



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meán Fómhair / September
2022



UKRAINIAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT p58



FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES p2



RURAL DEVELOPMENT p46



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT p34



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT p16



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT p6

FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

2022 to date statistics to 29th August 2022

- 78 Freedom of Information Requests
- 8 Freedom of Information Internal Review applications
- 2 Appeals to Information Commissioner

- 7 Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request
- 19 Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Request e.g. Gardai

Register of Electors Modernisation Project

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 was passed into legislation by the Dáil in July. The legislation provides for a range of significant electoral reforms in line with commitments in the Programme for Government – Our Shared Future.

The Franchise Section of the Dept of Housing, Local Government & Heritage Franchise Section has commenced roll out of software in consultation with the I.T. Department.

They have advised that Monday 3rd October is the 'Go Live' date for all local authorities.

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 July and August included:

- Eamon de Valera's Dodge Car Finds a New Home at Clare Museum

- Sustainability and biodiversity the themes for Heritage Week 2022 in Clare
- Cathaoirleach welcomes funding for outdoor projects
- Safety advice during high temperatures
- Cathaoirleach welcomes CLÁR funding boost for Clare community projects
- Clare Museum maintains top national award from Heritage Council
- Applications invited for Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme 2022.

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 July and August, the Communications Office:

- Posted 129 times on Facebook, with total followers now 17,117. The Page reach was 371,261.
- Posted 82 times on Twitter, with total followers now 7,790. Tweets earned 54,468 impressions and 2,235 engagements.
- Posted 7 times on Instagram with followers now 2,578. (Statistics as of 24/08/2022)

Print and Graphic Design

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

Minister Humphreys officially opens Lahinch Leisure Centre

The Lahinch Leisure Centre Project Technical Team, led by Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services, oversaw the €6m revamp of Lahinch Leisure Centre which was officially unveiled on Monday, 18th July 2022, by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development.

The facility upgrade was funded by the Department of Community and Rural Development through the RRDF, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the TOMAR Trust, LEADER, Clare County Council and local fundraising.

The newly redesigned family-friendly, state-of-the-art facility features a 25-metre heated swimming pool, learner pool, sauna, steam room and jacuzzi. A two-storey fitness gym overlooks the Promenade and Liscannor Bay, with membership drawn from all over North and West Clare already exceeding 1,400 people.

The facility is a Nearly Zero-Energy Building (NZEB) delivering approximately €100,000 savings in annual energy costs. JADA Construction Ltd and Kelly RAC were the main contractors for the development while the design team comprised McKenna Consulting Engineers, Tom McNamara & Partners and Tipperary Energy Agency.

Funding received under the Department's RRDF fund has also helped deliver new on-site public toilets as well as a new rescue centre developed by Clare Water Safety.

This project is a great example of how collaboration, in this case between Clare County Council, Lahinch Leisure Centre, Clare Water Safety and the community, can deliver real investment in our areas and ensure that we have sustainable regional development throughout the county.



Pictured are members of the Technical Team with Minister Heather Humphreys at the recent official reopening of Lahinch Leisure Centre (l-r): Fiona Burke, Staff Officer; Cllr Shane Talty, Cathaoirleach of West Clare MD and Director on Board; Tony Neville, Senior Executive Engineer; Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development; Cllr Joe Garrihy, former General Manager; Noeleen Fitzgerald, Director of Finance and Support Services; John O'Malley, Senior Executive Officer and Director on Board (Not pictured: Richard Doyle, Director on Board).

Procurement

The following tender competitions were published publicly on eTenders in the period from 27th June to 30th August 2022 incl.:

Short description	Response deadline
Cloghaun Beg, Friars & Mauricemills Bridges - Bridge Rehabilitation	13/07/2022 12:00
Provision of ecological services to undertake a Wetlands Survey in Ennis Municipal District in County Clare.	20/07/2022 17:00
LEO 2022 Green for Micro	28/07/2022 12:00
Safe Routes to School Programme - St Flannans National School, Inagh	10/08/2022 12:00
Derg View, Scarriff - Works to Roads and Footpaths	11/08/2022 15:00
Expression of Interest in the provision of Housing Schemes and/or Land for Social/Affordable Housing to Clare County Council	19/08/2022 12:00
Tender for Flexible Outdoor Structures	26/08/2022 16:00
Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project	29/08/2022 12:00
Testing, Repair, Installation and Removal of Festive Lighting Ennis 2022 and 2023	31/08/2022 16:00

Civil Engineering Led Integrated Design Team for Scarriff Market Square Public Realm Project	02/09/2022 12:00
Bus Shelter Enabling Works 15 No	02/09/2022 16:00
Active Travel Footpaths at Clarisford, Killaloe	05/09/2022 12:00
Provision of Juvenile Swim Lesson Programme for Active Ennis Leisure Complex to include provision of swim teachers and associated programme management	08/09/2022 17:00
Supply of Previously Owned Class B Fire Appliances	09/09/2022 16:00
Provision of Service for Scrap Metals	12/09/2022 12:00
Supply, installation, commissioning and maintenance of Digital Cinema System.	16/09/2022 17:00
Proposed 18 Number Unit Housing Development at Ballyminogue Scarriff, Co. Clare	19/09/2022 14:00
Fanore Beach Public Toilet Refurbishment	26/09/2022 12:00

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during August:</p> <p>Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A <p>Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <p>Open Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pool/Duty Manager Active Ennis Lifeguard Instructor Active Ennis <p>Confined Competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
Learning and Development	<p>Online Training programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in August include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competency Based Interviewer Training Introduction to Internal Audit Manual Handling Mini Digger New Entrant Maintenance of Strimmer & Bushcutter School Warden Training <p>Essential Skillz online Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyber Security Diversity & Inclusion Ergowize GDPR Health & Safety Induction Manual Handling Theory Treating Customers Fairly Working in a Covid Era <p>Green Procurement:</p> <p>The County and City Managers Association (CCMA) endorsed a Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan which calls for “the development of Local Authority climate action leadership and capacities”. The GPP Awareness Webinar is part of this plan and is being rolled out to nominated staff on a phased basis. The numbers of staff that have completed the webinar will be a KPI for reporting purposes.</p> <p>Webinar Access Dates</p> <p>3rd May 2022 - 31st May 2022 - Completed</p> <p>1st June 2022 - 30th June 2022 - Completed</p> <p>1st July 2022 - 29th July 2022 -Completed</p> <p>Next Webinars will be available on the following dates:</p> <p>5th September - 30th September 2022</p> <p>5th October - 28th October 2022</p> <p>1st November - 30th November 2022</p>

