by the owner	0	0	4

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANTFOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

As of the 25th August 2025, the value of grants approved by Clare County Council under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme is almost €26 million (433 grant applications approved or 67% of all applications), with further approvals due to issue.

This is a very significant investment in housing in County Clare and the work ongoing around the county on renovations and extensions is very visible. The Vacant Homes Team continues to advise applicants on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals to take them through the process.

The Grant is making a real difference in boosting the supply of rental properties and properties for permanent residence and will deliver on a key priority of 'Housing for All' National Policy and the Vacant Homes Action Plan, the key objective of which is to reduce vacancy and dereliction in our cities, towns, villages and rural countryside and provide more housing options in the process.

The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District is shown in the Table below.

Amount approved by Local Electoral Area	(including those
with grant funding paid out)	

Local Electoral Area	Number approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	151	€9.2 million	36%
Ennistymon LEA	85	€5.3 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	80	€4.65 million	19%
Ennis LEA	70	€3.95 million	15%
Shannon LEA	47	€2.78 million	11%
Grand Total	433	€25.96 million	100%

Any applicant can meet with the Vacant Homes Team in Áras Contae an Chláir by appointment or can discuss their application over the phone with any team member. We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 is 648, with 151 being received this year to date. We are in the top seven local authorities in the Country in relation to application numbers. Our response time for initial assessment of new applications is generally three to four weeks.

We have paid out €9 million to 157 property owners in County Clare who have completed works - that means that 36% of all grants approved have been paid out to date.

Many others are in the process of submitting their claims for payment. The final site inspections are organised and the administration of the financial and legal elements of the grant are completed. The level of claims for payment is increasing every day and the Team work closely with owners on this process.

Other Points of Information

1. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 57% of applications are for

- rural areas of the county and 43% for properties in towns and villages.
- 2. To date, 71% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (456 properties) and the balance of 29% are for rent.
- Approximately 55 property owners have applied to have the period to complete the works extended. Such requests are considered on a case by case basis, depending on the level of work carried out to date and the timeframe needed to complete the works.
- Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are published on the Council's website. The contact email address for further information and guidance on the grants scheme is <u>vacan-thomes@clarecoco.ie</u>.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Ennis MD Team were very active over an extremely busy summer season with various projects and works completed across the District. Some of the main items carried out since the last Monthly Report include the following:

Road Works Programme

Ennis MD Roads Crews have completed the surface dressing and road recycling elements of the 2025 Road Works Programme. Works completed over July and August included the surface dressing of approximately 10 km and road recycling of 5 km of local and regional roads within the Ennis area. The overlay programme which focuses on regional roads and the roads within the urban area of Ennis Town will commence in September.









Foothpath and Kerb Repairs

Repair works took place at 1) Abbeycourt where a number of full bay concrete footpaths were replaced 2) Phoenix Court and 3) Abbey Street Carpark where defective paving was removed and replaced. Kerb re-alignment works were carried out in Marian Avenue to assist with parking difficulties in the estate. A section of footpath was replaced in the Woodlands Estate as a result of root heave from a number of mature trees in the area. Other areas where localised repairs were carried out included Dalcassian Drive, Lifford Rd and the Friars Walk Bus Stop where kerbing had become displaced and required full reinstatement.







'River Fergus Wild at Heart'- new art installation

Ennis MD in conjunction with artist Evelyn Sorohan, Ennis Tidy Towns and The Men's Shed created and erected a new art installation 'River Fergus Wild at Heart'. This cross-community artwork brought together people across cultures, generations, and communities, resulting in a stunning permanent piece that lights up at night with solar-powered stars.







Penstock Repairs to the Mill Road Sluice Gates

Repairs to the penstocks at the Mill Rd sluice gates were carried out this month. These gates play a vital role in managing the upstream and downstream river levels around the town. These gates also help maintain sufficient levels of water for the adjacent fish pass to operate safely so that salmon and other fish species can utilise the River Fergus.

Works included spindle repairs including laser alignment to ensure the doors can open and close correctly. A number of gearbox's were removed and subjected to a comprehensive overhaul. Bearing blocks, rubber seals and chains were also replaced on all penstocks.











Steeles Rock Clean Up

Low river levels over the last number of weeks presented an opportunity to tidy up and remove excessive overgrowth in and around Steeles Rock on Newbridge Rd. The rock itself holds great historical value and is part of the Ennis Historic Town trail routes.





Parnell St. / Wood Quay - Circular bench

Ennis MD arranged for the refurbishment of the seating at Woodquay which involved the cleaning, sanding and painting of the circular timber bench and metal frame.



Powerwashing - Laneways & Bin Stores

Efforts this month focused on a number of laneways in the town centre, Tim Smythe Park and the Friary Bin store adjacent to the Friary Carpark.



Road Line Marking - Refresh Works

Upgrade and refresh of road line marking was carried out on pedestrian crossing points (*Turnpike*, *Drumbiggle*, *Old Gaol Rd*), vehicular junction markings (*Clare Rd*, *Club Bridge*, *Dalcassian Drive*, *Brookville estate*) and a number of parking restriction markings (*Friars Close*, *Fairgreen*, *Francis St and Bindon Lane*). Ennis MD provided assistance to staff at DeValera Library, organising new line marking in and around the new building.





Community Clean Ups & Illegal Dumping

Knockanean Quarry, Island McGrath and Hermitage Estate were notable black spots this month. In co-ordination with a number of Members, Ennis MD assisted with a community clean up in the Station Court Estate, where a number of residents came together to de-weed, remove overgrowth and undertake general litter picks in their area.

