



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

# TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Samhain / November  
2022



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# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection

2022 to date – statistics to 31st October 2022

	2020	2021	2022 (to 31st Oct 2022)
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	100
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8
Appeals to Information Commissioner	1	4	2
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	10
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	24

### Communications

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

Media releases issued during October included:

- Minister O’Brien officially opens 153 new homes in County Clare
- Cathaoirleach welcomes CCIF funding for community centres
- Warning issued over illegal disposal of waste during Halloween period
- Clare businesses acknowledged as Age Friendly.

A Book of Condolence was opened for the victims of the Creeslough tragedy.

### Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In October, the Communications Office:



- Posted 44 times on Facebook, with total followers now 17,284



- Posted 49 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,864



- Instagram followers are now 2,639.  
(Statistics accurate as of 03/11/2022)

### Print and Graphic Design

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

### New York Clare Association

Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O’Brien, Pat Dowling, Chief Executive of Clare County Council, and Cllr Johnny Flynn travelled to New York City, US, during October, where they attended the 133rd Anniversary Dinner Dance of the New York Clare Association.

The event celebrates the Irish community’s contribution to life in New York and acknowledges the strong ties between the city and people who are from, or have connections to, County Clare.

At the event, Kilkishen native John Murnane was honoured as the Clareman of the Year. John is the founder and CEO of Erin Construction and, more recently, Olde Road Farm, a beef cattle farm, in Southold, NY.

Pictured (left to right) are: Maureen O’Neill Regan, President, New York Clare Association; Cllr Tony O’Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; John Murnane and Breda Murnane; Cllr Johnny Flynn; and Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

### New starters in October 2022

The following staff commenced employment with Clare County Council in October 2022:

Niamh Brennan	Rural Development	School Warden - CCC
Mary Moroney	Physical Development	School Warden Sporadic
Niamh Hickey	Social Development	Branch Librarian
Paul Maher	Social Development	Library Attendant
Sam Woods	Physical Development	General Operative
Denise Keane	Finance and Support Services	Clerical Officer

Work Area	Update		
<b>Recruitment</b>	<p><b>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during October:</b></p> <p><b>Eligibility Exercises &amp; Desktop Shortlisting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee Matching &amp; Relationship Manager</li> <li>• IS Technical Support Officer</li> <li>• Senior Staff Officer</li> </ul> <p><b>Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pool/Duty Manager Active Ennis Leisure Complex</li> <li>• Co-Operative Student Interviews (IT Department)</li> <li>• Professionally Qualified Social Worker</li> <li>• Co-Operative Student Interviews (Fire Station Department)</li> <li>• Co-Operative Student Interviews (LEO Department)</li> <li>• Co-Operative Student Interviews (Engineering post)</li> <li>• Co-Operative Student Interviews (Administrative posts in Finance, Rural Development, Housing)</li> <li>• Retained Part-Time Firefighters (Ennis &amp; Shannon)</li> </ul> <p><b>The following competitions were advertised:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy Vehicle Mechanic / Construction Plant Fitter Panel</li> <li>• Assistant Engineer Panel</li> <li>• Administrative Officer Panel</li> <li>• Executive Librarian Panel</li> <li>• Executive Technician (Initial Assignment to Active Travel) Panel</li> <li>• Lifeguard Instructor Active Ennis 2022</li> <li>• Retained Part-Time Firefighters (Kilkee, Kilrush, Shannon)</li> </ul>		
<b>Learning and Development</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in October include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-Day Line Manager Health &amp; Safety Talks</li> <li>• 2-Day First Aid Refresher</li> <li>• Abrasive Wheels</li> <li>• Basic Word &amp; IT Skills</li> <li>• CAT Scanner Refresher</li> <li>• Change Management</li> <li>• Grade 5 Staff Officer &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Managing Difficult Conversations</li> <li>• Manual Handling</li> <li>• Mid-Career Financial Planning</li> <li>• Operation &amp; Maintenance of Agricultural Equipment</li> <li>• Resilience</li> <li>• Ride on Roller Training</li> <li>• Site Dumper New Entrant</li> <li>• SLG Chapter 8 Update</li> <li>• Telescopic Handler New Entrant</li> <li>• Time Management</li> <li>• TTM Booklet Talks</li> <li>• Work Smarter Not Harder</li> <li>• Working in a Hybrid Environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Essential Skillz online Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Ergowize</li> <li>• GDPR</li> </ul> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Induction</li> <li>• Slips Trips &amp; Falls – rolled out to all staff as Refresher under Health &amp; Safety unit</li> <li>• Time Management</li> <li>• Working in a Covid Era</li> </ul> <p><b>Launch of new Metacompliance Platform with ICT support:</b> The Metacompliance platform is a Policy Management and Training solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first use of the platform commenced with training for Blended working and will be rolled out further over the coming months.</li> <li>• Blended Working Applications were received and processed between 5th &amp; 23rd September on MS Forms.</li> <li>• Mandatory Blended Working Training was live from 17th October to 28th October. This training is being carried out via links to Metacompliance Platform with short interactive videos &amp; quiz sections. Topics include Cyber Security, Data Protection &amp; Workstation Awareness.</li> <li>• Workstation Self-Assessment Declarations are to be made from 1st November to 11th November on MS Forms.</li> <li>• Remote Workstation Assessments are to be carried out from 17th to 25th November.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in October include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-Day Line Manager Health &amp; Safety Talks</li> <li>• 2-Day First Aid Refresher</li> <li>• Abrasive Wheels</li> <li>• Basic Word &amp; IT Skills</li> <li>• CAT Scanner Refresher</li> <li>• Change Management</li> <li>• Grade 5 Staff Officer &amp; Analogous Officer Training</li> <li>• Managing Difficult Conversations</li> <li>• Manual Handling</li> <li>• Mid-Career Financial Planning</li> <li>• Operation &amp; Maintenance of Agricultural Equipment</li> <li>• Resilience</li> <li>• Ride on Roller Training</li> <li>• Site Dumper New Entrant</li> <li>• SLG Chapter 8 Update</li> <li>• Telescopic Handler New Entrant</li> <li>• Time Management</li> <li>• TTM Booklet Talks</li> <li>• Work Smarter Not Harder</li> <li>• Working in a Hybrid Environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Essential Skillz online Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyber Security</li> <li>• Ergowize</li> <li>• GDPR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Induction</li> <li>• Slips Trips &amp; Falls – rolled out to all staff as Refresher under Health &amp; Safety unit</li> <li>• Time Management</li> <li>• Working in a Covid Era</li> </ul> <p><b>Launch of new Metacompliance Platform with ICT support:</b> The Metacompliance platform is a Policy Management and Training solution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first use of the platform commenced with training for Blended working and will be rolled out further over the coming months.</li> <li>• Blended Working Applications were received and processed between 5th &amp; 23rd September on MS Forms.</li> <li>• Mandatory Blended Working Training was live from 17th October to 28th October. This training is being carried out via links to Metacompliance Platform with short interactive videos &amp; quiz sections. Topics include Cyber Security, Data Protection &amp; Workstation Awareness.</li> <li>• Workstation Self-Assessment Declarations are to be made from 1st November to 11th November on MS Forms.</li> <li>• Remote Workstation Assessments are to be carried out from 17th to 25th November.</li> </ul>
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<b>Employee Welfare</b>	<p>Employee wellbeing supports continue to be made available to staff across a range of areas. The Flu Vaccination Programme was made available to staff and members in October 2022. Dr Maire Finn gave a presentation to staff on 'All Things Menopause' on the 6th October 2022. This 2 hour session was well attended and very informative.</p>		
<b>Unions</b>	<p>The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.</p>		

# UKRAINIAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT

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## National situation

At the start of November, the numbers of Ukrainian people displaced by the war arriving in Ireland has reached 55,800 and there is no sign that the crisis is ending. The 7-day rolling average stands at 175, up from the 120 average as reported last month. The population arriving continues to comprise 63% Females and approximate 19,000 minors (under 18 years).

The DCEDIY continue to be the primary provider of accommodation and there are now approximately 3,200 Ukrainians staying in 29 locations across the county. Clare has the sixth highest number of beneficiaries of temporary protection in the country with the North Clare electoral area (Ennistimon/ Lisdoonvarna/ Ballyvaughan) having the third highest numbers in the country.

Agencies, Non-governmental Organisations and community groups continue to work together to ensure that there is adequate service provision across the county with localised responses and solutions meeting many individual needs – these include specific healthcare needs, accommodation aligned to employment, school access and transport provision – All services are running at full capacity with cooperation and solid working relationships being central to the response.

Approximately 12,300 of our guests have now entered employment. These roles continue to be heavily focused on Accommodation & Food Service, Wholesale & Retail and Manufacturing – Our newest community members are contributing in a positive way to our rural economies between Galway and Cork.

## Pledged Accommodation

It is expected that a new call for vacant accommodation will be made by the Local Government Sector during November. This call will focus on vacant accommodation and will utilise a new online system developed by the sector.

The team continues to work with Mid-West Simon to transfer people to existing IRC pledged accommodation and to work with accommodation providers, host families, agencies, NGO's, community groups and employers to find solutions that best suit the need.

During October Clare County Council collaborated on a Clare Volunteer Centre led initiative to raise awareness in the county

of the benefits, challenges and pathways to 'hosting' – the event, delivered in the Templegate Hotel on the 26th October involved Clare Local Development Company and Helping Irish Hosts as well as a number of key agencies including the Clare Immigrant Support Centre. The event included insights from a host family and her guest, an insight into the benefits of hosting by Helping Irish Hosts followed by a Q&A and music by one our Ukrainian guests. There were over 100 in attendance.



## Community Response Forum

The Countywide Community Response Forum continues to meet on a bi-weekly basis with agencies working together on key challenges – The provision of school placements, access to GPS services, childcare provision and transport continues to be the focal point in the response efforts.

The group set some time aside during the month to consider the roles each stakeholder has in the provision of service to further understand the nature of each service in respect of the needs of our visitors over time.

The Local Response Forum meetings will be held at the four locations across the country over the coming weeks again with the Shannon meeting being held on the 9th November.

The team can be contacted directly with any queries or through our generic e-mail address [communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie](mailto:communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie)

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## Clare County Council Hosts National Age Friendly Awards Ceremony 2022 in Dromoland Castle



Pictured L-R: Jackie Maguire (Chief Executive, Meath County Council), Peter Burke TD (Minister of State for Planning and Local Government), Pat Dowling (Chair National Age Friendly and Chief Executive, Clare County Council), Maurice Harvey (Chair Older Persons Council), Frank Feighan TD (Minister of State with Responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy).

Councillor Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council and Pat Dowling, CE of Clare County Council & Chair of the National Age Friendly Alliances, welcomed over two hundred and 50 people from across Ireland to the wonderful Dromoland Castle for this year's National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards ceremony on Thursday, 27th October, at 6.30pm.

The Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards showcase age friendly initiatives from around the country that are contributing to making Ireland a great place in which to grow old. The event was presented by Age Friendly Ireland, a shared service function of Local Government in Meath County Council and was hosted and sponsored by Clare County Council. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was the wonderful Marty Morrissey, Irish sports commentator and television presenter with RTÉ.

County Clare has been an Age Friendly County since 2013. During this time, we have made significant progress in embedding an age friendly approach to all of our work and service delivery by the local authority.

## Shannon Airport and Ireland West Airport Knock – winners of Transport Award



CEO and staff of Shannon Airport with Cathaoirleach Cllr Tony O'Brien.

## Ennis Age Friendly Town Project – winners of Environment Award



## Outreach to older people on Valentine's Day 2021 (Safety and Security Award)

Outreach to older people on Valentine's Day 2021 shortlisted for Safety and Security Award. Garda Deirdre Scanlan who is a Community Garda in Ennistymon fronted this wonderful initiative that was delivered during Covid.



L-R: Chief Superintendent Sean Colleran, Superintendent John Galvin, Garda Deirdre Scanlan, Superintendent John Ryan & Inspector David Finnerty.

## Cúinne an Bhroic Housing Project in Tulla, short-listed for the Housing Award



L-R: Adrian Headd, Acting Senior Engineer, Councillors Ian Lynch & Gerry Flynn.

## Celebration of Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year 2022



Pictured are (l-r): Leonard Cleary, Deputy Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Cllr Ann Norton, Leas Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Marie Molony, Winner of the Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2022; and Maurice Harvey, Chairperson of Clare Older People's Council. Photo: Eamon Ward.

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Around 150 people attended an event in the Woodstock Hotel in Ennis, County Clare, on Monday, 3rd October, during Positive Ageing Week, to celebrate with the 13 people nominated for the Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2022. The function was hosted by the Clare Older People's Council and supported by Clare County Council. The 13 nominees from all over Clare had been invited to bring a few supporters with them, and they did! The winner of the award, Marie Molony, was a very popular choice. Marie won the award based on her contribution to the Alzheimer Society, Eire Óg GAA Club and St Joseph's Apostolic Society. She received an engraved glass trophy and a one-for-all voucher from Leonard Cleary, Deputy Chief Executive, Clare County Council.

Opening the event, Leas Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Ann Norton, spoke of the importance of voluntary work to local communities and of how such work contributes to the resolution of challenges faced by those communities. The keynote speaker, Derek Bell, retired CEO of the Retirement Planning Council, spoke of staying active and healthy as we age and the importance of volunteering in our communities.

Clare County Council's Deputy Chief Executive, Leonard Cleary, congratulated the winner and all the nominees, who received a

framed certificate of recognition for the fact that they had been nominated by their communities. Mr Cleary also praised the organisers of the event, Clare Older People's Council, and commented on how important the work of the Clare Older People's Council is to the development of Age Friendly policies and practices within the county itself as the demographic changes and the number of older people increases.

Leas Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Ann Norton, said: "The purpose of this award is to recognise and acknowledge those older volunteers who give freely of their time, energy and skills to help others and to enhance our communities. The volunteers nominated for this award have demonstrated what positivity and a sense of community spirit can achieve."

Clare County Council's Deputy Chief Executive, Leonard Cleary, said: "The volunteers nominated for this award have led by example, demonstrating through their hard work, resilience and dedication, just what can be achieved to enhance their communities." Clare Older People's Council Chairman, Maurice Harvey, said: "Any of the 13 nominees would have been worthy winners of this award for their contribution to volunteering, however the winner, Marie Molony, is a very deserving overall winner."

## OECD Rural Development Conference 2022

Members of staff from the Rural Development Directorate attended the 13th OECD Rural Development Conference 2022 which was hosted in Ireland for the first time by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The 2-day conference was attended by circa 500 delegates from 30 OECD countries, including government ministers, senior policy makers and stakeholders in the rural sector.

Centred on the objective of "building sustainable, resilient and thriving rural places" the conference highlighted the huge potential of rural areas in renewable energy, the digital economy, and in deploying new technologies as they seek to respond to global shifts and shocks. The Conference set out a Roadmap on Strengthening Rural Resilience against Global Challenges.

The Roadmap identifies a number of action points to:

- unlock innovation-based opportunities in rural areas
- leverage the green transition in rural areas
- seize the opportunities of digitalisation
- tackle the energy crisis and boosting the resilience of rural regions
- adapt rural areas to demographic change
- promote inclusion in rural areas.

The Roadmap also lists 6 cross-cutting action points to help policy makers implement better rural policies for better lives. Access to Road map on <https://www.oecd.org/rural/rural-development-conference/Cavan-OECD-Roadmap.pdf>



Pictured: An Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD with Rural Development Staff at the OECD Rural Development Conference 2022 and Deputy Heather Humphreys TD (Minister for Rural and Community Development).

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, delivered the key note address noting that "the Roadmap will help us prioritise policies that improve physical and digital accessibility, rural innovation, digital and lifelong learning skill, and quality public services to support diversification, resilience, and well-being."

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, said:

"I am delighted to see that despite the diversity of experiences across the OECD region, we have a huge amount in common. There is a clear commitment across all the OECD member states to work collectively to respond to the challenges faced and to exploit the opportunities presenting in a changed world. There is strength in our diversity. Our discussions have also reaffirmed the vital role rural communities have in building a sustainable and inclusive future..."



Above: Minister Heather Humphreys TD (Minister for Rural and Community Development) and MEP Mairead McGuinness, (European Commissioner for Financial Stability, Financial Services and the Capital Markets Union) pictured with Rural Development Staff.