<p>Employee Welfare</p>	<p>An Employee Health Screening Programme was launched on 20th June. A final follow up day (for those on leave during the programme) is planned on 30th September 2022.</p> <p>Bereavement Counsellor will engage with staff in Rural Development next week following the recent sad occurrence of a death in service in the Section.</p> <p>Plans are being put in place for a supportive Menopause talk to be delivered to employees by one of our local GP's.</p> <p>The availability of Flu Vaccinations is being discussed with a healthcare provider to roll out to staff in October 2022.</p> <p>Employee wellbeing supports continue to be made available to staff across a range of areas.</p>
<p>Unions</p>	<p>The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.</p>

FINANCE

The interim half year report which covers the six month period from January to June 2022 is before the Council. The report outlines the financial results of Clare County Council for the first 6 months of the year. The overall result in the Revenue Account was in line with budget. While this is an extremely positive result, it should be noted that as we move into the second half

of the year additional challenges will be faced by the Council as outlined in the half year report. On the capital ledger the closing balance for the 6 months increased with income exceeding expenditure by €0.6m.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

September brings the end of the summer season with school/college/work routines re-established. The summer months traditionally would see reduced demand for some services

however 2022 did not yield any slowdown with sustained demand for services during July and August.

HOUSING

The demand for social housing support is ever increasing in spite of the fact that the Council has allocated more than 200 properties in 2022 to date. In addition, there is a notable increase in those applying for social housing support in the County. In July the Council received correspondence from the Department that we have to undertake the social housing needs assessment on the 1st November with the return due by the 29th November. This will provide information on the net social housing demand in Clare.

The housing public counter remains open to the public without appointment from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call **065 6846334** or **065 6849403** to schedule same.

Housing need as of 31/08/2022:



Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved

FIRST AREA OF CHOICE (only)	BEDS APPROVED					Grand Total
	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	
CLARECASTLE		137	31	10		178
CLONLARA		18	6	2		26
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	2	35	10	2		49
COROFIN/RUAN		54	22	3		79
ENNIS	6	916	185	72	2	1181
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	1	114	23	5		143
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	1	134	24	4		163
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY		24	3	2		29
KILFENORA		6	1			7
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT		70	11	1		82
KILLALOE		56	10	3		69
KILMALEY		10	3			13
KILMIHIL		10	7	2		19
KILRUSH		99	31	7		137
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN		41	10	3		54
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY		78	36	10		124
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY		70	14	7		91
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS		58	17	4		79
QUIN		16	7	1		24
SHANNON		188	24	14		226
SIXMILEBRIDGE		36	6	8		50
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD		36	6	2		44
Grand Total	10	2206	487	162	2	2867

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Miltown Malbay housing development which is due for completion later this year

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing allocations

The allocations team continues to allocate houses to those in need with 3 new housing schemes allocated in recent months at Cnoc na Scoile, Ashline; Cuiinne an Bhroic, Tulla and Phase 1 Cluain Gréine, Drehidnagower, Ennis. Phases 2 and 3 Cluain Gréine, Drehidnagower, Ennis as well as the new scheme at Ballard Road, Miltown Malbay and the turnkey scheme at Mountshannon will be advertised on CBL in the coming weeks. Demand for properties advertised remains high with an average of 150 bids on a property on CBL. Weekly updates of properties advertised on CBL will continue to be provided to the Elected Members.

Offers issued from (22.07.2022 to 21.08.2022)	18
Offers refused	6
Tenancies signed up	67
Tenancies terminated	9

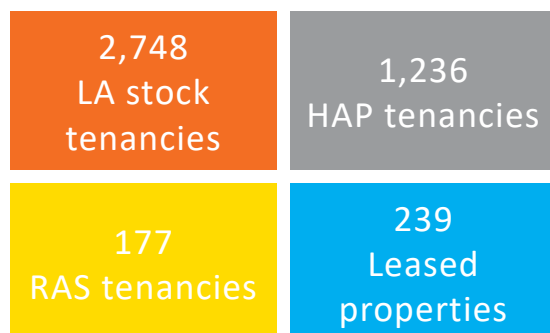
Housing Tenancies

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

PROPERTY STATUS				
Municipal District	Allocated	Occupied	Vacant	Total
Ennis MD	5	1227	29	1261
Killaloe MD	3	394	11	408
West Clare MD	1	933	38	972
Shannon MD	2	681	9	692
Grand Total	11	3235	87*	3333

Vacant Stock*	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD
Traveller accommodation	5	6	3	0
Derelict properties	0	2	0	1
Projects	1	9	0	0
Casual vacancies	23	21	8	8
TOTAL	29	38	11	9

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.

	July & Aug 22	Total year to date
TEO Call Outs	1,109	4,845

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing asb@clarecoco.ie. The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and week-ends 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) has continued at pace over the summer months, with 102 physical inspections carried out in August. 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 standard.

HAP limits:

On the 7th July 2022 the Council was advised of additional discretion for HAP in recognition of the impact of inflation on the current rental market. The Council are now authorized to exercise discretionary flexibility in respect of the HAP rent limits as follows:

1. An increase in the HAP discretion rate from the current 20% to a maximum of 35% for all local authority areas. This will apply to both new and existing tenancies.
2. Additional flexibility allowing local authorities to apply a couple rate to a single person household, where required, in recognition of the shared one-bed need. This will apply to **new** tenancies only.

Housing Grants

Grants Approved for July and August 2022:

Grant type	Number of approvals	Value of works €
Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability	44	158,805
Housing Aid for Older People	27	471,986
Mobility Aids Grant	3	12,900
Total	74	643,691

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 2022 to 24/08/2022:



Homeless

Demand for homeless services in Clare are unprecedented for this time of year. At the time of writing emergency accommodation is at capacity with a waiting list in place for access to accommodation. The Council continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation however this is proving challenging due to competing demands for accommodation in the County. The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on **065 684 6291**.

Clare HAT continue our focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 17th June 2022 to 18th August 2022: 7 households exited from homeless services: 4 to L.A. Housing: 2 to AHB Housing: 1 Discharged.