Daniel O'Connell 250th Anniversary Commemorative Weekend

August 6th 2025 was the 250th year anniversary of the birth of the Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, and given his connection with Clare and Ennis in particular, the Council wasn't found wanting in hosting a suitable acknowledgement of the great man's great life and legacy which remains a profound source of inspiration to the Irish people and beyond.

A hugely well attended exhibition of O'Connell memorabilia was on display in the Local Studies Floor of the County Library for a number of weeks commencing on August 6th. This was supplemented by a series of video documentaries, presentations and talks on Saturday afternoon with the calibre of speaker reflecting O'Connell's enduring contribution to civil rights, democracy,

and national identity. On Saturday night, a specially produced performance titled "O'Connell, The Liberator" was held in Glor which included music, song, dance and anecdote covering the extraordinary life and times of Daniel O'Connell and included performances from a host of out-standing performers from County Clare and beyond.

Celebrations continued on Sunday with a laying of Wreaths at the Monument, the burial of a Time Capsule which contained material compiled by 6th class students from Ennis CBS and Gaelscoil as well as letters from the Cathaoirleach and the Mayor to their future counterparts and the Clare public. Formalities concluded with a rousing re-enactment of some of O'Connells great orations by local historian, Dr. John Treacy and finished with an O'Connell themed Walking Tour of Ennis by Dr Jane O'Brien.







Drainage and Surface Water Repair Works

Ennis MD crews carried out a number of localised repairs to drainage gullies and manholes in the Brookville estate, Friary Carpark and Woodquay Carpark. Works involved collapsed gullies, as a result of pipework leaks that were subsequently re-set and reinstated. Additional works included raising and lowering manholes to suit existing road levels.





Installation of New Life Buoys

In collaboration with the Environment Department, Ennis MD installed and or replaced a num-ber of Life Buoys this month in an effort to raise awareness and promote water safety arising from a recent Notice of Motion tabled. Life Buoys were installed at Droichead na Gabhar Bridge, Inch Bridge and Claureen River Bridge.





Ballyallia Lake

Ennis MD staff completed vegetation management works to the walkways around Ballyallia Lake. The works involved weed removal from walkways, strimming overgrown verges, closed in walkways and the removal of fallen trees.







Key Strategic works

As usual, Ennis MD staff continue to work on a number of other key projects such as the Town Bus Project, the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA), the Local Transport Plan as well as on a cross-directorate basis with our colleagues supported by the various Government Departments in advancing a number of other works throughout the Town and Environs. Of particular note was the extensive Public Consultation that took place relating to the DRAFT Local Transport Plan which is now being considered prior to tabling at the next Physical Development SPC as well as ongoing meetings with our Technical Advisors and the funding/sponsoring authority, the NTA, in respect of the Ennis Town Bus Service.

Other projects that Ennis MD staff are involved with include the Ennis Public Realm Project, the LIHAF Access Road project, the THRIVE project at the Cloister as well as the development of a carpark in conjunction with the GAA at the Cloister end of Cusack Park.

In addition, we also work closely with our DAC colleagues in developing the ambitious plans outlined in the *Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy*.

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Roadworks Programme is progressing well in all 4 Municipal Districts.

Strategic Transportation

Active Travel

The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel Office:

Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme:

The construction tenders for the Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme have been returned and are currently being assessed.

Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle Scheme:

Updated design drawings have been submitted to the NTA following the peer review comments. Once final agreement has been reached on the latest batch of drawings the scheme will go to a non-statutory public consultation.

Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:

Clare County Council held a briefing on this scheme with the Shannon MD elected members on the 15th July to outline a number of options being considered. Following this an option selection report was submitted to the NTA for consideration. This report and the various options within will be discussed further with the NTA prior to submitting for final approval. This will inform the preferred route to develop during the preliminary design phase.

Safe Routes To School program:

Gaelscoil Ennis:

A "Letter of Intent" has been issued for consultancy services which include developing options for linking Corrrovorrin and Fioruisce residential areas. A section 38 has been advertised in the local paper for junction tightening, raised table and raised uncontrolled crossings between the school and the Gort Rd.

Holy Family National School Phase 2:

Construction works for this scheme were completed in July. Planting of new planter beds will be completed in the coming weeks.





Barefield National School

Additional measures to complement the proposed low-cost safety scheme in Barefield village are currently being developed.

The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:

The NTA has established a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for Local Authorities which will provide an allocation of €500,000 to each Local Authority to facilitate the enhancement / upgrade of existing bus stops to meet the Transport for Ireland minimum requirements for customer experience. Clare County Council is engaging with the NTA in relation to the upgrading of bus stops throughout the county.

Public Lighting

Clare County Council continues to engage with its maintenance contractor, Electric Skyline to undertake repairs on the public lighting network throughout the county. All works undertaken on public lighting networks are required to meet the ESBN's 'Minimum Requirements for Works on Public Lighting'. Where necessary upgrade works such as cabling works and / or additional civils works are required to bring a light or lights back into service, and to meet the ESBN's Minimum Requirements this may necessitate the attendance of the ESBN and subsequently shall result in extended repair times. Clare County Council continues to liaise with ESBN and Electric Skyline to expedite all repairs.

For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight).

Under the PLEEP Project (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) retrofitting of existing public lighting continues in Clare with works currently ongoing in West Clare and Ennis MD's. 2,117 luminaires have been retrofitted to date to the 20th August representing 69% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project.

Clare County Council is working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.

