



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Tuarascáil Mhíosúil ón Phríomhfheidhmeannach

## Monthly Management Report



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# COUNCIL OF THE YEAR



## New Visitor Experience - Vandeleur Walled Garden

The proposal to renovate, enhance and upgrade the visitor experience at the Vandeleur Walled Garden Kilrush received formal endorsement by the Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Mr. Pat Dowling, when he met with the appointed consultants in the historic grounds of the walled garden last Friday.

“The investment in Vandeleur will have wider benefits to the area and town of Kilrush offering more amenity and recreational options and opportunities for economic growth and employment in the region” commented Pat Dowling Chief Executive Clare County Council.

The works include the renovation of the derelict stables into a new visitor experience comprising of museum, interpretation, retail opportunities and general enhancement of access to the centre. The project is funded by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (€1.72m), Project Ireland 2040 under the Department of Rural and Community Development with additional match funding by Clare County Council.

The Walled Gardens and stables are nestled in Coilte woodland and form part of what was known as ‘Kilrush House’ which was destroyed by fire in the 1890s. The redevelopment of the gardens in 1997 has led to the growth of the attraction with the walled gardens and café currently forming the core features. Clare County Councils Architectural Services team obtained planning for the redevelopment of the stable block following extensive consultation with a view to the scheme to being shelf ready for funding opportunities. The development is now due to go to tender in the summer with works commencing shortly thereafter. The centre will remain open during the works with ongoing access to the walled gardens and café.

‘The commencement of this project is timely in terms of product development for the County as Clare County Council with Shannon Heritage is expecting to imminently launch a ten year Clare Tourism Strategy following extensive public consultation’

commented Deirdre O Shea, Acting Head of Tourism.

Leonard Cleary Director of Services noted that “the project reflects the ongoing commitment to seeking investment in key tourism and rural based projects in Clare. The development of Kilrush in tandem with the investment in Loop Head keeps Clare firmly on the map for visitors. The Gardens are developing over the years and thanks to staff dedication and support from the Trust is primed and ready for this expansion”

The Council have taken a considered step to put the ‘visitor experience’ to the forefront in this model. The proposed works will be an initial phase allowing for future phases and growth to address the needs and requirements of visitors to the centre.

Ruth Hurley, Senior Executive Architect and Project Manager said “we would not be at this stage without the input, commitment and investment of all the stakeholders who have supported the progress of this project development from a concept idea, to planning stage and then to securing funding. I look forward to seeing the realization of the project through the appointed Design team”.

The design team appointed consists of Paddy Coleman & Associates, Moloney Fox Consulting, Rogerson Reddan and John Ruddle Consulting who is managing the development of the visitor experience aspects.



## Loophead Lighthouse

An agreement dated 24th February 2020 was signed between the Commissioner of Irish Lights and Clare County Council to lease the property at the Lighthouse premises for a further term of 25 years. The agreement was signed in the presence of Mayor of Clare, Clare Collieran Molloy.

Clare County Council manages Loophead Lighthouse Visitor Experience in conjunction with the Commissioners of Irish Lights, since its reopening to the public as a visitor attraction in 2011. The popular tourist attraction attracts approx 27,000 visitors annually. It has helped to strengthen the profile, both nationally and internationally, of the wider Loop Head Peninsula and what it has to offer as a tourism destination.

Loophead Lighthouse is located at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary, which is one of two “Signature Discovery Points” in County Clare along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way.

This Lighthouse is one of 68 lighthouses operated by the Commissioners of Irish Lights around the coast of Ireland and continues to provide a vital role in maritime safety today. The new 25 year lease, which has been signed between the Commissioners of Irish Lights and Clare County Council is for the property surrounding the lighthouse with a licence agreement in place for the lighthouse tower.

Mr. Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council confirmed that this agreed lease extension provides the

way forward to rejuvenate the tourism offering at Loophead Lighthouse, which will benefit the local communities and businesses of Loophead peninsula and he noted that the Council look forward to continued collaborative working with the Commissioner of Irish Lights.

Mr. Dave Ward, Commercial Services Manager with the Commissioner of Irish Lights highlighted that ‘This lease renewal between the local authority and commissioners of Irish lights will allow for the development of a stronger tourism offering at Loophead and as such will further enhance the Great Lighthouses of Ireland brand. This brand is an all-Ireland initiative showcasing twelve of our lighthouses in stunning locations’



## Visitor Numbers at Cliffs of Moher 2019

Visitor numbers at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience in County Clare increased by 1.58% to 1,605,131 in 2019, another record year for visitors to the iconic attraction in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Geopark.

The positive visitor figures reveal that the Fully Independent Traveller (FIT) market showed greater growth than the group market with 56% of all visitors being FITs (up 38,225 on 2018) and group tour business is down 1.86% (-13,104) for the first time since 2010.

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience online value tickets for morning and evening visits, 8am -9pm opening times in peak season and visitor shuttle have yielded a 15% redistribution of total visitors into the off-peak times, resulting in improved onsite visitor experience and traffic management. The shuttle served the North Clare towns and village of Ennistymon, Lahinch, Liscannor, Doolin and Lisdoonvarna, enabling improved economic benefit to the North Clare economy. New licensing criteria for group tours, includes over nights in Co. Clare, visiting another paid visitor attraction or visitor experience and visiting on off peak times.

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience employs 75 staff during the peak season and is a significant employer in rural North Clare. Additionally, more than 85 staff employed by tenant companies is supported at the site.

Meanwhile, the Failte Ireland supported Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040 is being developed by Clare County Council appointed consultants Haley Sharpe to shape the future of the

natural attraction. The Board of the Cliffs of Moher Centre Ltd have a key strategic role in shaping the new sustainable tourism direction envisioned for the future. The strategy guided by an appointed steering committee will take over a year to prepare the comprehensive plans for the site and visitor experience expected to be delivered early 2021.

“Visitor numbers represent the strength of an international brand and delivery of a consistent world class experience” Leonard Cleary- Director of Services, Clare County Council

“Popularity and growth is down to providing a holistic experience, from safe pathways and viewing areas, a genuine welcome from staff, to interpretation, retail, dining and visitor services.” Geraldine Enright - Director of Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience



## Ruan Dysart Community First Responder Group

David Bennett (Rural & Community Development Officer) supported Ruan Dysart Community First Responder Group who successfully were awarded €3,600 in funding from the 2019 Community Enhancement Programme. This funding was used to buy essential equipment for the group, who are now fully trained and available to be tasked by the National Ambulance Service to medical emergencies in the Ruan and Dysart areas. Pictured here are members of the group at their official launch in Ruan Community Hall on Friday, February 14th 2020.



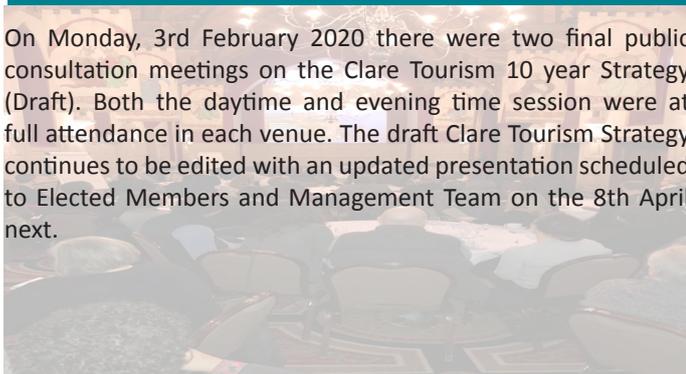
## Creative Ireland initiative

Following on from engagement with the North Clare Area Elected Members, a cross directorate team met with Ennistymon Town Team to discuss the concept proposals for funding submission to Fáilte Ireland Tourism Destination Towns. A tourism destination town is a town which a tourist can spend an overnight, and in which a cluster of products, services, activities and experiences are offered. There was agreement reached on the concept proposals following engagement with the Ennistymon Town Team. The funding application is to be submitted by the end of March 2020.