Homeless Presentations from 1st July 2022 to 25th August 2022:

New	79	32 July: 47 August
Repeat	258	149 July: 188 August
Total Presentations	337	

Status as of 18th August 2022:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	6	11	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Ashford Court	9	16	19	1
EA Families	5	5	7	2
EA Individuals	0	5	0	4
TOTAL	19	61	37	10

Ukrainian accommodation response

Jason Murphy is appointed as A/Director of Service to lead Clare County Councils response; the Housing team are continuing to support the accommodation response until such time as a team is established.

Vacant properties

Vacant properties continue to be examined with a view to bringing the units back into use as either social housing or for sale on the private market. Properties are now being examined for the CPO procedure where all other attempts to address the dereliction is unsuccessful. One vacant property, the subject of a CPO, is progressing as confirmation was recently received from An

Bord Pleanala that no objections were received by them within the prescribed period. Confirmation of the CPO and Notice to Treat will now be undertaken with a view to bringing this unit into stock.

Status as at 30/08/2022:

	Owner Engagement	Site Inspections	Website entries
Ennis	2	0	4
Killaloe	0	1	2
West Clare	10	0	6
Shannon			2
TOTAL	12	1	14

The public are encouraged to register vacant properties on the website 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.

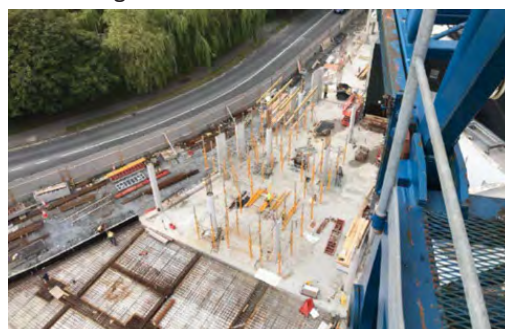
Croi Conaithe (Towns Fund)

In early July confirmation was received that a grant of €30,000 is being made available for the refurbishment of vacant properties for occupation as the principal private residence of the owner. A maximum top-up grant amount of €20,000 will be available where the property is confirmed to be derelict. The scheme is exclusively available to individuals or households where the dwelling will be used at their principal private residence. There is strong interest in the Scheme with a number of enquiries received daily. 4 applications have been submitted to date and are currently being assessed.

New County Library Construction Project

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

The project involves the construction of a 2,321m2 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 August 2022

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Update on capital programme:

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Milltown Malbay	27	Under Construction	Q4 2020	Q3 2022
Roslevan, Tulla Rd.	8	Under Construction.	Q4 2021	Q4 2022
Scarriff	18	Part VIII Approved. Stage 3 complete. Currently out to tender for construction contract	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII has been quashed by the High Court – awaiting the formal High Court order.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Clarecastle	2	Stage 1-3 application under consideration by DHLGH.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Determination issued to ABP and awaiting outcome.	Q4 2022	Q1 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Preparation of Stage 3 underway.	Q4 2022	Q4 2023
Ennistymon	30	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Preparation for Stage 2 underway.	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 1 approved. Preparation of Stage 2 underway. Ballaghboy, Quin Road, Ennis	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	Turnkey acquisition contract signed CCC have taken possession of Phase 1 Phase 2 & Phase 3 due Q3 2022	Q3 2022	
Main Street, Mountshannon	4	Turnkey acquisition contract signed – Expect to take possession Q3 2022	-	Q3 2022
Subtotal	224			
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) 40 units to be delivered in Q4 2022	Q4 2021	Q3 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	Q1 2022	Q1 2023
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen	16	CALF Turnkey – Department approved 6 units to be delivered in Q1 2023 10 units to be delivered in Q4 2023	Q2 2022 Q3 2022	Q1 2023 Q4 2023
Subtotal	134			
Total	358			

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

The school swimming programme for this term is full with a waiting list for access to slots as they become available. Some 30 schools are partaking in the programme this term. Classes have returned to pre-covid capacity with the welcome return of new and returning Aqua Aerobics participants.

The 'Intensive Swim Lesson Programme' was oversubscribed necessitating an increase in the number of available classes. In addition, the 'summer camps' made a welcome return with above average attendance.

Additional classes are retuning in September including yoga with Antoinette/ morning HITT classes, and bootcamp. Full details of the classes are available on www.activeennis.ie

Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park/Lees Road etc.

We were delighted to host the Clare and Munster Community Games finals which took place in July with ~1500 athletes competing over the two days.

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

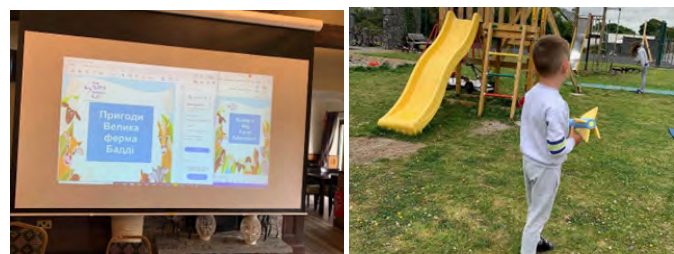
All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with pre-booking essential on www.activeennis.ie

Youth Activities – July update
Teen Girls Beginner Kayaking Camp
 – 8 girls took part in a beginner teen girl kayaking summer camp from July 11th – July 15th this year. The camp took place in Ballyalla Lake, Ennis, in conjunction with Clare Water Sports.



Active Storytime - Burren Atlantic Hotel, Ballyvaughan

Lizzy from Clare LSP and Richard (ETB Tutor) did Active Storytime on Tuesday July 19th from 10am – 11am in the hotel for the Ukrainian residents and after went over to the playground where the children did Sports hall Athletics with the newly purchased equipment, from 11am – 12pm.



CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

Clare County Library received €26,743.94 from 2022 Dormant Accounts Fund for library supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities. The majority of the funding will be spent on library programming called 'A world of welcome', an arts programme for Ukrainian and their Irish classmates, which will take place in five libraries in the autumn. The remainder will be spent on a range of resources including learning support software, physical resources and c-pens. Clare Library service also received €10,000 donation from the Eala Ce Fund via the Community Foundation of Ireland. The money will be spent on literacy resources and another arts programme for Ukrainian students.




42 deliveries were made to housebound library members this month.

Online Resources usage – e-resources continue to be popular

1415 E-Books	2441 E-Audiobooks	590 E-Magazines
180 Online courses	1974 Press Reader	51 Transparent Languages

Marketing

Social media stats for the month.