## Clare businesses acknowledged as Age Friendly



Pictured are: (back row, l-r) Colin Ryan, President of Ennis Chamber; Lisa Glynn and Dermot Kelly, Shannon Springs Hotel; Brid O'Meara, Lahinch Coast Hotel; Emma Coffey, Copper Jug Café; Karen Fennessy, Clare Age Friendly Programme, Clare County Council; (front row, l-r) Bridget Haran, Bridget Haran Hair Salon; Caroline Aherne, Shannon Library; and Emer O'Reilly, EBS Bank.

As part of the Clare Age Friendly Business initiative, seven businesses across Clare were acknowledged as Age Friendly at an event in Sweet N Green café, Ennis (already accredited as an Age Friendly business), on Thursday, 6th October, during Positive Ageing Week. This initiative is part of the National Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme by Age Friendly Ireland who recognise that older people account for up to 50% of consumer spending. All of the businesses involved received special online training earlier this year by Orlaith Carmody, Age Friendly Ireland Business Consultant, to help them develop their actions. Following this event, these Clare Age Friendly Businesses will be registered on a national directory with Age Friendly Ireland, which can be found at: <https://agefriendlyireland.ie/category/business/directory>

Colin Ryan, President of Ennis Chamber, congratulated the businesses on the actions they have implemented for their older customers. He presented each business with a framed Age Friendly Charter and window sticker which the businesses will display at their premises to signal the value of the custom they receive from their older clients. Karen Fennessy, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager for Clare County Council, said: "These businesses have really embraced this

initiative by developing low cost/no cost actions to deliver great customer service to older people. They understand that the growing demographic of older people in Ireland delivers a lucrative market that is increasing all the time."

Margaret O'Brien, CEO of Ennis Chamber, stated: "The Age Friendly businesses being acknowledged today are at the forefront of delivering an improved customer service experience to older people in Ennis, Shannon and Lahinch. I would urge other businesses to implement their actions and receive the same acknowledgment."

Colin Ryan praised the Clare Age Friendly Programme and Ennis Chamber of Commerce for developing this initiative in Ennis and including other businesses from around the county looking to become Age Friendly.

The seven businesses that were recognised as Age Friendly are: Lahinch Coast Hotel, Bridget Haran Hair Salon, Copper Jug Coffee Shop Ennis, EBS Bank Ennis, glór, Shannon Library and the Shannon Springs Hotel.

## Joint Policing Committee



JPC, 26th September, 2022.

The Clare Joint Policing Committee was held in the Council Chamber on 26th September, 2022. JPC members from the Council, Gardai, Community, Oireachtas, and elected Members attended an in-person meeting in the Council Chamber, along with members of the media. Chief Supt. Colleran presented a comparison of crime statistics from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022, noting that some of the figures had increased due to an increase in activity since Covid, eg. domestic violence, burglaries and shop theft.

The Gardaí's presentation was welcomed by JPC members and generated a lot of discussion and questions from JPC members. In addition, JPC members were given a presentation by John Treacy, Rural and Community Development on the Property Marking Scheme.

## Great Lighthouses of Ireland Conference/Networking Event



GLI Conference – Cross Digital Hub.

The DigiHubs of Cross and Ennistymon hosted a national conference of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland (GLI) network. More than 40 tourism representatives from all over the island of Ireland travelled to Clare to explore tourism projects that act as an engine of economic and social progress for rural communities.

Loop Head Lighthouse Experience and the wider peninsula was the key focus of the annual Great Lighthouses of Ireland networking event, which was being hosted by Clare County Council. The visiting delegation included Great Lighthouses of Ireland partners formed under the Commissioners of Irish Lights marketing brand, the Irish Landmark Trust, and representatives of Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland as well as Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Loop Head Lighthouse Experience is one of 17 Great Lighthouses of Ireland, an all-island tourism initiative of Irish Lights.



Pictured above: Pat Dowling, Chief Executive, Clare County Council; Bobby Kerr, Chair, Great Lighthouses of Ireland; Yvonne Shields O'Connor, Chief Executive, Commissioner of Irish Lights; Jessica Hoyle, Manager, Tourism Northern Ireland; Tracey Coughlan, Manager, Product Development, Fáilte Ireland.

During the three-day visit to Clare, the delegation also visited Scattery Island and the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience. The three-day conference was opened by Cathaoirleach Cllr Tony O'Brien, with Chief Executive, Pat Dowling welcoming the delegation to Clare. There were also presentations from GLI Chairman, Bobby Kerr, and Yvonne Shields O'Connor, Chief Executive of the Commissioner of Irish Lights. Travel Writer Pól Ó Conghaile delivered an online presentation with contributions from both Tourism Northern Ireland and Fáilte Ireland.



GLI Conference – Scattery Island.

## Loop Head Design Team Workshop 07-10-2022



Photo depicts an in-house design team workshop to address further information for the submitted application to An Bord Pleanála, which covers the development of new visitor experience facilities at Loop Head Lighthouse Experience, which also includes a Looped Walking Trail network, a park and stride as well as the construction of a new visitors' carpark.

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## The 16th European Geoparks Conference at the Sesia Valgrande UNESCO Global Geopark, Italy



Carol Gleeson from the Geopark recently attended the 16th European Geoparks Network Conference which was being hosted by the Sesia Valgrande UNESCO Global Geopark in Northern Italy. Carol gave an insightful presentation at the conference about sustainable tourism and what makes the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark leaders in this area. The trip consisted of talks, workshops, and some sunshine and blue skies even made an appearance.

## AVEA Conference



Pictured Left to Right: Geraldine Enright Director Cliffs of Moher Experience, and incoming Chairperson of AVEA; Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin TD; and Catherine Flanagan, CEO, AVEA.

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AVEA is the national representative association for the Visitor Experience and Attractions (VEA) industry in Ireland. AVEA was formed in 2017, to provide advocacy, a forum for its members to network and greater awareness of this vital tourism sector, promoting professional competence through learning and development, and representing members in national tourism strategy and decision-making. The first Conference post-Covid

took place in Wexford Town 16th and 17th and was attended by tourism representatives from Clare including Clare County Council, Cliffs of Moher Experience, Vandeleur Gardens & Loop Head Experience, Shannon Heritage, Aillwee Burren Experience, Doolin Ferries, Doolin Cave and Great Ireland Experiences. Geraldine Enright is a member of the Board and took over Chairmanship at the conference for a two-year period.



Left to Right: Mark O'Shaughnessy, Nicola Killeen, John O'Malley, Collette Costelloe, Geraldine Enright, Melanie Lennon, Nuala Mulqueeney, Adrienne O'Flynn, Edel Vaughan.

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## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Kilrush LEA

- Works on the provision of a footpath in Ballynacally village
  - Funded by CLÁR (footpath)
  - Clare County Council own resources (wall).



- Mobility works – including drop down kerbs and tactile paving – @ footpaths on Circular Road, Kilkee.



- Mobility works – including drop down kerbs and tactile paving – in Kilrush.



- Mobility works – including drop down kerbs and tactile paving – in Kilmihil.



- Road reconstruction and resurfacing at Kiltumper. These works are funded by Kiltumper Wind Farm.



- New grid to outfall pipe on Seafield Beach, Quilty.



- Kildysart village surface overlay.



- Ballynacally (R473, near GAA pitch) new footpath and wall.



- Ballynacally (R473, near GAA pitch) before works started



- Tullycrine Junction improvement works.



- LIS Lissycasey installation of drainage.



- Cooraclare Installation of new lighting columns, West Clare LEA carried out these works with the assistance of GMA from Cllr Bill Chambers



- CIS road in Cloonlaheen.



- Ballynacally Footpath replacement works leading to Ballynacally NS. Existing tarmacadam surface of footpath was slippery (due to moss, algae etc) & pitted and we replaced about 100 linear metres of the footpath.



- Doonbeg Village improvement to footpath to improve access for the mobility impaired.



## SPORTS & RECREATION

This function transferred to the Rural Directorate in early October. Siobhán McNulty, SEO, is responsible for the strategic development of this function representing the council for this externally. She will also manage the sports, leisure and recreational facilities, with this element of the role being reviewed further in early 2023.



### Active Ennis Leisure Complex

The ever-popular swimming lesson programme has now commenced its final term for 2022. This programme is over-subscribed with a waiting list for access. The Council is gone to tender for a provider to continue this programme for 2023. Equally the School swimming programme is in its final term for 2022 with some 30 schools participating in this programme.

The facility continues to reintroduce classes and programmes as resources allow. Full details of the classes are available on [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)

### Active Ennis Coffee Morning and Raffle Success

A raffle and three 'Coffee Mornings' were held at Active Ennis Leisure Complex during October in aid of the 'Creeslough Community Fund'. We would like to thank most sincerely our fantastic staff, members, customers, friends, and families, who donated so generously, who baked and contributed the most delicious treats and prizes for the event. We were also greatly appreciative of the support we received from local businesses. We are proud that we are in a position to donate almost €2500 to the community and families of Creeslough.



Anne and John working hard on behalf of Creeslough.

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

Activity in the parks is steady with the schools utilising the facility to run their programmes. The Clare Primary Schools athletics took place in early October over 2 days with over 400 children partaking. In addition, the secondary schools are using the facility for soccer and GAA matches.

There remains a high demand for the Astro turf for the peak hours. Booking of the facilities is available at [www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie)



Clare Sports Partnership continue to work with clubs and the community in the active participation in sport in the County. For further details on activities please check out [www.claresports.ie](http://www.claresports.ie)

## West Clare Municipal District Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

The SMDW 2022 programme is nearing completion. All restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works are 100% complete.

Restoration Improvement Regional	100%
Restoration Improvement Local	100%
Restoration Maintenance Regional	100%
Restoration Maintenance Local	100%

As part of Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022, drainage works are ongoing and are approximately 75% complete. Works have been completed on five CIS roads. Five out of the eight LIS roads are complete to date. List of roads are detailed below.

Project	Status
CIS Ardeamush	100%
CIS Ballinlisheen	100%
CIS Ballytarsna, Kilshanny	100%
CIS Maghera, Inagh	100%
CIS Lough Rask, Ballyvaughan	100%
LIS Knockanoulty	100%

LIS Drumlish	100%
LIS Ballingaddy East	100%
LIS Ballycotton North	100%
LIS Knockanoulty-Conway	100%
LIS Ballyvaskin	75%
LIS Knockacran	75%
LIS Carrowduff	50%

### Active Travel 2022 Summary

Project	Status
Lahinch	Works complete
Doolin Pedestrian Crossing	Works Complete
Miltown Ennis Road	Works commencing November
Spanish Point	Construction works ongoing
Lisdoonvarna	Works 90% complete

### Inagh National School Safe Route to Schools

Works commenced on the Inagh NS Safe Route to Schools programme. Works are progressing well with 40% of footpaths complete and drainage works 75% complete.



# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

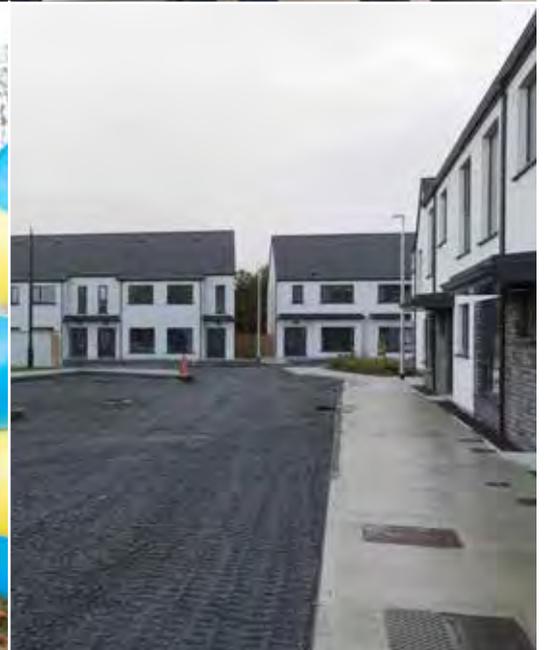
## SOCIAL DIRECTORATE

The Social Directorate continued to be extremely busy during October. On October 24th Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, visited County Clare for the official opening of 4 new housing estates in Milltown Malbay, Lifford and Ashline in Ennis, and Tulla. These mixed developments of one, two, three and four-bedroom dwellings consist of a total of 153 units and were developed at a cost of circa €40million. Pictured are a selection of photos from the official launch.

Work on the new County Library continues and great progress is now visible on site.

October is also budget preparation month and the management team have been actively engaging with Finance team and Corporate Policy Group in preparing draft budget for 2023.







On October 24th Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, visited County Clare for the official opening of 4 new housing estates in Miltown Malbay, Lifford and Ashline in Ennis, and Tulla.

## HOUSING

The housing public counter remains open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 to schedule same.

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291

### Social Housing Needs Assessment 2022

All Local Authorities are required by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to conduct an annual Social Housing needs Assessment. The purpose of the Assessment is to capture the total number of households qualified for social housing support across the county, whose social housing need is not being met, in order to understand the level of need for such support. The "count" date was 1st November, with returns to Department to be completed by 29th November.

Over 500 applicants were written to seeking updated information to assess their continued qualification for social housing supports. Transfer applicants, HAP and RAS tenants were not included in this assessment. Any applicants who were reviewed in last 12 months have not been contacted either as their files were reviewed recently. If an applicant no longer requires social housing support or is no longer eligible their file has been closed and they will be notified in writing of this decision.

The Council has completed its initial reviews and the number of applicants on the Council Housing list on count date, 1st November, is detailed below. This information now needs

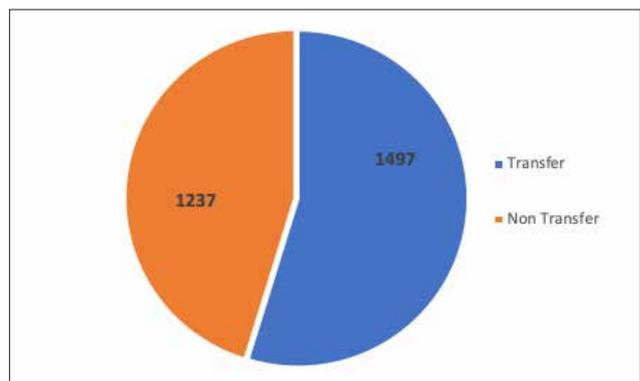
to be updated around classifications of needs, numbers of bedrooms required, etc. The full return will be uploaded to the Housing Agency by 29th November with national results expected to be published towards latter end of the first quarter of 2023

### Social Housing Demand

The total housing need on 1st November 2022 is 2,734 households of which the net need is 1,237. The remaining 1,497 households are already in receipt of some form of housing support, be it existing tenancies, HAP tenancies or AHB tenancies and so are considered transfer applicants.

### Housing need as of 01/11/2022

- Gross 2,734
- Net Need 1,237



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

BEDS_APPROVED					
FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	1 & 2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	Grand Total
ENNIS	884	179	74	2	1139
SHANNON	177	24	14		215
CLARECASTLE	129	28	10		167
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	124	22	4		150
KILRUSH	99	31	7		137
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	107	21	4		132
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	73	37	10		120
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/ QUILTY	66	9	5		80
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	67	10	1		78
COROFIN/RUAN	52	19	3		74
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	53	15	4		72
KILLALOE	57	10	3		70
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	35	6	8		49
SIXMILEBRIDGE	37	9	3		49
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	35	9	2		46
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	35	7	3		45
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	4	2		27
CLONLARA	17	6	2		25
QUIN	18	6	1		25
KILMIHIL	7	6	2		15
KILMALEY	10	2			12
KILFENORA	6	1			7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2109</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2734</b>

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

The base line income limit for a single person has increased from €25,000 to €30,000 since 1st October. There is an increase for additional adults of 5% each up to maximum 10%. There is a further increase of 2.5% for each additional child, with no maximum. It is anticipated that this will lead to an increase in qualified housing applicants over the coming months.

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

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

### Housing Allocations

The Council has allocated 278 properties in 2022 to date. With a further 21 to be allocated in Cluain Greine, and a number of void relets due to be advertised in coming weeks this figure is expected to rise to over 310 by year end. This includes new builds/acquisitions, leasing options and the transfer of a small number of existing tenants to more suitable accommodation. The Council also has nomination rights to the vast majority of AHB housing in the county and so far this year has nominated 109 households for AHB tenancies, with nominations currently being processed for another 9 new AHB properties in Ennis. Between Council housing, Leasing and AHB properties we expect well over 420 households to have benefitted from new tenancies in 2022.

