



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Feabhra 2020 / February 2020

## Tuarascáil Mhíosúil ón Phríomhfheidhmeannach Monthly Management Report



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## Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards



The Cliffs of Moher won Ireland's Favourite Visitor Attraction at the Irish Independent Reader Travel Awards 17th January in the Mansion House as voted on by thousands of readers. The prestigious award was accepted by Geraldine Enright, Director of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience on behalf of Clare County Council. The Award was presented by Travel Writer Pol O Conghaile and sponsored by Iarnród Éireann.

## Holiday World Show



This year Clare Tourism boasted a new trade show stand placing the spotlight on all that is to be experienced within the County of Clare. Exhibiting at the Holiday World Show, which took place over two weekends, Clare Tourism engaged with thousands of visitors attracted to the new stand and hence to our County for future visits. Exhibiting over these weekends included our Trade Partners, Beds of Silk, Durty Nellys, The Burren Smokehouse and Scatterly Island Tours as well as members from the Tourism Department of Clare County Council. There was great engagement with travel writers, journalists and tour operators during the Trade element of the show to ensure Clare was added to itineraries.

Tourism Department staff and trade, display the new VisitClare stand to Fáilte Ireland CEO



Tim Madden, Clare County Council, Pat Daly, Director of Development GAA, Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Daniel McCarthy, The Heritage Factory, Clodagh Barry, Consultant recently met at GAA Headquarters, Croke Park to discuss GAA Going Well programme. The Going Well Programme is a new initiative for Well Being and Lifelong Learning

## Resurfacing at Ballycannon Burial Ground



## Burial Grounds Unit



Joe Spellissy and John Treacy of the Burial Grounds Unit with Barry Conway of Ennis MD pictured at the new information lectern at Drumcliff Burial Ground. The Burial Grounds Unit and Ennis Municipal District worked together to deliver the Drumcliff Signage Project during 2019

## Pilot of Universally Designed Walkability Audit Tool conducted in Kilrush

A pilot Walkability Audit was arranged in Kilrush by the Clare Age Friendly Programme, National Disability Authority and the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design on 16th October 2019. The aim of the audit was to pilot a draft Universal Design Walkability Audit Tool which is being developed by the National Transport Authority.

The Universal Design Walkability audit tool is based on a model used by Age Friendly Ireland in its Age-Friendly Cities and Counties Programme and by the An Taisce Green Schools Programme, comprising community-led public participation walkability audits of roads and streets in Irish towns.

20 participants of all abilities walked 2 routes in Kilrush, and feedback on the Kilrush Pilot Audit was compiled by Derek Whyte, Planning Consultant with input from Karen Fennessy, Clare Age Friendly Programme, John O'Malley, Senior Executive Engineer West Clare, Aisling Glynn and Ruth O'Reilly, Members of the National Disability Authority who participated and observed on the day.

The objective of this Universal Design Walkability Audit is to increase awareness of the specific spatial needs of people with a wide range of ages and abilities, including for example, parents with buggies, older people and persons with disabilities. It aims

to promote walkability and a universal design approach to the development of the existing urban environment of Kilrush.

It is anticipated that the evidence-based learnings collected on the walkability audit, will help to inform urban designers, architects, engineers, planners, local authority officials, community groups and developers and anybody who intends to improve, develop, repair or maintain the urban environment in Kilrush in the future



## Creative Ireland initiative

As part of the Creative Ireland initiative, the Rural Development Directorate was granted funding for 2019. The brief was to provide support to staff on "Creative Techniques for Community Engagement". With that in mind, we partnered with the Restorative Practices Development Officer, Joe Power, with Céim ar Chéim, Limerick to offer the following support:

How to Manage Conflict and Build Healthy Communities through Restorative Practices. The 2 scheduled workshops were attended by 15 Council staff (across Housing, Rural Development and the Cultural Committee). These events followed on nicely with Restorative Practices Week and the event scheduled in Glór, photographs attached.

Restorative Practices (RP) are an evidence-based approach that helps develop and sustain, strong and happy organisations and communities by actively developing good relationships, preventing the escalation of conflict and handling conflict in a creative and healthy manner. The sessions gave a taste of how working restoratively can de-escalate conflict situations which you may encounter in the workplace; between staff and/or staff & clients / community Reps or Groups; and promote methods of building relationships and repairing harm once conflict has occurred.

## Procurement

The following tender competitions were published in January 2020

Tender Description	Response Deadline
Consultancy services for Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP) for Inagh Central Waste Management Facility	14/02/2020
Supply of Lawnmower(s)	10/02/2020

Consultancy services for Closure Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP) for Inagh Central Waste Management Facility

## **Freedom of Information & Data Protection:**

2020 Statistics to 31/1/2020:

- 10 Freedom of Information Requests
- 0 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 appeal to Information Commissioner
- 0 Access Requests (Data Protection) – Data Subjects
- 2 Access Requests (Data Protection) –Third Party Access

E-Learning courses on FOI and Data Protection have been developed via the HR department during 2019. Roll out of the Data Protection course commenced in December 2019 and the FOI course will be launched during 2020.

## **Register of Electors**

The supplement to the 2019/2020 Register of Electors which will be used at the forthcoming General Election being held on Saturday the 8th February 2020 has been completed. A total of 4,366 additions and 2,220 deletions were processed. These figures include the supplementary electors which were added and deleted for the Local and European elections which were held on Friday 24th May 2019 as this register is still in force up to and including the 14th February 2020.

## **Ethical Framework for Local Government Service**

Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 dealing with the Ethical Framework for Local Government Service, came into operation on 1st January 2003. This places an obligation on relevant employees and the Elected Members of the Council to complete and submit to the Ethics Registrar an annual declaration.

The annual declaration must be completed and furnished to the Ethics Registrar no later than the last day of February each year.

The prescribed annual declaration also includes an undertaking in respect of the Code of Conduct for both employees and Elected Members.

Please take note that the Ethics Registrar has now issued all Ethics Declarations as prescribed above for completion and return by 28th February 2020.

## Mayoral Reception held in Áras Contae an Chláir

Five members of the local community were honoured at a Mayoral Reception held in Áras Contae an Chláir on Wednesday 22nd December.

Mayor of Clare Councillor Cathal Crowe and members of Clare County Council hosted the special event and mayoral awards were presented to:

- Crusheen National School,
- Fern Celtic Boys and Girls Soccer Club,
- Doonbeg Community Development Group,
- Cnoc na Gaoithe Céilí Band
- Ennis Tidy Towns



## Housing

We are pleased to advise that Clare County Council exceeded our 2019 Rebuilding Ireland targets set by the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government.

	Target	Output
Build	100	90
Acquisition	31	36
Leasing	80	26
Sub-total	211	152
HAP	250	289
RAS	14	59
Sub-total	264	348
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>500</b>

2019 Performance v target:

	Target	Outturn
2019	<b>812</b>	842

Private rented inspections:

Housing in numbers:



### Summary of activity in January

Offers issued	8
Offers accepted	-
Offers refused	2
AHB nominations	29 for 22 properties
Tenancies signed up	19
Tenancies terminated	11

Housing allocations:

Voids/casual vacancies	50
Acquired properties	39
Average vacancy period	137 days

Number returned to stock	9
Average spend	€28,380

Voids work programme:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	6	146,670
Housing Aid for Older People	3	12,700
Mobility Aids Grant	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>159,370</b>

Housing Grants:

Please note from the 1<sup>st</sup> February there is one application form for all grants.

Rebuilding Ireland Home loan

Please note that new increased interest rates for all RIHL are to be applied to all applications received on or after **15<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. The new rate of 2.745% applies for RIHL applications with terms of up to 25 years, increased from 2% and a new rate of 2.995% applies for applications with terms of up to 30 years, increased from 2.25%.

January:

Cumulative to date:

Vacant Homes

We are working in a cross directorate capacity to identify and address vacancy in towns and villages across the County. We commenced this project with a focus on the villages of Broadford, Sixmilebridge, Tuamgreaney and Tulla. At this juncture we have examined 80 properties and are pursuing 22 which we have determined as vacant, with negotiations on-going to purchase 2 with a further 4 purchases being explored (subject to available funding).

The primary difficulty with vacant homes is ascertaining ownership, however once ownership is established there are often issues such as title/legal/financial/mortgages/probate etc. which need to be addressed. The result is that significant resources are invested in pursuing individual properties with limited return.

Homeless

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) provides services to anyone who is homeless or at risk of losing their home. The HAT office is open to the public from 10.00am to 1pm Monday to Friday, in the Housing Section, Clare Co Council headquarters on New Road and the HAT team

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

can also be contacted on 065 684 6291. The interagency Homeless Action Team is focusing on pathways and exits from homeless services to accommodation.