	New Followers	Total Followers	No of Posts	Likes	Shares/ Retweets/ Reach	Comments
	267	6489	75	719	2739	70
	8	2043	42	154	28	0
	17	1686	57	375	6915	7

Total number of live events	144
Total attendances at live events	1538

Right to Read



Scariff Library Mini Masters where children got to learn how to be a Librarian and how the library works.

There were many children’s events in libraries this summer mainly reading-focused activities.

Over 2,000 children joined Summer Stars, the non-competitive initiative which enables every child who signs up to receive a series of reading-related incentives week on week. An award

certificate at the end of the challenge is presented to each participant. Support events took place in all branches including Environmental Awareness presentations, visits from National Parks and Wildlife Rangers, teddy bears’ picnics in library gardens and STEAM events including chess and rock painting workshops. Library branches placed special emphasis on events to include the many Ukrainian children now living in Clare and programme advertising was in both English and Ukrainian.

In a collaborative event with Clare Children and Young People’s Services Committee, (CYPSC), Mayor of Ennis, Claire Colleran Molloy welcomed Ukrainian children to De Valera Library, Ennis on the 6th of July, where they enjoyed a special story time, and each child received a gift of a Little Library Book Bag. Little Library Bags were provided free from all public libraries and is a First 5 initiative and part of the Government strategy to improve the lives of babies, young children and their families.

Creative Ireland

Work is currently ongoing on Clare’s Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027. A survey of stakeholders has taken place and focus groups will begin in September.

Healthy Ireland

Clare Library delivered 3 Healthy Ireland at Your Library events during the summer. Sixteen people attended a Parent & Baby Yoga workshop in Kilrush Library, which was facilitated by Yoga teacher, Colette Nagle. The workshop was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all. Sonia Millar, mindfulness teacher, facilitated 2 children’s workshops in Ennistymon and Kilrush Libraries, which were attended by a total of 14 children. The practice of Creative Mindfulness teaches children self-care tools that can help them to clear their minds and understand difficult thoughts and feelings. By making mindfulness a part of their lives at a young age, children are equipped to navigate challenges with greater wisdom, clarity and compassion.



Mayor visits De Valera Library



Artwork by Negative Space Arts Collective from the PRISM Street Art Programme.

Local Studies Centre

An index of the genealogical publication “The Irish Link” was added to the Local Studies section of the Clare Library website. This quarterly Australian publication was published between 1984 and 1998. The Clare content from the sixty published issues of the magazine are now being indexed. Issues 1-20 (1984-89) have been completed and the project is ongoing. An index to the historical Parish Marriage records of southwest Clare has also been added to the page.

Clare Archives:

An exhibition on the Barrett Collection took place during Heritage Week in Kilrush Library. The Collection is currently being preserved thanks to funding from The Heritage Council. The collection was saved in 2018 by the Kilrush and District Historical Society. It will gradually be digitised over the coming months once it is safely stored and conserved.

Clare Arts Office

The Arts in Clare slot on Clare FM continued during the summer, 26 applications were successful under the Live Local Performance Scheme – Phase IV with 8 events taking place in Doolin, Ennis, Ennistymon, Feakle and Moy. A total of 219 individuals were employed for 607 days in Clare through Phase III of the scheme. Two “Artist in Schools” residencies were completed in Inagh and Kilbaha and 2 disability projects with Brothers of Charity and the Clare Crusaders were also completed. Preparatory work for the final phase of the Associated Artists programme with Fionnathan was undertaken and Jenny Guy commenced planning on a major arts and education programme beginning in September. Six exhibitions took place in Kilkee, Ennis and Scariff.

The PRISM street art scheme continued in Ennis with 12 artworks completed and two repaired.

Over 40 events are currently being programmed for Culture Night in September. Assistance was given to 4 production companies doing location shots in New Quay, Killaloe, Ennis, Kilkee and Carrigaholt for tourism promotion films, adverts, sports coverage and for the BBC series “Who Do You Think You Are”? Two “Musicians on Call” performances took place in Kilrush and Ennistymon and 21 events took place in Culturlann Sweeney as well as three weeklong art camps for children.

Social media stats - 48 posts were placed on the Clare Arts Website. There were 5928 engagements on the Culturlann Sweeney Facebook page.

Clare Museum

The Museum received its Maintenance of Accreditation certificate at Kilkenny Castle. There were 15 social media posts, mostly of items associated with particular dates during July and August.

Thirty objects from the Museum’s cataloguing backlog were accessioned during the summer months. The curator has been engaged in gathering photographs of artefacts for the new website and preparing content. During Heritage Week the museum and the web designers consulted the public and stakeholders on what the new website should look like and the kind of information they would like to see on it.

Two items sent for conservation during the year were returned to the Museum. Three items from the National Museum collection that were sent to Dublin for conservation purposes were placed back on display in August.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

Works are ongoing regarding the delivery of the SMDW 2022. The restoration maintenance (surface dressing) works have been successfully completed. During September and into early October, the remaining restoration improvement works are expected to be completed.

Please see attached examples of the works undertaken.



Restoration Improvement Regional	25%
O'Callaghan's Mills Village R466	Prepped
Bodyke Junction R352	
Croaghrum R352	Complete
Ballyblood R462	
Restoration Improvement Local	36%
Ballyhickey L7192	Prepped
Harrisons' Pub to R-352 L4074	Prepped
Craggaska L3180	Complete
Dooglaun L8018	Complete
Garruragh L4084	
Merriman, Flagmount L8185	Complete
Bodyke Junction to CCC depot L4066	
Slievanore L8022	Complete
Mountain Park L41301	Prepped
Leacarrow Lower L8182	Complete
Cregg Cross to Boleynagoagh North L4036	
Poulagower L80501	
Ardnataggle - ESB L3072	
Clonlea, Kilkishen L7008	Prepped
Sallybank L3042	Complete
Ballycuggaraun Pier L8205	
Ballycar South L7062	
Kilcornan L7010	Prepped
Woodfield to Ahaclare L30143	Prepped
Ballycar North L30321	Complete
Kilmurry to Mart Road L3020	Prepped

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Old Ballycar Road L7186	Complete
Restoration Maintenance Regional	100%
Whitegate to Derrainey R352	Complete
Scalpnagown to Derryulk R462	Complete
Restoration Maintenance Local	100%
Bealkelly to Ballyheefy L4128	Complete
Killuran Beg L7203	Complete
Slieveanore to Corlea L8022	Complete
Crusheen to Tubber L4120	Complete
Harrison Pub to Rathclooney L4074	Complete
Cragroe Cross to Beckman Coulter L8150	Complete
Toome to Ayle Cross L4056	Complete
Kilkishen to Nash's Cross L3002	Complete
Ballycullen to Coolycasey Cross L3018	Complete
Ballycullen L7030	Complete
12 O'clock Hills L30101	Complete
Castlecrine to Ballyvorgal L3016	Complete
Rathluby to Kilcornan L7010	Complete
Belvoir to Killanena L7008	Complete
Ballyblood L7016	Complete
Toonagh L8178	Complete

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

Works have been completed on two CIS roads at Kiltannon and Glendree.