## Clare Tourism Strategy

On Monday, 3rd February 2020 there were two final public consultation meetings on the Clare Tourism 10 year Strategy (Draft). Both the daytime and evening time session were at full attendance in each venue. The draft Clare Tourism Strategy continues to be edited with an updated presentation scheduled to Elected Members and Management Team on the 8th April next.



## Clare Tourism Strategy



Staff from the Tourism Department exploring marketing opportunities for County Clare with Shannon Group staff at Shannon Airport.

**Freedom of Information & Data Protection:**

- 2020 Statistics to 28/2/2020:
- 20 Freedom of Information Requests
- 0 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 1 Appeal to Information Commissioner
- 3 Access Requests (Data Protection) – Data Subjects
- 3 Access Requests (Data Protection) –Third Party Access

**Procurement**

The following list of tenders were advertised on eTenders during February 2020;

Short description	Response deadline
Grass Cutting and Landscape Maintenance of Open Spaces in Shannon MD 2020	20/02/2020
Upgrade of Toilet Facilities at Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre, Liscannor, Co. Clare for Clare County Council	25/02/2020
Kilrush Dressing Rooms	27/02/2020
N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme - Traffic Survey Services	27/02/2020
Install a CCTV system at indoor and outdoor locations at the Cliffs of Moher	05/03/2020
Dressing Room Buildings at Tim Smyth Park, Ennis, Co. Clare	10/03/2020
Provision of online training and eLearning service for Local Authority employees.	11/03/2020
2-Unit Housing Development at Dun Na Mara, Doonbeg, Co. Clare for Clare County Council	16/03/2020
ITT for Contractors for Alterations to Clare County Council Canteen at Áras Contae an Chláir	14/03/2020

**Register of Electors:**

The new Register 2020/2021 has now been published. The total electorate is 92,950 and the Register is effective from 15th February, 2020 to 14th February, 2021. It consists of all the supplementary electors who were added for the Local and European Elections held on Friday 24th May, 2019 and the recent General Election held on Saturday 8th February 2020.

In the event of any election or referenda being held during this period of one year a supplement to the existing register 2020/2021 will be compiled.



**Training & Development**

During February the Learning & Development Unit facilitated some key training including the revised Chapter 8 procedures for Signing, Lighting & Guarding at Roadworks and Water Safety Awareness training for operatives working near rivers or in flooded areas. The Managing people programme continued for line managers in all areas and the first of the one day retirement planning seminars was held. Online Training continues to grow and currently a Pandemic Awareness ( including Coronavirus ) module is being made available to staff.

**Recruitment**

A number of interview competitions were run during February and included executive engineer, temporary resident engineer, part-time caretaker broadband hub in Kilrush and University of Limerick Co-op placements. Some of the positions advertised included heavy vehicle mechanic, beach lifeguards and part-time retained firefighters.



**Deputy Cathaoirleach Clare Colleran Molloy said:**  
*“A massive well done to all those involved in the projects. Being chosen as Council of the Year shows the important work that is carried out in group’s right across communities in the county. It is important that the council listens to communities and builds up trust so that areas can be developed together. The Trojan work being carried out by all has been recognised on a national basis.”*

**Pat Dowling Chief Executive of Clare County Council said:**  
*“A huge congratulations to all those involved. It was fantastic for Clare to be shortlisted for fifteen awards. Of course, it is truly wonderful to have been named Council of the Year. The win highlights and validates the hard work and dedication of staff that the council is doing in conjunction with communities across our county for the betterment of all.”*

The 2020 edition was the 14th running of the awards and was presented by IPB Insurance and Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA)

Clare County Council scooped the top prize at the annual All-Ireland Community and Council Awards – LAMA Awards 2020, after being named Council of the Year

### LAMA Awards

The Local Authority Members’ Association or LAMA Awards aims to highlight the amazing work carried out by a local authority in conjunction with groups, organisations and volunteers in the community as well as acknowledge the important contribution they make to our lives. The LAMA Awards 2020 chose to recognise the important work being carried out by Clare County Council by naming them this year’s winners.

In 2020, more than 185 entries were received across 25 categories. Following a rigorous judging process over 100 projects nationwide from 23 counties were shortlisted for the gala awards ceremony, which took place in Croke Park Stadium at the weekend.

Clare County Council was crowned the winner of Council of the Year in recognition of the range and depth of projects which the council is involved in with communities across the county.

Clare County Council also won three first place awards on the night:

- **Best Educational Building** for the New Third Level Campus for Limerick institute of Technology in Ennis, County Clare in collaboration with LIT,
- **Best Social Housing Initiative** for Feakle Social Housing Scheme and
- **Emergency Response Person of the Year with Clare’s Civil Defence** - Volunteers supporting the Community.

Other Clare projects were recognised on the night:

- **Clare Green Festival and Events Initiative in the Best Waste Management Programme category** and
- **The Vision Symphony in the Best Arts/Culture** (incl. festivals & events) category both receiving 2nd place awards.



## Housing

Our Housing Team was one of four finalists in the Chartered Institute of Housing 'Team of the Year' award. The award ceremony took place at the Titanic Centre in Belfast on the 21st February last. Local initiatives such as the ICSH award winning Planned Maintenance programme, the establishment of the Homeless Action Team and the successful delivery and pipeline for additional social housing is positively improving performance of the organisation and the customer experience.



On the 15th February the recently completed scheme of 13 social houses in Feakle won the Best Social Housing Initiative award at the 2020 All Ireland Community & Council Award. In addition this Directorate took silver and bronze in the Best Arts/Culture Initiative (incl Festivals & Events) and Best Disability Access & Inclusion Initiative respectively with The Vision Symphony.



Clare County Council hosted the first Housing Options Information Workshop in the Oakwood Arms in Shannon on the 27th February. There was plenty local interest in this event with many enquiries on housing options. The event was drop in style with personnel from the Bank of Ireland, AIB, PTSB, EBS, Ulster Bank, MABS, Revenue and Clare County Council available to answer queries on the night. The next event is in the Buttermarket Building in Ennis on Thursday 5th March from 6-8pm.



### Housing in Numbers



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## Summary of activity in February

Offers issued	18
Offers accepted	-
Offers refused	0
AHB nominations	5 for 2 properties
Tenancies signed up	27
Tenancies terminated	16

### Housing allocations

### Voids work programme:

Voids/casual vacancies	48
Acquired properties	34
Average vacancy period	141 days
Number voids returned to stock	7
Average spend	€30,990

### Housing Grants:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	19	358,605
Housing Aid for Older People	17	78,650
Mobility Aids Grant	25	129,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>567,013</b>

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

#### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

February:



Cumulative to date:



### Vacant Homes

The work to identify owners and return vacant stock to productive use continues. In this regard we have examined over 80 properties in the villages of Broadford, Sixmilebridge, Tuamgreaney and Tulla. At this juncture we are pursuing 22 which we have determined as vacant, with negotiations on-going to purchase 2. It is intended to bring a full report to Council in due course to report on progress and output.

### Approved Housing Bodies

The Council held a very successful forum with Approved Housing Bodies during the month. We have 27 such bodies operating in the County, some are national Tier 3 bodies such as Respond!, Co-operative Housing Ireland, Cluid, and Tuath whilst others are more specialised

and locally based. The AHB's in Clare are managing in excess of 650 units of accommodation in the County and this figure is increasing year on year. It is intended to hold quarterly meetings with those bodies to streamline functions and report on activity to achieve delivery targets and outputs. In addition there will be a management and maintenance support network established to support the smaller specialised AHB's. This collaboration will enhance opportunities to deliver and to provide support and a forum in which we can all learn.