Road Design Office

Project Progress Update Bridge Rehabilitation The 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation grant application has been approved, the funding for this year totals: **Programme** Works have been completed at the following bridges: Glendree Raheen Beakelly Further works are required at Leaghort Bridge. A structural engineer is being appointed to inspect and design repairs. A second package of bridge rehabilitation works is being procured with a tender return date 28th August. River Shannon Bridges An inspection of bridges along the River Shannon is underway. This is a project lead by the DoT and Limerick City and County Council. Instream inspections commence in late August and will continue into September. Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025: Safety Improvement The 2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads grant application has been ap-Works on Regional and proved, the funding for this year totals: €640,000. The projects are **Local Roads** L2016/L6044 Johnny Mac's Cross - Works are progressing L-3300, L-3301& L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon - Section 38 process is complete R352 Bodyke Tuamgraney - Design is Complete L-4174 & L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction - Section 38 process is complete L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon - Works have commenced L-3110 Phayers Rd, Meelick - Works have commenced L-4158 Barefield Village - Works have been tendered L-1041 East of Bealaclugga - Design is complete R485 North of M18 Junction 9 @ Cullen - Design is complete R-463-125 Ardclooney Bridge, Killaloe - Design is Complete R473 Kiladysart National School Section - 38 process is ongoing Specific Improvement Ogonolloe Detailed design has commenced for Phase 2 of the safety improvement works.

TII Safety Improvement

HD17	N85 Clareabbey Roundabout
	A draft Preliminary Design Report has been sent to TII for review.

N85/N68 Rocky Road Roundabout

Feasibility & Options Report has been approved at Gateway 1 by TII. A Road Safety Audit is scheduled for Q3.

N67 Lahinch Pedestrian Crossings

Feasibility stage has been approved at Gateway 1 by TII.

N67 Mount Charles Terrace

A draft Preliminary Design Report has been sent to TII for review.

N67 Clohanes Junction Safety Improvement

Feasibility stage has been approved at Gateway 1 by TII.

N67 Caherfeenick Junction Safety Improvement

Feasibility & Options report and gateway 1 approval has been submitted to TII.

N67 Doonbeg

A draft Preliminary Design Report has been submitted to TII for review

N68 Cranny Junction VAS Sign

A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit has been completed

Cycling Infrastructure / Smarter Travel

Doolin Cycle Hub	Sport Ireland has completed an inspection of the four Doolin Cycle Loops in accordance with the new 'Recreational Cycle Trail Criteria for Ireland.' The report recommendations have been reviewed by the Road Design Office and required works advised to Municipal District.
EuroVelo	Further to the inspection by Sport Ireland, 80% of snags on the route have now been rectified. Future works will also include the updating of existing information mapboards on the route. Sport Ireland has recommended that these cycling loops should have signage in one direction only. A plan is being progressed to identify signage works required.

Speed Limits

Periodic Speed Limits

Byelaws adopting 50kph periodic speed limits at a number of locations across the county were adopted at the April Council meeting, periodic signs have been installed at the following locations:

- Doolin NS
- Raheen Woods NS
- Ogonolloe NS
- Cloonaha NS
- Kilmurray McMahon NS
- Moveen NS

Machinery Yard - Fleet Replacement Plan / Fleet Decarbonisation

The Machinery Yard took receipt of 6no Electric Pick-Ups and 2 no EV Vans to be distributed across the county to MD's and sections within the organisation. The vans are becoming operational in late August and shall contribute towards the de-carbonisation of the CCC Fleet and work towards the Transport Actions within the Clare County Council Climate Action Plan.



Health and Safety

The Health and Safety team are continuing to carry out their work programme including the annual revision and updating of ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, briefings with staff etc. The Senior Executive Health & Safety Officer took up their appointment on 25th August, filling a critical position within the team and organisation.

Annual Safety Report

The purpose of the Annual Safety Report is to inform the management & staff of Clare County Council of the progress made in the continuous improvement in the occupational health & safety performance of the organisation, and to identify opportunities for further improvements during 2025. The safety report provides key information on results of health and safety audits and inspections 2024, results of communication, participation and consultation. Occupational health and safety performance, legislation updates, NCR/PAR Register, report on extent to which 2024 objectives have been met and recommendations for objectives for 2025. PMO update for Monthly Report for September 2025 Meeting

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Doolin Pier

Cross-directorate group is currently reviewing key priorities in the area, so as to inform any future submissions to the department in respect of strategic development of facilities at Doolin pier. PMO met with department in June 2025 to review project progress, next steps and future funding requirements. The MD is progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, for which works are scheduled for resumption in coming months. Once complete, this will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well-trafficked route.

Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)

Works are now significantly advanced with the hand-over of 5 of 8 phases now completed, one other phase to be opened to through traffic in coming weeks, and works currently ongoing at O'Connell Square and Bank Place.

With the Cathedral area now completed, and in combination with works previously completed along O'Connell Street, there is now a continuous stretch of Shared Space Public Realm Streetscape fully open for the use and enjoyment by our traders and general public.

The paving works are significantly complete at Barrack Square, and the area is due for hand-over in September 2025, following completion of street lighting, installation of planters, and sealing and cleaning of paved surfaces. Already, pedestrian routes have been restored to the square and areas opened up for the use of public and traders, as the contractor prepares to demobilise from this area. The revised layout of O'Connell Square is now clear to be seen, now that a pedestrian route has been restored to the square over newly finished sections of paving. The street planters delineate the new central plaza area within the square and showcase the clean geometrical lines of the street fountain. The street fountain installation itself is well progressed, with interconnecting mechanical and electrical services in place, and paving being completed in preparation for commissioning. In coming weeks, the contractor will mobilise to the areas south and east of the monument to progress construction of steps, thereby replacing existing railings and access, and resulting in a revised access and presentation of this side of O'Connell Square.