Preparational CIS works are complete at Snaty (Cooper) job, with two further CIS project to be completed at Rathlaheen and Gortanisk in Q3.

Active Travel 2022 Summary:

Project	Status
Quin	Works complete
Kilmurry Pedestrian Crossing and Footpaths	Works complete
Tulla - Footpath remediation	Construction works ongoing
Tulla - Footpath to Athletics Club	Construction works ongoing
Drumandoora	Tender awarded – Start Date is 1st September
Clarisford Park Connection	At Tender stage

Crusheen NS Clár funded project:

Safety improvement works have been successfully completed during the school closure period. Works included the provision of a new footpath and dedicated school bus lane to provide safe student pedestrian access. In consultation with the school representatives, the design, procurement, and delivery were completed by Killaloe MD.

Kilkishen Low-Cost Safety:

A draft design has been completed and it is expected that procurement and delivery of this project will occur in Q4 2022.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

Clare County Council has received its road grant allocations for 2022. The overall allocation for Roads in the 2022 Roadworks Programme is €48.4 million 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 has been adopted by all four Municipal District meetings in March.

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

Strategic Transportation

Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy

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

Connecting Ireland

This project commenced in 2021 and is being led by the National Transport Authority. The aim of the project is to improve the public transport service provision in Clare by improving scheduling, dealing with gaps in the service and by introducing new public transport routes. Liaison and information sharing has commenced between the NTA and Clare County Council Municipal Districts and Road Design Section to support the NTA in a comprehensive rollout of the project. The local link from Kildysart to Kilrush was rolled out during 2021 as part of this project by the NTA.

Active Travel Programme 2022

Funding for the Active Travel 2022 programme was announced

by the NTA for County Clare on 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 ongoing in Tulla, Quin.
- Construction works are substantially completed for Boston and Ruan
- Construction works have commenced in Doolin and Lisdoonvarna
- Tender up on e-tenders for Clarisford
- Tender awarded for Dromindoora
- Construction works have commenced for Kilmaley
- Construction works ongoing for Spanish Point
- Detailed design being advanced Ennis Road in Miltown Malbay
- Tender award imminent for St. Flannan's School in Inagh.
- Draft report prepared for Ennis Park & Stride & preliminary analysis being carried out for Ennis Public Lighting
- Concept designs being prepared for Clare Road in Ennis, Tulla Road as part of the Ennis Cycling Network.
- Tender drawings are being prepared for Ballycasey in Shannon and Lissycasey.

Public lighting

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

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

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

Road Design Office

Current Projects: September 2022

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

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TII Road Safety Projects:

A progress meeting with the TII was held on the 22nd June 2022.

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p>For the N85:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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. <p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derrycrossaun junction is now substantially completed.
TII HD 17 Sites	<p>For the N68:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A topographical survey of the Monvana Rd. junction N68/L2510 is complete and conceptual designs are progressing. Interim measure proposed and being developed for N68/L2138. <p>For the N67:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topographical surveys of junctions N67/L1022, N67/50222/, N67/L50221 & 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. Gateway 1 approval has been received from the TII for the proposed safety scheme at Minister Place, Kilkee. Clare County Council has met with members of Kilkee Community Groups to get their input and consensus on aspects of the detailed design, further meetings are planned for September. An analysis on the capacity of the proposed junction layout is to be undertaken by the TII, this is to alleviate some of the concerns raised by the Community Groups. A public lighting design as well as a Quality Audit are being prepared for submission to TII. The detailed design is progressing. The junction between Mount Charles Terrace and the N67 has been surveyed and a preliminary design to improve visibility has been developed. A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for this junction has been carried out with Minister Place. CCC and the Auditor are working on solutions for the issues raised in the report. A Feasibility Report is being prepared for submission to the TII.

Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022:

Other Projects 2022:

Project	Progress Update
Low Cost Safety Schemes 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The design process for these schemes is substantially completed and the projects have been circulated to the MD's
EuroVelo 1	The project is substantially completed. All the signage has now been installed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction works for 2021 are completed.
Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15no bus shelters have been issued to tender subject to final approval from the NTA.
Road Schedule & Queries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <i>Clare County Cycling Network Project</i>
R352 Henchy's Cross Junction	The design is completed and has been issued to the MD for construction. The Department of Transport has allocated €70,000 for 2022 as a Specific Improvement Grant to complete the works commenced in 2021.

National Cycling Network	This is a project initiated by the TII and is being developed in conjunction with the Road Design Office, Clare County Council. This project seeks to develop a cycling network connecting settlements with a population over 5,000. At public consultation stage. Presented to Physical SPC in June.
Clare County Cycle Network	Draft strategy commenced in conjunction with the NTA and AECOM. Public consultation expected to commence in late September 2022.
Latoon Cycling Infrastructure	Part 8 lodged in July 2022



Newmarket on Fergus: Bus shelter.

Bridge Rehabilitation

2022 Bridge Rehabilitation grant is €602,000.

- AA Screening: Currently Preparing Tender Documents for 2022 Bridge Projects. Tenders returned Consultant appointed. Screening process ongoing.
- Bolooghra Bridge: Initial survey complete, Tender documents for consultancy issued and returned, currently being assessed. Consultant appointed. Contractor appointed. NIS completed, environmental issues to be resolved prior to commencing works. NIS sent to Development Applications Unit at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for comment. Contractor to start on site Mid September
- Killestry Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Scariff Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- 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: Contractor on Site
- Gortnamearacaun Bridge: Contractor on Site
- Ahaclare Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- D' Esterres Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- Annagore Bridge: Works complete. Snagging on going.
- 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: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Friars Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.