### 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 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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	4	4	8	1
Westbrooke	2	16	3	1
EA Families	16	21	32	3
EA Individuals	0	17	0	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>

	Presentations	Entry	Exit
February	12*	1	2

\*Presentations to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

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 approved by DHPLG. Tender process nearing completion.	Q2 2020	Q4 2021
Milltown Malbay	27	Awaiting stage 3 approval from DHPLG.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Tulla	25	Part VIII - March 2020. Stage 2 approved by DHPLG.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Newmarket on Fergus	18	Part VIII - March 2020. Awaiting Stage 2 approval from DHPLG.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
Scarriff	18	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG Design Team Appointed.	Q3 2020	Q4 2021
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	Single Stage approved. Part VIII approved. Design Team appointed.	Q2 2020	Q1 2021
Ballaghboy TAU	5	Design Stage	Q2 2020	Q4 2021
<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	Sept 2019	Q4 2020
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, CHI to commence procurement of design team.	Q3 2019	Q4 2021
Gleann Cora, Newmarket on Fergus (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	31	CALF Acquisition 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>			

## Sports and Recreation



An announcement was made this week in relation to the Measure 2 ORIS applications and €52,800 has been granted for the resurfacing of walkways and paths in Lees Road. We applied on the basis of a total project cost of €66k, so there is a match funding requirement of €13,200.

The project ensures quality green infrastructure for urban residents and provides a quality space for people to safely engage in recreational activities in the centre of Ennis.

Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park has extensive woodland trails, improving the surface will provide for improved access to the facility for those with mobility issues.

# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## Sports and Recreation

### ACTIVE ENNIS LEISURE COMPLEX

#### Pool

Upcoming events

The 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.

Registration is open for a new Morning Adult Swim Lessons.

#### Gym



**Launch of new Barre Ennis fitness class**— is a beautiful intense blend of ballet inspired moves, yoga, pilates and conditioning. It is incredible for posture, balance, core strength and muscle tone. You shake, twitch and burn all over, you will sweat but there is no pounding on the joints

### Teen Physical Activity Programme – Mental Health Initiative

Date	Time	Class & Delivered By:	No.
Week 1: Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January	4.30-6.00pm	CLSP games - James Murnihy	12
Week 2: Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	4.30-6.00pm	Intro to Taekwon-Do - Master Tim Forde	12
Week 3: Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	-	CrossFit Ennis	12
Week 4: Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	4.30-6.00pm	Yoga Class - Antoinette	12
Week 5: Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	4.30-6.00pm	Sumba Dance Class - Kasia	12
Week 6: Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	4.30-6.00pm	Circuits - John Carey	12
Week 7: Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	4.10-6.00pm	Intro to Gym environment - Dermot Ryan	12
Week 8: Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	-	Couch to 5K - Active Ennis TSP	12

### Clare Local Sport Partnership Activities February

**CLARE SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

## February 2020

February 2020 will be another busy month in Clare Sports Partnership. Here is a snap shot of some of the programmes on offer

**Monthly Walks Series — Sunday February 23rd — 9km Carron Loop**

Operation Get Clare Active Organised Walks Continue

- Kilrush—Active Kilrush Walking Track—Mondays @ 7pm
- Shannon—Shannon Leisure Centre—Mondays @ 6:30pm
- Lisdoonvarna—The Pavilion—Tuesdays @ 7pm
- Doora Barefield—St. Josephs GAA Gurteen—Wednesdays @ 8pm
- Lahinch—Promenade Car Park—Thursdays @ 7pm
- Killaloe—Clariford Park—Saturdays @ 10.30am

**Training & Club Development**  
Sports Literacy—Ennis  
Refereeing 1—Shannon  
Refereeing 2—Ennis

**Active Schools**  
Active Homework  
Youth Sports Leader  
Active Play Everyday  
TY Wheelchair Basketball

**Active Adults 50yr+ Group Exercise Classes**  
Spring League - Kilrush/ Killaloe

**Active Inclusion**  
Clare Disability Services Boccia

**Active Communities**  
Youth Teen Challenge—County wide  
5 A Side Social Soccer—Kilrush  
Healthy Libraries Initiative—Kilrush  
Teens on the Move—Ennis  
Swim for a Mile—Ennis/ Killaloe/ Shannon

Registrations now open for:  
safeTalk—Killaloe (March 4th)  
Free Multi Activity Summer Camp (July)

**#activeclare**  
www.claresports.ie

## Cultural Services - Library, Arts, Museum

### Clare County Library

Clare County Library recently took delivery of the repository of school records for two Loop Head national schools which closed their doors in late 2019. Having been catalogued in the Local Studies Centre these two repositories, including roll books and daily attendance books as well as other school documentation for Querrin National School (with records commencing in 1870) and Cross National School (records commencing in 1864), will now be deposited for posterity in the County Archives. These precious education records chronicle generations of school pupils in west Clare.

The Decade of Centenaries Project Awards were granted in Feb 2020. There are a number of commemorative events taking

place over the course of the year planned by local historical and commemorative groups. Fifteen awards were granted and recipients included the Mid Clare Brigade Commemorative Committee, the East Clare Memorial Committee, Old Ennistymon Society, the Feakle Ambush Commemorative Committee, Whitegate Community Council, Oidhreacht an Chláir, Connolly Community Development, Lissycasey Community Historical Committee, Inis Cathaigh Kilrush CCE, Ruan/Dysart History Group, Dúchas na Sionna and Killaloe Ballina Local History Society. Funding was provided by the Community Strand of the Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's Commemorations Unit.

The Creative Ireland Project Awards were granted in February 2020. The Creative Ireland Programme is a national culture-

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

based programme and Clare County Council is focussed on Pillar 2 of the programme 'Enabling Creativity in Every Community'. Nineteen projects were awarded funding including Cumann Clanna Mileadh for Ennis European Culture Week, Killaloe Chamber Music Festival, Association of Nigerians in Clare for Nigerian Culture Week, Mid West Irish Sign Language Hub for the 'Hands in Harmony' choir project, Ennistymon Choral Society, Record Break Café for an Arts/Poetry exposition, Clare Mental Health for a Garden Project, Deirdre Murray for a 'Sense of Place' project with those living in Direct Provision and Ennistymon CBS for their Arts Week initiative. Creative Ireland Clare is co-ordinated by Helen Walsh, County Librarian and includes a project programme overseen by the Council Culture Team.

Participants of the Shannon Library Creative Writing Class from autumn and winter 2019 read a selection of their work on Tuesday February 18th in the library.



Nine Clare libraries participated in the first national Library Open day on 29th February. This was a culmination of a national marketing campaign to encourage those who don't use the library to visit and take a closer look at the many free services available to them. Staff from De Valera Library hosted an



information session in Clare County Council on 25th February. All libraries had information sessions on e resources including borrow box and e magazines and many had other events including story time, local history talks and music.

There were 11 Healthy Ireland events in Clare libraries in February including chair yoga, mindfulness, tai chi, nutrition and active storytime for children. Connections: Stories by Syrian Families in County Clare was launched in Ennistymon Library on Tuesday 25th of February. This work is the result of a seven week project shared between Syrian children from Ennistymon National School and their parents and siblings and demonstrates the power of storytelling and writing in linking two very diverse cultures. Connections is a compilation of written and illustrated stories in which the authors, children and adults, recall real places and experiences and imagine a bright future in Ireland

and in particular in County Clare.