Status as of 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	5	9	1
Westbrooke	3	14	5	1
EA Families	15	20	29	6
EA Individuals	0	19	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>19</b>

	Presentations	Entry	Exit
January	<b>64*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

\*Presentations to 24<sup>th</sup> January

## Capital Projects

### Contract signing

In January contracts were signed for the appointment of design teams for development of housing at Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis and at Scarriff. The proposed 8 and 18-unit developments with estimated costs of €2,036,858 and €3,986,919 respectively are funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The developments are expected to commence mid 2020 with completion by yearend 2021.



SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Quilty	18	Under Construction	Q2 2019	Q3 2020
Roslevan, Ennis	8	Under Construction	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Sixmilebridge	2	Under Construction	Q1 2020	Q3 2020
Kilmihil	2	Under Construction	Q1 2020	Q3 2020
Shannon PPP	51	Under Construction	Q4 2019	Q1 2021
Ashline, Ennis	40	Stage 3 submitted to DHPLG. Stage 2 of Tender Process Issued.	Q2 2020	Q4 2021
Milltown Malbay	27	Part VIII approved. Stage 2 approved by DHPLG.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Tulla	25	Part VIII - February 2020. Stage 2 approved by DHPLG.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Part VIII - February 2020. Stage 1 approved by DHPLG.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Scarriff	18	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG Design Team Appointed.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG Design Team Appointed.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Clarecastle	2	Part VIII approved. Design Team appointed.	Q2 2020	Q1 2021
Ballaghboy TAU	5	Design Stage	Q2 2020	Q4 2020
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>232</b>			
CAS - Cahercalla Phase 2 (Cuan an Chlair)	15	CAS Construction Stage 3 submitted to DHPLG for approval 14.11.2018	March 2019	Q2 2020
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, CHI to commence procurement of design team.	Q4 2019	Q3 2021
Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	31	CALF Acquisition application approved works ongoing, expect stage delivery with units delivered in 2020	Q1 2020	Q4 2020
Edenvale (Newgrove Housing Association)	3	CAS – Stage 2 to be submitted to DHPLG	Q3 2020	Q2 2021
Sycamore Drive, Ennis (Cluid)	2	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Ballymacaula, Ennis (Cluid)	4	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Crusheen (Cluid)	4	Part V	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>AHB delivery</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>			

## Cultural Services

Construction work began on the new Library in Ennis on the site of glór at the start of the month, the contractors are Keating Construction, the build period is 18 months with an additional 4 months for fit out.

Thirty five applications were received for the Creative Ireland and fifteen applications for the Decade of Centenaries grant schemes this month.

Clare County Library will be participating in a national marketing campaign for libraries called, Take a closer look, over the next number of weeks. Staff will be inviting members of the public, groups and organisations to attend a national Library Open Day on Saturday 29th February. There were talks on the benefits of walking and children's yoga in Clare libraries this month as part of the Healthy Ireland at your library programme. The LCETB have again partnered with Kilkee Library to provide two sets of reuse and recycle classes this month.

Scariff Library have added to their resources with a set of sensory toys for children and families on the autism spectrum.



There were story times, coder dojo and film clubs for children in many of the libraries.

Author Roisin Meaney hosted a story time in Miltown Malbay Library and there was an arts and craft story time in Kilrush Library.

Book clubs, adult film clubs and computer classes for adults restarted in many libraries in January.

### Clare Arts Office

Six artists' residencies took place in Ennis NS, Rockmount NS, Kildysart NS, Clooney NS, Kilmihil NS and Ogonolloe NS. Arts and Disability projects began with Brothers of Charity in Ennis.



"Water Works", an exhibition by Alison Quaid took place in Scariff along with exhibitions by Philip Brennan and Brian O'Shaughnessy in Ennis and Kilkee. John Haugh began a film residency in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee working with members of the local community on a short film. Cultúrlann Sweeney hosted a wedding this month also!

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Staff from the Arts Office attended Screen Ireland's networking day for Film Officers in Athlone and work continues with Arts Officers in Limerick and Tipperary on developing strategic supports for film makers. The Arts Office was in attendance at a Culture Night Conversation hosted by the Arts Council along with a professional development day for Arts Officers. 77 applications were

assessed under the Community Supports Scheme. The County Arts Plan was launched in glór. 33 people attended Clare Museum's lecture series this month on the Museum's own Creative Ireland project, the excavation of a famine-era house site at Derryboy. Photographs of objects from the museum collection are now displayed on the windows at Clare Museum. This both enhances the Museum building and invites the passing public to visit the collection. The Clare Knitters Group visited the museum to view the Clare Embroidery Collection which is currently in storage. The knitters were seeking inspiration for the own crafts and will be returning to the museum in February to view the collection again.

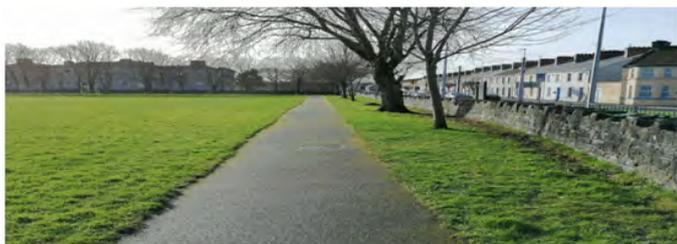
250 school children have been booked in for the St Bridget's Day workshops at the museum comprising of 12 workshops.

## Sports and Recreation



### Tim Smythe Park – footpath upgrade

This project saw some 250m of tarmac path laid to upgrade the existing walkways in the park. The project was funded, to the value of €18,399, from the 2019 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and was undertaken by Lynkeo Civil Engineering on behalf of Clare County Council. The completed works greatly complement the existing facilities and improve accessibility in the park.



### Irish International Christmas Tree Throwing Championship

This International Event was hosted once again, at Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park on Sunday 5th January, 2020. Organised by Clare County Council, the 9th annual event provided a fun way to dispose of Christmas trees while



raising funds for the Elevate Foundation. This year's winner was Mr. Clem McInerney, of Lahinch.

### Mountain Trike – Outdoor Wheelchairs

To promote the use of these all-terrain wheel chairs we have teamed with Clare Local Sports Partnership's SIDO Officer, James Murrphy. James will take the trikes on a tour of the county to introduce the equipment to targeted groups. By raising awareness we hope to greater foster the culture of inclusivity in activities in John O'Sullivan Park as 'Park Runs/Walks' and 'Couch to 10k / 5k' programs



The Active Ennis website and Facebook page is updated continuously with information on all of the classes that are on offer.

### Special Offers for new Memberships

Uptake has been high for the January membership promotions that were offered by Active Ennis, with promotions attracting new members to avail of the exceptional facilities of the Leisure Complex which includes access to the swimming pool, gym, sauna & steam room, with reduced prices for all classes taught Active Ennis staff.



## ACTIVE ENNIS LEISURE COMPLEX

### Upcoming pool events:

- A 12 week training schedule for SWIM A MILE commenced in January 2020, this programme is being delivered in conjunction with Swim Ireland and Pat Sexton of Clare Sports Partnership.
- The Community Games parish finals swim off is scheduled for February with the Clare Community Games Final on 20th March 2020.
- There is a Munster Development gala on 29th February 2020.
- Lifeguard Beach Tests are on Good Friday 10th April 2020.
- Ennis Invitational Gala is scheduled for the 11th April 2020.
- Ennis Tri Club are hosting a National Schools Tri Event on the 17th May 2020 with activities in the pool and at Tim Smyth Park.

### GYM New Year = New Fitness Class

In response to demand, our highly qualified fitness instructors have introduced a new HIIT Class (high-intensity interval training) to the Leisure Complex. This class is open to both members and non-members of Active Ennis. We are experiencing our 'highest' attendance levels in classes in the last 5 years!

### Alter-G Anti-Gravity Treadmill

Active Ennis Leisure Complex has the only Alter-G in the Mid-West Region, currently there is a promotion running - in conjunction with Clare Sports Partnership - to attract additional users of this high tech specialist equipment.



## Economic Development

**Ennis 2040:** Work on the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Plan continued in January with the consultants engaged in the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, an Appropriate Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the plan, SEA scoping is due to take place in February with external environmental bodies and their comments will feed into the development of the plan.

**Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy:** The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy took effect on 31st January. The adopted plan has been published by the Regional Assembly and is available just now on their website <http://www.southernassembly.ie/regional-planning/regional-spatial-and-economic-strategy>. Throughout January, the Planning Department has been engaging with various departments across the council in gathering background information that will inform a future Variation/Review of the County Development Plan in 2020. This work will be ongoing over the coming months and the co-operation of various directorates across the Council is appreciated.