- Mauricesmills Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Carrowkeel Bridge: Contractor on Site
- Clooncat Bridge: Repair Works out to tender. Tenders returned contractor appointment ongoing.
- Health and Safety
- The Health & Safety Teams schedule of Annual Safety Statement & Risk Assessment reviews in addition to their schedule of Safety Inspections is underway for 2022.
- The Top Level H&S Objectives approved by the Safety Management Committee in February 2022 have commenced implementation with face to face briefings delivered on Health & Safety across a range of Departments, delivery of 2 no 1 day line manager H&S Training Courses and the development of a suite of 6 Safety Posters and supporting toolbox talks.

General Design Office Scariff Rural Regeneration Project



Outline Design proposals for a Digital Hub, Enterprise Centre/Community Space and Car Park have been prepared and consultation with the local community is to be progressed.

Quin Road Campus File Store Shelving/Racking and Lift Installation Tender



Work on site is progressing with the racking installation 80% complete.



Ballyallia Amenity Park Enhancement Works



Ballyallia Amenity Park Enhancement Works

Design is ongoing of the buildings, paths, cycle ways, parking and road alignment with finishes having been researched and selected, all for a formal public consultation. Informal consultations with both the National Parks and Wildlife Service and key stakeholders, who use the Amenity Park, have taken place and this has influenced design considerations. Specialist consultants have or are being appointed. Environmental & Ecological consultants are completing the ongoing surveys of Bats, Otters, Habitat, Tree Vegetation, Invasive Species, Breeding Birds and Winter Vantage Point Birds that are required to complete an 'Appropriate Assessment' and 'Environmental Impact Assessment'. A public consultation is to be completed on the 8th of September, 2022.

Town and Village Renewal Schemes

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

Parteen Town & Village Renewal Scheme - Contract awarded. Works due to commence September 2022.

Clonlara Town & Village Renewal Scheme - topographical survey completed, preliminary design proposals ongoing.

Shannon Town & Village Renewal Scheme proposals at Drumgeely - topographical survey and preliminary designs prepared.

Sixmilebridge Access Steps Handrail - Tender drawings finalised and approved. Quotation received and approved, awaiting confirmation from contractor.

Active Travel

Clariford, Killaloe - ESB preparing enabling works for underground services, to be completed in Q3 2022. Contractor to be appointed to carry out the finished drainage, public lighting and footpath works.

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

PMO update for Monthly Report for September 2022 Meeting
As there wasn't a Council Meeting in August, this update covers the main items progressed in the two month period since the last report in July. Significant progress across a number of PMO projects has been achieved with the main items being as follows:

Cloughnainchy Flood Relief Scheme

Despite our best endeavours, all Landowners impacted by this proposed scheme have not agreed to make their lands available as required. Until these are all submitted, unfortunately, the project cannot progress any further.

Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme

As the defects period deadline approaches, Clare County Council are identifying any items that have arisen since completion that need to be addressed. These are small in number and scale. Work has also begun on the erection of signage and street

furniture associated with the River Fergus Walkway. Information boards have been designed which will be erected along the route. These will provide a history of Clare Abbey, information on the flood scheme itself and the details of the rich flora and fauna associated with the Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area along the River Fergus.

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

Clare County Council still await a decision by An Bord Pleanála as to whether the CPO application for the scheme will be confirmed, amended or rejected. The outcome of this will determine our next course of action.

Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass

The Project Team consisting of Clare County Council, Tipperary County Council, Department of Transport (DoT) and scheme Consultants, RPS Consulting Engineers are pleased to advise



Killaloe Bypass Project

that Construction Works for the Killaloe Bypass, Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement commenced on the 17th of August 2022. The Main Contractor, John Sisk & Son (Holdings) Ltd are initially focused on access to the East and West side abutments of the new Shannon Bridge Crossing on the R494 adjacent the Roolagh junction and on the L3100 access road to Clarisford Park.

At the same time, works to the Main Construction Compound situated on the R463 adjacent to the Shantraud Woods Housing Development are being progressed. This will be the main base for the contractor and site supervisory personnel for the duration of this contract. Furthermore, there are also some environmental, ecological and archaeological tasks being carried out in tandem with construction activities as well as Condition Surveys of properties in close proximity to the scheme.

The Project duration is 3 years. Sisk's are currently engaged with the major stakeholders, suppliers and subcontractors and are preparing a comprehensive Works Schedule. Further information will be provided once the detailed Works Schedule is issued.

Other works currently ongoing include:

- The few remaining Land Acquisitions are currently being progressed.
- Detailed testing and carbon dating analysis of Archaeological items uncovered during the investigation works carried out on site in 2021 is ongoing. Following the provision of all of these results to Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd, the final reports can be prepared, and a public presentation organised as promised. We would hope to be able to hold this later in 2022.

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme

Significant progress has been made in the development of the Fluvial (river) options during the July and August periods. Three emerging options for both the Atlantic and Victoria streams were produced with some sub-options included. It was agreed between CCC and the OPW that it would be prudent to present these emerging options as an additional Public Participation Day (PPD) in order to receive feedback from the Kilkee community. The PPD was advertised on radio and in newspapers in both Clare and Limerick as well as various posts on social media platforms. The event took place on Thursday 18th August in the Kilkee Community Centre between 2pm and 8pm and all comments received were recorded for consideration during the selection of a preferred option.

Assessment of the wave overtopping risk has progressed considerably during recent months. Due to the complex nature of this element, it is likely that some additional modelling will be required in order to produce an acceptable range of emerging options. JBA_JB Barry have specified the additional modelling that is required which is currently under review by CCC and OPW.

Other works that have been carried out include further CCTV surveys for the refinement of the Pluvial (trapped rain-water) options and seasonal environmental surveys. The Project Website www.kilkeefrs.ie has been updated with the options drawings and questionnaires from the recent Public Participation Day.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

Members will be aware of the High Court challenge taken in this matter but we are pleased to advise that as of July 19th last, terms were agreed which enable us to move to the next stage of development of this project.



Killaloe Bypass Project

The initial focus now is in completing the Ground Investigation works and to that regard this contract has been awarded to Priority Geotechnical Ltd. This survey work is critical to allow development of the detailed design necessary for the scheme consultants, RPS Consulting Engineers, to finalise the road design, land-take requirements and prepare the scheme drawings and specifications for a competitive Tender process. We have also commenced engagement with the relevant Landowners regarding the aforementioned survey works and acquisition of the necessary lands required for the road element.