This library initiative is part of the Right to Read programme and provided space for each parent and child to connect and have fun together as a group as well as improving the participants' oral literacy and written English. The Clare FM book club read *Minor Monuments* by Ian Maleney this month. There were also book clubs, film clubs, children's book clubs and computer classes in many Clare libraries in February.

### Clare Arts Office

The Arts Office was delighted to receive two awards at the LAMA awards – silver in the arts category and bronze in the disability inclusion category for *The Vision Symphony*. A new art commission was announced for the Cuan an Chláir Housing Scheme in Ennis. Three exhibitions took place county wide - Darragh O'Brien (*Brothers of Charity*) in the County Museum, Alison Quaid in Scariff and Nara Coates in Kilkee. The first Film Meet Up in conjunction with *Film Limerick* was held in glór, with BAFTA winning director John McClean as guest speaker. Filming of "Smother" began in Lahinch and assistance is being provided to two independent film makers filming in Kilkee and Lough Bunny and to Troy Studios, with filming in the Burren.

Funding was received from the Arts Council for a collaborative arts project with local authorities in Limerick, Tipperary and Cavan for a series of artist residencies around the river Shannon. Artist residencies began in Scoil Chríost Rí, Ennis and Newmarket on Fergus NS. Arts and Disability residencies began in Ennis Day Care Centre and with *Brothers of Charity* groups in Cois na hÁbhna and Fergus Park. Residencies were completed in Kildysart NS and Clooney NS with artist Carmel Madigan.

### Clare Museum

Fifteen people attended the monthly public talk on towerhouses in County Clare. Speakers are confirmed for the public talks up until September. The museum had visits from two schools in February.

The adlib database will be ready for use once a final datalift has been completed. Cataloguing can then begin again. The Accession Registers of objects for 2017, 2018, and 2019 printed from the new database are currently being proof read prior to binding as required under the Museum Standards Programme.

Members of the Ennis Probus Group were given a tour of the museum in two groups during the month. Preparations for a new Strategic Plan for the museum is taking place, and consultation meetings has been arranged with the LCETB and the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Meetings with other stakeholders will be arranged before the end of the month. The curator attended the Irish Museum's Association Conference in Athlone and the Local Authority Museums Network meeting in Dublin.

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Economic Development

Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Plan: During February the Flood Risk Assessment Consultants – Netherlands based HKV Consultants were in Ennis on the 26th and 27th of February for cross directorate meetings and site visits around Ennis and the Environs area. This was a very timely site visit given the extent of surface water in the town area. An SEA scoping request issued from the Planning Authority to prescribed environmental bodies on 13th February and the closing date for submissions on this is 5th March. It is anticipated that once the flood risk assessment and SEA/AA are completed that the plan will move to be finalised.

Spatial and Economic Masterplan for Shannon Town Centre: In February, following approval from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), and Integrated Design Team (IDT) Economic Consultants were appointed for the preparation of a Spatial Masterplan for a 30ha area comprising of the area defined as town centre in the Shannon Town and Environs Local Area Plan.

The purpose of the Masterplan is to focus and agree an economic future and spatial pattern for Shannon Town Centre. It is intended that the Masterplan will unlock the development potential of Shannon Town Centre and guide and stimulate the development of Shannon Town Centre into the future. The master planning will look at growth potential, use of derelict and vacant sites within the town centre, development potential of key sites at the entrance points from the road network and will seek to create a vibrant place for people to meet, recreate and connect with their area. Critically the plan will also be based on an Economic Viability Assessment.

The project is being managed by the Senior Planner and the Planning Department and it is anticipated that the Masterplan will take just under 12 months to complete.

## Forward Planning

Killaloe - Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan: In February consultants on behalf of Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council were appointed to prepare a Killaloe - Ballina Town Enhancement, Tourism & Mobility Plan.

The Killaloe - Ballina Town Enhancement, Tourism & Mobility Plan is a joint initiative and funded by both Local Authorities to facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe and Ballina which will reflect their linked status, providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements. This will be identified through specific measures,

designs and schemes which will promote their complementarity, and create an overall perception of them being as one town in terms of their functionality and aesthetics. The Plan will focus on the time period post Killaloe bypass and bridge crossing, however elements will be to be implemented prior to then.

The enhancement plan of Killaloe and Ballina will respect the distinctive historic character of both heritage towns and be cognisant of the designation of the town centre of Killaloe as an Architectural Conservation Area, whilst also capturing the individuality of each town. This will build on their existing strengths in order to further develop and support a strong economic base, a comprehensive range of local services, recreation and retail offer and for future growth of the resident population and tourism.

Tourism initiative, mobility and urban design improvements will be identified, including phasing options for implementation, and will inform future planning applications and national and regional funding applications for the delivery of proposals.

The focussed and targeted 9-month plan is being project managed by the Senior Planner in conjunction with the Killaloe Municipal District and Tipperary County Council.

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.

## Development Management

- 94 planning applications were received during the month of February, bringing the total number received to date for 2020 to 147.
- 27 pre-planning applications were received during the month of February, bringing the total number received to date for 2020 to 52.

## Planning Enforcement

- During the month of February there were 11 new complaints received, 8 warning letters issued and 3 files were closed.

## Taking in Charge

Remedial works to a number of developments were significantly advanced during February, as set out in the following table:

<b>Estates</b>	<b>Update</b>
Brookfields & Oakfields, Shannon	Remedial works have been substantially completed.
Inchicronan, Crusheen	A contractor was appointed on the 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020. Works will commence in early March 2020.
Tir an Fhia –Teeronea, Kilkishen	Remedial works are continuing on this development.
Craglands/Crag Ard, Ballynacally	The closing date for receipt of tenders was 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020. A contractor will be appointed in the coming days.
Woodmount, Ennistymon	A contractor was appointed on 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 and works are due to commence on 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020.
Mount Clare, Claremount, Clarecastle	Tender documents issued on the 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2020. Closing date for receipt of tender pricing documents was Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.
Boheraroan, Newmarket on Fergus	Tender documents issued on the 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020. Closing date for receipt of tender pricing documents is Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2020.

There are currently 16 developments under construction throughout the county which are being monitored on a regular basis.

## Conservation, Archaeology and Built Heritage

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020 (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2020: The 2020 deadline for applications to be returned to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) was 14th February and 8 projects were recommended for funding by the Council, valued at €60,000. In addition 4 applications were forwarded to the Department under the Historic Structures Fund (HSF) conservation grant. It is anticipated that in the coming weeks an announcement will be made on successful applications.

## Heritage and Biodiversity

Reading your local Landscape: The Reading the Landscape Training course is finalised in East Clare and the showcase night was held on the 18th of February in Killaloe with a full house of 80 attending at the Lakeside Hotel. This unique heritage course includes an introduction to the geology, biodiversity, archaeology, architecture and settlement of Killaloe and district and is an outcome of a heritage collaboration between Clare County Council, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Creative Ireland and The National Museum of Ireland. Showcased on the night were 15 truly diverse and interesting projects, developed and presented by the East Clare learners. Certificates were presented by Cllr Pat Burke.

Two further Reading Your Local Landscape training programmes along with other associated initiatives are underway in the Burren and Kilkishen in 2020 and both courses are oversubscribed.

Invites you to join us for a

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 Shannon, Neemakeen-Peague, O'Callaghans Mills, Clarecastle, Quin, Swinmillbridge, Kilkishen, Cratloe and Tufta.