**Council staff visit new airport hangar:** The Senior Team of the Economic Development Directorate were in Shannon Free Zone on the invitation of Shannon Group in December to see progress on the development of an €18 million, 92,000 sq ft specialist aircraft painting hangar at Shannon Airport, adjacent to Shannon Free Zone. Over 150 jobs have been created during the 14 month construction phase. The construction of the hangar is Shannon Group's largest construction project to-date and is Ireland's first aircraft hangar to be developed in almost 20 years.



## Forward Planning

**Shannon Town Centre Masterplan:** The procurement process for the preparation of a Shannon Town Centre Masterplan is nearing completion. A letter of intent was issued to the preferred tender on 31st January. It is anticipated that formal appointments will be made by the end of February. This plan will be delivered on foot of funding secured under the URDF stream in late 2018. It is expected that the Plan will be completed by year end.

**Cappa Enhancement Strategy:** The Forward Planning Section and Helena McElmeel Architects are preparing an Enhancement Strategy for Cappa, Kilrush focusing on its connection to the sea, the pier and the beach. It is anticipated that a presentation on the strategy will be made to the elected members of the West Clare Municipal District in March.



**Ballyallia Lake Amenity Enhancement Plan:** On 22nd January the Ballyallia Lake and Amenity Enhancement Plan was launched. This consisted of a presentation by the consultants, The Paul Hogarth Company, to the Barefield Tidy Towns Steering Committee in the morning, followed by a similar presentation to the Ennis Municipal District Elected Members in the afternoon and culminating with a public event in the Auburn Lodge Hotel at 6pm.

The plan from inception to delivery spanned a 2 year period and was led by Barefield Tidy Towns. Candace Ingram from the Planning Department acted as an advisor to the committee and the Planning Department were critical to the delivery of the Plan.

The objectives of the plan were to:

- Inform future improvement works in the area;
- Form the basis of planning and funding applications;
- Identify opportunities for enhanced public usage;
- Ensure that amenities are safe and attractive; and
- Create linkages with the wider green infrastructure network.

The Ballyallia Amenity Enhancement Plan sets out a comprehensive vision for Ballyallia Lake and amenity area. In order to realise its full potential, the proposals in the document must be translated into detailed design specifications, before consents are sought, funding secured and following delivery, they will be required to be maintained to a high quality. Ennis Municipal District will now lead this Project.





## Heritage and Biodiversity

Heritage Council – County Heritage Plan funding applications: Funding for two projects has been applied for under the Heritage Council County Heritage Plan funding applications (as follows:-

- A Clare Holy Well Survey to advance and compliment the recognition of Holy Wells in County Clare, one of the three Clare based practices that received recognition and subscription onto the permanent National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- To prescribe and plan for the Implementation of Biodiversity Management on Clare County Council land, involving best practice in the management of biodiversity. This project will result in area based, tangible demonstration of best practice in the management of public land for the benefit of biodiversity and nature conservation.

Biodiversity Resource Manual for all Local Authority Staff: A draft gap analysis of has been written up and is under review at present. The Biodiversity Resource Manual is at present being drafted and a questionnaire has also been drawn up to obtain the views of Clare County Council staff on their requirement for training on biodiversity generally. This is at present being tested on a random selection of Clare County Council staff.

**Reading the Landscape:** Two further Reading the Landscape Training courses are planned to run for 20 weeks and are at present being advertised to commence in February 2020, one in South Clare and one in North Clare. The Reading the Landscape Training course is about to be finalised in East Clare with the showcase night planned for the 18th of February in Killaloe.

## Development Management

- 53 planning applications were received during the month of January.
- 24 pre-planning applications were received during the month of January.

## Planning Enforcement

- During the month of January there were 20 new complaints received, 10 warning letters issued, 2 enforcement notices were served and 23 files were closed.

## Taking in Charge

Plans to carry out remedial works to a number of developments were significantly advanced during January. These include:

- Inchicronan, Crusheen - Tenders for remedial works were received on 10th January 2020 and a contractor is currently being appointed.
- Tir an Fhia –Teeronea, Kilkishen - The contractor commenced works on 21st January 2020, these will be carried out over a 6–7 week period.
- Craglands/Crag Ard, Ballynacally - Tender documents issued for remedial works on 14th January 2020, closing date for receipt of tenders is 10th February 2020.
- Woodmount, Ennistymon – Closing date for receipt of tenders is 31st January 2020.

## Conservation, Archaeology and Built Heritage

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020 (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2020:** The 2020 Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) conservation grant schemes were announced by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in November 2019. A closing date for applications to Clare County Council was set on the 24th January and a large number of applications were received. These are currently being assessed and a recommendation will be made to the Department on projects to be funded by 14th February.



Unique FREE 20 week Heritage course in South Clare

## READING YOUR LOCAL LANDSCAPE®

Introductory workshop at Kilkishen Cultural Centre, Gortnacorragh, Kilkishen, County Clare

on Thursday 13th February 2020, from 2.30 to 4pm

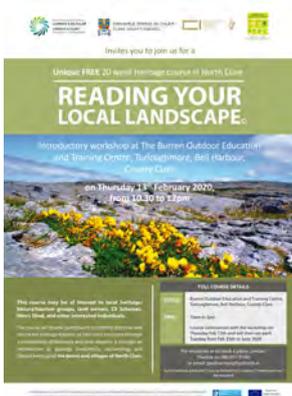
This course may be of interest to local heritage/history/tourism groups, land owners, CE Schemes, Men's Shed, and other interested individuals.

The course will enable participants to identify, examine and record the heritage features of their own local area through a combination of fieldwork and desk research. It includes an introduction to geology, biodiversity, archaeology and natural heritage of Skerron, Newmarket-on-Fergus, O'Callaghans Mills, Clarecastle, Quin, Sixmilebridge, Kilkishen, Crafoe and Tulla.

FULL COURSE DETAILS	
VENUE:	Kilkishen Cultural Centre, Gortnacorragh, Kilkishen, County Clare
TIME:	10am to 3pm
	Course commences with the workshop on Feb 13th and will then run each Thursday from Feb 27th to June 2020

For enquiries or to book a place, contact Margaret on 061 640 760 or email: [margaret@kjc.kick.ie](mailto:margaret@kjc.kick.ie)

Early booking advisable (Course limited to 12 places) Interviews may be required.



Clare Community Heritage Archive Website iCAN: A soft launch of the Clare Community Heritage Archive Website iCAN took place on 20th January. The communities involved - Clarecastle, Kilkee, Scattery Island Heritage Group and Shannon are working in the background to consolidate the heritage information provided and prepare for a full public launch of the Clare Community Heritage Archive Website iCAN in March 2020.

Errina Canal Feasibility Study: The Errina Canal Feasibility Study is ongoing and the appraisal of the Built Heritage of the Errina Canal has been completed.

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE CLARE

**Training Programmes:** LEO Clare held twelve training programmes and workshops in the month of January which were attended by over 110 participants. Programmes included a Bookkeeping Programme, Brexit Mentoring and a Business Advice Clinic in the Digital Hub Ennistymon. LEO Clare also conducted a specially designed Start your own Business and Complete Digital Marketing course in Roche Ireland.

**Showcase Ireland:** LEO Clare supported three local enterprises (The Moher Soap Company, Siar Landscape Photography and Rowena Sheen Jewellery) to participate in Showcase Ireland 2020, an international art, craft and design event in the RDS, Dublin. The event is attended by traders from across the globe. A Member of LEO Clare visited the stands on 21st January along with stands of six other Clare based companies attending the event.



**Showcase Ireland 2020:** (L to R) Gary Collins, Siar Landscape Photography, Rowena Sheen, Rowena Sheen Jewellery, Raquel Ruido, The Moher Soap Co and Declan Meaney LEO Clare

**National Enterprise Awards:** LEO Clare announced details of this year's National Enterprise Awards, with a total prize fund of €8k available to local businesses in the county. Clare has had previous success at national level, with two overall winners and two category winners since the competition was launched. The county final will take place as part of Local Enterprise Week (2nd – 6th March) on Friday 6th March.

## Property Management

**Derelict Sites:** Action was taken by Clare County Council under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 to acquire a derelict terraced house at Main Street, Kilkishen some years ago. Following a public tender, sale was agreed with the purchaser required to render the house non derelict. Major structural works were carried out which included reroofing, new windows and door. The photos show the original condition (2016) and the completed property (2020) and this is a great improvement to the Main Street.



**Casual Trading:** The Economic Development Department regulates casual trading under the Casual Trading Act 1995 and the Council's bye-laws there under. The month of January was very busy with the issuing of 37 annual casual trading licences

throughout the County in the following locations: Ennis (12), Killaloe (18) Kilkee (5), Ennistymon (1) and Doolin (1).