Phase 1 of the social housing development at Cluain Greine, Drehidnagower (16 units) has been allocated. Phase 2 which comprises 24 units is in the process of being allocated and letters of offer of accommodation are currently being issued to successful households. This development includes a mix of one and two bedroomed houses and apartments together with three bedroomed houses and one four bedroomed houses. Phase 3 of this development which comprises 21 units was advertised on the Choice Based Letting (CBL) website in October and should be allocated with tenants taking possession prior to Christmas.

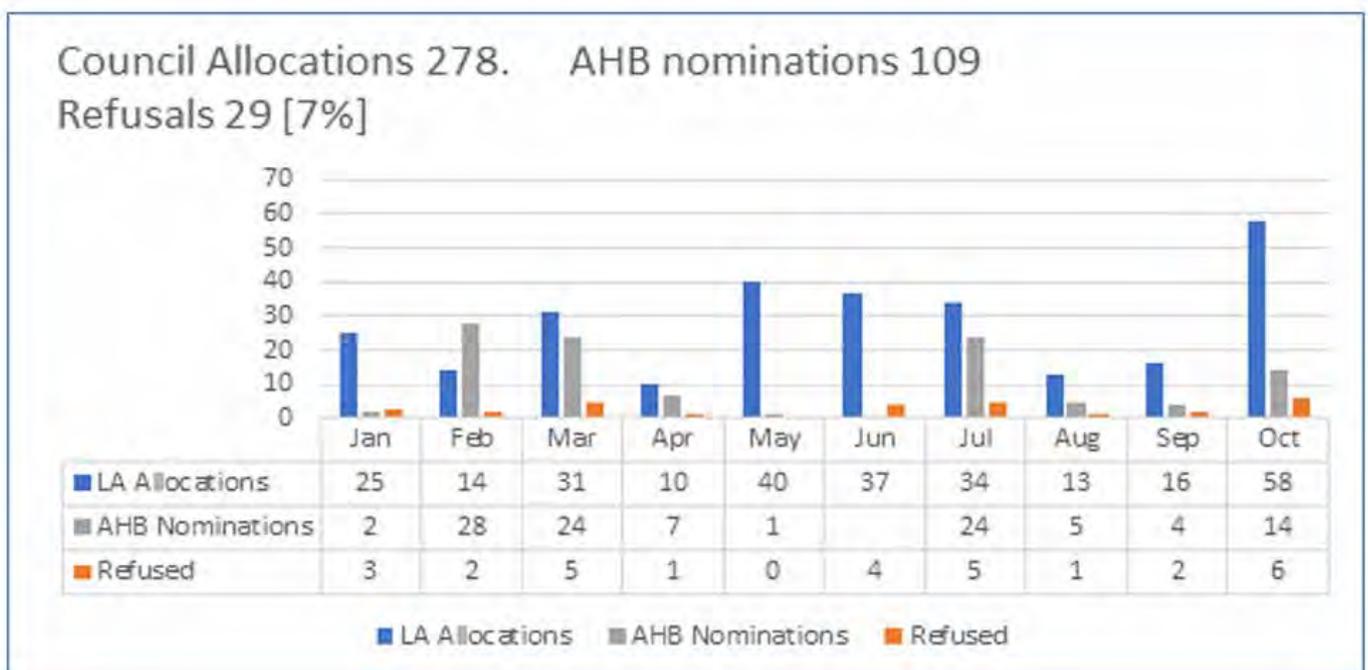
The allocation process in relation to the new social housing development at Baile na mBan Miltown Malbay is now completed and all letters of offer of accommodation have been issued to the successful applicant households. The pre-tenancy meetings for the new tenants are presently taking place now that keys of this development are available.

Phase 1 of the Clúid social housing development located at Hogans Place, Limerick Road, Ennis was recently advertised on the CBL website. This phase comprises nine units and contains three bedroomed two storey houses and bungalow type accommodation. For applicants to be considered for the bungalow type properties they need to have completed the HMD-Form 1 Disability and/or Medical Information Form

Tenancies signed up October	21
Tenancy sign ups in progress to complete in November	41
Tenancies terminated [inlc Transfer and Tenant Purchases]	11

### Tenant purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. The regulations were changed earlier this year giving opportunities to those on pensions to avail of the scheme. A new restriction was also introduced whereby tenants have to be in receipt of housing supports for a minimum of 10 years before being eligible for the scheme. This has eliminated the issue of new tenants applying to buy very shortly after securing new tenancy. To date in 2022 we have disposed of 7 properties to tenants under this scheme.



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Housing Tenancies

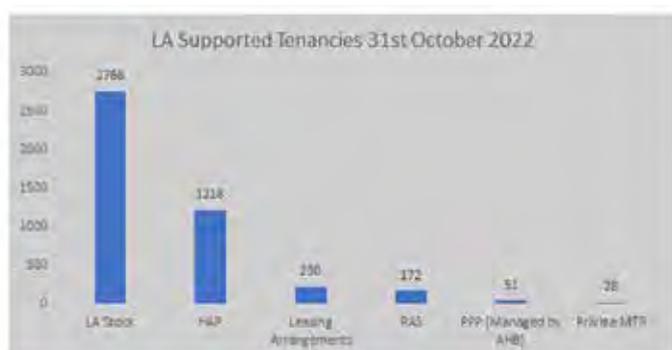
\*Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; PPP; Traveller accommodation & Mortgage to Rent. Excludes AHBs):

PROPERTY STATUS				
Municipal District	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ennis MD	24	1232	31	1288
Killaloe MD	2	357	7	366
Shannon MD		723	8	688
West Clare MD	15	935	38	971
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3247</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3372</b>

\*Breakdown of vacancies by municipal district,

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller accommodation	5	6	3	0	14
Derelict properties	0	2	0	0	2
Projects	2	9	0	0	11
Casual vacancies	24	21	5	7	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>84</b>

### Tenancies



### Estate Management

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

	Oct 22	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	569	5,989

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

### Private Rented inspections

Work to achieve the target for private rented inspections (1,025)

is continuing, and on target, with 113 physical inspections being carried out in October, and 811 in 2022 total to date. These inspections were carried out on HAP, RTB, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that were received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards.

### Housing Grants:

Grants Approved for October 2022

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	9	€159,508
Housing Aid for Older People	10	€40,460
Mobility Aids Grant	2	€10,755
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>€210,723</b>

### Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie) Loans data for 2022 up to 24/10/2022:

<b>50 Applications Received</b>	<b>22 Loans Approved</b>	<b>3 Local Authority Home Loans Drawn Down</b>
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The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) has advised that the fixed interest rate for all new loans drawn down under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan (RIHL) and Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) schemes will increase from 10 December 2022. The fixed rate payable by new borrowers after this date will be 3.35% annually for loans up to 25 years and 3.45% for loans between 25 and 30 years.

### Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 16th September 2022 to 20th October 2022: 6 households exited from homeless services: 4 to L.A. Housing: 1 to AHB Residential Accommodation: 1 Own Front Door. None the less demand for homeless services in Clare continue to rise.

48 new clients contacted HAT during October 2022, with 239 repeat engagements (from 96 clients). Many of the new clients were contacting HAT as they had fears about possible homeless situations into the future. Thankfully many of those presenting with difficulties avoided entering a homeless situation due to early intervention by the team. Advice regarding legislation on NTQs, support from the HAP Placefinder, allocations in advance of homelessness situations, and other supports offered by the team ensured many of these clients avoided actually seeking

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

emergency accommodation and shows the positive effect the prevention measures taken by the HAT team can have when people engage at an early stage.

However even with above positive outcomes our emergency accommodation continues to operate at full capacity, and with continuous demand for additional capacity. The Council continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options. However, this is proving challenging due to competing demands for accommodation in the County.

	Oct 2022	Oct 2021	Year to date 2022
New Presentations	48	30	364
Repeat Presentations	239	159	1611
Total Presentations	287	189	1973

### Emergency Accommodation Status as of 20th October 2022:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	14	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	6	11	1
Westbrook	0	13	0	1
Ashford Court	10	17	24	1
EA Families	2	2	2	1
EA Individuals	0	5	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>

### Traveller Accommodation

Under section 17(1)(a) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998, Clare County Council has completed the mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024. The

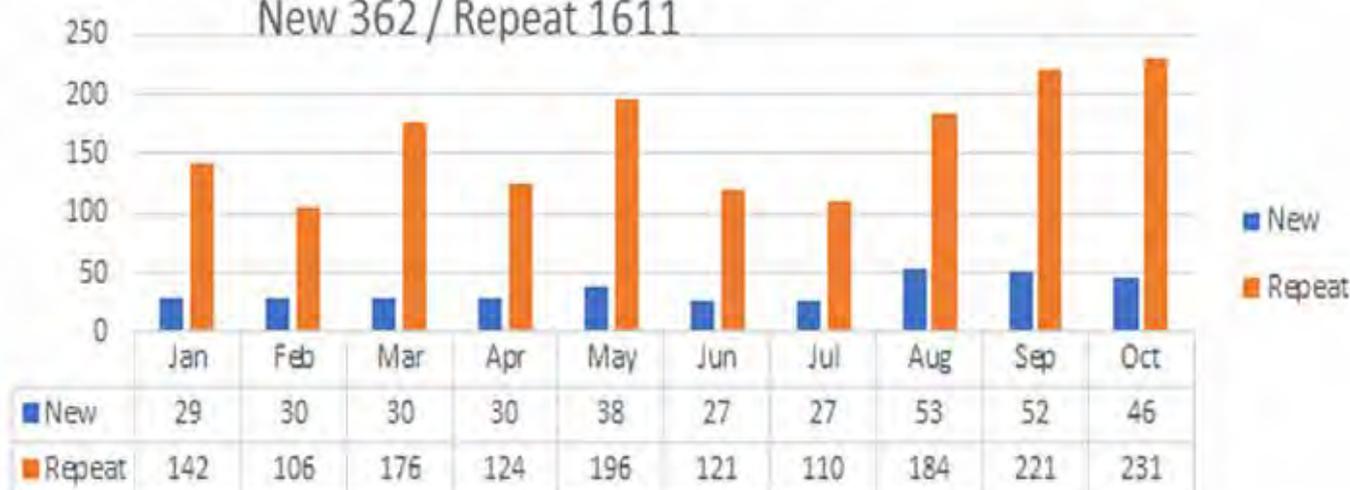
Council invited input into the review process from various bodies, organisations, and relevant stakeholders and 6 submissions were received as part of the consultation process. A report on these submissions was prepared and discussed by the SPC at a special meeting. Following this SPC meeting a report was issued to the Minister advising that Clare County Council would not be amending the Plan at this time. However, there was a commitment to engage further with traveller families to make further progress on the objectives of the existing plan.,

In Circular Housing 31/2022 the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage introduced a nationwide Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme. The Scheme is to support the provision of Traveller specific accommodation through local authorities to provide preferential loans to Travellers to purchase their own caravan/mobile home on halting sites for use as their primary residence. An information sheet setting out the terms and conditions of the scheme was circulated to all Traveller specific accommodation sites. To date, 16 applications have been received. 6 have been given preliminary approval and a further 2 look positive and these applications are currently being reviewed.

In July 2022, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage confirmed that it had secured Dormant Account Funding for measures that provide supports/facilities in Traveller specific accommodation and invited applications for funding from Local Authorities. Clare County Council submitted an application and was successful in securing €17,400 in funding for measures that address economic, social and educational disadvantage. Clare County Council engaged CENA to prepare a feasibility report for the redevelopment of the traveller halting site at Ballaghboy on the Quin Road in Ennis. CENA are a traveller led social housing body that works with traveller families in designing, building and managing traveller specific accommodation. They engaged and consulted with families residing

### Homeless Presentations Year To Date 1973

New 362 / Repeat 1611



at the halting site and established their accommodation needs which are outlined in the feasibility report. The report identifies the need for developing a number of permanent dwellings of different sizes on the site. Cena are now developing a housing scheme design for discussion with residents which ultimately will form part of a planning submission for the redevelopment of the site.

### Vacant properties

The Vacant Homes Section continues to tackle vacant properties throughout the towns and villages of County Clare with a strong focus on suitable properties which can be delivered as social homes through the Capital Investment Programme.

#### Status as at 26/10/2022

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	7	0	0
Killaloe	3	1	0
West Clare	16	2	0
Shannon	2	0	1
TOTAL	28	2	1

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

### Croi Conaithe (Towns Fund)

The Croi Conaithe (Towns Fund) is a welcome opportunity to progress and address vacant and derelict properties in towns and villages. There continues to be a huge public interest in the scheme and in particular this month saw a large volume of requests for information on the extension of the scheme to rural properties. The Department have confirmed that the scheme will be extended to include rural properties and we anticipate large demand in Clare regarding same.

To date 13 applications have been received under the towns fund and are currently at various stages of the application process. One application has been inspected and is to progress to the approval stage. One application is being referred for technical inspection following completion of the form. Three applications were rejected on the basis of not meeting the location criteria. Eight applications require further information to be submitted by the applicant before proceeding to the next stage.

### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

In July 2021, the Council made a submission to the Department, seeking to have Clare included in defective block redress grant scheme. As part of this submission the Council included test results which were taken from both private and Council

properties. In June 2022, Government approved this submission. Engagement with the Department and Housing Agency is ongoing to determine the final details and responsibilities within the scheme. Recently the Housing Agency publicly advertised for the services of IS465 registered Consultant Engineers to act on their behalf during the process. We expect when this framework is in place we may be issued with more guidance in relation to the process for homeowners. Clare County Council will have a role to play in the administration of the scheme and await details of same.

### New County Library Construction Project

Construction commenced on the new library building on Thursday, 28th April, 2022. All substructure works are now complete and all vertical works between ground floor and first floor are complete. First floor beams are also complete.

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



Progress photograph from October 2022.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Update on capital programme

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Milltown Malbay	27	Completed.	Q4 2020	Q4 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Part VIII Approved. Tender assessment for construction contract complete and process underway to appoint successful tenderer.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII has been quashed by the High Court – awaiting the formal High Court order.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Clarecastle	2	Stage 1-3 application being prepared for submission to DHLGH.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Determination issued to ABP and awaiting outcome.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 3 application approved by DHLGH. Tender being prepared for construction.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Stage 3 application currently being prepared.	Q4 2023	Q2 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 2 submitted to DHLGH. Awaiting approval.	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis (TA)	5	Stage 1 approved by DHPLG. CENA appointed to support project development.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Cluain Gréine, Lifford, Ennis	61	Phase 1 (16 units occupied) Phase 2 (24 units) complete and to be allocated week 2 November 2022. Phase 3 (21 units) due December 2022	-	Q4 2022
Main Street, Mountshannon	4	Complete. Allocated	-	Q3 2022
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>224</b>			
Bruachlan, Westbury (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission	Q2 2022	Q4 2023
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	24	CALF Acquisition – Under construction 9 in Q4 2022 15 in Q3 2023	Q4 2021 Q3 2022	Q4 2022 Q3 2023
Roslevan, Tulla Road, Ennis (CoOperative Housing Ireland)	40	CALF Turnkey (14 units delivered in Q4 2021) (15 units delivered in Q1 2022) (24 units delivered in Q2/2022) 16 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey – construction in progress	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVerry Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey – Department approval received	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen	16	CALF Turnkey – Department approved 6 units to be delivered in Q4 2023 10 units to be delivered in Q1 2024	Q4 2022 Q1 2023	Q4 2023 Q1 2024
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>134</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>			

# CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

## Clare County Library



Caroline Aherne, Executive Librarian, receives the Age Friendly Charter for Shannon Library.

Shannon Library attained Age Friendly Recognition this month. Work is progressing on the new library in Ennis. 13 deliveries were made to housebound library members this month.

Online Resources usage for previous month with continued demand for e-audio and e-books.

1362 E-Books	2476 E-Audiobooks	645 E-Magazines
682 Online courses	1859 Press Reader	55 Transparent Languages

## Marketing & social media

Clare Library submitted 3 media releases to local newspapers. A Clare Library staff member spoke on Clare FM highlighting services. Library staff also attended 3 outreach events in the month. A print and online newsletter were distributed to library patrons.

Social media stats for previous month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/Retweets/Reach	Comments
	62	6576	91	942	48723	79
	11	2071	36	224	65	4
	13	1720	50	389	9747	12

Total number of live events	101
Total audiences at live events	1642
Total number of online events	3
Total audiences at online events	67

## World of Welcome

The World of Welcome arts and education programme with local primary schools was celebrated at glór on the last day of the project on 19th October. Councillor PJ Ryan congratulated all stakeholders; library staff, teachers, school children and the arts practitioners who facilitated music, drama, podcast recording, puppetry and creative writing over the preceding five weeks. A total of 150 children from primary schools in Ballyvaughan, Flagmount, St. Conaire's Shannon, Doonaha and Ennis Educate Together National Schools took part, viewing their artwork and performing drama and song on stage in glór.