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 25th to June 2020

For enquiries or to book a place, contact Margaret on 087 689 700 or email: margaret.lynch@clt.ie

Early booking advisable | Course limited to 12 places | Interviews may be required

THIS PROMOTION IS SUPPORTED BY LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD AND CO-FUNDED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AS PART OF THE EEF PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYABILITY, INCLUSION AND LEARNING 2014 - 2020

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN): Work is underway with the course participants (from Miltown, Kilrush, Scarriff and Killaloe) to prepare their course material for the web and to avail of a space on the Clare County Council community heritage website, to make available their final Reading Your Local Landscape projects on the iCAN portal. Clare iCAN is a collaborative partnership with support from the National Museum of Ireland and the launch of this website is planned for the 24th of March in Clarecastle.

National Heritage Week Awards 2019: Ennis Friary was awarded the National Heritage Week Awards 2019 for the 'Cool for Kids Awards' for the 'Maths trail/tour of Ennis Friary' at Ennis Friary at their ceremony at the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, on 6th February. The family tour explored Ennis Friary through the medium of mathematics and comprised a trail to cater for children studying maths from fourth class to second year. It was developed to broaden the Friary's appeal beyond being a heritage site, and to explore the use of maths taught in school today, alongside learning about the life and times of the medieval kings, stonemasons and friars associated with the site. The winners were announced at the National Heritage Awards.



Left to Right: Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive, The Heritage Council, Niall O'Donnachu, Assistant Secretary, Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Carmel Shaw, Head Guide, OPW Ennis Friary, Michael Parsons, Chairman, The Heritage Council and Anne Cassin, RTE

Invites you to join us for a

Unique FREE 20 week Heritage course in North Clare

## READING YOUR LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Introductory workshop at The Burren Outdoor Education and Training Centre, Turloughmore, Bell Harbour, County Clare

on Thursday 13th February 2020, from 10.30 to 12pm

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 the towns and villages of North Clare.

FULL COURSE DETAILS	
VENUE:	Burren Outdoor Education and Training Centre, Turloughmore, Bell Harbour, County Clare
TIME:	10am to 3pm
	Course commences with the workshop on Thursday Feb 13th and will then run each Tuesday from Feb 25th to June 2020

For enquiries or to book a place, contact Pauline on 086 031 9160 or email: pauline.murphy@clt.ie

Early booking advisable | Course limited to 12 places | Interviews may be required

THIS PROMOTION IS SUPPORTED BY LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD AND CO-FUNDED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AS PART OF THE EEF PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYABILITY, INCLUSION AND LEARNING 2014 - 2020

## PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

All Ireland Pollinator Plan: At a ceremony in Clare County Council on 3rd February, Chief Executive Pat Dowling and Cathaoirleach Cllr. Cathal Crowe signed a framework agreement with the National Biodiversity Data Centre to undertake actions to support pollinators in County Clare. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is a cross-sector initiative, led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre with local authorities, farmers, businesses, schools and local communities to support pollinators such as bees.

In becoming an All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Partner, Clare County Council agrees:

- To support the ethos of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and will consider the Plan in their policies, plans, and management decisions where possible.
- To consider the evidence-based actions in the Council's guideline documents: Actions to help pollinators, and to carry out one pollinator-friendly action in the first year of signing up and plan to carry out at least three more within the following five years. The guideline document lists 30 possible actions.
- To update the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan Team (within the National Biodiversity Data Centre) on the positive pollinator actions the local authority have planned, implemented or maintained at the end of each year, when contacted, to help us promote their work.

Cathal Crowe Cathaoirleach said that "It is important that Clare County Council supports local and national efforts to halt the decline of pollinators. Organisations, tidy town groups and individuals throughout County Clare are doing amazing work in actively managing sites to create bee friendly spaces through pollinator friendly planting".

Dr Úna FitzPatrick, All-Ireland Pollinator Plan founder and Project Coordinator, said "This is a very important step. We have witnessed so much positive action by individuals and local communities around the country, and so many Councils have made changes to the way they manage their parks and public lands – to make them more pollinator-friendly. We are thrilled that Clare County Council has become a partner to the plan and agreed to take actions to help protect our biodiversity".



### Local Enterprise Office

Training Programmes: LEO Clare held six training programmes and workshops in the month of February which were attended by over 70 participants. Programmes included a Women in Business Networking Event, Customs and Export Procedures

and Advanced Facebook Training.

Local Enterprise Week: LEO Clare conducted the official launch of Local Enterprise Week with Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Clare. Local Enterprise Week takes place from March 2nd – 6th and will include seventeen events across the county. Events include 'Start your own Business Programme', Website Grant Information Evening (Ennistymon), Business Advice Clinic (Killaloe) and the launch of our 2020 LEAN Programme. We are collaborating with Ennis Chamber, Shannon Chamber, Clare Local Development Company and Intreo for a number of events making sure the week is opened to the maximum amount of participants.

The week will also include the finals of our Student Enterprise Awards which takes place in Treacy's West County Hotel. The week will then conclude with a Gala Event of the County Final for the National Enterprise Awards on Friday evening. The winner of this event will represent Clare in May at the National Finals in Dublin.



Molex/Roche: LEO Clare attended a recent workshop in Molex, Shannon, which showcased various funding and training opportunities that are available to assist with up skilling of employees of the company. In addition we concluded our 6th training programme with Roche employees aimed at equipping them with the skills to develop their own enterprises.

Shannon College of Hotel Management: LEO Clare continued to help develop education of entrepreneurship and provide advice of funding and training opportunities to fourth year students in the Shannon College of Hotel Management.

### Property Management

LIT - Ennis Campus: Clare County Council's work in acquiring and refurbishing the building on Bindon Street as Ennis's first permanent third level campus for Limerick Institute of Technology has been recognised at a national level by winning the award by the Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA) for the 'Best Educational Building'. President of LIT Professor Vincent Cunnane congratulated Clare County Council on having its work in the community so well recognised at these prestigious awards and that the new LIT, Ennis Campus, is a testament of what can be achieved through a strong working partnership between public bodies and organisations.



**Atlantic Economic Corridor:** The Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) is an initiative aimed at identifying and connecting the economic hubs, clusters and catchments along the western seaboard, to attract investment, support job creation and improve the quality of life in the AEC. The Council's AEC Officer has completed an audit of vacant enterprise space for Ennis and Shannon. This audit work will now continue in Newmarket on Fergus, Kilrush and Sixmilebridge. The information is useful for the Economic Development Directorate in assisting new businesses and in finding property solutions that may suit them.

**Casual Trading:** During February, 2020, the Economic Development Department continued the Council's policy of regulating casual trading under the Casual Trading Act 1995 and our bye-laws there under. We issued 5 casual trading licences as follows - 3 for the Kilrush Horse Fair and 2 for Killaloe Farmers Market.

**Licences and Leases:** The Property Management Unit signed 4 licence agreements and 3 lease agreements for the use of council owned property during the month of February, 2020, some of which were renewals of previous agreements.

**Quin Road Campus:** Construction work is progressing well on the refurbishment and re-purposing of a building in the Quin Road Business Park in Ennis, which will be the new location for the Clare Civil Defence Headquarters. The Contractors have made considerable progress and Phase 1 of the project is due for completion at the end of March 2020. This is a partnership between Clare County Council and Department of Defence and will strengthen the capacity of Clare Civil Defence to build on their brilliant service to the people of Clare during all events.

**The Market House, Scarriff:** Scarriff Market House is situated in the centre of Scarriff and is in the ownership of Clare County Council. The Property Management Unit has recently finalised a long term lease agreement to Scarriff Community Council, whose role is quite diverse in the area. This new lease arrangement gives them security to tenure and allows them to continue to run community services including tourist information services for East Clare. The photos show the refurbishment work completed on this protected structure which has transformed it into an attractive hub for community services for Scarriff.



## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

### Clare Green Festival Initiative

Clare Green Festival Initiative received silver at the Local Authority Management Agency (LAMA) awards. Also the EPA Local Authority Prevention Network has approved funding support of €15,000 to develop a Clare Green Festival kit. The purpose of this kit is to reduce single use items associated with festival/event catering.

### National Tree Week

National Tree Week will take place this year from the 21st to 27th March. To celebrate this week, in conjunction with the Tree Council of Ireland and Coillte, young native trees are being made available to community groups for free to be planted in public open spaces.

### Good dog owner responsibility campaign

A comprehensive print and social media campaign commenced this month on promoting good owner responsibility. This campaign is being delivered and complimented with an increased presence by the Enforcement Team on the ground at problem areas across the county.



### The Clare Echo Green Page

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

- Good Dog Owner Responsibility
- Climate Action Workshop for Clare Communities
- My Waste My Impact App
- National Tree Week
- Smoky Coal

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

The 2020 RMCEI plan was submitted to the EPA this month. This sets out our plan for the year ahead and has indicated a total of 5,557 routine inspections will be carried out. We also invest an ever increasing amount of time investigating non-routine and complaint inspections.

## LABORATORY & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### River Monitoring Programme 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 sampling run has been well established and February monitoring completed on time.

### 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 (GWS) 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. In February, we detected Aluminium exceedances in the Kilmaley Inagh GWS drinking water supply and the Council has issued a "Do not drink" notice to the Private Group Water Scheme. We will continue to monitor the supply.

### 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

### Water Pollution Complaints

A total of 14 complaints have been received in February and all of these have been investigated. So far, 75% of complaints have been closed out at this stage. 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)

Of the 39 annual inspections required, the Council have notified the first tranche of 6 by way of information letter that the inspections are to commence.

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## Planning referrals from Planning Department

Compliance with the EPA Code of Practice for Single Houses 2009 is achieved through inter department referrals of Planning reports. In February, we reported on 18 files and provided comments and recommended relevant conditions in an effort to protect receiving waters.

## Lake Sampling Programme 2020

The Environment section has met with TMS Environmental and a work programme has been agreed for completion. Desktop surveys will be completed in February and this will lead to site sampling as per programme.

## Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution (SEA-PT) Training

Staff attended an International Maritime Organisation course on marine pollution preparedness and response. We also attended the Event Coordinator training days organised by SEA-PT.

## Gardening

During February, the Gardening Team commenced the planting and preparation of flower beds with spring bedding plants at various locations.

The team are also preparing for our planting to have an increased emphasis on biodiversity and Pollinator friendly plant species to be incorporated into the spring and summer planting programmes.

Arising from storm damage during February, the Gardening Section was kept busy assisting in clean up works and the completion of winter pruning of mature trees.

Maintenance of hanging baskets continues at the Gardening Depot, with baskets to be placed in early March.

## Waste

### Bring Banks

To date 6 fines have been issued for illegal dumping at the Bring Bank Site at Tesco Ennis, 4 no. fines have been paid to date. Another 8 fines are now due to issue for illegal dumping.

## Inagh Central Waste Management Facility

Significant volumes of leachate have been tankered off site during this month due to the increased volume of rainfall that has fallen. There has been a 75% increase in the leachate taken off site compared to the same period last year.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

### Dog Fouling

In February there has been an increased presence of Environmental Enforcement Officers on the ground patrolling known areas where Dog Fouling is a problem.

The Waste Enforcement Team has been out and about meeting dog owners and community groups in Ennis, Lahinch, Scarriff, Crusheen, Feakle, Shannon, and Sixmilebridge promoting the message of responsible dog ownership. Elected members got involved in the campaign in the Shannon Municipal District. The Waste Enforcement team have designed a stencil to be used on footpaths to highlight Dog Fouling in problem areas. It is hoped that this stencil will help reduce incidents of Dog Fouling in blackspots throughout the county.

Clare County Councils "Greener Clare" programme continues to support communities in rolling out the Green Dog Walker (GDW)

initiative in their own locality. The GDW initiative encourages dog owners to clean up after their animals and is a non-confrontational, friendly way to change dog owner behaviour in relation to dog litter. People can pledge to be a Green Dog Walker and receive a free pack containing a complimentary GDW high-vis vest, poop scoop bags and an information leaflet.



### Gum Litter

Our Environmental Patrol Warden in the Ennis area supported the Gum Litter Art Competition sponsored by Ennis Tidy Towns and co-ordinated by St Flannan's College. In addition to this initiative, Ennis Tidy Towns and our Environmental Patrol warden continue to have a presence at teenage discos in the Queens Nightclub raising awareness of proper disposal of gum litter. Gumdrop bins are used to collect gum litter for recycling.

### Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to respond to waste and litter related complaints with a total of 180 complaints received in February, of these complaints 90 have been closed already.

The scheduled inspection and monitoring of authorised waste facilities within the county continued as planned during February.

The Waste Enforcement Team continues to investigate ongoing illegal dumping in various locations throughout the county and to put measures in place to combat this. Two Section 9 Notices were issued to householders, directing them to take specified measures to remove and prevent the creation of litter.

A total of 33 litter fines were issued in February, of which 6 have been paid. The remaining litter fines are still within the allotted timeframe for payment and we will continue to monitor this to ensure compliance.

## Limerick Clare Energy Agency

CCC was awarded the ISO 50001 Certificate of Registration of Energy Management System in February 2020. We have implemented an energy management system aimed at continually improving our energy performance.



## **ROADWORKS PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONS**

The Roadworks Programme for 2020 is presently being prepared as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works (SMDW) for 2020 and input has been sought from the elected Members as part of the preparation of same. The SMDW will be considered by each of the Municipal Districts at their meetings in March.  
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. A Presentation took place on LSMATS at the Physical Development SPC on 19th February. It was also agreed that SPC and Elected members would be invited to a workshop of the SPC with the NTA. The Public Consultation process is due to commence in March.

### 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

## Emergency Flood Response

The Emergency flood plan has been activated in parts of Clare. In Ennis preparations are in place to mitigate against the risk of flooding. Localised flood issues are being dealt with.

A significant flood event has occurred in Springfield, Clonlara. Council area staff are assisting 17 households. Temporary flood defences have been put in place around 10 houses, 7 houses have had their road access cut off. Two families have vacated and the remaining five are being provided with transport from the Civil Defence to access their properties. The army are providing support at night time. The ESB release of water over the Parteen Weir has reached a high of 400 cubic meters per second.

Clare County Council have several crews on site assisting the local people during this flood event.

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## 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.
TII HD 17 Sites	N67 Drainage works complete. N67 Public Lighting upgrade costs have been forwarded to TII Engineer for review. Survey, Design , Costings and Feasibility reports required for all sites. N67 Galway border to Ballyvaughan – topographical surveys substantially complete, design ongoing, feasibility report in preparation. N67 Minister's Place, Kilkee – initial site visit complete. N68 Monvana Junction Kilrush - initial site visit complete. N68 Ennis To Kilrush - initial site assessments are complete. Priority list being prepared.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

N85 Shanaway Rd Junction, Ennis	Manual traffic turning count is complete. 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.
<b><u>Low Cost Safety Schemes 2019 - Progress</u></b>	
R478 St Brigid's Well	Completed.
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
<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
<b>Development – Planning Apps</b>	
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. CCC reviewed the Baseline Conditions and Policy Context Report and Demand Analysis Report and reverted to the NTA. CCC input to Advance Consultation submitted to NTA. Public Consultation Process due to commence in March.
Larkins Cross/Gilloogue 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

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Completion stage and has been handed over. Phase 2 that includes the Civil Defence's garage, volunteer's welfare facilities and Clare Co. Council's Records Management Centre is now under construction.