**Letting of Lands:** During January, the annual tendering for the grazing of lands was advertised and the tenders are currently being assessed. Agreements will be entered into from February up to the end of 2020.

**New Allotments in Shannon:** Works were completed to the entrance of the new Allotments, with new pedestrian and vehicular gate being installed. Rotavation of the new allotments will be done in the Springtime and until then, the fencing of the individual plots will not be carried out.



## Environmental Awareness

### Environmental Information Sessions

Environmental Information Sessions were delivered to 200 students at St Anne's Secondary School in Killaloe. This information session was delivered to support the Green School Committees who are applying for their first Litter and Waste Green flag. Students learnt what they can do at home and everyday to take better care of the environment and at the same time combat climate change by eliminating single use plastics, preventing waste and recycling.

### Waste Prevention Grant Scheme 2020

This scheme, which operates under Clare County Councils Greener Clare programme, was announced this month. It aims to support communities in developing community led projects on waste prevention, re-use and repair activities, including workshops in their local areas. Under the scheme it is possible to apply for grants up to a maximum of €1,500 from a total available fund of €18,000. Details will be loaded to the Clare county council web page

### Christmas Tree Throwing event

The Environment Section supported the annual Christmas Tree Throwing Event at Tim Smythe Park on the 5th January 2020. A Greener Clare Awareness stand was provided at the event promoting waste prevention and recycling, food waste prevention as well as greener cleaning and greener gardening.

### The Clare Echo Green Page

This month saw the launch of The Clare Echo Green Page. During the month of January the following were promoted as part of this initiative:

- Smoky coal regulations;
- Household waste byelaws
- My Waste.ie – Waste Less campaign;
- Christmas tree recycling;
- Food waste management
- Waste prevention grant scheme.

## Laboratory & Technical Support

### River Monitoring Program 2020

Clare County Council is required to collect 295 river water samples in 2020. The calendar for sampling was agreed with the EPA in December last with the sampling spread evenly over the 12 months. The first sampling run has been completed for January.

### IW SLA

Clare County Council is required to sample and analyse all public water supplies. The level of monitoring

required is agreed with Irish Water and is based on the population served. The monitoring is spread evenly throughout the year and has commenced with several supplies already monitored. The analysis results will be forwarded to IW in agreed format.

**Under the IW SLA** Clare County Council monitors all discharges from public wastewater treatment plants. The analysis results are forwarded to IW on a monthly basis.

### Group Water Schemes and Small Private Supplies

Clare County Council is the Competent Authority for regulating private water supplies and undertakes in excess of 270 samples from these supplies each year. The sampling and analysis will be ongoing throughout 2020. Private commercial water suppliers have been notified of the monitoring schedule and their financial liabilities for the year.

### Historic Unregulated Landfills

Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed for completion of the risk assessment for the old Kilrush landfill located at Carrowdotia South. On completion of the risk assessment and modification of the conceptual site model, Clare County Council will apply to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation for the landfill. We are currently waiting for confirmation from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to progress with the project

### Water Pollution Discharge Licences.

There are 69 Water Pollution Discharge Licences currently in operation in County Clare. These are monitored by the Technical Staff throughout the year. The frequency of monitoring varies from licence to licence and is based on a risk assessment of the potential impact of the discharge. There are 135 audit samples scheduled over the year with potential increases in this number if licensees are in non compliance.

## Water and Scientific Services

### Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

In January of every year staff collate all data for the previous year to summarise inspections numbers to be included in RMCEI return report which will be submitted to the EPA. This will be ongoing for January.

### Water Pollution Complaints

Thirteen complaints have been investigated to date in 2020. Enforcement notices/letters were issued where required under the Water Pollution Acts and further inspections will be carried to ensure that actions recommended in the notices are carried out.

## **National Inspection Programme of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (DWWTS-Septic Tanks)**

We are required to carry out 39 inspections throughout 2020. The septic tank inspections will begin in February 2020. However, desk top surveys have commenced to pre plan for the upcoming inspections.

## **Planning referrals from Planning Department**

So far, we have received ten planning referrals and these have been processed by the team to check compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for single houses 2009.

## **Lake Sampling Programme 2020**

TMS Environmental was awarded the contract to do the required lake sampling programme in the county in 2020.

## **Training**

The first Shannon Estuary Anti Pollution Team (SEA-PT) meeting of 2020 was attended on 30th January.

## **Gardening**

Christmas trees were accepted at the Gardening Depot and Civic amenity centres throughout the county. Approximately 1,500 trees have been taken back and will be mulched for re-use in gardening operations, thus feeding into a circular economy. Remedial works were also completed in the Public Park in Drumbiggle to improve the general amenity of the area. Additional works will involve planting grass seed in early Spring to revitalise areas of the park adding to its beneficial use and appearance.

## **Waste**

## **Bring Banks**

A total of 16 dumping incidents have been observed at Francis St bring bank. Fines will now be issued.

## **Civic Amenity Sites**

The five Civic Amenity Sites have been busy during January especially following the Christmas period. Most noticeable for the last month have been the volumes of cardboard brought to the various sites.

## **Enforcement**

The Waste Enforcement Team investigated ongoing illegal dumping in the Gaurus area. Measures were put in place by Ennis Municipal District to deter future dumping at this location.

The enforcement team continue to respond to waste and litter related complaints with a total of 110 complaints received in January 2020. Of these complaints 84 have been closed and 26 continue to be investigated. Illegal dumping and fly tipping remain the persistent offenders.

The scheduled inspection and monitoring of authorised

waste facilities within the county continued as planned during January.

A total of 53 litter fines were issued in January, of which 2 have been paid. Reminders have issued to 6 offenders which have exceeded the 21 day payment deadline. The remaining litter fines are still within the allotted timeframe for payment and we will continue to monitor this to ensure compliance.

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to carry out surveys of homes and businesses to ensure compliance with the Waste Management Bye-laws. In January 124 surveys were completed.

## **Dog Fouling**

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to combat the problem of dog fouling throughout the county. This issue was highlighted by Today FM on the Dermot and Dave Show and this generated much reaction from the public. The Dog Warden also highlighted the issue on Clare FM. An awareness campaign commenced to highlight this issue in January 2020.

## **Smoky Coal**

Following on from the Awareness campaign in the local press and social media relating to the "smoky coal" ban in Ennis, Clarecastle and parts of South-East Clare, 11 letters were issued advising Fuel Suppliers of their obligations under the Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Marketing, Sale and Distribution of Fuels) (Amendment) Regulations 1998 to 2011. 2 fines were issued to suppliers for non-compliance with these Regulations. We will continue to monitor compliance.

## **Limerick Clare Energy Agency**

The energy management team have met and achieved accreditation to ISO 50001 a stage 1 audit was successfully completed. Clare County Council is examining projects for the coming year to help achieve our energy efficiency targets. Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Department of Clare Co. Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. The monthly KPI's continue to be monitored by all of the water services teams to achieve required targets. The out-turn financial performance for 2019 was within 1% of the original budget and achieved 88.9% of KPI targets.

## **Water Conservation**

In January, the Operations team continued water conservation activity throughout the county reacting to various increases in demand primarily in the Ennis and Shannon Areas. The Find and Fix Team worked in Tuamgraney and in Ennis - Gort Road, Kilmaley Road

& the Turnpike areas. Leaks were repaired in Scariff, Parteen, Killaloe and Feakle.

## Asset Transfer Project

There are 375 water and waste water assets, in Co Clare, which have been identified for potential transfer to IW to date. Of these 50 are non operational assets (prior to January 2014) and as such will not be transferring to Irish Water leaving 325 for transfer. Of these 325 assets 176 have been surveyed and assessed for transfer. Chief Executive orders have been prepared and issued to IW to be included within ministerial vesting orders. To date 176 assets have transferred to IW.

The remaining 149 assets are broken down as follows:

- Pending - 18 assets are being prepared for transfer to Irish Water in the coming months. They consist of straight assets some of which will have to be subdivided by map/plan. Once a consensus has been reached on the remaining assets with both IW and Clare County Council, a CE order will issue thereafter.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) – This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities. There are currently 6 assets with the NSPO for investigation to ascertain if they are to be considered as underground assets. Underground assets are transferred by S.I. 13 of 2015.
- Property Registration Authority Ireland – 6 assets have gone to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- 3rd Party/Unregistered assets – Of the 149 assets 119 have been identified as 3rd Party Registered lands (102) and Unregistered Lands (17). Work on these assets is ongoing which will require first registration initially before they can be transferred to Irish Water.