Lough Donnell Culvert Repair works

Site Investigation work is due to be carried out in September which will inform the detailed design. On completion of the detailed design, tender documents will be prepared with the intention of appointing a contractor later this year.

Limerick Northern Distributor Road (LNDR)

The Council has been extensively engaging with the NTA over the past while to ensure the inclusion of the LNDR proposal in the upcoming final draft of LSMATS.

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road

Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) is currently ongoing. Significant progress has been made over the Summer months in terms of junction design development, active travel measures, access strategies, scheme land-take requirements, construction methodologies and sequencing following a number of coordination meetings with TII Road Safety Section, NTA, the Gardaí, Shannon Airport and Shannon Commercial Properties.

Nationwide Data Collection Ltd have now completed the final road vehicle traffic surveys which will allow further assessment and consideration of traffic volumes during this Summer period. Earth-Sound Geophysics Ltd have are shortly due to complete Archaeology & Geophysical Surveys of the site. The purpose of

this survey is to provide information both on the location and extent of any potential geophysical anomalies and to assess the extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains, if present, as part of the process of archaeological assessment and risk management for this scheme.

The results gained from these surveys will assist the further development of the scheme design including the layout and junction arrangements, identifying the lands required for the scheme and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Phase 3 is expected to take up to mid-2023 to complete. As always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannon-access.ie

N85 Kilnamona Road Improvement Scheme

Clare County Council in conjunction with the Mid West Regional Road Design Office (MWRRDO) are compiling the necessary Tender Documents for the appointment of Technical Advisors. The tender competition will commence in Q3, 2022.

Piers and Harbours – Design and procurement works continue for the various projects which were allocated funding under the ‘Brexit Adjustment: Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme’. These include Doonmore Pier, Liscannor Pier, Shannon Estuary, Cappagh Pier, Knock Pier, Labasheeda Pier and Kildystrer Pier.

Public Realm Regeneration project (Ennis)

Shareridge Contractors on behalf of Irish Water and the ESB are currently carrying out enabling works at Bank Place, High Street and O’Connell Street, involving the upgrade of the mains water network as well as the replacement of a Medium Voltage cable. These works are necessary to ensure the long-term integrity of the town’s water, sewer and electrical supplies and will minimise the need for future excavation of the town centre streets

and pathways. The contractor is now at an advanced stage of completion, and the restoration of the through-route via O'Connell Street and Station Road is expected by mid-September 2022. Irish Water also has a need to replace certain sections of the Town Centre's Foul Sewer in Lower O'Connell Street which may necessitate an extension of time required for the construction works to take place. Irish Water/Shareridge have a Public Liaison Officer in place and will continue to inform all affected businesses of the works programme.

Tender submissions were received in August from the short-listed contractors in respect of award of main contract works. These tenders are currently being assessed with a view to the tender recommendation report being issued in mid-September to the Department along with the Final Business Case. Following review of same and subject to Dept approval and the availability of the necessary funding, it would be expected to award the contract in early 2023. Already, it is known that international supply chain challenges will result in delays in getting certain specified materials to site but this is unavoidable and will be carefully managed to ensure that works are aligned with deliveries of essential materials. We will engage with Elected Members and affected business owners/residents as the work progresses to keep everyone informed of developments.

Quin Flood Relief Scheme

Clare County Council along with the OPW continue to make preparations to commence works on site at the earliest juncture. Tree clearance works have been tendered and a contractor is expected to be appointed shortly. The scheme consultant Malachy Walsh & Partners are finalising construction issue drawings and preparing the relevant H&S documents.

Remediation of sites containing Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)

Contract documents in respect of appointment of Technical Consultants were signed in July 2022 with Fehily Timoney & Co followed by the initial Project Team meeting and site visit by the Consultants to the various affected sites. Preliminary execution and contracting strategies were discussed, and recommendations in this regard will be developed by the consultant for review by Clare County Council. The design is now being developed in respect of informing tender documents for a main works contract in respect of the remediation of ACMs at all sites. Tenders have been issued for Topographical surveys and will be awarded in September 2022. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with our agreed approach following consultation with the EPA.

Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

The SI contractor has submitted their interpretative report which is currently under review by the scheme consultant RPS. The additional coastal study, as required under the Limerick City & Environs FRS is on programme. Data from this study will need to be included in the coastal assessment for the Shannon scheme. Some elements of the Fluvial (river) model will also

need to consider this new data once available.

RPS continue to progress the various seasonal mammal and bird surveys throughout the summer months. Shannon Airport's maintenance works on the west embankments are expected to finish in the coming weeks. Coordination with the N19 Airport Access Road project team is ongoing.

Further information on the scheme is available on www.shannontownandenvironsfrs.com

Springfield, Clonlara FRS

Construction work on the embankments is now 90% complete. Side slopes have been shaped in accordance with the design, embankment erosion matting is in place and topsoiling has been completed for the majority of the wet face and crest of the embankment. The main culvert on the Illaunregan stream is now installed. Hydroseeding of the embankment has commenced. Twin culverts along with associated penstocks and flap valves have been installed on the western stream. The twin culverts on the Illaunregan Stream are installed and work on the installation of the associated penstocks will begin shortly. The main pump chamber is well underway and will be followed by the construction of the platform. The two pumps are on order with the suppliers. Work on the civil elements of the land raising area at Cottage is complete and landscaping has commenced. The scheme is progressing well and the weather of late has been favourable. The scheme is due for completion in late November 2022.



Springfield Embankment works

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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

Clare County Council has appointed an Independent Agronomist in accordance with the 'Code of Best Practice for National & Regional Greenways'. The Agronomist will be available to offer impartial advice to landowners once the emerging preferred route is confirmed. The final preparations for 'Public Consultation 2' are being carried out and it will be on display from the 9th September to the 30th September 2022 at Kilrush Public Library and Sweeney Memorial Library in Kilkee. Information sessions with Clare County Council and the Design Team will be held on September 14th at Kilrush Public Library and September 15th at Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee where members of the public will be invited to submit feedback on the 'Route Corridor Options'. In addition, ecological field surveys are ongoing.

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)

Clare County Council is finalising 'Public Consultation 1' which will involve displaying the study area and inviting feedback from members of the public and landowners. 'Public Consultation 1' will be on display in late September in Ennis and Ennistymon. Further details will be communicated in local media in the coming weeks. As always, we would welcome comments or suggestions from members of the public which can be emailed to pmoadmin@clarecoco.ie.