The programme was developed by library staff to extend an extra special welcome to new migrant communities, helping them to build friendships and confidence and integrate with their peers. The five participating branch libraries; Kilkee, Shannon, Ennis, Scariff and Ennistymon became a welcome and familiar space for all classes every Monday where children enjoyed a range of specially tailored arts activities in a diverse outreach project. The World of Welcome programme is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund.

## Children's Book Festival

Children's Book Festival events took place in all fifteen branches of Clare County Library during October. Fifty events were attended by primary school children all over the county including workshops from the best of Irish published children's writers, storytelling, chess workshops, LEGO, coding workshops and art workshops that got children thinking about how the world's climate is changing and how we might live in a more sustainable way. These were just some of the events that brought schools and libraries together once again under one of the main initiatives of the national Right to Read programme.

## Right to Read



Zara Starr, drama facilitator, works with children from Ballyvaughan NS in Ennistymon Library as part of the World of Welcomes programme.

## Local Studies

The Local Studies Centre has abstracted all the County Clare content from the fifty-eight issues of the Australian magazine, "The Irish Link", which was published in Melbourne between 1984 and 1998. It tracks scores of Clare families and individuals who migrated to Australia in the nineteenth century, as well as Clare people who made their home in New Zealand. South Africa is also represented in the family history notices. Whilst many of the Clare people whose lives are recalled went to the Antipodes voluntarily, many were sent as transported convicts. This online database represents a rich resource for genealogists with Clare and Australian roots.

[https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/don\\_tran/emigration/irish\\_link.htm](https://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/don_tran/emigration/irish_link.htm)



Dolores Meaney, Mick O'Dea and Marie Connole at a Clare Museum History Week event on Friday, 7th October.

## Decade of Centenaries

History Week took place in early October. The public enjoyed the Garda exhibition in DeValera Library, Ennis which coincided with the centenary of the arrival of the Gardaí to Ennis on 7th October, 1922. A large crowd attended Eoin Shanahan's lecture in Kilrush on the revolutionary period in West Clare and artist Mick O'Dea's talk on art of the revolutionary period gave a great insight into his work on the period. A total of 15 contributors took part. All lectures are online on the Decade of Centenaries page of Clare Library website.

## Healthy Ireland

There were four Healthy Ireland at Your Library events this month in Clare Libraries. Events included Gráinne Travers, nutritionist, who shared some great tips on how to support the immune system and gut health in DeValera Library and in Sixmilebridge Library. To mark World Mental Health Day, Kilrush Library hosted a 'Connect Café'. Sonia Millar, a creative mindfulness teacher, lead the group through a meditation practice and many people joined in a conversation afterwards and shared how to boost mental health by doing exercise, meeting up with a friend or watching a sunset. James Fennelly from the Lighthouse, Kilrush spoke about the Mental Health services that are available locally. This was followed by tea/coffee sandwiches and healthy snacks. The feedback from this event

was very positive and many requested that more events such as these would be most welcome and beneficial. Kilkee Library hosted a CPR demonstration with the Order of Malta, through their "Adam's Gift" Initiative. The initiative aims to educate and instruct the public in CPR and recognise and manage a cardiac arrest.

## Clare Archives

The Barrett collection continues to be rehoused and catalogued. The collection is quite extensive, and it is hoped it will be fully processed by December. The purchase of material to rehouse the collection was funded by the Heritage Council.

Each month the archives service continues to deal with queries from the public wishing to view the material from the Archives' collections. Queries relating to retention schedules and disposal of records has also been dealt with this month.

Material continues to be digitized from the Managers' Orders Collection.

## Clare Arts Office

The Artists in school scheme received 21 applications in October and 18 applications for the Embrace Arts & Disability Programme were also received. Surveys have been circulated to the Arts & Disability sector in the county as part of a "See Change" – a research project underway with Mayo County Council and Galway City Council. William Bock's Film Rising was premiered in Kildysart Community Centre on October 1st to a large crowd. An evaluation of the River Residency programme is currently underway. The Arts Officer conducted 3 Arts in Clare slots on Clare FM this month. Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee, held 4 events including 2 concerts and two children's theatre shows.

Three exhibitions took place countywide including an exhibition of commissioned artworks for the Decade of Centenaries programme which was accompanied by a talk during History Week. Ongoing support is being supplied to Ukrainian artists. A total of 35 performances took place in 19 towns and villages as part of the Live Local Performance Scheme. The Music in Healthcare Scheme visited 4 nursing homes in Ennis, Kilrush, Ennistymon and Tuamgraney twice in October. Hospital radio continued twice a week in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis. Clare Youth Theatre created a Halloween piece in glór, and the Arts Office assisted with 3 requests to film in the county.

## Clare Museum

The Museum curator contributed to two videos for History Week, one on a Civil war era autograph book and the other on the Georgina Frost collection. The museum facilitated an evening of music and poetry with Emer O'Flaherty for Culture Night.

A total of 6 schools visited the museum for a tour, as did a group of retired gardaí from Cork.

There were 14 social media posts featuring items from the

museum collection, including the videos from History week. A new flat screen TV is now displaying a video promoting tourism in County Clare and the opening hours of the museum and can be viewed in the entrance. The tourist office closed for the winter at the end of September and museum staff will now fill the information displays on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

The museum’s website is nearing completion and the curator is in the process of drawing down funds from the Heritage Council’s Heritage Stewardship Fund, which will cover 75% of the cost. The website went live on 13th October, but it is still

being populated with content ahead of an official launch in the coming weeks. It can be found at [www.claremuseum.ie](http://www.claremuseum.ie). Museum and library staff will undergo training on how to upload to the website. The Erasmus intern completed one month’s internship and succeeded in adding approx. 700 photographs to the bank of images the museum now possesses. These will be used to populate the museum website in the months ahead. This internship was particularly useful to the museum due to the intern’s proficiency in photographing some of the larger and difficult items.

## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Works are progressing very well and nearing completion on the successful delivery of the SMDW 2022.

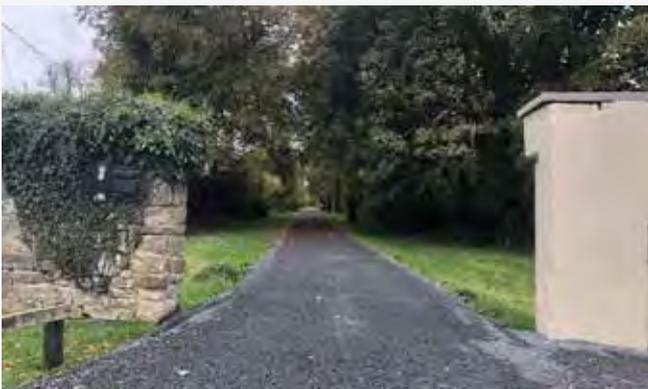
The restoration maintenance (surface dressing) programme is fully complete, and the restoration improvement works programme, including regional road overlays, is substantially completed.

Please see below example of the restoration improvement regional road overlay works undertaken recently at O’Callaghan’s Mills.



The allocated 4 Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and the 5 Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) projects for Killaloe MD in 2022 have been successfully completed.

Please see below example of LIS works undertaken at Drewsborough, Scarriff.



Works are ongoing on 18 Drainage Improvement and 8 Climate Change Adaptation projects throughout the MD.

Project	Status
Tulla - Footpaths & pedestrian crossings	Construction works ongoing – Section 38 process ongoing for pedestrian crossings
Tulla - Footpath to Athletics Club	Complete
Drumandoora - Footpath & pedestrian crossings	Construction works ongoing
Clarisford Park Connection, Killaloe	Construction started

### Killaloe MD Low Cost Safety projects 2022

Project	Status
Henchys Junction	Construction works ongoing. Works are substantially complete.
Kilkishen – Main Street	Due to Start. Section 38 process ongoing.

### Scarriff Rural Regeneration and Development Project

During October, Killaloe MD continued its public engagement with several stakeholders including Scarriff Town Team and Scarriff Community Council in advance of the submission of a Part VIII application for the refurbishment and change of use of the former Supermacs and Merriman Tavern buildings in Scarriff town centre to a Digital Hub and community rooms. The development also provides for the construction of a public car park and a bus/coach parking area on the adjacent green field site. The proposal forms part of a wider town centre proposed regeneration development for Scarriff overseen by the Killaloe MD which is part funded to feasibility stage under RRDF. The Part VIII was submitted in late October.

# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### STRATEGIC PROJECTS

#### Roche Masterplan

As a strategic project for County Clare and one of the nine transformational projects identified in the Ennis 2040 Strategy, Clare County Council is working with Roche Ltd on the development of a Masterplan for the Roche site in Clarecastle, to scope future development opportunities for the site with a focus around employment. Ongoing market demand analysis is being conducted by Roche Ltd, following input from the IDA, to inform the concept design with the aim to present a draft Masterplan for public consultation early in the New Year.

#### Town Centre First

In line with the nation policy on Town Centre First, Clare County Council has recently appointed a Town Regeneration Officer, Linda Earlie. Clare County Council, through this appointment and the establishment of a Town Centre First (TCF) team demonstrates our commitment to regenerating our towns and villages, creating sustainable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit into the future.

#### Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

A key focus of the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan is to stimulate and promote the delivery of key strategic projects to transform economic, social, cultural, community and commercial development in Shannon Town Centre. In this regard, Clare County Council continues to actively engage with stakeholders in the regeneration of the Town Centre to deliver upon the objectives of the Masterplan. The 'One Shannon Hub' – a multifunctional building that will operate as a community, civic, cultural and enterprise hub in the heart of the town centre – is a key priority for Clare County Council and is being targeted for funding under Call 3 of the Urban Regeneration Development Funding (URDF) which we understand is likely to be opened by the end of the year. In preparation for this, an Integrated Design Team and Integrated Project Management and Quality Surveyor Services Team for the delivery of the proposed 'One Shannon Hub' project and associated public realm enhancement was appointed in October following assessments of Tenders. Clare County Council is engaging with the team to progress the design which will support a URDF application to the Department early next year.

#### Sixmilebridge Masterplan

A Sixmilebridge Masterplan is currently being developed under the Town Centre First initiative. Sixmilebridge was identified as one of the pathfinder towns across the country.

Following initial stakeholder engagement with local businesses, representative groups and elected members, Stage 1 Public Consultation was held in Sixmilebridge on the 4th October. This included a Walkability Audit of the town centre in the morning, in conjunction with Clare County Council's Age Friendly team and Rural and Community Development Officer, and a consultation event was held that evening in the Bridge Active Building. These events were facilitated by the consultants appointed, Allies & Morrison.



An online 'Have your Say' engagement platform and survey is being set up on the Clare County Council's website to capture ongoing feedback and views from the community. The next stage of the process will include a presentation of emerging proposals by the design team to relevant stakeholders, with a view to exhibit a draft proposal of the Masterplan on public consultation early in the New Year.



# FORWARD PLANNING

## Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

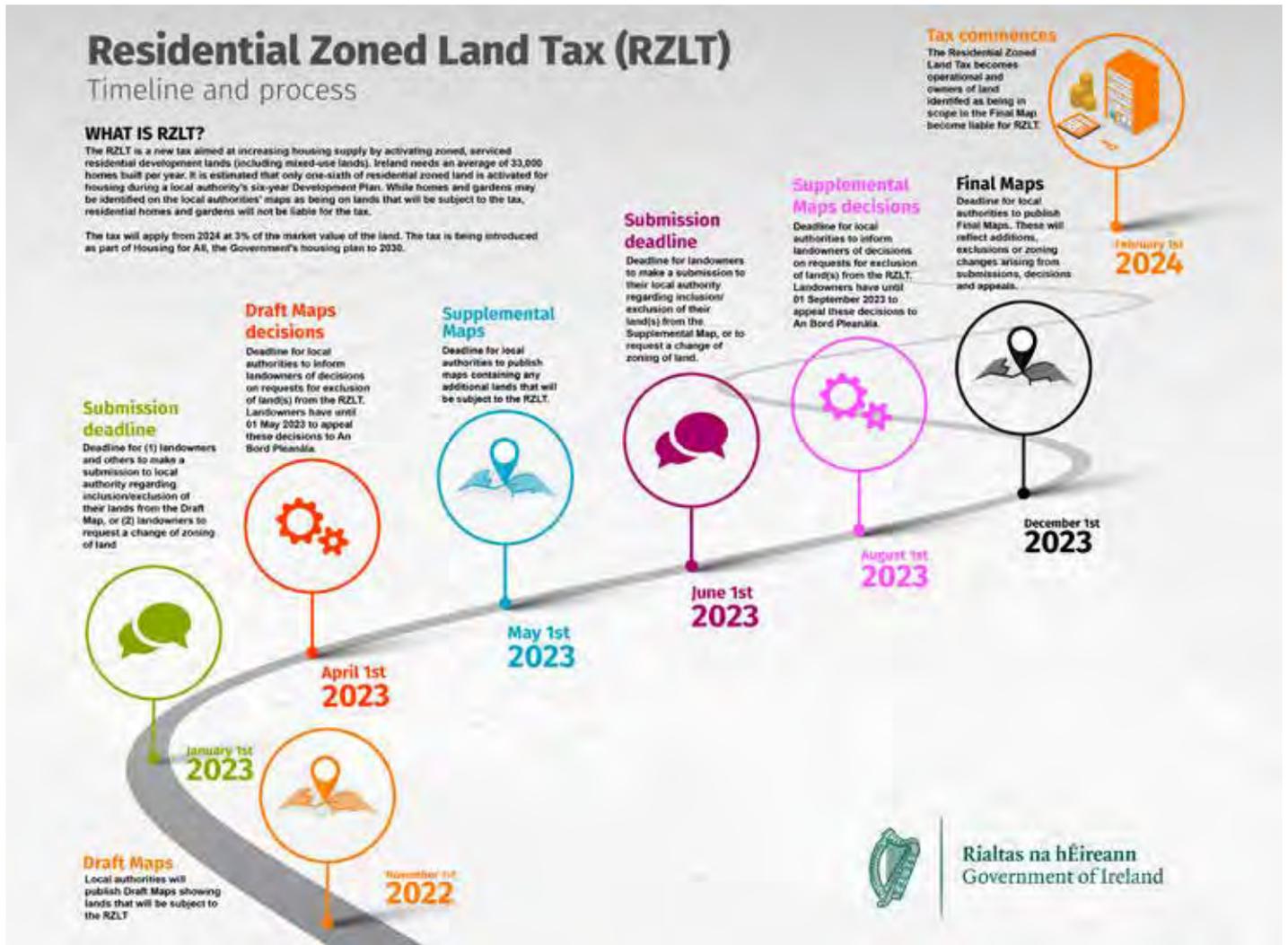
The Chief Executive’s Report on the 1,015 written submissions received during the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 public consultation time period was issued on the 10th July 2022 to the Elected Members for their consideration. The report set out a summary of each submission and the Chief Executive’s response and recommendation for each. Twenty two informal workshops were held at both Municipal District level and for full Council during September and October.

The consideration of the Chief Executive’s Report by the Elected Members concluded at a Special Council meeting on October 20th where the Members agreed, by resolution, the proposed material alterations to the Draft Clare County Development

Plan 2023-2029. The Council must now determine if an appropriate assessment and/or strategic environmental assessment are required and if so, to determine the time required for these to be undertaken. This stage is currently underway and we will then determine the exact date when the proposed material alterations to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will be placed on public display, but it is anticipated this will commence at the end of November 2022. A public notice will be placed in the local press and on the Council’s website which will set out the dates of the public consultation when written submissions can be made on the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan, as well as informing people where the documents can be viewed around the County.



Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)



The RZLT, proposed under Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland, 2021, and introduced by the Finance Act 2021, will come into effect from 2024. The purpose of the tax is to activate existing planning permissions as well as zoned and serviced residential and mixed-use lands to increase housing supply and to ensure regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations.