The works at the top of Abbey Street and Bank Place are being progressed and street tree pits are being installed in parallel with service diversions and installation of concrete protection slabs. The works from Bank Place to the Post Office bridge will be the last work element to be completed and we look forward to restoring through traffic to this route at the earliest opportunity.

Consultation with impacted traders and stakeholders is ongoing and the contractor has appointed a Public Liaison Officer in this regard, in line with Works Requirements. Focused Stakeholder Consultation events were held on 9th December 2024, 19th March 2025, and 9th June 2025 to review upcoming works phases. The contractor is also issuing weekly newsletters to inform of upcoming works. (Subscribe to ennispublicrealmb@shareridge.ie). The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff are available to help traders and the public with any concerns and to mitigate impacts from the works wherever possible. It continues to be necessary to close streets to allow these works to be completed safely, and the project team and contractor, together with Ennis MD are working hard to coordinate activities to keep traffic impacts to a minimum and ensure that Ennis is kept open for business throughout the remaining months of this project.

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

The Judicial review process in ongoing. Clare County Council is continuing to engage with our legal counsel and property advisors in relation to the issues still arising at Blakes Corner.

Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade	The Project is substantially complete and is now in the 12 Months Defects Liability Period. Outstanding works (primarily Accommodation Works) are nearing completion. Project Snagging/De-snagging is ongoing. Open NCRs (Non-Conformance Reports) steadily being closed out. Site compound de-mobilisation has commenced. As-Built records being collated. Project Safety File is being prepared. Landscape maintenance ongoing. Old bridge was closed on Mon. 28th July to vehicular traffic for trial period. https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/ Rubicon plan to edit the talk given by Bruce Sutton and release it in full on their social media in the near future https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7364559051432574977/
Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme	The Application for Approval to carry out a Flood Relief Scheme in Kilkee has been approved with conditions by An Coimisiún Pleanála. The application was submitted in October 2024 and approved on 22nd of August 2025. The scheme will now move to Stage III Detailed Design & Tendering. The National Monuments Service issued the license for the Geophysical Survey in late July. CCC continue to liaise with property owners for a suitable time and favourable pasture conditions to carry out the survey. Following a recent third-party review of the final draft set of land acquisition documents, some amendments are required. These are currently being updated by the scheme consultant.
Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)	We recently held meetings with the Department of Housing, the LIHAF Management Committee, and the OPW regarding the remaining land parcel. The matters raised are now under review by our legal advisors and we look forward to receiving guidance to progress the project efficiently. All other land parcels required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered.
N19 Shannon Airport Access Road	The EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and NIS (Natura Impact Statement) documentation for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme is currently undergoing legal review. This process will come to a conclusion over the coming months culminating in a briefing to MD councillors. It is hoped that following legal review we will be submitting this project for Statutory Consent later in 2025. Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) & Phase 6 (Construction) will progress thereafter which are subject to timely consents, no legal challenge, funding, etc. The construction contract is estimated to be in the region of 18 months in duration. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie
Remediation of sites containing ACM	A Planning Application in respect of the remediation of the subject sites has been prepared. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.
Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	As part of the ongoing Value Engineering exercise a site visit was carried out in the area around the Fuel Depot adjacent to the Shannon GC driving range. RPS are currently preparing a site investigation scope for this area. The Arborist Survey was successfully carried out over a week in mid-August. Associated draft deliverables are currently being prepared by the surveyors. A Request for Quotes has been issued to multiple companies for the provision of pre-planning Archaeology Testing across the scheme. MARA have recently advised that a Pre-Application Request Form is to be completed in order to assess the requirement for a Marine Usage License (MUL) for the proposed SI works.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	Engagement with affected households and landowners continues to progress steadily. One-to-one negotiations have commenced, with compensation offers currently being valued and alignment drawings undergoing refinement. In parallel, work is advancing on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS).
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	Work is ongoing in preparation for Public Consultation (PC3) - Emerging Preferred Route Corridor. Our Project Liaison Officers are currently busy meeting with potentially affected landowners and will continue these engagements over the coming weeks to discuss the proposed project.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	Unfortunately progress on Sections 3 & 4 (Ennistymon, Lahinch, Miltown Malbay, Quilty, Mullagh, Doonbeg, Moyasta) is currently at a standstill as these two projects did not receive funding allocation under Transport Infrastructure Ireland's 2025 budget. The focus is currently on sections detailed above.
Other Greenway Proposals	No update this month.

General Design Office

Kilrush Cycle/Walkway	Preliminary design investigations ongoing, topographical survey complete, Environmental Consultant procured and reports pending. Property owner negotiations ongoing.
Sixmilebridge Public Realm Upgrade	Preliminary design being prepared.
N85 Overlay	Contract Drawings for TII N85 Overlay Tender for Roads & Transportation. Site locations, sections and drainage drawings.
Newmarket-on-Fergus Town & Village Re- newal Scheme	Design being prepared for Shannon MD. Preliminary Design has been agreed. Detailed design drawings being prepared.
Carrigaholt village to Amigos Caravan Park	Proposed extension of existing footpath from Carrigaholt village to Amigos Caravan Park. Final design completed and agreed by West Clare MD. Land Dedication agreements are being prepared. Section 38 drawings and documents 90% complete.
Glor External Window and Door replacement works	Preliminary design proposals and tender drawings ongoing.
HSE Health Clinics	Mapping being prepared and agreed with HSE for 16 health clinics historically registered to Clare County Council folios.