A sample report has been prepared on one of the unregistered assets to enable Irish Water's Solicitors to carry out the necessary title searches. The results of this will inform the processing of the remaining unregistered assets.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

IW Asset Delivery function has carried out a review of its current structure. As part of the plan for delivering the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) for 2020-2024 the current delivery portfolio structure;

- Infrastructure Programmes: (major infrastructure projects)
- Capital Programmes: (minor projects)
- Network Programmes: (mains replacements / find and fix)

has been replaced from January 2020. The new delivery

portfolio structure will now be divided into 3 headings i.e Water, Wastewater & Networks, as below;

- The Wastewater Portfolio – will be comprised of all projects and programmes relating to Wastewater Treatment and Sludge Management. It will encompass trunk sewer network projects and the Drainage Area Plans programme.
- The Water Portfolio – will be comprised of all projects and programmes relating to Water Treatment and Water Quality. It will encompass water resilience projects which involve significant new trunk water main networks and storage. The current Unique Programmes section (including the energy efficiency programme, dam safety etc.) will also be part of this portfolio.
- The Networks Portfolio – will manage the current Leakage Reduction Programme and Water Networks Regional Contracts. The Growth and Development programmes for water and wastewater will also be part of this portfolio. It will also encompass below ground wastewater programmes such as sewer rehabilitation.

Irish Water refers to the different phases of a project as Gates.

- Gate 1. Concept Design and data gathering
- Gate 2. Environmental Studies Detailed design and planning
- Gate 3. Construction stage and handover
- Gate 4. Contract closeout

## The Wastewater Portfolio

Clare Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2017–2021 Projects:

### Kilfenora Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:

Planning Permission has been granted by Clare County Council but is currently subject to an appeal to an An Bord Pleanála. The Board's decision is due in early March 2020. This contract has been awarded under the IW ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) framework to EPS. A detailed design phase has commenced with the expectation is to go to Gate 3 (Construction Stage) in Q3 2020.

### Quin Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:

This contract has been awarded under the IW ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) framework to EPS and is currently at construction stage (Gate 3). The contract is programmed to be completed in Q1 2021.

### Shannon (2 no. Wastewater projects):

a) Interim upgrade of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This contract was signed with IW and Ward and Burke on the 20th December 2019 and the contract

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

commenced on the 1st January 2020. The construction contract is for a period of 12 months.

b) Gate 1 studies, for the agglomeration network / pumping stations, have commenced.

## **Clonroadmore Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

A pricing document with drawings for replacement screens including dewatering equipment at both pumping stations has been submitted by MEVA (screen supplier) to IW. These are currently under review by IW.

## **Clare Untreated Agglomerations Study (UTAS) Projects - (project period 2017-2021)**

RPS is the appointed Consulting Engineer. The projects under UTAS are progressing through detailed design, planning and Award (ECI). Public information sessions were held in Clarecastle, Kilrush and Kilkee during May 2018, Ballyvaughan and Liscannor were completed in September and October 2018 respectively. Land and wayleave acquisition processes are at an advanced stage for each of the projects within the UTAS programme.

## **Kilrush Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

Planning was granted by Clare County Council on the 1st October 2019.

The Landowner/wayleave/CPO process is ongoing. EPS have been awarded the contract under IW ECI framework. The expectation is to go to construction before the end of 2020 and to be completed by end 2021.

## **Clarecastle Agglomeration Upgrade:**

Under Irish Waters UTAS the waste water collected at Quay Rd pumping station will be diverted via a new waste water pipeline to Clareabby WwTP.

Site Investigation works have been completed and the detail design is at an advanced stage. Landowner/wayleave/CPO process was concluded via an oral hearing. However a further section 5 (Planning Act) referral has been lodged with the Planning Department. The expectation is to go to Gate 3, the construction stage, in Q4 2020 and to be completed by Q1 2021. An advanced works pipeline contract is being proposed in order to facilitate the Clarecastle Urban & Village Renewal Scheme.

## **Liscannor Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

Planning submission was lodged on the 19th December 2019 for the proposed works. The Landowner/Way leave/CPO process is ongoing. The Gate 2 process, detailed design, is near completion. The project is expected to go to Gate 3, the construction stage, before the end of 2020 and to be completed by end 2021. IW has confirmed that this contract has been awarded to EPS, in January 2020, under IW ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) framework.

## **Ballyvaughan Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

The Landowner/Way leave/CPO and the detailed design

process is ongoing. Planning submission is expected to be lodged later in 2020 and is currently delayed due to CPO objections to An Bord Pleanála. The expectation is to go to Gate 3, construction stage, thereafter and to be completed by end 2021.

## **Kilkee Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

The environmental assessments of the outfall location have been completed – The outcome of which does not preclude the existing outfall location from continuing to be used.

Site location and route selection is currently ongoing with the Landowner/Wayleave/CPO process. Planning submission is delayed until the site and route selection element has concluded.

A constraints map is currently being prepared by RPS consulting Engineers in order to evaluate additional WwTP sites and routes further south west from the existing outfall location.

The expectation is to have the construction stage completed by the end of 2021.

## **Inlet Works Project:**

This is a national project reviewing and ultimately upgrading various inlet receiving structures including storm tanks and sludge handling. In Clare the following are within this project:

- Inagh WwTP
- Clareabbey WwTP
- Miltown Malbay WwTP

The Clareabbey WWTP inlet works project has been granted planning and has moved onto detailed design stage.

## **National Certificate of Authorisation (NCAP):**

This Programme will review all EPA Certified Wastewater plants with a P.E. of less than 500 and their impact on receiving waters. Ballycannon and Kilmihil WWTP's in Co. Clare have been included in the first round of assessments. RPS has prepared Site Option Reports for both plants which are currently under review by IW.

## **Ballycannon PS to Elton Court (Meelick) Waste Water Pumping Rising Main**

A new rising main linking Ballycannon WWTP to Elton court Pumping station is now at route selection stage.

## **Clare Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2020–2024 Projects:**

The following projects were in the Clare capital investment plan period 2017–2021. They are now included in the Clare 2020-2024 CIP.

## **Lahinch Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

The project is currently at, Gate 1, concept design. The concept design report is at draft review stage. The project is progressing to, Gate 2, detailed design and environmental evaluation, thereafter advancing to planning.

## **Ennistymon Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

The project is currently at, Gate 1, concept design. The concept design report is at draft review stage. The project is progressing to, Gate 2, detailed design and environmental evaluation, thereafter advancing to planning.

## **Newmarket on Fergus Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade:**

The project is currently at, Gate 1, concept design. The concept design report is at draft review stage. The project is progressing to, Gate 2, detailed design, environmental evaluation and foreshore licensing, thereafter advancing to planning

## **The Water Portfolio**

### **Castlelake WTP**

IW has confirmed that a Full Options Assessment for Castlelake WTP, The 25-year plan for Castlelake WTP, is due to commence this year.

Remedial Action list (RAL).

3 No. sites have been selected in Clare for upgrades: Ballymacraven WTP, New Doolough WTP, Corrofin WTP. Irish Water expect to award tenders for these plants in 2020.

## **The Networks Portfolio**

### **Ennis Public Realm:**

Parnell St water mains rehabilitation was completed in January 2020. The elements of the sewer network identified for relining commenced in mid January 2020 and these works are near completion.

### **Mullagh -Milltown Malbay Watermains Rehabilitation:**

The site investigation works are completed and the design is now being progressed. IW have not confirmed a start date for this project.

### **Doonbeg Watermains Rehabilitation:**

This contract is currently on hold by Irish Water due to technical and cost issues associated with the road reinstatement. We hope to progress a solution in the coming months.

### **Castlecrine to Kilmurry Rehabilitation:**

The road opening licence has been paid for this project. The project is due to commence in the first week in February 2020 with Site Investigation works.

### **Main rehabilitation 2020 Programme of Work:**

A priority list of projects is now being compiled and CCC are working with IW to prioritise essential projects for

Tranche 5 of the mains rehabilitation programme.

## **Water & Waste Water Operations**

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and waste water teams throughout the county from 1st January 2020 up to and including 30th January 2020. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint /issue.

- 20 Customer Complaints were dealt with to-date
- 2 Emergency Work Orders during the timeframe
- 264 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 136 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 37 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period

On Sunday 12th January the Water Services Team in the Kilrush Area located and repaired a burst on the storm rising main in Kilkee. This was responded to and brought back into service within a number of hours.

A major burst took place on the 750mm dia. pipe feeding the Kilrush area and ESB Moneypoint Power Generating Station resulting in temporary outages in the area.. This burst also affected production levels at the new Doolough Treatment Plant. The burst occurred during Storm Brendan and conditions were very difficult for crews to find the leak. Despite the atrocious weather conditions, outdoor staff in the Kilrush area, worked long hours to find and repair the leak with assistance from the North Clare Team and staff in Doolough Water Treatment Plant. Supply was restored on Wednesday January 15th. Three (3) outages occurred in the Shannon area which affected a number of customers on January 21st, 22nd and 28th affecting properties in Cratloe, Clonmoney, Sixmilebridge and Bunratty for a number of hours. Outages occurred on the Corrofin/Ruan supply due to an ESB fault in mid January and also in the Tobertaiscain area of Ennis due to a watermain strike on Ennis Flood South Relief Works project.