The administration of the RZLT is the responsibility of the Revenue Commissioners. whilst it is the responsibility of each local authority to prepare the maps that show the zoned lands which fall within the scope of the RZLT and to consider submissions that are received during the consultation process and to make any resultant changes to zoning that may arise. The Forward Planning Team have engaged with stakeholders, including Irish Water and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, to identify lands that fall within the scope of the RZLT and a Draft Map showing these lands will be placed on public display on 1st November. A public notice will be issued in both national and local press which will signify the start of a public consultation period which will run until the 1st January 2023 during which time Council will be accepting submissions from landowners and the public. Information on the RZLT will be available on the Council's website which will include links to all the necessary information, a short explanatory video,

the draft maps as well as guidance on how to make a submission and points of contact options. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will be launching a national media campaign and the Council will also be launching it's own media campaign from the 1st November to further raise local awareness and provide information on the RZLT.

Post 1st January 2023, the next stage in the process will involve the local authority notifying those who made submissions that request their lands to be removed from the scope of the RZLT of the decision in this regard. These will be issued by the 1st April 2023 and if submitters wish to do so, they can appeal the decision to An Bord Pleanála which must be done by the 1st May 2023.



### Ennistymon Enhancement Plan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continue to work on the preparation of the Ennistymon Enhancement plan. This enhancement plans seeks to provide a framework for the future development of the town. Following on from a well-attended public event exhibiting the enhancement plan, the design team are concluding the final report. It is expected that the final report will be issued in November.



Fund. The project has now reached practical completion. The project has seen the full restoration of the monument's stonework, as well as a full restoration of the historic ironmongery. All elements of the work undertaken by heritage craftspeople. The repair and restoration of the Manchester Martyrs Monument is a significant step in safeguarding the heritage of Kilrush Town Centre. It is a further continuation of heritage-led works in Kilrush for which the local and visiting community will greatly benefit.



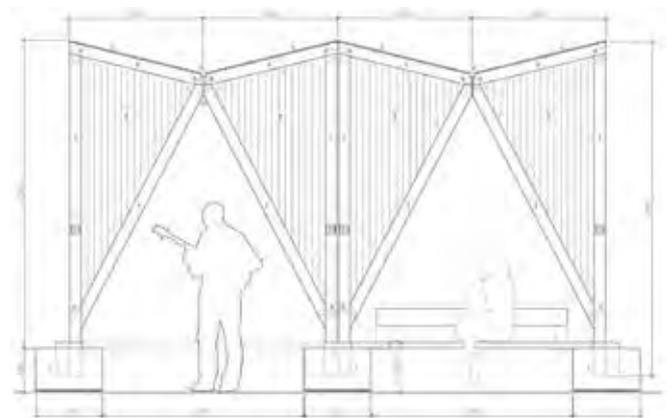
### Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) are working in partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. A multi-disciplinary design team led by Hall McKnight Architects has been appointed to prepare the plan. The second stage of public consultation is underway with a public consultation event held at Corofin Community Hall, where preliminary proposals were exhibited. The online consultation has concluded and received a high level of engagement from the community. A series of targeted consultation meetings with key stakeholders got underway in October and will continue into November. The second stage of public consultation will conclude in November.



### Flexible Outdoor Structures

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



### The Manchester Martyrs Monument

The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush has been repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures

### Hastings' Farmhouse, Shannon

Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna have got some funding from the Heritage Stewardship Fund, promoted by The Heritage Council Hastings Farmhouse, a protected structure. It is a rare building type of historic and architectural significance. The Fund provides support to bodies who have responsibility for the care of heritage objects and those who play a key role in the heritage infrastructure of Ireland and are vital to the delivery of national policy and plans. The partnership between Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna is a key step in safeguarding the heritage of Hastings Farmhouse. This project has put in place key structures and frameworks which will guide the future development of this protected structure and has determined a cost plan for proposals developed. This project is also funding training in vernacular construction for adult learners with a view to increasing inclusivity in heritage initiatives. This training was delivered in partnership with the LCETB and Dúchas na Sionna and is being attended by members of the local community as well as members of the Ukrainian community.



Preparing the hazel as part of training in Wattle & Daub construction at Hastings Farmhouse.



Training at Hastings Farmhouse in vernacular forms of construction, such as cob walling.



Building a Wattle & Daub wall at Hastings Farmhouse.



Members of the Ukrainian Community attending the training at Hastings Farmhouse.

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	October 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	104	988
No. of Planning Decisions made	66	855
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	24
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	14	193
No. of Section 5 applications	9	71
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	8	51
Submissions received regarding Compliance	23	320

### PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

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

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	October 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	12	148
No of Files Opened	19	94
No. of Warning Letters issued	17	143
No. of Enforcement Notices served	4	23
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	1
No. of Enforcement files closed	5	45

## HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

### Heritage Week awards for County Clare Bogs, Boats, and Dolphins

During National Heritage Week, ninety events took place in County Clare, with many outstanding events showcasing the fantastic heritage of County Clare. Three Clare Heritage Week events starred at the 2022 National Heritage Awards.

- Shanakyle Bog Restoration Project, in partnership with Connecting Communities with Peatland, was awarded the County Clare Heritage Event Award for their event – ‘Walk & Talk on Shanakyle Bog’. Shanakyle Bog is located near Parteen and is the first raised bog restoration and rewetting project to be carried out in County Clare.

- ‘Preserving the Fishing Heritage & Local History of Clarecastle in Film’ by Clarecastle & Ballyea Heritage & Wildlife Group were runners up in the national category of Sustainable Heritage Award. Five films were launched in Clarecastle during Heritage Week 2022 and these are featured on the Clarecastle website as part of the Irish Community Archives Network. Three films were made about the construction of two gundalow boats built by the Clarecastle men sheds, and the construction of a punt boat by two of the former local salmon fishermen. The films recorded the skills of boat building, which are in danger of being lost, but are now preserved in film for future generations. Another short film presented the story of a recently discovered rare autograph book of national importance which contains the signatures of many of the personalities that were present in Ennis for the 1917 by-election. In another film, the



Shanakyle Bog

Heritage Group's achievements and milestones were illustrated as images as an educational resource for the local community and schools.



An example of a gundalow boat which was used by the Clarecastle net-fishermen for many years in the Fergus and Shannon Estuaries

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- A 'Dolphin Scavenger Hunt' was held in Kilrush, by the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group Shannon Dolphin Project. The event was a runner up in the national Wild Child Award category, sponsored by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Children were encouraged to explore the town of Kilrush, while also learning about the resident pod of bottlenose dolphins living in the Shannon Estuary.

You can visit <https://www.heritageweek.ie/event-listings?q=&where%5B%5D=clare#listings/> to learn more about all the wonderful events and digital projects from County Clare which featured for National Heritage Week 2022.

### Projects funded under the National Biodiversity Action Plan

The projects funded under the National Biodiversity Action Plan by National Parks and Wildlife Service are being finalised at present and include the Clare Wetland Survey and the Clare Barn Owl Survey and nest box scheme. The funding enabled the second years of the Burrenbeo Hare's Corner to provide 10 Ponds, Mini Orchards (supplied from the Irish Seedsavers Association) 200 trees and the provision of 10 Plans in the option for 'Planning for Nature' site assessment and report with targeted advice. In additional funding provided for the project communication and publicity. In addition, the funding allowed for the national Quagga Mussel IAS survey and the Rare and Endangered plants of the Burren.

Two Invasive Alien Species (IAS) projects were undertaken under the National Biodiversity Action Plan fund including:

1. Invasive Alien Species Online Web Resource. This website resource being developed by the Environment Section aims to create an online portal, via the Clare County Council website, which the public and professionals can access for accurate, up to date information on IAS in County Clare, including their identification, management and control.
2. A review of the work undertaken by the Municipal District Offices in Clare County Council in their ongoing programmes to manage and control invasive alien plant

species (IAS) throughout the county. Staff were consulted directly to review IAPS management plans. A preliminary report addresses key issues and prepares the ground for further, more detailed work on this important issue. As part of this work a county-wide database for IAS is being developed. Within most of the Municipal Districts (MD) in the county, data relating to the distribution and status of IAS has been collected. This project is now gathering this data into a single repository and to use the information to prepare plans for the strategic management of select IAS or groups of invasive species.

### The Clare Community Archaeology Scheme

The Clare Community Archaeology Scheme aims to support communities to become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of their local archaeological and cultural heritage sites. As this is the first year of this project, a significant proportion of the time has been devoted to making contact with community groups, building working relationships and the promotion of the Community Monument Fund. It is hoped to build upon these foundations, guiding and assisting the community groups to obtain the necessary reports and permissions to apply for funding for archaeological conservation works.

### Lisdoonvarna Heritage Plan

The Lisdoonvarna Heritage Plan public consultation event took place on the 26th of October. This involved presentations of consultation feedback, the heritage audit and a number of potential projects which have been identified through the project research. The aims of the project were outlined as well as work to understand the heritage assets of Lisdoonvarna, interpreting the heritage, connecting it, and making it accessible to both the local community and visitors and identifying potential projects.

An overview of Audit and History was given and of the methodology and the key takeaways, while potential projects and goals were identified, and recommendations made. Printed Boards in A1 format showed the morphology mapping, imagery, and the mapping of proposed projects and recommendations. Feedback was sought from the attendees on the evening and the presentations were recorded for all to view after the event.

### Kilrush Town Centre Health Check

Following the survey completed by the students at Queen's University Belfast, a presentation was made on the findings of the Kilrush Town Centre Health Check to members of the Kilrush Town Team and Clare County Council staff. The survey highlights some important needs and issues in Kilrush in a very positive light along with good ideas and guidance for future initiatives. Proposals were made to take advantage of the many opportunities there are to enhance connectivity and permeability and to get the heart back into the town. There was really good engagement with the secondary school and pupils, which highlighted the need for a public space for youth and all the residents in

the town and the lack of green spaces in the heart of the town.

### Heritage of County Clare Presentation

- A presentation and discussion on the Heritage of County Clare was given by the Heritage Officer to the Limerick Clare Education and Training Board Tour Guiding course in Miltown Malbay.
- A meeting was held with the local National Monument Services to consider issues arising with the Community Monument Fund which will be announced shortly and National Monument Services held a workshop to discuss the scheme.
- A meeting was held with Norwegian heritage professionals at the County Museum to look at the Irish legislation and Planning law in relation to Archaeology.
- The National Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan has just been published and a meeting was convened by the National Parks and Wildlife Service involving all the stakeholders and the six relevant western Local Authorities to discuss the

implementation of this plan.

- The first annual Heritage Ireland 2030 Summit took place on Monday 24th of October 2022. This brought together interested parties and those involved in its management and custodianship to showcase successful projects, explore challenges and opportunities and outline progress in delivering the objectives of Ireland's new national heritage plan.

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## CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

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### Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)

Works to the nine protected structures which allocated funding of almost €100,000 under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) are complete. The projects for 2022 were:

1. Stack's, Ennistymon -Works to repair the existing windows and install secondary glazing to increase thermal performance.
2. Glencairn House, Ennis -Works to repoint and repair external wall, final phase of three years of work.
3. Michael Cusack Centre, Carran -Works to roof of thatch cottage, birthplace of Michael Cusack.
4. Land Steward's House, Clooney -Works to repair roof of former land steward's house, part of former Clooney House Estate.
5. Loop Head, Lighthouse Keeper's House- Internal repairs to lighthouse keeper's house, Loophead.
6. O'Grady's Bar, Tubber -Works to repair roof of former O'Grady's Bar, Tubber
7. No. 1 Bindon Street, Ennis -Works to internal lime plaster work of Georgian House.
8. The Store, Tuamgraney -Works to replace and repair windows and openings of former store house of former Scariff Union Workhouse.
9. Manus House, Ennis -Works to repair roof of main house.

It is hoped that the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 will be announced in late November 2022.



### Historic Structures Fund

Works to the protected structures allocated funding under the Historic Structures Fund are ongoing. The works to Frawley’s Pub are completed, with the roof having been structurally stabilised and roof slates repaired. Works to Killaloe Cathedral are ongoing with completion expected in early 2023.

### Community Monuments Fund 2022

The Conservation Management Plans of the three medieval churches of Killofin, Labasheeda, Killchreest, Ballynacally and Templemaley, Ballyallia are under way with completion expected in mid-November 2023. The Conservation Management Plans are to be used in seeking further funding for Capital works to consolidate and protect the ruins of the medieval churches.

### Section 57 Applications

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

Section 57 Declarations	October 2022 up to & including 27/10/2022	Total (Valid)
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	4	27

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

### Historic Structures Fund

- **The Trading Online Voucher Scheme**, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an ecommerce website, has continued to see strong interest. So far in 2022, thirty-eight applications have been approved.
- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare continue to receive a strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In October 10 further mentors have been assigned bringing our current annual number of mentoring assignments to 150
- **Green For Micro/LEAN/Digital Start:** As part of our supports Local Enterprise Office Clare have approved the following supports to help businesses in 2022. This includes 14 Green for Micro applications, 10 LEAN applications and 4 Digital Start Applications
- **Training:** LEO Clare held nine training courses and events over the month of October which saw over 150 participants register. These included training digital marketing, pricing workshop and export event and start your own business.

### National Women’s Enterprise Day:

140 female entrepreneurs attended the National Women’s Enterprise Day for the mid-west region at the Cashel Palace in Tipperary. There were 40 female business owners in attendance from Clare with local business owners Aobhinn Garrihy and Sharon Connellan of BEO wellness joining the panel of speakers. The event was joint coordinated by staff from Local Enterprise Office Tipperary, Clare and Limerick.



Local Enterprise Clare attendees at the National Women’s Enterprise Day in Cashel Palace, Tipperary

### Digital Start Launch

Local Enterprise Office Clare welcomed local businesses to the official launch of Digital Start for Clare at the Future Mobility Campus in Shannon. Attendees heard from digital experts from Google, Docusign, National College of Ireland Dublin and Unify Success. The event also featured a panel of two forward thinking LEO Clare digital start clients; Kasha Connolly of Hazel Mountain Chocolate and Tony Hoynes of Palm Free Soap and Local female entrepreneur, Caroline Dunlea from Core Optimisation also provided a presentation. Digital Start is a consultancy funded by the Local Enterprise Office available to manufacturing and international focused service industries.



Local Enterprise Clare attendees at the Digital Start Launch Event in Future Mobility Campus Shannon.

### KPMG Women’s Irish Open (WIO)

The businesses that participated in the CCC village at WIO expressed their gratitude for being selected to participate. A number of businesses have since secured new stockists, greater brand awareness and have made plans to collaborate with each other, some will be releasing Christmas hampers together and some are working on establishing a more long term relationship.

### SNS Expo 2022 & Growing a Sustainable Business Conference

Local Enterprise Office Clare was in attendance for Octobers SNS Expo 2022 & Growing a Sustainable Business Conference Event in Radisson Hotel, Limerick Road where State bodies, businesses and Colleges showcased opportunities for mid-west companies.

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

### Ballymaley Enterprise and Innovation Centre

In early October, the elected Members of Clare County Council approved the sale of a building at Ballymaley Business Park to Vitalograph Ireland, who are to create 72 new jobs in Ennis over the next 18 months, as they embark on development of their new Clinical Trials Services Centre of Excellence. Vitalograph, which produces respiratory diagnostic devices, previously announced a €10 million expansion and the addition of 200 jobs in Clare and Limerick earlier this year. This investment in Ennis will bringing the total County Clare headcount up to 310 by 2024.

Clare County Council had originally bought the building to refurbish as a touchdown space for multinational companies locating in the region. Planning permission was received for the development of an Enterprise and Innovation centre in May 2022. Last July, Clare County Council sought expressions of interest from companies in the high-tech sector with the aim of boosting the technology sector in Ennis and increasing exports from the region. Vitalograph Ireland’s expression of interest was selected due to the scale and quality of employment, programme for delivery and the benefit to the local economy.

The Ennis 2040 Strategy and the Ennis 2040 DAC have created a platform for investment-ready projects at strategic locations in Ennis town and environs. This is the first project to be delivered through its partnership with Clare County Council and will bring highly skilled jobs at this intended centre of excellence. The project is an exemplar for Ennis 2040 and Clare County Council working in partnership to deliver the vision of the Ennis 2040 Economic and Spatial Strategy.

### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in October, together with the totals for 2022 to date. We continue to assist many solicitors on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc which is indicative of an active property market in the County generally. In addition to the Table below, significant property transactions are underway which will add to the

economic development of the County and these are related to individual projects.

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

### Tullyvarraga Hall, Shannon

The Property management Team are working with the Committee of Tullyvarraga Hall in Shannon to seek to improve the condition of this building, which is in the ownership of Clare County Council and leased to the Community Group. Works proposed include refurbishment of the toilets, heating equipment, entrance area and kitchen area. Some funding has been awarded by Pobal for the toilets refurbishment, which is most welcome .