Springfield Flood Relief Scheme

The Springfield Flood Relief Scheme was officially opened on Tuesday 26th August 2025 at the project site in Springfield. Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, T.D. and Cllr Paul Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the completion of the scheme. The scheme will provide protection from flooding to 21 homes, a farmyard and outbuildings and protect the access route to 7 more dwelling houses. The scheme was delivered in partnership between the Office of Public Works and Clare County Council, with design services provided by Ayesa and the construction works carried out directly by the staff of the Office of the Public Works.

The scheme consists of the construction of an 850m long flood defence embankment across the floodplain at Cappavilla North and Illaunyregan, a pumping station, twin culverts with sluice gates, together with land raising at Cottage and associated drainage, fencing and storage works. The Springfield Flood Relief Scheme is part of the Government's strategy under Project Ireland 2040 to build a more resilient and sustainable future. A strong turnout of residents and stakeholders underscored the significance of the occasion with refreshments hosted afterwards at the local Community Centre in Clonlara.





FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

One new recruit firefighter from Killaloe Fire Station successfully completed a QQI accredited Firefighting Skills Course in Castlebar.

In Memory of Sub Station Officer Joe Crosse

It is with the deepest sorrow that we mark the passing of our esteemed colleague and dear friend, Sub Station Officer Joe Crosse, whose sudden death in July 2025 has left a profound void in our hearts and in the wider community.

Joe was a devoted family man, survived by his beloved wife Bríd and their children Teagan and Odhran. He was a skilled plasterer and a retained firefighter with Ennistymon Fire Brigade, having joined Clare County Fire & Rescue Service in 2009. His dedication and leadership were recognised with his promotion to Sub Station Officer in 2019.

Joe was known for his tireless work ethic, his mentorship of new recruits, and his infectious positivity. He brought joy to every shift and was admired not only for his bravery but also for his boundless generosity and unwavering community spirit. Beyond the fire service, Joe was a beloved GAA coach, a skilled tradesman, and a passionate fundraiser. His extraordinary efforts included running 100 miles in 21 hours and completing 52 marathons in a single year in support of the LauraLynn Foundation.

Always smiling and ready for a chat, Joe embodied the very best of what it means to serve. He was a true volunteer, a pillar of his community, and a cherished friend to many. His funeral was a testament to the lives he touched, drawing large crowds and heartfelt tributes. Guards of honour were formed by emergency service colleagues and the young GAA players he had coached. The Fire Service honoured Joe with a Guard of Honour at Ennistymon Fire Station. Former colleagues, retired and serving officers from across the country, Clare Civil Defence, members of other emergency services, and Clare County Council gathered to pay their respects. In a time-honoured tradition, the final bell

was rung - a solemn symbol marking the end of a firefighter's final journey.

Joe Crosse will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His legacy of service, kindness, and courage will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and community.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.



Hazardous Materials Incident - Shannon.

At approximately 06:00 on Thursday, 21 August 2025, Clare County Fire & Rescue Service responded to a hazardous materials incident at a logistics company depot located in the Smithstown Industrial Estate, County Clare. The incident involved a spillage of a small quantity of nitric acid. Fire service units from Shannon and Ennis stations were mobilised and attended the scene promptly. Using specialist equipment and wearing appropriate protective gear, fire crews successfully contained and managed the spillage. The incident was confined to a small area within the premises, and there was no risk to the wider public.

Fire & Building Control Section				
Main Activities	June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025 (Up to 21.08.25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	107	114	57	882
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	5	10	3	70
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	8	11	2	77
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	5	7	3	51
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	4	8	3	55
Number of Commencement Notices Received	40	38	33	251
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	2	0	0	5

(Note: In the July Monthly Report, the June figures related to 1st- 23rd June due to timing of report)

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at a number of events in July and August including Junior Tour of Ireland Cycling Event (6 stages across 6 days throughout the County); Barefield Road Race Cycling Event (Barefield); Gaelforce Swimming Event (Mountshannon); Shannon Road Race Cycling Event (Shannon); GAA Blitz Bio-Zimmer Event (Cusack Park); Pier to Pier Charity Run / Walk 2025 (Querrin); Doolin Motorbike Festival (Lisdoonvarna): West Clare Cycling Challenge (Kilrush) and Thurles Festival (Thurles).
- Clare Civil Defence members were tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist with two missing person searches at the Cliffs of Moher. One of the casualties was located by the Drone Team and the second person is still missing. The volunteers were also involved in two other searches for a missing teenager in Ennis and missing person in Dromore Woods near Crusheen. Both were located safe and well. Volunteers also assisted An Garda Síochána with a body recovery near Shannon Airport.
- Volunteers visited a Barefield Playschool giving a talk to the children and demonstration of the Civil Defence equipment



untages at Days field Diay School

CD Volunteers at Barefield Play School

Members Training & Professional Development

- 10 volunteers from Clare and Limerick commenced an Emergency Medical Technician Course. This is the highest level of medical training a volunteer can achieve within Civil Defence. They will join volunteers from around the Country at the Civil Defence College in Roscrea to complete some elements of this course. Two of the Tutors assisting on the course are senior volunteers from Clare.
- 21 volunteers have completed Cardiac First Responder Recertification.

New Recruits 2024/2025 Recruit Basic Training (RBT) Class

23 potential volunteers attended non-formal interviews resulting in 18 volunteers commencing Recruits Basic Training (RBT) in early September 2025.

Volunteers providing medical cover at GAA Blitz in Cusack Park.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

Summer anti-litter beach campaign

A summer anti-litter beach campaign was delivered during July and August 2025 in support of the An Taisce Blue Flag and Green Coast Programme. Messaging throughout the campaign focused on promoting Leave No Trace principles, responsible waste management, anti-litter awareness, and dog owner responsibilities.