## **Rural Water Programme**

The Rural Water Programme continues to work with schemes in progressing works under the 2019-2021 Rural Water Programme with works currently underway on 3 schemes and further schemes looking to progress to tender in the coming weeks.

The temporary suspension by Irish Water with respect

to the taking in charge of Group Water and Sewerage Scheme remains in place. It is hoped that this will be lifted in the near future to allow approved schemes to be transferred to the public network. There are currently 4 no. schemes of acceptable standard which are currently with Irish Water for consideration and the Rural Water Team continue working with an additional 25 schemes with respect to potential submissions for taking in charge applications.

The Council have advertised in the local press for Group Water Schemes to submit their subsidy applications for 2019 in order that early payment can be facilitated. The Closing date for receipt of applications is 30th June 2020. Details of the long awaited revised scheme for the 'Grant for the Provision of or Necessary Improvement of an Individual Supply Water Supply to a House' have still not been published. The Rural Water team continues to assess and process grants under the current conditions. The Rural Water Team continues to work with group water schemes to ensure their members have a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water available to them.

### **Non Service Level Agreement Works.**

We have completed our review of the design options for our remediation works for the old Ennis Water treatment works at Gortaganniv. The preferred option is to remove a section of the 140 year old dam to prevent further deterioration of the structure and works have now commenced. To date the old filter beds have been in-filled which has now made them safe. Unfavourable weather conditions have hampered progress to date and delayed the completion of the works.

## **Roadworks Programme and Operations**

Clare Co Council has received its road grant allocations for 2020. The grant allocation from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) for regional and local road maintenance and improvement is €19.872m, which represents a 7.5% increase on the allocation received for 2019. The initial grant allocation from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for national road maintenance and improvement is €2.9m, which results in total grant funding of €22.8m being available for the delivery of the Roadworks Programme.

The Roadworks Programme for 2020 will be prepared as part of the SMDW for 2020 in the coming weeks and input has been sought from the elected Members as part of the preparation of same.

### **2. Strategic Transportation**

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)

The Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy is being developed at present by the NTA and the Strategy is to cover all modes of land transport 2018 to 2040. A number of meetings have been held with the Consultants, NTA, TII and Limerick City & County Council. Clare Co Council has supplied background data to the Consultants and the NTA eg a list of Stakeholders to be consulted, traffic data, the Clare Noise Action Plan. Comments have also been returned by the Transportation and Planning sections on the Baseline Conditions Report and the Demand Analysis Report. The NTA has produced an Advance Consultation Report.

### **3. Public Lighting**

The key priorities in relation to public lighting include complete changeover to LED technology, achievement of the 2020 Carbon footprint reduction target and replacement of supporting infrastructure where required.

It was announced in late 2018 that the Road Management Office (RMO) have been successful in securing €17.5 million in support from the Climate Action Fund for the LA Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project nationally. This will form part of the funding necessary for the delivery of the project. ARUP were appointed in February 2019 and are currently working on the contract documents for Region 1. Clare has confirmed its participation and has signed up to be included in Region 1 of the Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project.

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

- Internet: Direct reporting on our website – [www.airtricitysolutions.com](http://www.airtricitysolutions.com)
- Phone: Airtricity Utility Solutions dedicated Call Centre – 1850 372 772
- Local Authority Identification – via Local Authority's website or Contact number

## Road Design Office Projects being developed in 2020

### CURRENT PROJECTS

Project	Update as of 30th January 2020
N85 Clareabbey Roundabout	Drawings and Feasibility Report for traffic calming and pedestrian/cyclist facilities issued to TII. Three options considered. A fourth option of Traffic signals to be investigated.
N68 Fahy's Rd Kilrush Pedestrian Crossing	Report on Section 38 submissions was presented to the May 19 West Clare MD meeting. Scheme was not approved.
N68 Shaughnessy's Cross	Feasibility report and costing forwarded to TII. Awaiting response.
Bunratty Castle Junction	Draft Drawings and preliminary cost estimates prepared in April. Options include repairing/widening the existing arch bridge, traffic calming, provision of pedestrian crossing and new footpath connection to the main Shannon Heritage carpark on Low Road. Road Design Office staff met with Shannon Heritage and their Consultants. Report prepared on Planning Application P19 365. Five options considered and Option B has been selected by Road Design Office. Low Road Bridge to be repaired in 2020. Funding source to be identified for traffic calming, pedestrian crossing and footpaths. Part 8 to be progressed in early 2020
EuroVelo 1	Design of signage scheme and cost estimates complete. Map and cost estimate available for discussion. EuroVelo1 is a 317km route along existing roads in Clare. The route includes coastal , inland, Burren section, Shannon Estuary section and also travels through Clarecastle, Quin, Sixmilebridge, Meelick and onwards towards Limerick. It has the potential to be a significant tourism generator for County Clare. Consultation has taken place with reps of various cycling clubs. Funding source to be identified. Clare Co Co are in discussions with DTTAS regarding funding for the scheme. Mapping and details issued to DTTAS.
Knockanean NS	Road Improvement scheme – design drawing and land maps prepared and issued to Ennis MD. Cost estimate prepared.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TII HD 17 Sites	<p>N67 Drainage works complete. N67 Public Lighting upgrade costs have been forwarded to TII Engineer for review.</p> <p>Survey, Design , Costings and Feasibility reports required for all sites.</p> <p>N67 Galway border to Ballyvaughan – topographical surveys substantially complete, design ongoing, feasibility report in preparation.</p> <p>N67 Minister’s Place, Kilkee – initial site visit complete.</p> <p>N68 Monvana Junction Kilrush - initial site visit complete.</p> <p>N68 Ennis To Kilrush - initial site assessments are complete. Priority list being prepared.</p>
N85 Shanaway Rd Junction, Ennis	<p>Manual traffic turning count is complete.</p> <p>Topographical survey complete. Drawing complete and issued to TII Road Safety Engineer. Awaiting TII input in relation to access to the filling station/One mile Inn property. Feasibility Report complete but cost estimate to be finalised. Landowner meetings have taken place. Awaiting feedback from landowners before feasibility report is issued to TII.</p>
<b><u>Low Cost Safety Schemes 2019 - Progress</u></b>	
L4010/ L8022 Y junction on a bend L4010 south of Flagmount	Completed
R478 St Brigid’s Well	Substantially complete.
L4506 Kilrush rd to Limerick Rd Traffic calming	Substantially complete
R458 Carmody St/Drumbiggle Rd, Ennis Pedestrian crossing	Substantially complete
R469 Ballymacahill Cross Pedestrian crossing	Substantially complete
R462 Sixmilebridge	Substantially complete
R474 Kilmaley	Completed
<b><u>2020 Low Cost Safety Schemes</u></b>	
R463 junction at Westbury	Design to be commenced
Bridge CL R483-003.00 and approaches in Cree village	Design to be commenced
L2034/L2032 Moanmore Crossroads on the Kilrush to Doonbeg road	Design to be commenced
R474 Mahonburgh Bridge and approaches 600 m east of Inch School	Design to be commenced
R352/ L4104/ L8166 Hurlers Cross on Ennis to Scarriff Road	Design to be commenced
Development – Planning Apps	Ongoing reports/meetings/correspondence

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Pre-Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tubber</li> <li>• Clonlara</li> <li>• Cappahard Lane</li> <li>• Cloister Carpark</li> <li>• Ballycasey Masterplan</li> </ul>
Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy	Data issued by RDO to Consultants Jacobs Systra. A Cronin reviewed the Baseline Conditions and Policy Context Report and Demand Analysis Report and reverted to the NTA. CCC input to Advance Consultation Report to be submitted to NTA
Larkins Cross/Gillogue Bridge improvement works	Preliminary design and cost estimate complete for works at Larkins Cross and Gillogue Bridges. 2020 funding granted. AA Screening Consultant appointed
R469 - Keevagh road realignment, Quin Road	Project commenced
Clare Noise Action Plan 2018	Priority locations identified. Noise monitoring may be needed at some locations. Report to EPA in February
Round 4 Clare Noise Action Plan	Traffic surveys nearing completion for Round 4 Local roads
Cycle route warning signage	Application for funding submitted to DTTAS on 10th Jan 2020
Pedestrian crossing on R475 Ennis	Prelim design and cost estimate prepared
Milltown Malbay relief Road	Part 8 report complete on housing project
Ennistimon Relief road - tie in to N85	Liaison with Planning section
Proposed demolition and remediation of the existing Roche API Manufacturing plant – Traffic and Transport aspects	Liaison/meetings with Roche and their Consultants - ongoing
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Design of a wheelchair accessible bus stop on Bothar Linne, Shannon town is complete and NTA has approved design.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	Locations/details to be agreed
Drehidnagower road roundabout	Report complete on consultants roundabout design.
N19 extension	Liaison with Consultants

## OTHER PROJECTS on the 2020 Work Programme

Update of the Road Schedule	Housing estate roads to be added
N67 Killimer Church - Review of Traffic Calming	
Doonbeg village Traffic Calming	
Car park at Lemanagh Castle	
R352/Corrovorrin Junction , Ennis	Funding not granted for 2020 by DTTaS. Will reapply later in the year for grant funding for 2021.
L4176 Ballybeg Road, Ennis	Survey, design of realignment and provision of footpaths – to be commenced.
N68 Wilson road junction	Request from Area for input
N68 McNamees Shop/Garage	Request from Area for input
N68 investigation of provision of pull in areas	Initial approach made to TII
R463 Cycle lane scheme	Request for a cycle lane scheme from Ardnacrusha towards Limerick City.