### Casual Trading

As most of the events and festivals were held up to August / September, the only additional casual trading licences that were issued this month were four for the Kilrush Horse Fairs to be held in October and November 2022.

## DERELICT SITES

To date this year, 58 new derelict site files have been opened and represents a significant effort by the Derelict Sites Team to take action against derelict properties throughout the County. This is the highest level of activity in any one year since the Act was first introduced in 1990/1991 and we now have almost 200 active files. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and gaining an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict stage. A number of properties have been brought to the market and some are at 'sale agreed' stage and we continue the engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

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

This month, the improved property highlighted is 'Griffin's' in Kilrush where works have been completed to the façade of the property, thus improving the streetscape. It is important to recognize the effort put in by the owners to improve their properties.



The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in October 2022 to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2021. This is a very significant increase on activity throughout the whole County.

Derelict Sites	October 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	2	58	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	2	29	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	1	21	4
No. of Section 11 Notices issued – Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	1	18	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	1	6	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	4	0

### Grants Scheme for Vacant and Derelict Properties

The announcement by Government of grant aid for the refurbishment of vacant properties in towns and villages, for occupation as a principal private residence is very welcome. Details of the scheme for towns and villages can be found on the website with all the information on the scheme, frequently asked questions and the application form for the Grants scheme - gov.ie - Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme (www.gov.ie) We bring this grants scheme to the attention of property owners that we are engaging with. We are awaiting confirmation as to whether or not this grants scheme will be extended to properties in rural areas as we feel that it could make a difference in many parts of rural County Clare.

### Compulsory acquisition of Derelict sites

To date in 2022, three of the four derelict sites acquired by CPO have been vested in Clare County Council and one is

outstanding in the Property Registration Authority. The CPO process has been initiated in one more property in Ennis, which was recently published in the Clare Champion. We are working with the Housing Department to return the first three properties to living accommodation, following refurbishment or re-development. These are the first CPO's of Derelict sites initiated by the Council since 2014.

### Working Group with Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer is a member of a working group established by the Department to review the effectiveness of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 and to assess if any amendments are required.

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## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

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### Shannon MD sponsors Shannon Chamber Skillnet event

Shannon MD was pleased to be an associate sponsor of a strategic talent development event which was held in Dromoland Castle on 18th October 2022. A panel of speakers from academia and a range of sectors showcased how their businesses have benefited directly from implementing comprehensive training programmes and the importance of future upskilling. It is recognised that talent is now the determining factor for companies to remain competitive and this requires continual investment in training. The Council was delighted to support this worthwhile, practical and informative event.



Panel discussion at Shannon Chamber Skillnet event 18th October 2022 with Clare Council sponsorship credited.



Left to right: Linda Earlie, Clare County Council, Eoin Gavin President Shannon Chamber & CEO Eoin Gavin Transport, Ms Helen Downes, CEO Shannon Chamber of Commerce, Paul Healy Skillnet Ireland Chief Executive, Patricia O'Neill Shannon Municipal District.

### ESB Ardnacrusha Power Station site visit

A site visit of the ESB's power plant at Ardnacrusha was attended by key personnel in Clare County Council on 18th October 2022. The visit included a briefing presentation by ESB in addition to a tour of the plant. The plant was constructed by Siemens and was completed in 1929 and was a major feat of engineering at that time. Clare County Council personnel work closely with key ESB engineering staff and other relevant organisations, particularly during the winter months, to ensure water levels and discharges are strictly monitored and that appropriate plans are implemented.



Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer and Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer at Ardnacrusha plant.

### Galway City Council staff visit Shannon's Pump Track

Staff from Galway City Council recently visited Shannon's much renowned pump track amenity in Shannon Town Park. The pump track is a circular loop for wheeled sports equipment such as bikes and scooters and it is designed in such a way that it may be ridden completely without the need for pushing and pedalling. It is unique and was the first of its kind in the Munster region. Galway City Council were on a fact-finding mission and we hope to visit Galway in the not too distant future to view their very own pump track in due course



Delegates from Galway City Council with Anne Griffin, A/Senior Executive Officer, Shannon MD.



### Embankment Walk

Shannon Municipal District has erected directional signage to safely guide visitors around the area. In addition, three bicycle stands have been installed at the Drumgeely entrance to the embankment walk making ease of access for cyclists more readily available.

### Summary of Ongoing Works and Activities

- The Roadworks Programme for 2022 has been completed.
- Maintenance drainage works for Winter 2022 have commenced.
- 1,040m of footpath contract is currently advertised on e-tenders.
- There is continuing contact with Landowners in relation to the Meelick Active Travel Project.
- Hedgecutting is currently being completed for 2022.

# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

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

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

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

Additional funding of €655,325 has been allocated to Clare from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Local Improvement Scheme. The additional funding will allow for works on a further 11 roads to be completed, bringing the total number of roads under the Local Improvement Scheme to be completed in 2022 to 25.

### Strategic Transportation

#### Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

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

#### Connecting Ireland

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

#### Active Travel Programme 2022

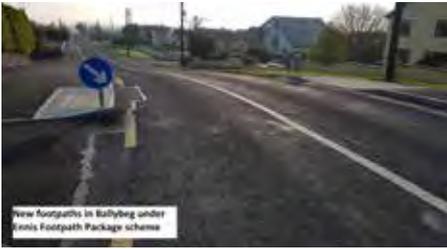
Funding for the Active Travel 2022 programme was announced by the NTA for County Clare on the 24th January 2022. The total allocation for projects across all MDs in the county is €5,298,000.

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

- Construction works complete in Quin, Kilmurry, Boston, Doolin, Ruan & Lahinch
- Construction works ongoing in Ennis, Kilmaley, Tulla, Dromindoorra, Spanish Point, Lisdoonvarna & Clarisford (Killaloe)
- Construction works under 'Safe Routes To School' programme ongoing at St. Flannans National School in Inagh
- Construction works to commence presently in Ballybeg (Ennis), Miltown Malbay, Sixmilebridge & Ballycasey (Shannon)
- Public lighting being installed presently in The Peoples Park (Clarecastle) & Ballybeg (Ennis)
- Consultants appointed to advance Option Selection phase & Preliminary Design phase for permeability across bridges throughout the county
- Preliminary design being carried out under 'Safe Routes To School' programme for Clonmoney National School
- Preliminary design being advanced for Footpath Package scheme in Roslevan.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Option Selection phase being advanced for Clare Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive), Tulla Road and Lahinch Road as part of development of the cycling network within Ennis
- Option Selection phase being advanced in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and NTA for Lissycasey Active Travel scheme.



### Public lighting

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

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

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

### Road Design Office

#### Current Projects: November 2022

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

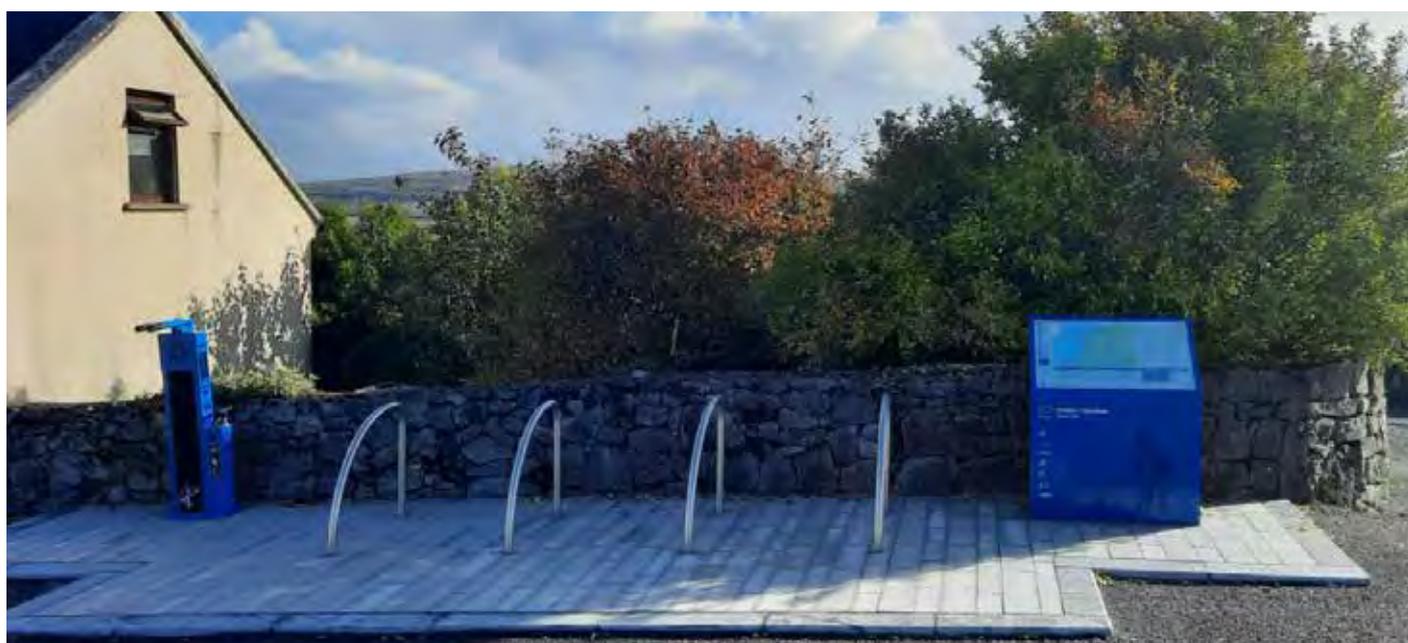
#### TII Road Safety Projects

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

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p><b>For the N85:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The revised concept design for Clareabbey roundabout has been approved by the TII. Modelling of the proposed changes and their effects on the traffic flow is necessary and this is being progressed by the TII through their consultant.</li> <li>• The TII are of the view that any proposed design for the Lahinch Rd / Shanaway Rd junction should be incorporated in the Active Travel Strategy and plan for the wider area.</li> <li>• The RDO carried out an extensive topographical survey of the N85 from Claureen roundabout to the start of the speed limit zone and are currently developing conceptual designs for this area.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.</li> </ul>
TII HD 17 Sites	<p><b>For the N68:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing.</li> <li>• Interim measure proposed and being developed for N68/L2138.</li> </ul> <p><b>For the N67:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 &amp; N67/L1016 now completed, conceptual designs for N67/L50222 and N67/L50221 are completed, and Feasibility Reports are being developed. Conceptual designs progressing for N67/L1022 and N67/1016.</li> <li>• Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. The TII have analysed the proposed junction layout and are satisfied that there will be no capacity issues, concerns were raised in this regard in a meeting arranged with community groups. Issues raised in the Road Safety Audit have been worked through and accepted by the Auditor, a public lighting designs has been completed. The Design Report is progressing with a competition for EIA and AA screening reports underway. Work is also progressing on a photomontage of the proposed scheme for public consultation.</li> <li>• The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed. A Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit for this junction has been carried out and accepted. A Feasibility Report is being prepared for submission to the TII.</li> </ul>

Other Projects 2022

Project	Progress Update
Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022	The design process for these schemes is substantially completed and the projects have been circulated to the MDs for delivery.
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	Construction works are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	15 bus shelters have been issued to tender subject to final approval from the NTA.
Road Schedule & Queries	Search requests from the public and Municipal Districts regarding the road schedule are being carried out on an ongoing basis. Updates to the roads schedule is carried out as updates are being received.
Cycle and traffic counts	Ongoing monitoring at various locations.
Planning Reports	Planning reports are being provided for the Planning Department on a continuous basis.
Cycle Infrastructure County Clare	Surveying and mapping of the existing cycle infrastructure for the entire county has commenced and will continue as an ongoing project for 2022 feeding into the Clare County Cycling Network Project
Ennis Pedestrian Friendly & Park and Stride Assessments	Road Design in conjunction with the Ennis MD have developed a draft Ennis Pedestrian Friendly & Park and Stride Assessment Report.
Kilrush Cycle Routes Project	Road Design are currently collaborating with West Clare Municipal District to develop three new cycle routes throughout the Kilrush area. The cycle routes will incorporate a town, estuary, and heritage loop totalling 26km.
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The construction phases has commenced is expected to be completed in 2022.
National Cycling Network	This is a project initiated by the TII and is being developed in conjunction with the RDO, Clare County Council. This project seeks to develop a cycling network connecting settlements with a population 5,000. At public consultation stage. Presented to Physical SPC in June.
Clare County Cycle Network	Draft strategy commenced in conjunction with the NTA and AECOM. Public consultation expected to commence in late Quarter 4 2022.
Latoon Cycling Infrastructure	Part 8 endorsed by the Elected Members at September's Council Meeting
Pathfinder Project	The Road Design Office in Conjunction with the Ennis Md submitted a Pathfinder Project for Ennis Town.



### River Fergus Walk

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

### Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2022

The Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €602,000.

- Bolooghra Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Killestry Bridge: Works complete.
- Scariff Bridge: Works complete.
- Cavanagh's Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned. Contractor Appointed
- Cooraclare Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned. Contractor Appointed
- Drumullan Bridge: Works complete.
- Gortnamearacaun Bridge: Works complete.
- Ahaclare Bridge: Works complete.
- D' Esterres Bridge: Works complete.
- Annagore Bridge: Works complete.
- Roadford Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Ballynalacken Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Drehidnalacken Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Cloghaun Beg: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Friars Bridge: Contractor on Site.
- Mauricesmills Bridge: Contractor on Site.
- Carrowkeel Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Clooncat Bridge: Contractor on Site.
- Adroon Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Drumminoora: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Turkenagh: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Drehidunagh Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Silvergrove Bridge: Works complete.

### Health and Safety

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

The following Top Level H&S Objectives approved by the Safety Management Committee in February 2022 have commenced implementation;

- Enhance communication and awareness around H&S post Covid
- Roll out further Serious Incident Simulated Exercises at MD Level for Outdoor Staff and Line Management
- Deliver bespoke training on contact with Underground Services for all staff undertaking excavation works
- Continually Revise, Update, Implement and Monitor the Clare County Council Covid 19 Response Plan in accordance with the Government Transitional Plan

A comprehensive H&S training programme is being delivered throughout 2022.

### General Design Office



### Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project

A Part 8 Planning Application was submitted to the Planning Department on Friday 28th October. The development, to be constructed will comprise of a complete renovation of two existing stone buildings and construct a public Car Park.

### Town and Village Renewal Schemes

**Corrofin Town & Village Renewal Scheme** - topographical survey finalised and on file. Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

**Clonlara Town & Village Renewal Scheme** – Public Consultation taking place on Thursday the 27th of October, at the community centre, Clonlara village.

**Shannon (Drumgeely) Town & Village Renewal Scheme** – Part VIII planning application has been submitted on 14th October to the Planning Authority for Drumgeely Town & Village Renewal, Shannon.

**Sixmilebridge Access Steps Handrail** – Works on site at the moment.

**Ballyallia Amenity Park Enhancement Works**

Further to review of submissions received from the September public consultation event both in-person and online modifications were decided upon and completed; this includes a floating boardwalk servicing two purposes, protection of the reed beds and to give good access for swimmers out to the deeper water. A second consultation process has been completed with an in-person event at Barefield Community Hall on October 12th with the online ‘Have Your Say’ closing on the

28th October. Submissions arising from this consultation are currently being reviewed. We are still awaiting responses from formal submissions to statutory bodies such as the National Park and Wildlife Services and Inland Fisheries Ireland. The ‘Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’ has requested both land and underwater Archaeological Impact Assessments and a specialist consultant is being procured to complete same.



**CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

There was significant progress on a number of our projects during the month of October. The main highlights are as follows:

**Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake’s Corner)** – Following confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order by An Bord Pleanála, Clare County Council issued the notices of confirmation and operative notices to all affected landowners. The standstill period continues until December 2nd following which, we will be in a position to engage with affected Landowners regarding compensation as well as complete the detailed design and prepare the tender documents.

**Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass** – The Main Works Contractor, Sisk, has now completed access and enabling works for the

new Bridge Crossing on both the Clare and Tipperary sides of the river. It is expected that piling activities will commence in the coming weeks. Utility services diversions have commenced on the R494 with respect to the Eir Network services.

Works to the Main Construction Compound adjacent to the Shantraud Woods Housing Development on the R463 are progressing with additional site offices and welfare facilities now in place for the expanding site team.

Site clearance & enabling works are also progressing in parallel at the following locations.