To raise public awareness, advertisements were placed in The Clare Echo and The Clare Champion newspapers. A radio campaign also ran on Clare FM, featuring daily adverts from 19th July to 13th August 2025. These broadcasts helped reinforce the campaign's key messages to a wider audience. The campaign was further supported by regular social media activity across Clare County Council and Greener Clare platforms.

Blue Flag beach poster competition

To encourage community involvement, a Blue Flag beach poster competition was launched in July. This initiative supports Clare's applications for Blue Flag beach status in the coming year and invited young persons to show in a creative way how much we value our beaches. The posters will serve as a reminder to keep our coastal areas clean, safe, and welcoming for everyone.

A dedicated "Your Say" community engagement page was also created and can be viewed at: https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/blueflagposter.

Community engagement

During July our Environmental Awareness Officer hosted a stand in support of Element Six (Shannon) sustainability week. Our Greener Clare stand highlighted key actions to support a circular economy, including waste prevention, food waste separation, and recycling.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to engage with

staff, promote awareness of circular living, and link these actions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Water Enforcement and Laboratory Monitoring Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific teams to date in 2025:

Water Monitoring & Enforcement Scientific Team	July & August 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	110	183
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	1 (Water Team)	53
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	11	44
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	23	63
Planning applications (Agriculture)	11	50
Planning applications (Domestic)	83	272
Planning applications (Large Developments)	5	21
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	39	113
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	0	51
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	6	143
Rivers	8	142
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	6	61

Waste Enforcement

Waste Facility Permit (WFP) / Certificate of Registration (COR) Inspections. Inspections of 5 permitted facilities were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in July and August. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing where necessary. The permitted sites were inspected to monitor compliance with their Permit conditions, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments.

Waste Enforcement Inspections	July and August 2025
Cert of Registration	4

Waste Facility Permits	1
Unauthorised Sites	5

The table below summarises the work of the Waste Enforcement team in response to complaints in July and August 2025:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	July 2025	August 2025
Litter	14	4
Dog Fouling	9	1
Waste Presentation	3	1
Dumping	80	44
CRM complaints (total)	418	214

Annual Return Validations and Inspections of WFP/COR Sites

Validations of Annual Returns submitted by permit holders for 2024 continues throughout July and August as required by the Regional Waste Enforcement Lead Authority. This work involves site visits and liaison with site operators as well as desktop validation of data received.

Advertising Signage

Correspondence issued to auctioneers regarding the placement of signage on public lands directing potential buyers to properties for sale, advising them of their responsibilities under Section 19 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as amended.

Green Waste Management

To coincide with the peak of the grass-cutting season, over 400 letters were issued to householders advising on the responsible management of green waste. An article was published in the Clare Echo, re-enforcing this message of responsible green waste management.

Dog Fouling

Additional stencils advising dog owners to pick up dog waste were placed on pathways in popular dog-walking locations. An awareness Campaign was run using social media and the local newspaper, asking members of the public to take responsibility for their dog waste.

Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended A total of 6 litter fines were issued in August, 4 in July, under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. Appropriate time will be allowed for payment, thereafter reminder letters will be issued.

Enforcement Notices and Warning Letters under the Waste Management Act 1996

In July 2 warning letters and 2 Section 14 Notices were issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. In August 2 Section 14 Notices were issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. These sites are being monitored regularly for compliance.

Abandoned Vehicles

In line with Clare County Council's policy and Section 71 of the Waste Management Act, we continue to monitor and take enforcement action on vehicles which are abandoned in public places. This work is carried out in conjunction with the Municipal Districts and An Garda Síochána, 6 abandoned car complaints were dealt with in July, 9 were dealt with in August.

Waste Management

Below is a table indicating waste materials collected at all our Civic Amenity Sites for July, which is the most recent dataset available.

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item July 2025 (latest Data)	
Bulky items	78,380
Cardboard 27,304	

Dry Recyclable	715
Paper	12820
Green Waste	88,320
Mattresses	6,200
Municipal Waste	175,288
Plastic Packaging	3,240
Timber	171,960

CLIMATE ACTION



Projects funded through the Community Climate Action Programme have now moved into the implementation stage, with each participating group working within an 18-month timeline to bring their approved initiatives to life. This month has seen exciting momentum, as several groups made notable strides across a range of climate-focused actions - from enhancing local biodiversity and installing renewable energy systems to launching community growing schemes.

Highlights from this month include:

- Clooney Spancilhill: Rewilding and native planting efforts continue to flourish in Clooney, with the landscape beginning to take shape. The next phase of the project - the installation of bike parking facilities - is set to begin shortly.
- Ennis Men's Shed: Members have installed a polytunnel to support local food growing, alongside a new composter that will help produce nutrient-rich compost for their gardening activities.
- Clare GAA: A solar PV system has been successfully installed at the Centre of Excellence in Caherlohan, boosting renewable energy use. Native trees have also been planted at both Caherlohan and Ballyline, enhancing biodiversity across their sites.
- Carrigaholt Community Development: As part of their climate adaptation efforts, the group has installed a flood gate in the village. This proactive measure will help protect the community during high tides and storm events.
- Inagh Inagh has been nominated for the National Pride
 of Place award for their work on Climate Action and Biodiversity. Inagh received funding from Clare County Council
 through the Community Climate Action Fund to implement
 many of the actions highlighted within their submission.