### Road Safety Remedial Measure 2020 to be commenced

- N67 Hospital Cross Ennistymon to Leinch
- N68 Beneden
- N67 Bend at Lisdeen

### 2020 Bridge Rehabilitation – Progress

- AA Screening tender issued for 2020 grant funded bridges - due back on 5<sup>th</sup> February
- New Bridge - To be completed when water levels allow
- Sixmilebridge Bridge - Tenders issued to Consultants for design of rehabilitation works - due back on 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Bunratty Bridge (Low Road) -Tenders issued to Consultants for design of rehabilitation works - due back on 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Carrownisha Bridge - Tenders issued, due back on 14<sup>th</sup> February
- Gillogue Bridges - Surveyed and drawings prepared
- Bridges notified to RDO by MD Engineers - Inspections ongoing
- Kildeema Bridge ( privately owned ) - Inspected and report issued to MD Engineer - no structural works required at present
- Poolnagona Bridge - Inspection complete

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT



## General Design Office

### Burren Discovery Trail

Design has been completed and Part 8 Planning Permission has been granted. Interpretive “doorway” structures and engraved limestone paving to be installed at the following locations: Lough Bunny, Corofin, Kilnaboy, Kilfenora, Ennistymon, Lisdoonvarna, Gregans Wood and Corkscrew Hill.



### Cliffs of Moher Footpath Upgrade

Project to upgrade the existing path for a distance of 1km to the north and south of the visitor centre site. Works to include the extension of existing vertical Liscannor flagstone walls, upgrading of steps with new paving slabs and handrails, resetting some of the existing flagstone wall and resurfacing the existing path to improve visitor experience. Tenders were sought and opened on 15th January and are being evaluated and discussions are ongoing with landowners.



### Quin Road Campus

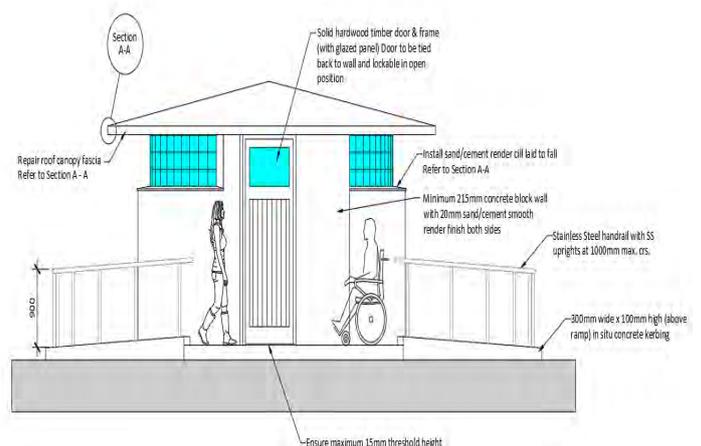
Phase 1 internal works are nearing completion, 2nd fixing electrical and mechanical installations are in their final stages. Painting and flooring have commenced.

### Lough Derg Amenity Path (Tuamgraney to Killaloe)

Design has been completed and Part 8 Planning Permission has been granted.

### Kilkee Lifeguard & Changing Huts

Drawings have been prepared for the upgrading of the Kilkee Lifeguard & Changing Huts with one of the huts converted to a public WC. The works involved will see the repair of sections of damaged concrete evident on all three huts.



## Shannon Allotments

The recently completed Shannon Allotments will provide for 39 allotment holders in a 2 acre site, on part of the former DeBeers Sports Fields. The works were completed by M Fitzgibbon Contractors Ltd. and consisted of:

- Building a new access road and pathways throughout the site
- Earthworks and importing of additional soil
- Fencing to boundary and individual plots, and secure vehicle and pedestrian entry gates
- Connection to public water supply



## Project Management Office update

The updated status of the main projects being worked on in the past month is as follows:

- CFRAMs: The date for submissions in the Tender Competition for the appointment of Consultant Engineers for the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme closed on Friday 31st January 2020. The tenders will now be assessed for compliance and evaluated prior to the Tender Report being finalised. A letter of intent will then issue to the successful Consultant. It is expected that we will be in a position to appoint the Consultants in late February. At the request of the Shannon Municipal District Members, an update was given at their meeting in late January.

The second meeting of the Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme Steering group took place on January 21st 2020. The Consultants (JBA Consulting) reported on progress to date. An initial site visit has been carried out by the Environmental Scientists and the required data collection process is well underway. Stakeholder engagement continues and Landowner consultation has commenced.

- Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building – Landowner engagement continued through January to maximum the land available for this project to proceed to detailed design and submission of the planning application. In parallel, we continue to work on a cross directorate basis to identify all of the issues and measures that will need to be amended or put in place as we move forward with this exciting new

development for Doolin.

- Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme – The final snag list has been completed for the Ballybeg section of the scheme. The St Flannan's College to the River Fergus section is completed from Torbarteasca to the Clare Road Roundabout. The Contractor has commenced the very difficult road crossing through the roundabout towards St Flannans College. The depth of the pipe at this section is 4m to 5m and the rock is proving more difficult to excavate as the work progresses towards St Flannans. A traffic management plan has been put in place to allow the work to progress safely while at the same time, minimising the impact on traffic flow and business. The Traffic Management Plan was advertised as required in local media and was on public display. The date for completion of the pipe work in this section is scheduled for Feb/March 2020 with the final section along College View and into the Grounds of St Flannans College expected to be completed in April/ May 2020. In accordance with the conditions of the Environmental Impact Assessment, there aren't any works proposed on the embankment along the River Fergus from the Quin Road Bridge towards Clareabbey/N85 at this time.
- Ennistymon Inner Relief Road & Bridge Crossing (Blakes Corner) – Following approval of the Total Scheme Budget in mid December, the Business case was completed and submitted to TII for their consideration and review. I am pleased to advise that approval to publish the CPO was received last week which now allows us to finalise the CPO documentation in preparation for its publication at the earliest juncture and submit to An Bord Pleanála. We have appointed a Contractor to commence Ground Investigation works in certain approved locations this week in preparation for the detailed design to commence and run in parallel with the CPO proceedings. Members will be aware of the recent TII announcement and I am happy to report that this N85/N67 project secured an allocation of funding for the year ahead.
- Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass – The Project Steering Group met in late January and discussed the critical path issues which will enable the detailed design to be completed in late March/April. On completion of same, we will be in a position to advance the Tender competition. Phase 1 of the Archaeology Survey continues as does works related to the various Land acquisitions required. Following completion of the detailed design, we expect to go to tender in Summer 2020 and following receipt and evaluation of tenders, we would expect to award the contract in late 2020 subject to Department approval. The

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

construction period is expected to take 3 years thereafter. Members will be aware of the recent DTTaS announcement and I am happy to report that this project secured an allocation of funding for the year ahead.

- Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) – The design of the link road between the N85 Roundabout at Claureen and the Lees Road/ Drumcliff Road Intersection has now been completed and the additional supporting information required for Planning permission is being gathered, following which we will be in a position to submit for Part VIII application in the coming week or so. In terms of the Housing Element of the proposal, we are exploring all possible options. To this end, a meeting with the Dept of Housing, Planning & Local Government has been arranged for Feb 7th next.
  - Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) (Phase 2) – The Project Team continue to work on the additional information sought by the Department in relation to the Appraisal phase. Furthermore, we continue to work with the NTA and other stakeholders in the drafting of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (L-SMATS). To advance both of these related matters, the Steering Groups and Project Teams are scheduled to meet in late February. Members will be aware of the recent DTTaS announcement and I am happy to report that this project secured an allocation of funding for the year ahead.
  - N19 Shannon Airport Access Road – Members will be aware of the recent TII announcement and I am happy to report that the N19 secured an allocation of funding for the year ahead. Work continues on this project with both the Sponsoring Agency Meeting and the Project Team Meetings both held in late January. The Project Team has now completed the relevant data gathering and is now moving to the next stage of looking and assessing the various options available. At the request of the Shannon Municipal District Members, an update was given at their meeting in late January. Once completed, the Project will provide a high quality road improvement scheme on the N19 National Primary Road between Drumgeely Roundabout and Knockbeagh Point Roundabout (for a distance of approx 2.2km) on the approach to the Airport and it will add significantly to the infrastructure facilitating Shannon Airport, Industry in the Region and the wider Shannon community.
  - N85 Kilnamona Realignment Scheme – Members will be aware of the recent TII announcement and I am
- happy to report that the N85 secured an allocation of funding for the year ahead. Following the scope change proposed for this project, it is necessary to appoint new Technical advisors. We are currently engaging with TII in the formalities around the procurement of same.
- Access to and from UL – In relation to the hinterland project, I wish to advise that agreement has been reached with the local landowners to enable us to advance our plans to carry out proposed works to the toe path along the Canal Bank to facilitate Pedestrian and Cyclists. In respect of the University's plans for a new exit onto the Garraun Road, Clare County Council will meet with them to discuss their proposal in relation to same.
  - West Clare Railway Greenway – At the request of the West Clare Municipal District, we gave an update regarding this project at their January meeting. Work continues in carrying out a high level feasibility study on the 85 KM long Greenway from Ennis to Kilkee. In this regard, a funding application was made last week under the DTTaS Carbon Tax Fund Scheme which if successful, will allow us to bring the scheme through the options and route selection phase in preparation for submission for statutory consents. As advised previously, the initial focus is on the circa 20km length between Kilrush and Kilkee via Moyasta. It was also agreed by Management Team in January that the Ennis to Kilkee Greenway Proposal would be one of our priority applications for the next round of RRDF funding to be submitted by February 28th 2020.
  - Asbestos Remediation Programme – Our specialist Consultants RPS are currently assessing and evaluating the most recent round of survey and sampling taken across the sites in West Clare. On receipt of their Final Report in the coming weeks, we will be in a position to revert to the EPA and interested parties in terms of what permanent remediation measures may or may not be required. Following EPA advice/approval, the necessary actions will be taken.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Project	Current Situation
Lough Donnell	Consultants on behalf of Clare County Council have begun the Environmental assessments necessary to carry out an Screening for Appropriate Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. A part 8 application to carry out the necessary works will then be prepared.
Liscannor Bay	Clare County Council is consulting with stakeholders on the amended proposals prior to submission to the Office of Public Works. It is expected to resubmit the amended study in February.
Whitestrans (Miltown Malbay)	The Office of Public Works has confirmed in writing to Clare County Council that they will allocate funding in 2020 to take the scheme to Detailed Design and Planning stage. Clare County Council will be required to match 10% of the funding required.
Kilbaha	Our Consultants Malachy Walsh and Partners are working on a detailed submission to the Office of Public Works in response to issues raised in the previously submitted Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study by Clare County Council. The additional work required by the OPW is substantial. It is intended to resubmit in February 2020.
Quilty	Clare County Council submitted a detailed response to the OPW following their request for further information. OPW are currently assessing same. We are awaiting their observations and recommendations.
Spanish Point	Clare County Council has submitted a response to the OPW's request for clarification on a number of issues, including tourist numbers and some technical design aspects of the proposal. We are awaiting their response.

### Flood Relief Schemes:

The up to date position in relation to each of the areas where we have been progressing flood relief schemes is as follows:

- **Springfield, Clonlara:** Clare County Council has received an Options Report from our Consultants Byrne Looby and Partners. Along with the OPW, we are currently examining the report and should a viable scheme be agreed, we can then move forward to the Planning Stage. Assuming agreement on same, we would expect to submit a planning application in late February.
- **Miltown Malbay:** OPW are currently assessing the application for a section 50 licence.
- **Murtyclough:** A request for part funding of this scheme has been submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland. The Office of Public Works has agreed to part fund the element of the scheme that refers to flooding of dwelling houses but the main benefit of the scheme is derived from flooding of the National Secondary road (N67).
- **Thomond Villas:** An application for funding was submitted to the OPW and a response is awaited. It is intended to submit an application for permission in the first quarter of 2020 subject to funding being provided and environmental issues being addressed.
- **Quin Flood Relief Scheme:** Clare County Council and our Consultants Malachy Walsh & Partners have identified a preferred option for this scheme and will seek to acquire the lands to construct the scheme. It is hoped to proceed to Planning stage this February 2020.

## Fire & Building Control Section

### Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during January;

- Community Fire Responder (CFR) for all personnel in Ennis & Ennistymon Fire Brigades
- Emergency Fire Responder (EFR) for all personnel in Ennis & Ennistymon Fire Brigades
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Training held in Sligo Fire Station

### Major Emergency Management – Mobile Phone App

Clare County Council have purchased a mobile phone app for Major Emergency Management.

The app is for use by personnel responding to a Major Emergency. Features include:

- Information Management – live information sharing from an incident to the Crisis Management Team in Áras Contae An Chláir.
- Document storage – access to all of the Council’s Emergency Plans and documents stored on the cloud
- Contact details – up to date database of council personnel involved in the response to an incident



Two days training was provided on the use of the application. The app will be rolled out to personnel and used in all training exercises.

### Fire Safety Talks

Fire Officers delivered two Fire Safety Talks at Clarecare Over 65’s Club in Ennis. Topics covered included: Fire hazards in the home for over 65’s, escape route planning, fitting and maintaining smoke alarms and use of carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarm testers were given out to all club members.

### Fire & Building Control Section

Main Activities January 2020

Number of Emergency Calls Attended	87
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	8
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	12
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	5
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	7
Number of Commencement Notices Received	20
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	5

## Clare Civil Defence

### Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Siochana
- 9th International Christmas Tree Throwing Championship held in Tim Smythe Park.
- All Ireland Club Championship hurling semi-final in Cusack Park
- Clare v Limerick hurling match in Sixmilebridge
- Clare v Carlow hurling match in Cusack Park
- “Run the Banner” race series in Ennis and Lisdoonvarna

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members of the Drone Team captured stills and video of the 9th International Tree Throwing Championship for promotional purposes.
- They also assisted An Garda Siochana with accident investigations by capturing stills and video footage of areas within the County.

### Members Training & Professional Development

Members of the Swift Water Rescue Team and Boat crew attended a joint training session on the River Fergus.

### An Taisce IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) Survey

Ennis is back inside the top ten in the IBAL Awards finishing joint 8th out of 40 towns/ cities surveyed, cleaner than the European norms. Some of the top ranking sites in Ennis included O’Connell Street (exceptionally clean and well presented), Tim Smythe Park (an excellent site in terms of presentation, maintenance and litter) and Lower Market Street / Market Place – no major litter issues. This result is a reflection of the continued work of the Ennis MD street cleaning staff & collaboration with the Business Community and Ennis Tidy Towns

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## Inspection of The O'Connell Monument

Ennis Fire Station assisted Ennis Municipal District of Ennis in arranging an inspection of the 22.8m high O'Connell Monument structure by Conservation Engineers (Mr. Garry Salter and Mr John Britton) on the 23rd January 23rd2020.

This is the first step in the preparation of a funding proposal for the refurbishment and conservation of the O' Connell Monument for inclusion under the Historic Structures Fund 2020

## Footpath Improvements

Ennis MD footpath programme is ongoing with the most recent improvements made in Shanaway. Over 500m of footpath were replaced here in January. In Drumcliffe, there were further footpaths and a new water supply provided to the new section of graveyard.

## Ennis MD

### Ennis St Patricks Day Parade

The theme for this year's St Patricks Day Parade is "**Live the Greener Way**" with prizes proposed for the for the Best Visual Spectacle (€300), Best Musical Entrant (€300) & a new prize for the Best Environmental Entrant Reflective of the Theme (€300) with one overall prize winner of an additional €500. This year Ennis MD will be working towards the Greener Festival principles in an effort to reduce our environmental impact/carbon footprint on St. Patricks Day.



### Ennis MD Town Centre Graffiti

Ennis Municipal District continues it's programme of removing graffiti throughout the town. Graffiti at a number of locations has been reported to An Garda Siochana.



### Illegal Dumping

Ennis MD continue to facilitate environment in the ongoing clean up of Illegal dumping with resources deployed to Clarecastle, Skehanagh & Gaurus recently.