- Kilmastulla River Bridge crossing.
- Various areas along the R494, Ballina to Birdhill road.
- Lands adjacent to the Limerick/Nenagh/Ballybrophy

Railway line near Shannonside Business Park on the R494.

- Lands adjacent to the proposed Ballyvally roundabout on the R463 Killaloe to Tuamgraney Road.
- Killaloe Bypass section of the scheme from Shantraud roundabout to Ballyvally roundabout.

Other works include archaeological monitoring, ecological monitoring & property pre-condition surveys along with haul roads construction from the site compound to Clarisford adjacent the Shannon Bridge Crossing and west from the Shantraud roundabout towards the Creevroe road. The few remaining Land Acquisitions are currently being progressed mostly by agreement. The next Arbitration date is set for early November. Construction is expected to take up to 3 years and a detailed works programme will be provided by Sisks once they have engaged with the major stakeholders, suppliers and subcontractors. The Contract signing with John Sisk & Sons Ltd. has been scheduled for Thursday 3rd of November followed by the official project sod turning by Minister Eamon Ryan TD.

**Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme** – All comments regarding the Pluvial (Trapped rainwater) Options technical note have been addressed by the consultant. The Hydrology Report has also been issued for review. As agreed, the final Hydraulics Report will be issued once the Pluvial note has been approved. Scheme consultant JBA\_JB Barry have produced a draft estimate cost of each of the options for the Victoria Stream and Atlantic Stream, including the Atlantic Stream outfall options. The draft estimate costings consider the Fluvial (River) elements only and do not account for the coastal element of the scheme. Initial damage calculations have also been undertaken. The Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) of the options is ongoing.

Titurus Environmental Ltd have completed the Electrofishing survey and will issue their report in early November. The period also saw the completion of this year's Japanese Knotweed treatment. Further information is available on the Project Website [www.kilkeefrs.ie](http://www.kilkeefrs.ie)

**Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)** – Following Landowner consent, Priority Geotechnical Ltd. has substantially completed the majority of the ground investigation works. There remains some slit trenching works on the junctions of Lees Road (L4180), Drumcliffe Road (L4599) & (L4182) and the Dredhidnagower Road (L4587) which should be completed in the coming weeks. The results of these investigatory works will inform RPS Consulting Engineers in finalising the road design, land-take requirements and preparation of the scheme drawings and specifications for a competitive Tender process for the works in 2023. Engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding the acquisition of the necessary lands for the road element of the scheme is ongoing.

**Lough Donnell Culvert Repair works** – Detailed design continues. A review of planning conditions is being carried out and this will inform the works programme for tender and construction phases.

**N19 Shannon Airport Access Road** – The Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage is currently ongoing. Following extensive consultation with all major stakeholders such as TII Road Safety Section, NTA, the Gardai, Shannon Airport and Shannon Commercial Properties, significant progress has been made in terms of junction design development, active travel measures, access strategies, scheme land-take requirements, construction methodologies and works sequencing.

Survey results from the Ground Investigations, Archaeology Investigations & Traffic Surveys contracts have now been furnished to the team which will allow for further consideration, risk management and design development during this Phase.

A pre-application meeting with An Bord Pleanála was held in early October and was positive. The entire project team consisting of Fehily Timoney, Clandillon & Co, CCC, TII and the Mid-West National Road Design Office participated in a full day workshop in relation to the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the 18th of October and in preparation for Phase 4 – Statutory Processes. Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website [www.shannonaccess.ie](http://www.shannonaccess.ie)

**N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme** – Preparation of tender documentation for the appointment of Technical Advisors is ongoing and we would expect to be in a position to appoint Technical Advisors in early 2023, subject to TII approval and funding.

**Public Realm Regeneration Project (Ennis)** – The advance enabling works involving the upgrade of watermains and installation of electrical infrastructure were completed by Irish Water and Shareridge Engineering in October 2022. These works were necessary to ensure the long-term integrity of the towns water, sewer and electrical supplies and will minimise the need for future excavation of utilities. Clare County Council also met with Irish Water Asset Management in October 2022 to discuss the possible rehabilitation of sections of the foul sewer within the Project area. Irish Water have proposed that significant sections of the network should be refurbished further to completion of surveys by Project team in 2022. This would be fully funded by Irish Water and completed as part of the main contract provided it can be incorporated seamlessly into the overall programme of the works.

Related to same, the Council continues to liaise closely with the URDF Section of the Department who are the Approving and Funding Authority for the project. The Council have responded in detail to the Departments queries raised following submission of the Preliminary Business Case. A site visit is now being arranged for Dept staff to Ennis which will most likely take place in mid to late November.

**Quin Flood Relief Scheme** – Tree clearance works were carried out successfully in early October. The fencing contractor has also been appointed to install the temporary fencing around the site. Some pre-construction drainage works will also be carried out this year pending suitable weather conditions.

**Remediation of sites containing ACM** – Our Technical Advisors, Fehily Timoney & Co continue to progress the detailed design for this project. The completion of topographical surveys at all sites in October 2022 will enable modelling of waste bodies, and further inform estimation of quantities, necessary for completion of tender documentation. FTCO have issued preliminary contracting strategy and project estimate in October 2022. FTCO will now build on this exercise, taking into account topographical data, waste categorisation and intelligence regarding capacities of waste receiving sites to refine the contracting strategy and minimise the eventual cost to Clare County Council. In the meantime, the sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with our agreed approach following discussion and consultation with the EPA.

**Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme** – Following the recent additional Coastal study of the estuary, the new water levels have been reviewed and approved for inclusion in the design of the scheme going forward. Project consultant RPS will now progress with their Wave Overtopping Assessment & Analysis. A further technical meeting was held to discuss comments on the draft baseline model submitted by RPS in the previous period. Some modifications and improvements will be carried out over the coming weeks prior to re-issue of the model and Hydraulic Report (fluvial only). The draft preliminary embankment options have been submitted to CCC and OPW for review. A meeting is planned with the consultant's geotechnical lead to address comments and queries regarding same. The new estuary water level data will also be considered in these preliminary embankment options and adjusted where necessary. The specification for the third-party independent check is now complete and will go to tender in early November.

The wintering bird survey programme has commenced. These monthly high and low tide surveys will be ongoing for the remainder of the year and into 2023.

Coordination with the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road is ongoing with a further two meetings held during the period. Further information on the scheme is available on [www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com](http://www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com)

**Springfield, Clonlara FRS** – Construction work on the embankments is now complete. The final 30m section was completed in late October. This involved installing the pump delivery pipes through the cross section of the embankment and underneath the pumpstation and the importation and placing of suitable material to complete the embankment. The anti-erosion matting, topsoiling and grass seeding has also been completed at this section. Due to the mild weather, grass has already begun to grow on the new section of embankment. The main sections of embankment now have a good cover of grass. As a result of the installation of the penstocks at the two main culverts, the diverted channel has been removed and reinstated and the Illaunregan stream returned to its original channel. Work continues on the toe drains along the foot of the embankment and at the pumpstation area. The access road and access ramps are currently under construction also.

We are still awaiting delivery of the two 400mm pumps and this has a knock on delay to the completion of the project. As a result, alternative arrangements have been put in place for the provision of pumps in the interim if required. The weather of late has been poor and conditions on site are not favourable. Items such as landscaping and fencing will not be completed until early 2023 but it should be noted that we are in a position to defend against a flood event should one occur which is very welcome news indeed to the affected and now protected property owners in the area.

**West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)** – 'Public Consultation 2' is now complete and review of public comment forms is underway. The feedback will be incorporated into the preliminary design and emerging preferred route documentation. It is planned to hold 'Public Consultation 3' in the new year which will entail displaying the emerging preferred route. Throughout all stages of the project, Clare County Council welcomes comments and queries from affected landowners and members of the public via email to [pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie](mailto:pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie).

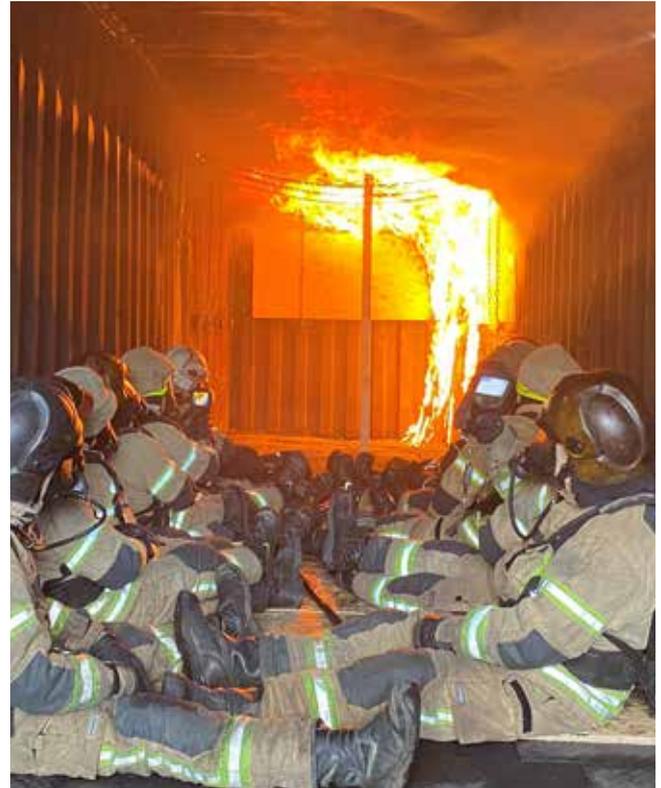
**West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)** – 'Public Consultation 1' is now complete and review of public comment forms is underway. The feedback will be incorporated into options selection documentation. It is planned to hold 'Public Consultation 2' in the new year which will involve displaying potential route options and inviting feedback. As always, we would welcome comments or suggestions from interested parties and members of the public which can be emailed to [pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie](mailto:pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie)

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during October:

- Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Refresher Training
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Training



### Firefighters Attacked and Appliance Damaged while Responding to Ennis Bonfire

Ennis Fire Brigade have attended in excess of 10 small rubbish fires in the Cloughleigh area over the past few weeks. On Saturday night 22nd October, a fire appliance window was broken while attending to such an incident. If this anti-social behaviour continues to persist, then further control measures will have to be considered for Fire Service personnel.

In addition to dealing with the incidents, we have also engaged with the Environment Section, Ennis Municipal District and An Garda Síochána. An Garda Síochána will concentrate their Community Policing Unit efforts into identifying and engaging directly with the families involved. It is also intended that the Environmental Section, with the assistance of the Ennis MD will deal with any bonfire material that is found and have it removed, in the presence of An Garda Síochána, if required.

### National Fire Safety Week

National Fire Safety Week took place from the 17th to 23rd October 2022. This year's theme was "A Working Smoke Alarm Can Save Your Life". An interview with Denis O'Connell, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer was aired on Clare FM's Morning Focus show. Fire Safety Week was highlighted on all of the Council's social media forums and in the local press.

The Council's social media forums featured a video of a local house fire where a house was destroyed, the owner only

escaped because his dog alerted him to the fire. The Fire Service invited older people and those living alone (the highest risk group for involvement in fatal fires) to apply for free smoke alarms and a home fire safety check carried out by members of the Fire Service. A dedicated e-mail address [firesafety@clarecoco.ie](mailto:firesafety@clarecoco.ie) was used for this purpose.

Members of the Fire Service Prevention Section provided Fire Safety Talks to various groups of North Clare day care residents at Ennistymon Hospital and to members of the Quin Active Retirement Group. Fire Officers attended a stand at the Clare Older Peoples Award Ceremony to promote Fire Safety.



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Sept 2022	Oct 2022 (Up to 28.10.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	75	77	811
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	7	9	79
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	3	6	76
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	8	6	60
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	5	10	61
Number of Commencement Notices Received	33	34	337
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	3	3	17

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

## Clare Civil Defence

### Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events:

- Teenage Disco held in the Queens Hotel, Ennis as part of a joint initiative between Clare CD and An Garda Síochána.
- County Senior Hurling Semi-Finals and Final in Cusack Park.
- County Senior Football Semi-Finals in Cusack Park
- County Intermediate Hurling Final
- Lanterns for Life Memorial Event (including boat cover)
- Mental Health Awareness event in Kilrush.

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members provided transport for a patient for hospital admission.
- Members provided transport for a patient from a Care Home to their own residence.
- Members of the Drone Team provided aerial stills and footage of the 100th year anniversary celebration for An Garda Síochána held in Ennis Garda Station.
- Members participated in an Emergency Services Information Day (hosted by An Garda Síochána) held at Ennis Garda Station for 6th Class pupils. The members set up several displays to highlight the operations carried out by Clare Civil Defence to assist the Principal Response Agencies and also engaged in Q&A sessions with the pupils.

### Members Training & Professional Development

- Four members successfully passed their final exams qualifying as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and are now registered medical practitioners with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC).
- Interviews were held to assess potential candidates for the 2022/2023 Recruit Basic Training Course (RBT) for Clare Civil Defence. Eight candidates were selected to participate on the course and have received induction to the unit.

## CLIMATE

Clare County Council has initiated a Climate section as part of the Physical Directorate to support & co-ordinate the cross directorate response to climate action across the council.

The Climate Action team will look to build appropriate resources to lead in Co Ordinating the Local Authorities response to Climate Action. Currently, the appointment of a Senior Engineer/ Climate Action Co Ordinator is in place and further additions to the team will be required and recruited over the coming months.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021 enshrines the National Climate Objective to pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

As part of this, Local Authorities must achieve 51% GHG emissions reductions and 50% Energy Efficient reductions by 2030.

The team will work with all directorates to:

- Develop a Climate Action Plan for the Local Authority over the 2023 period. This will include both mitigation and adaptation actions. This plan is a Statutory Plan and adoption will be a reserved function of the Council.
- Consider Energy Efficiency of the Councils owns processes seeking ongoing improvement
- Identify and assist directorates in carrying out Energy Efficiency upgrades.

## ENVIRONMENT

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### Water Safety – World lifesaving Championships



The World lifesaving Championships were held in Riccione, Italy from 20th September to 2nd October 2022. Representing Water Safety Ireland were 12 Senior athletes (6 male and 6 female) and 12 Youth athletes (under 18, 6 male and 6 female). In total, 10 of the team were from County Clare, 5 youths and 5 senior athletes. The 5 senior athletes from County Clare were beach lifeguards who supervised our beaches during the summer of 2022: Tommy Nunan-Fanore, Dylan O'Brien-Lahinch, Aoife Madigan-Lahinch, Leah McMahan-Whitestrans, Hannah Garrigan-Kilkee.

The 5 County Clare lifeguards spent the summer training on the beach early morning before work, in good and bad weather, and pool training in Lahinch Leisure Centre many evenings after work. This training was very generously sponsored by Lahinch Leisure Centre. The dedication and fitness of these lifeguards was very evident in their summer day to day work, ensuring County Clare beach visitors were kept safe. Their excellent performances at the World Championships reflected their hard work and determination. The Irish team were placed 11th overall – 2nd in the youth Board Rescue, 5th in the senior Board Rescue, 10 Irish Records, 11 top 10 finishes, 33 top 16 finishes were achieved.

County Clare Water Safety Development Officer, Clare McGrath, was appointed Deputy Chief Referee for these World Championships in Italy and was a leading official for the ocean events for the competition.

One can safely say – Clare County Council have some of the “Best Lifeguards in the World”

### Environmental Awareness

#### An Taisce Green Schools programme

During October, An Taisce Green School Webinars were held across all themes including Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship. Seminars were shared with Cork City and County Council and Kerry County Council. The seminars were delivered by An Taisce with Local Authority supports highlighted by our Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO).

#### October Reuse month

October is Ireland's National Reuse Month. Our EAO, Karen Foley, joined Clare Libraries at Kilkee Library for a free information session on how to recycle and reuse items. The importance of a Circular Economy and how we can reuse items in our home wisely in the battle against climate change formed part of the talk.

#### Halloween Campaign

In the lead up to Halloween a comprehensive media campaign took place highlighting that the burning of household waste in bonfires and other waste burners is illegal. The health and environmental effects were also highlighted. The campaigns included a media release and newspaper adverts on The Clare Echo and The Clare Champion for 2 weeks. Clare County Council and Greener Clare social media channels were also used to promote these messages.