Ennis Men's Shed







Clooney Spancilhill





Clare GAA





Carriagholt





Education and Awareness

GAA Green Clubs Community Engagement Workshop - Michael Cusack Centre, Burren, Co. Clare

Clare's Climate Action Officer participated in a GAA Green Clubs Community Engagement Workshop which took place in the Michael Cusack Centre in the Burren on August 7th. The workshop brought together GAA clubs, local authority, and expert partners to explore collaborative approaches to strategic planning and inclusive community engagement. The event featured a presentation on the GAA Green Club Programme, the development of a cross-sectoral structure, and a review of a new toolkit aimed at helping clubs engage marginalised and disadvantaged groups. Participants had the opportunity to share insights and provide feedback.







SDG Week 2025: September 19th - 28th

Clare County Council as an SDG Ambassador is proud to host Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Week for the fourth consecutive year, taking place from September 19th to 28th. This county-wide initiative aligns with both the National SDG Week and the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW), highlighting Clare's ongoing commitment to sustainability and global cooperation.

A variety of events will be held across the county, designed to raise awareness and inspire action around the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. These goals aim to create a better future for all by addressing key global challenges such as:

- · Ending poverty
- Ensuring access to quality education and decent work
- Promoting gender equality and climate action
- Supporting sustainable consumption and protecting biodiversity
- Advancing health, wellbeing, and peaceful societies

Clare County Council Maintains ISO 50001 Certification

Clare County Council has successfully maintained its ISO 50001 Energy Management Certification following a recent annual Surveillance Audit. Clare County Council has held this certification since 2018, demonstrating the organisations long-standing commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability.

As part of the audit, the headquarters at Áras Contae an Chláir was assessed for compliance. Energy management is central to this building's operations, which is primarily heated using renewable biomass fuel. ISO 50001 supports the organisation to systematically improve our energy performance, reduce emissions, and lower costs and is a key tool supporting Clare County Council in meeting its 2030 energy and emissions targets.

Investment Grade Audit for the Aras

Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) has for the past year been carrying out a detailed energy survey known as an Investment Grade Audit on council headquarters at the Aras. This audit was conducted under an EU funded project dubbed Transforming Renovation in the Atlantic Seaboard South (TRESS). The purpose behind TRESS is to create a prioritisation framework for retrofitting buildings in the southwest region of Ireland to assist public bodies in developing pathways to meet decarbonisation and energy efficiency targets.

Staff from TEA visited the offices of Clare County Council on 7th August to present the culmination of their 12 month deep dive energy audit to members of the Facilities and Energy teams. While being very complimentary about the way existing plant and equipment is used and maintained by the Facilities team, the Investment Grade Audit has highlighted potential decarbonisation and energy efficiency measures that may be implemented to accelerate our drive to meet nationally binding targets. The detailed analysis and options presented for heating the Aras into the future will forearm the Energy team as we enter the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) National Building Retrofit Pathfinder Programme wherein matched funding will be made available for major energy retrofit projects at the Aras and Ennis Leisure Centre.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

The Clare Rural Water Programme Office continues to support group water schemes to ensure a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water is available.

On the 22nd of July the Clare Rural Water Programme Office welcomed the Department's update in relation to the Ministers decision on group water scheme applications for funding for projects under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2024–2026. We have informed all successful and unsuccessful schemes of the Ministers decision and invited all successful schemes to an update meeting in relation to the announcement. The purpose of this meeting is to update the schemes recommended for funding especially under Measure A6 Taken in Charge and assist in the development of a pathway to successful project delivery.

The following GWS were successful in their bid application for funding:

Measure A4 - Water conservation, leakage reduction and prevention

- 1. Kilmaley Inagh GWS
- 2. Drumeevin Inchovea GWS
- Toonagh Dysart GWS

Measure A6 - Taking-in-charge of GWS

- 1. Ardeamush Fernhill GWS
- 2. Clohanmore Clohanbeg GWS
- 3. Coolmeen Kildysart GWS
- 4. Cree South Ballinagun GWS
- 5. Doonyvarden GWS
- 6. Glendine GWS, Dunsallagh GWS, Silverhill Bundle
- 7. Gleninagh Ballyvaughan GWS
- 8. Islandbawn/Lackamore (Lahinch) GWS
- 9. Knocknagoug GWS
- 10. Lack West Cahercanivan GWS
- 11. Leadmore Carnanes GWS
- 12. Leagard South GWS

- 13. Loophead GWS
- 14. Moyasta GWS
- 15. Portdrine GWS
- 16. Rahona East GWS
- 17. Roo West GWS
- 18. Tullabrack GWS
- 19. Woodpark/ Cappaduff GWS

Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Programme Office. We currently have one GWS taken in charge application submitted to Uisce Eireann for their take over consideration and we await their decision and will update the scheme on receipt of same. The Clare Rural Water Programme Office is working with Group Water Schemes in assessing the need to carry out emergency works and applying to the Department for exceptional urgent capital works for once off funding as they arise. Our office is presently working with the Department in relation to securing emergency funding for upgrading of the water treatment works at Ballyboy GWS.

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use continues to be processed by this office.

All applications under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme continue to be processed by the Rural Water Programme Office, 50 applications have been received to date in 2025. Post works final inspections for 2024 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

Applications under the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme continue to be processed by the Clare Rural Water Programme Office. The Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme helps households with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system connected to a domestic water supply that serves a house. We are processing applications as we receive them.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Visit to Corpus Christi Primary School for a presentation on the HAPPEE Programme

Councillors, Community Representatives and Shannon MD staff visited Corpus Christi School for a presentation on the HAP-PEE Programme (Health Alliances for Practice-based Professional Education and Engagement Programme). The HAPPEE Programme is an innovative programme placing University of Limerick clinical students in primary schools, helping to provide better outcomes for children and families by providing interventions in physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech and language therapy. The collaboration between UL, LC & CC, St Gabriel's Foundation and six primary schools place UL students training to be physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists directly into classrooms.