### 2020 Bridge Rehabilitation – Progress

AA Screening tender issued for 2020 grant funded bridges - due back on 5th February

New Bridge - To be completed when water levels allow

Sixmilebridge Bridge - Tenders received and being assessed

Bunratty Bridge (Low Road) - Tenders received and being assessed

Carrownisha Bridge - Tenders received and being assessed

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

Poolnagone Bridge - Inspection complete

### Cappagh Pier Marine Navigation Light

A Survey of Cappagh Pier has been carried out to provide for the installation of a Marine Navigation Light on the pier wall.



## GENERAL DESIGN OFFICE

### Quin Road Campus

Phase 1 of the project, which accommodates the Training and Civil Defence administration offices, is now at Practical

## WATER SERVICES

### Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Department of Clare County 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.

### Water Conservation

In February, 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 Sandfield and the Gort Road (Ennis District Metering Areas). Leaks were repaired in Clonlara, Kilmaley Road Ennis and Killaloe. District Metering Area establishment works have commenced in West Clare (Doonbeg, Kilmihil, Mullagh Miltown).

### Asset Transfer Project

375 water & waste water assets, in Co Clare, 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 179 have been surveyed and assessed for transfer. CE orders have been prepared and issued to IW to be included within ministerial orders. To date 179 assets have transferred to IW.

The remaining 146 assets are broken down as follows:

- Pending - 18 assets are being prepared for transfer to Irish Water in the coming months – these consist of straight assets some of which will have to be subdivided by map/plan. Once a consensus has been reached with both IW and Clare County Council on the asset 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 - 6 assets are 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 – 3 assets have gone to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- 3rd Party/Unregistered assets – Of the 146 assets 119 have been identified as 3rd Party Registered lands (102) and Unregistered Lands (17).

Surveys have been done on 3rd party assets in the Ennis MD. 6 have been identified as underground assets under S.I. 13. The remaining are either RHO owned or overground assets. Background investigations are taking place on these assets.

A sample report has been sent to Irish Water's Legal Team for review on an asset located on unregistered land and their response will inform how the remaining unregistered assets are dealt with.

## 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 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 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 and planning has been granted by Clare County Council in February 2020. 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 Pleanala. 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 95% completed.

### **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:**

This project has commenced on site.

### **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 31st January 2020 up to and including 26th February 2020. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint /issue.

- 16 Customer Complaints were dealt with to-date
- 3 Emergency Work Orders during the timeframe
- 232 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 4 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received
- 110 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 29 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period

The only issue of note relating to water during the month related to a plant outage in the Mountpellier/O'Briensbridge WSZ which was related to the increased water levels in the area following high rainfall. A number of customers were without water for periods during the interruption which lasted approximately 3 days and an alternative water supply was put

in place by means of IBC's in Bridgetown and Broadford which were serviced as required.

With the recent prolonged heavy rainfall the Waste Water section have been very busy managing flows at waste water pumping stations and in the network across the county. The waste water network is inundated with high volumes of flood water and this is impacting the network and plants with localised surcharging which is being managed by over pumping where possible.

The recently upgraded storm pumps at Francis Street Ennis have greatly assisted in dealing with the high volumes experienced in the town of Ennis.

## **Rural Water Programme**

The Rural Water Programme is engaging with approved schemes under the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to commence and progress funded projects. The details of the impending new conditions associated with the 'Grant for the Provision of or Necessary Improvement of an Individual Supply Water Supply to a House' are still awaited. Feenagh GWS and Dough GWS (Lahinch GWS) are set to go to tender on proposed works in late February / early March.

The temporary suspension enacted by Irish Water in Sept'19 on the Taking in Charge of Group Water and Sewerage Schemes remains in place. Clare County Council currently has 8no. Schemes submitted to Irish Water for taking in charge and await the renewal of taking in charge of schemes for formal approval and transfer to the public water network. The Rural Water Team is currently working with a number of Group Water Schemes with a view to progressing the taking in charge of acceptable schemes.

The Rural Water Team continues to assess and process Grant Applications under the 'Grant for the Provision of or Necessary Improvement of an Individual Supply Water Supply to a House'. 6no applications have been received to date in 2020.

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. Due to the extremely unfavourable weather works have been suspended in the short term.



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during February;

- Community First Responder (CFR) for all personnel in Shannon, Scarriff, Kilrush & Kilkee Fire Brigades
- Emergency First Responder (EFR) for all personnel in Shannon, Scarriff, Kilrush & Kilkee Fire Brigades
- Breathing Apparatus Refresher Course in Clonmel
- Manual Handling Instructors Course

### Fire Safety Talks

Fire Officers delivered Fire Safety Talks at the Burren Centre, Kilfenora and to members of Ennis Active Retirement. Topics covered included: Fire hazards in the home, escape route planning, fitting and maintaining smoke alarms and use of carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarm testers were given out to all attendees.

### Keep Safe Event

Members of Ennis Fire Brigade and Senior Fire Officers participated in a Keep Safe Event for 5th and 6th class primary school pupils held at Cois na hAbhna, Ennis. The event was in partnership with Junior Achievement Ireland. Other participating agencies included Bus Eireann, An Garda Siochana, Irish Coast Guard & ESB. The event promoted safety awareness through a series of talks and demonstrations.

### Ennis Fire Station Redevelopment Works

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service received notification of capital grant aid approval of €1.23 million from the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management for the construction of a new maintenance facility and spare appliance storage building at Ennis Fire Station. The current facility was built in 1979 and is no longer fit for purpose due to a significant expansion of the fire service fleet and equipment that is being maintained. The new facility will include a two bay maintenance facility equipped with pits, lifts and all ancillary equipment

required to maintain a modern fire service.

### Council's Response to Flooding in Springfield, Clonlara.

As part of the overall Council response to the flooding in Springfield, Clonlara the Fire Service and Civil Defence have been providing assistance to the local residents. Civil Defence Volunteers are providing assistance to residents in the area and are providing scheduled transportation to/from homes isolated by the flood waters each morning and evening with the use of a Unimog Vehicle.

Fire Service Personnel provided overnight assistance to residents by fuelling and managing pumping operations overnight on Monday 24th February using Drysuits and Inflatable Boat to travel between properties.

## 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
- Clare v Kildare football match in Cusack Park
- RTE's Big Build DIY series at a house renovation in Annacotty
- "Run Clare" race series in Ennis
- "Run the Banner" race series in Spanish Point
- Clare v Laois football match in Cusack Park

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members of the Drone Team assisted An Garda Siochana by providing aerial footage and stills of areas within the County.
- Members provided 4 x 4 transport for a district nurse to West Clare for housecalls due to severe weather.
- Civil Defence are currently providing transport facilities and medical cover for residents in Springfield, Clonlara which is currently experiencing severe flooding. Members are transporting residents to and from their homes to work, college, etc. They are also transporting food, fresh water, fuel, fodder for livestock into and out of the flooded areas. Transport is also provided to Clare County Council staff into and out of the area to inspect and operate pumps and deliver sand bags.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	January 2020	February 2020 (Up to 26.02.20)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	87	96	183
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	8	5	13
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	14	2	16
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	0
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	5	3	8
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	8	1	9
Number of Commencement Notices Received	26	34	60
Number of Dangerous Structures/ Places Complaints	5	3	8

(Note: In the February Monthly report, the January figures related to 1<sup>st</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> January due to timing of report)

### Members Training & Professional Development

- Clare Civil Defence was awarded the Gold Prize for Emergency Response Person / Team of the Year at the LAMA/IPB National Awards ceremony in Croke Park.
- Members of the Swift Water Rescue Team and Boat crew attended a joint training session on the River Fergus.
- The Search & Rescue Team and the Communications Team took part in a joint evening exercise.
- Various members successfully completed a Swiftwater and Flood First Responder (SFFR) course in Ennis.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE UPDATE

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

- CFRAMs: A letter of intent has been issued to the successful tenderer following the competition for the appointment of Consultant Engineers for the Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme and letters of regret have issued to the unsuccessful bidders. We are now in a standstill period for two weeks to allow for submissions from unsuccessful candidates if deemed necessary. Following the standstill period and subject to OPW approval, we will be in a position to appoint the successful Consultant and commence working on the scheme.