#### Focus Group on transitioning the Irish Events industry away from Single-Use Plastics (SUP).

Our Environmental Awareness Officer participated in a national focus group on transitioning the Irish Events industry away from Single-Use Plastics (SUP) and in doing so assist in reducing pollution, negate climate impacts and grow a regenerative and sustainable society. The purpose of the focus group is to gather the discussions, thoughts, and experiences from those working in the events industry including event organisers, sustainability managers, representatives from local authorities and licensing bodies, drinks brands and caterers, stadiums to promote a positive vision for action.

## Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	October 2022	Jan- October 2022
Planning applications (Domestic)	25	431
Planning applications (Large Developments)	3	24
Planning applications (Forestry)	9	125
Planning applications (Agriculture)	0	10
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	14	54
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	5	48
Pollution complaints received	9	106
Warning & advisory letters issued	0	7
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	0	36
Private Group Water Scheme supplies	5	31
Public Group Water Scheme Supplies	4	72
Public Water Supplies	34	357
Bathing Water	0	179

**Training:** Environment scientific team completed a training course on the Catchment Science programme given by the Environmental Protection Agency Catchments unit and the Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO). This will assist the Environment section in delivering on the 3rd cycle (implementation phase) of the River Basin Management plan.

## Gardening

During October, the Gardening Team worked in collaboration with the Facilities Team and Ennis Men's Shed to enhance an existing green space at Áras Chontae an Chláir. All planting and landscaping works have been completed, and items such as bird boxes and bug hotels that have been built by Ennis Men's shed shall be installed shortly.

To ensure the ongoing protection of habitats and nesting

birds, hedge cutting and tree pruning in public spaces was commenced by the Gardening Team during October and shall continue at different locations over the winter period.

The Gardening Team continues to provide cross sectional support to various departments and municipal districts, such as recent works completed at the Buttermarket Building, and Doora Landfill.

## Waste Management

### Scrap Metal Services

Scrap Metal Collection services at all Recycling Centres was recently retendered. This waste stream generates an income to Clare County Council and was awarded to United Metal Recycling. The initial contract will be for a period of 12 months with two optional extensions of 12 months each available.

### Ennis Recycling Centre:

Tree topping/felling will take place along the perimeter of the site in the coming weeks. The purpose of this is to remove overhanging branches and reduce height to ensure health and safety is maintained on the site. The trees being cut back are Lombardi Popular Trees and will be cut to a height of 2.5m – 3m above the height of the security fence. These trees are known to grow approx 5-6 feet per year and will require ongoing maintenance.

### Doora Landfill:

Vegetation and hedging along pedestrian pathways will be cut back and maintained during October now that the bird nesting season has finished. This will help improve the pedestrian walkways access around the Camogie fields along with maintaining access to water sampling points in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency licence for the site.

## Waste Enforcement

### Solid Fuel Regulations

The Environment Section attended a workshop organised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the new Solid Fuel Regulations, titled Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022. The new regulation comes into effect from the 31st October 2022. The Environment section ran several awareness campaigns on social media in the recent weeks and will be conducting visits to retailers and distributors to raise awareness of the implications of the new regulations in advance of and after the implementation date.

Once the regulations are in force, it will be an offence to retail unapproved fuels. All existing stocks which will not meet the new technical standards should be sold before the regulations take effect on the 31st of October.

### Mattress Amnesty Day

The Environment Section ran a Mattress Amnesty Day in the Mart in Kilrush on the 8th Oct to provide an environmentally responsible way of disposing of mattresses. The Amnesty Day provided for free disposal of the mattresses. The mattresses were recycled by the collector and used for insulation production thereafter.



### Halloween bonfires

In response to a request for assistance from the Fire Service in relation to burning of waste material in Cloughleigh, the Environment Section provided 2 skips daily for the period 25th October to 28th October. The skips were conveniently placed each morning and removed each evening.

We also provided some informative signage to promote the message of “Bin it, don’t burn it” In total, 30 tons of waste was removed. This essentially eliminated the presentation of waste for burning during the lead up to Halloween.



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

Clare County Council attended a SEA-PT training exercise in Kerry along with other members of the SEA-PT membership in October. This exercise provides the Council with access to expertise in the field of incident response management. The exercise provided an opportunity for both the Environment Section and Municipal Districts staff to avail of hands-on training of modern equipment to deal with a potential oil spill incident. We also took part in a desktop exercise to check the integrity of our Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan.



### Historic Landfills

The environment section recently met with the Regional Waste Management Office Historic Landfill Co-ordinator to continue to advance our current work programme in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency.

## WATER SERVICES

### Annual Service Plan

The Water Services Section of Clare County Council continues to deliver the water services function as per the Service Level Agreement and the 2022 Annual Service Plan with Irish Water.

### Future Delivery of Water Services

The WRC published a framework document on the 24th June for the future delivery of water services for consideration by the relevant parties. This framework document will assist in ensuring a stable operational environment is maintained as the water sector completes the transition to a national water services authority. There are ongoing discussions between the parties to finalise the details of the new service level agreement.

### Water Services Operations

#### Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 22nd September 2022 up to and including 26th October 2022. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 35 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Emergency Work Orders were received during the timeframe
- 378 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Customer Asset Flooding Work Orders were received during the period
- 159 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 39 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 3 were for planned works i.e. meter installation, reservoir cleaning and works to reservoir. There were 25 unplanned outages for burst watermains, water outages, repair to leaking watermain. 11 Communication notifications issued for Water Treatment Plant upgrade, reservoir cleaning, watermain line flushing and water leaks.

### Water Operations

The following is a summary of the outages dealt with in October.

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

- Kilkeady WTP – Plant Service
- Doora Pump Station – Essential works
- Various leak repairs from Larsens – Tulla Road
- Skehanagh – Burst Watermain
- Kilkeady WTP x 2 – Burst Watermains

- Carran WTP – Burst Watermain
- Clancy Park, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Summerhill, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Remedial Action List upgrade ongoing in Corofin Water Treatment Plant.
- Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non Domestic Programme.
- Existing Borehole testing in Carran WTP – Ongoing
- Leak Repair works ongoing in Drumcliff Reservoir – IW/AQS

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

- 27th Oct 10" wavin Labasheeda
- 22nd Oct 9" A/C Doonbeg
- 18th Oct 5" A/C Doonbeg
- 15th Oct Burst Watermain Doonbeg
- 16th Oct 9"A/C Doonbeg
- 5th Oct 9"A/C Doonbeg
- 4th Oct 9"A/C Doonbeg
- 3rd Oct 5"A/C Doonbeg
- New Doolough WTP Network Flushing
- Old Doolough WTP Network Flushing, Clear water tanks cleaning and Clonlaheen Reservoir Cleaning
- Old Doolough WTP Ferric Sulphate Tank Cleaning
- West Clare reservoir and plant grounds hedge and grass cutting programme (CCC)

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

- 3rd Oct Burst Watermain Ballymacraven WTP to Sean Bobs Reservoir main.
- 6th Oct Burst Watermain Turlough
- 6th Oct Burst Watermain Kilfinora
- 11th Oct Burst Watermain Cliffs of Mohar
- 12th Oct Burst Watermain Miltown Malbay
- 17th Oct Burst Watermain Turlough
- 26th Oct Burst Watermain Turlough
- Doolin Road Mains Upgrade

### Major Outages for East Clare and Shannon Area for period below:-

- Lios Anama Sixmilebridge – Burst Watermain
- Tulla Road Kilkishen – Burst Watermain
- Corbally – Burst Watermain
- Manor Grove, Griffins Cross– Burst Watermain (Major outage)
- Shannon – various watermain bursts in Aiden Park and Ind Estate
- Mount Ivors, Sixmilebridge – Burst Watermain

### Water Conservation

- Leak Detection Works – East Clare – Shannon, Tulla and Sixmilebridge. Killaloe DMA – Acoustic Logger

### Installation

- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare – Sandfield DMA, Parnell St DMA, Summerhill DMA Loughnamina DMA, Corrofin DMA, Crusheen DMA & Ruan DMA
- Leak Detection Works – Mid Clare - Acoustic Logger Installation – Ballybeg DMA, Ennis
- Leak Detection Works – North Clare – Ennistymon, Ballyvaughan, Kilfenora, Liscannor, Kilshanny.
- Fix Operation – Various locations – Castlequarter/ Ballinfonta DMA, Clancy Park & Sixmilebridge DMA
- Larsens – Find crew – Knockbrack DMA
- SES -Find Crew – Castlequarter/Ballinfonta DMA & Sixmilebridge DMA

### Wastewater Operations

Two rising main breaks occurred on the foul asbestos rising main in Kilkee on the 05th and 14th of October. The breaks were successfully repaired by the West Clare Operations Crews without any disruption to service or negative environmental impact. On 20th October, both Foul and Storm flows at the Kilkee Pumping Station were switched over from the old twin asbestos mains to the new twin PE rising mains. Replacing the ageing rising mains with new and improved modern pipes will greatly reduce the risk of bursts causing disruption to service or water quality on the beach.

An EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement Site Visit took place at Kilmihil Wastewater treatment plant on the 20th of September. Although the EPA were satisfied to see improvements (screens being upgraded) in Kilmihil since their previous site visit, they noted that the plant is long overdue an upgrade and they are concerned at the pace/timeframe for the completion of the upgrade works.

### Irish Water Capital programme

#### Kilrush Wastewater Treatment Plant:

The new scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant near Skagh Point, a new rising main, additional storm storage and upgrade of the existing Francis St pumping station. Construction works are ongoing at the site of the new WWTP. Work on pipework, tank fit out and footpaths is continuing. At Frances St Pump Station works commenced on the upgrade of the pumps. The storm tank walls and roof panels have been constructed. Completion of the overall scheme is due in mid-2023. When complete, this scheme will end the discharge of raw sewage to the sea near Skagh Point.

#### Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme:

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

All of the rising main has been installed and tested. Construction of the new pumping facility is underway at Quay Road. Works

are programmed to be substantially complete by the end of November 2022.

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

#### Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Construction of the Liscannor project is ongoing. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. Testing of the pipelines and pumps are complete and treatment of wastewater from Liscannor has commenced. This is a very significant milestone achievement for the project.

Full completion of the scheme is due in early 2023.



#### Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant:

A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Design of the treatment plant and pump station is ongoing. Workshop 4 was held on the 25th of October and the preparation of the planning application documents is continuing.

#### Kilkee Wastewater Treatment Plant:

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

### Ennistymon and Lahinch Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

The site selection report and the feasibility study report are with Irish Water for approval. A single site for a WWTP between Ennistymon and Lahinch is the recommended solution. The IW Expenditure Approval Committee has just given approval to proceed to the next stage. Work on selection of an exact site, pipeline route, detailed design, land acquisition, marine modelling and a planning application will commence in early 2023.

### Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

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

### Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

Construction is continuing at the WWTP site. Pumps and mixer installation has taken place. Works are continuing at the percolation area. The overall scheme is due for completion in 2023.

### Remedial Action Lists Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

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

1. **New Doolough Water Treatment Plant** – This plant is the regional treated water source for West Clare covering the large geographical area in the county and the third largest plant by volume produced. The project will modernise the treatment technology at the plant which will allow it to achieve the desired quality of output during events which cause high turbidity at the source. Works to upgrade filters, and construction of the new sludge thickener and lamella clarifier have been completed. Installation of the new sludge press is complete. Testing and commissioning works are underway at the plant.
2. **Corofin Water Treatment Plant** – this plant provides water to the town of Corofin. The project will modernise the treatment processes on site which will enable production of water to the desired standard during high turbidity events in the source lake. Works to upgrade the water treatment process are complete. The contractor is preparing for the removal of the temporary treatment package plant and to commence phase 2 works on site, which is the sludge handling process.

3. **Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant** – this plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. Phase 1 of this will modernise the water treatment processes at the plant with Phase 2 delivering the sludge handling line under a separate contract. Phase 1 Work has commenced with the construction of a new third water clarifier underway.

### Rockmount Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Construction of the reservoir is now substantially complete, with testing of the new reservoir and demolition and removal of the old tank to be completed before the end of 2022.

### Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet & Storm Tank Upgrade Works

Work at this location includes the construction of a new inlet works and screens, and a new storm tank. The inlet works will provide improved screening of materials coming into the plant to both protect and optimise the downstream treatment process to improve discharge standards. The stormwater tank will allow capture of flow during rainfall events for later treatment through the plant. The work will also involve the construction of a new ESB substation. Civil Works on the inlet storm tank and ESB substation are now well advanced. The project is expected to be complete in Q1 2023.

### Clonroadmore & Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plants

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

### Ennis Drainage Area Plan

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

## Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 64 of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets or assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 314 assets, 214 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 100 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

- Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (11 assets) – These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed.
- National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (56 assets)– This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities. The majority of assets in this category are folios under third party ownership but where long standing use and some evidence of previous land dealing is present. Irish Water are now advocating that property in long term operational possession but not in the Council name be obtained by the adverse possession process. Circular L1 2022 has confirmed department support for this approach. All assets which have not yet transferred will be examined to see if they can be progresses using this method.
- Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets)–At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- Outstanding assets to be reported on (33 assets) – These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer

these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to submit to Irish Water for their consideration on the best approach to proceed with. Many of the remaining assets have been examined and various routes being explored to close these out.

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

## Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme the replacement of 4.2km of the Ballycar GWS Mains commenced on the 10th October. Works shall continue into early 2023. Works due to commence on the connection of 6no houses to the Portdrine No.2 GWS currently supplied by a private well have been suspended due to the unavailability of a contractor to undertake the works. Works to replace 600m of the Clohanes GWS which is suffering from continued leakage is currently at design stage and it is hoped to progress to tender in the coming weeks. All the above works are to be completed under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme.

We still await the invitation for the submission of bids under the new Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2025. This is leading to frustration with many schemes anxious to carry out upgrade works and those wishing to progress taking in charge applications.

67 no applications have been received to date in 2022 under the ‘Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply’. The Rural Water Team continues to work with group water schemes to ensure their members have a robust and sustainable quality and quantity supply of water available to them.

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Ennis achieves standard of excellence in the evening and night-time economy

Ennis has been awarded ‘Purple Flag’ status for another year. The external assessment took place in Ennis on the evening/night of August 13th with the presentation of the purple flag taking place in Cork on October 31st. This accreditation is testament to the strong working relationships of various agencies working together (An Garda Síochána, Ennis Chamber, Active Ennis, Ennis Municipal District) to achieve a common goal that of driving the night-time economy in Ennis and ensuring it is a safe and vibrant town.



**2nd public consultation - Ballyallia Lake Amenity Park Enhancement Scheme**

Consideration was given to submissions received at the first consultation on September 8th 2022 and online up to September 19th. A second public consultation to review the design evolution was held in Barefield Community Centre on October 12th from 5-8pm, members of the public availed of the opportunity to view the updated drawings. Submissions were also received online between October 12th - 28th.



**Ennis Age Friendly Town Strategy (2021) scoops 'Age Friendly Environment Award (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings)' at the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2022**

This category recognises projects that bring about change in the built physical environment with older people in mind. Simple things like adequate public seating, level footpaths and appropriate crossing times at pedestrian crossings all have a huge impact on the ability of older people to be active in their towns and villages. The implementation of the 'Ennis Age Friendly Town Strategy' (2021), ensures the needs of the older person are incorporated into the design and delivery of services and infrastructure.



**Health & safety at Cloughleigh**

Ennis MD Outdoor Crews supported the Environment section collecting significant amounts of rubbish in the Cloughleigh area. This was part of a multi-agency initiative to avert the

stockpiling and burning of rubbish around the Halloween period, thereby ensuring a safe and healthy environment for residents.



**Projects**

**Uncontrolled crossing point installations**

These include dropped kerbs, tactile paving and footpath widening at Park Avenue, Ennis



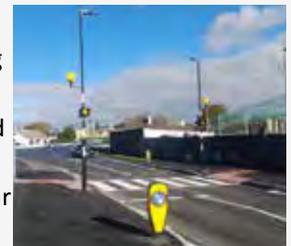
**Junction tightening at Lahinch Road, Ennis**

Junction tightening and uncontrolled crossing point installations including dropped kerbs, tactile paving and footpath widening at Lahinch Road, Ennis



**Eire Og Pedestrian Crossing**

Construction and commissioning of the Eire Og Pedestrian Crossing has been finalised and it is now available for use by the Public and the Ennis National School walking bus, which starts at the Eire Og car park in the mornings.



**Gort Road Industrial Estate**

New overlay and lining at Gort Road Industrial Estate, Ennis Overlay Gort Road Ind Estate.png



**Disabled Spaces Lined**

New disabled spaces have been lined at Abbey Street car park.