The HAPPEE project was first piloted in the academic year 2020/2021 in Corpus Christi Primary School and was expanded to five more schools in September 2023. The project has created a positive experience for the children, their families and staff in the schools. The students are supervised by fully qualified, experienced clinicians provided by St Gabriel's and supported in their academic training by the School of Allied Health at UL. HAPPEE benefits the community by supporting the early identification of needs in schools whilst also creating much needed sustainable student placements for the University.



Meeting with St. Francis Credit Union

A meeting was held between Shannon Municipal District staff and the Chief Executive Officer of St. Francis Credit Union. The basis of the meeting is to work in partnership with the Credit Union to support Community Groups funding requirements. St. Francis Credit Union have agreed to work closely with Shannon Municipal District to support Community Groups within the Shannon Municipal District.



Annual General Meeting

The outgoing Cathaoirleach Pat O'Gorman reflected on the past year, stating that he was honoured to serve as Cathaoirleach of Shannon Municipal District. He acknowledged projects that progressed during the year including the N19, One Shannon Hub, Shannon Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme and the Greenway from Shannon-Bunratty-Sixmilebridge. He stated while these projects are ongoing there is still a significant amount of work to be done, he emphasised that it was important that the Councillors be kept to the forefront at all times. Cllr O'Gorman highlighted the need for the commencement of Phase 2 of the Northern Distributor Road from Knocklisheen to the University of Limerick to help alleviate traffic congestion, particularly following the recent grant of planning permission to a housing development in Carraig Midhe.

He stated that another positive from the last 12 months was the significant increase in passenger numbers going through Shannon Airport, which saw the highest number of passengers in fifteen years. Further growth in this area is expected with additional aircraft and routes being added. He concluded by thanking his fellow Councillors for their support and for contributing to the betterment of the district. Mr. Alan Farrell, Director of Service, on behalf of the Management and staff of Clare County Council and the Shannon MD, thanked Cllr. Pat O'Gorman for his positive working relationship with staff, commitment to the various projects, work with community groups and the leadership skills he brought as Cathaoirleach.

Nominations for Cathaoirleach were sought and on the proposal of Cllr. Tony Mulcahy and seconded by Cllr. Michael Begley, Cllr. John Crowe was unanimously elected as Cathaoirleach. Cllr. John Crowe then took the chair for the remainder of the

meeting, having been handed the chain of office by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman.

Cathaoirleach John Crowe thanked the Members for the nomination as Cathaoirleach and also thanked Cllr. Pat O'Gorman for his hard work and guidance over the last 12 months. Cllr. Crowe stated that he looks forward to the year ahead working with the Members and staff.

The incoming Cathaoirleach invited nominations for the election of Leas Cathaoirleach.

Cllr. David Griffin proposed Cllr. Michael Begley, and this was seconded by Cllr. Tony Mulcahy. Cllr. Michael Begley was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach. Alan Farrell, Director of Services congratulated the Leas Cathaoirleach Michael Begley on behalf of the executive.



Cllr. P O'Gorman and Cathaoirleach J Crowe



2025 New Cathaoirleach John Crowe



Leas Cathaoirleach M Begley and Cathaoirleach J Crowe



Cllrs & Staff SMD AGM June 2025

Flexible Outdoor Structure Newmarket on Fergus

The Flexible Outdoor Structures project is an innovative architectural initiative which looks to reimagine how we use outdoor public space across the county. The Flexible Outdoor Structures are a series of demountable, transportable structures that can be erected in a variety of outdoor locations. The structures are designed to animate public space and will accommodate a variety of creative uses and outdoor performances or simply provide a social space to rest and enjoy. The Shannon Municipal District assisted by the Rural Development Directorate has erected its flexible structure in O'Regan Park, Newmarket on Fergus.



Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance throughout the Municipal District
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- New sections of footpath completed in Westbury, Sixmilebridge and Shannon.
- Existing pedestrian crossings close to the Shannon Town Centre have been upgraded.
- Works to storm water pumps in Pump House 3 Drumgeely, Shannon, continued. Pump number 2 and its electrical motor received a complete overhaul.
- Works continued on the Phayer's Road, Meelick with new road markings, cat eyes and the installation of two solar speed warning signs. Some drainage works were also completed.
- Verge maintenance works is ongoing.
- Grass maintenance works for the Shannon Municipal District is ongoing.

Clonlara Road, Sixmilebridge, overlay works.



Installation of new road markings Meelick.



Resurfacing works under a Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), Cratloe.



Local Improvement Scheme (LIS), Cratloe.



New footpath under construction at Tullyglass, Shannon.



Storm pump number 2 without a motor at Drumgeely, Shannon.



Upgrade works to storm pump number 2 at Drumgeely, Shannon.



New footpath at Clonard, Westbury.



New footpath at Tullyglass Crescent, Shannon.



New footpath at Black Path, Shannon.



New footpath at Broadford Road, Sixmilebridge.



Upgrade works to a pedestrian crossing at Corrib Drive, Shannon.



Upgrade work to Storm Water Pump House 3, Shannon.



Overlay works at the Clonlara Road, Sixmilebridge.



Cleaning storm water drainage infrastructure in Shannon.



Removal of illegally dumped green waste in Westbury, Corbally.



Accommodation works for a new pedestrian crossing in Fernleigh, Westbury.