The third meeting of the Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme Steering group took place on February 18th 2020. The Consultants (JBA Consulting) reported on progress to date. There have been a number of site visits by various different professionals in hydrology, environment and other fields. A number of meetings have been held with individual stakeholders and property owners. A public information day is to be held shortly and Members will be advised accordingly. The Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme website is now live and can be accessed at [www.kilkeefrs.ie](http://www.kilkeefrs.ie)

- Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building – Landowner engagement continued throughout February 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 Contractor has now completed the Section through the roundabout at St Flannan’s College and is currently excavating along College View towards the College gates. The Traffic Management Plan remains in place and is working well for this difficult stage of the works. All Roads affected bar College View are now fully operational. The date for completion of the pipe work in this final section is scheduled for April 2020. In accordance with the conditions of the Environmental Impact Assessment, there aren’t any works along the embankment along the River Fergus from the Quin Road Bridge towards Clareabbey/N85 proposed at this time.
- Ennistymon Inner Relief Road & Bridge Crossing (Blakes Corner) – Following TII Approval to Publish the CPO (Compulsory Purchase Order), Clare County Council in conjunction with the TII and Mid West Regional Road Design Office are finalising the CPO documentation and will submit to An Bord Pleanála in due course. Ground Investigation Works were completed over a two week period and results of this will enable the Detailed Design to progress.
- Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass – The Project Steering Group led by Clare County Council and comprising of representatives from Tipperary County Council, RPS Consulting Engineers and the Department of Transport Inspector met last week. A number of technical and procurement issues are being

progressed with a view to having the detailed design completed in late April, after which we will be in a position to go to tender in late Summer 2020. Following receipt and evaluation of tenders, we would expect to award the contract in late 2020 subject to Department approval. The main construction period is expected to take 3 years thereafter; however, we will be identifying seasonal elements that may be carried out as part of an advance works contract in the coming year. Concurrently, work continues in respect of the necessary Land Acquisition Agreements involved.

- Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) – Having completed the preliminary design of the link road between the N85 Roundabout at Claugreen and the Lees Road/Drumcliff Road Intersection, we are now working on the supporting information required as part of the Part VIII Planning Application. This includes a Noise Survey which has now being procured and we would expect to submit the application in the coming weeks. We met with Department officials in Dublin in early February and are working on options and proposals for their information which would show how the housing element of the project could be delivered.
- Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR) (Phase 2) – The additional Traffic Counts sought by DTTaS and TII have been procured and commenced last week. The Project Team continue to work on the additional information sought by the Department in relation to the Appraisal phase and to this end, the Team met in Shannon on February 28th last to identify the next steps required. On the same day, a Steering Group meeting comprising of CCC, LCCC, TII and the NTA met to progress the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (L-SMATS), a draft of which is expected to be put on Public display in late March subject to NTA Board approval.
- N19 Shannon Airport Access Road – The Project Team of Clare County Council, Midwest Regional Road Design Office, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Shannon Airport Authority, Fehily Timoney & Associates and Clandillon Civil Consulting held their Progress Meetings during the month. Work continues in compiling the Options information required. 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.
- N85 Kilnamona Realignment Scheme – Clare County Council in conjunction with the TII are shortly to commence the Procurement Process for Appointment of Technical Consultants.
- 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 – A Category 2 Funding Application under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund was applied for in late February, which if successful, will allow Clare County Council to initiate the statutory consents phase of development, namely Planning Permission, Environmental Impact Assessment and detailed design. In addition, a high level Feasibility Study has been completed and presented to Management Team, this Report formed part of the RRDF submission. Initial Landowner Consultation is continuing between the section from Kilrush and Kilkee. Furthermore, an introductory meeting was held with the new Chair of the IFA, Mr Tom Lane towards the end of the month to advise him of our preliminary plans and our commitment to working with landowners in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration.
  - Asbestos Remediation Programme – Our specialist Consultants RPS have completed the Final Report following assessment and evaluation of the recent survey and sampling which was carried out across the affected sites in West Clare. Clare County Council are to review this Final Report and will 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.
- The updated position in regard to the various Coastal and Flood/ Storm damaged works is as follows

Project	Current Situation
Lough Donnell	An Environmental assessment necessary to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is in progress at present. A Part VIII application to carry out the necessary works will then be prepared.
Liscannor Bay	The revised Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management study containing the recommendations and clarifications requested by the Office of Public Works is now ready for submission. The revision was carried out following consultation with stakeholders.
Kilbaha	Work on the revised Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study is taking longer than expected. The additional work required by the OPW is substantial and is proving difficult to execute. It is intended to resubmit the amended Study to the OPW in April 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 OPWs 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:** Consultants for Clare County Council are amending the final report to address a number of issues that came to light during the review. Subject to approval from the Office of Public Works the scheme will proceed to the detailed design and planning stage.
- **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 is engaged with local stakeholders to acquire the lands to construct the scheme. The preferred option is now agreed with the property owners and it is intended to submit a planning application shortly.

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Two new pedestrian crossings have been completed and commissioned in Ballymacahill and on Carmody which will improve accessibility in both areas.



### **Footpath repairs, necessary road repairs and accessibility improvements**

Footpath repairs, necessary road repairs, and accessibility improvements have been completed in the vicinity of the bus station which will improve the pedestrian route between the station and the town centre.



### **Flood response**

The flood response in Ennis consisted of all crews delivering small sandbags to areas that needed them and checking on the flood defences, pumping stations and ensuring the storm water network was working adequately. The following are a small sample of the work carried out.

- Installation of 6 inch pump at Cusack Park Ennis
- Large sandbags deployed at Woodgrove, Cloghleigh as protection to the houses
- Large sandbags deployed at Woodgrove, Cloghleigh as protection to the houses
- Temporary pumping with mobile 4 inch pump, pumping out the backdrain at Aughanteeroe, Gort Road
- Large sandbags deployed at Shallee drive, Cloghleigh as protection to the houses by the river
- Large Generator being installed at Woodquay Pumping Station as backup in case power failed to the most important pumping station in the town
- Large sandbags being deployed at Bank of Ireland, Bank Place as protection to the Bank and car park area
- 6 inch pump deployed at Bank of Ireland, Bank Place as protection to the Bank and car park area



## Water Filling Station



As part of an initiative to reduce the number of single use plastics bottles in circulation in Ennis, a water filling station has been erected in Abbey Street Car Park on a six month pilot basis. The filling station, which is the first in County Clare, was supplied by Ennis Tidy Towns. Clare County Council supplied the site, water and installed the water filling station. A contract has been put in place by Clare County Council for cleaning of the station on a weekly basis.

## St Patricks Day Parade

There is a slight change to this year's route with the parade commencing at 11.00am from Clare County Council's Headquarters at Áras Contae an Chláir before proceeding via New Road, Newbridge Road, Club Bridge, Abbey Street, O'Connell Square, Bank Place, Bindon Street and finishing at Harmony Row. The Reviewing Area is to be relocated to Bank Place where the Mayor of Ennis MD, Elected Members of Ennis MD, The Grand Marshall, Management Team, TD's, Clergy and other dignitaries will be seated. The Elected Members were consulted and have agreed on the change of route.