White Strand Miltown Malbay, Coastal Protection Minor Works

We are soon to have a meeting with the relevant section of the OPW to agree the next steps of development for this project and will be better informed to advise the Members following this meeting.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Recent Training Courses

The following brigade training courses were held during July & August:

- Pump Maintenance Course
- 2 Recruit Fire-fighters from County Clare attended a QQI accredited Fire-fighting Skills Course in Bray Fire Station from 11th to 29th July. One of the fire-fighters is now based in Ennis Fire Station and the other is based in Ennistymon Fire Station.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points

Six Electric Vehicle Charging Points have been installed at Ennis Fire Station. Four of the charging points are being used to charge vans for the Environment Section.

Fire Station Projects

Shannon Fire Station Training Drill Tower is currently being refurbished and upgraded as a result of weathering damage from exposure to the elements.

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	June 2022	July 2022	Aug 2022 (Up to 26.08.22)	Year to Date 2022
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	80	68	70	636
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	19	9	2	62
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	5	12	18	67
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	12	6	6	45
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	4	15	4	46
Number of Commencement Notices Received	32	29	40	270
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	2	2	1	11

(Note: In the July Monthly Report, the June figures related to 1st to 27th June due to timing of report)

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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 Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána.
- Junior Tour Cycle of Ireland
- Munster Community Games
- South East Clare Agricultural Show in Broadford
- Rally Motor Cross in Doonbeg

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties:

- Members assisted An Garda Síochána with a search for a missing person.
- Members assisted Clare County Council Lifeguards on beaches in Lahinch and Spanish Point providing treatment to members of the public presenting with Weever Fish stings.
- Members provided transport to Clare County Council Senior Management to view locations for the West Clare Greenway.

Members Training & Professional Development

- Members successfully completed a specialised 4x4 hybrid driving course. The course was designed specifically for

Clare Civil Defence and members were awarded a QQI Level 5 qualification in specialised driving and ancillary operations.

- Members attended a demonstration of a 4x4 electric vehicle hosted by Terra Firma Training.

Emergency Rest Centre

28 Ukrainian Displaced Persons took up residence in the Emergency Rest Centre on the Quin Road in June. Civil Defence members, with the assistance of Clare County Council employees provided 24 hour cover at the rest centre – CCC employees covered weekdays from 09.00 to 17.00 hrs with the Civil Defence members covering evenings, nights and weekends.

Alternative accommodation has been sourced for the residents in various locations (Dublin, Galway & Ennis). Members provided transport for the residents to their alternative accommodation. Transport was also provided to residents for clinical and hospital appointments. Information visits by various state and voluntary agencies were arranged for the residents – INTREO, CLDC, Clare Immigrant Support, Mid-West Simon, LCETB. The centre was closed on the 11th August.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

Clare Libraries initiative

As part of the Clare Libraries Summer Stars programme environmental information sessions were provided by Karen Foley, Environmental Awareness Officer during July at the public libraries in Shannon, Ennis, Miltown Malbay, Ennistymon, Scariff and Killaloe. Through interactive activities children learnt how to use resources wisely and do their bit in the battle against climate change. Children learned about Leave No Trace in addition to what can or cannot be recycled.



An Taisce Blue Flag and Green Coast Programme

As part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative a comprehensive summer beach campaign was delivered over July and August. Adverts were placed in the Clare Echo (x7), Clare Champion (x2), Limerick Post (x1) Clare Fm (5 days). This was further complimented by regular social media posts across Clare County Council and Greener Clare social media channels. Messages comprised of Leave No Trace; Bin It or Bring It Home, Beach Byelaws, Think Before You Flush and Clean Coasts photography competition.

Other campaigns

Other social media campaigns utilising Clare County Council and/or Greener Clare social media channels during July and August included:

1. My Waste Ireland upcycling competition.
2. Illegal dumping of waste outside charity shops.
3. Prohibition on burning of agricultural green waste during hot weather (14th July; 11th August).
4. Water Safety at Doughmore Beach (Doonbeg).
5. ERP Ireland Free Electronic Waste Collection Day - Kilrush Mart (2nd September 2022). Clare Echo advert also.

Water Enforcement and Scientific Services

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

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	July/August 2022	Jan-August 2022
Planning applications (Domestic)	79	311
Planning applications (Large Developments)	3	19
Planning applications (Forestry)	27	86
Planning applications (Agriculture)	1	10
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	2	14
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	0	38
Pollution complaints received	25	97
Warning & advisory letters issued	2	7
Enforcement actions (S12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0

Historic Landfills

The Environment Section were approved for a draft Certificate of Authorisation (COR) for Kilrush Historic Landfill, Dysert, Kilrush in July. The proposed capping of this historic landfill will proceed taking into account the conditions as a set in the COR.

Gardening

Throughout August, seasonal tasks such as watering and weeding continued at our public planted areas in Ennis to ensure floral displays are maintained to a high standard and shall continue to provide colour and enhancement in key public areas, despite the hot and extended dry weather conditions experienced for much of the month.

In line with various other projects undertaken in recent times to promote biodiversity and implement the actions contained within the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, the Gardening Team has commenced planning for the enhancement of an existing planted area at Áras Chontae an Chláir. This work shall commence shortly and shall aim to showcase how pollinator friendly planting can be implemented in existing urban spaces.

Waste Management

Men's Shed Group

The Environment Section continue to work closely with the Ennis Men's Shed group at Doora with regards to further improvements on the site. Matured compost has been brought from Inagh Civic Amenity Site to be used in the garden area. This has been very beneficial for plant and vegetable growth,

which have been used by the members throughout the summer. Currently, additional fencing and gates are being erected which will benefit both Doora Closed Landfill and the Men's Shed group premises.

Waste Enforcement

Bicycle Recycling Scheme for Ukrainian Refugees

To date 12 childrens' and 14 adults' bikes have been delivered throughout the county under this initiative, with a similar amount currently ready for distribution. Clare County Council has linked in with the Clare Local Development Company (CLDC), and responds to requests for bikes, submitted by the Ukrainian Co-ordinators in CLDC. Funding was secured under the Anti-Dumping Initiative. The public are invited to drop off bikes to our Civic Amenity sites for recycling, in line with the principles of the Circular Economy.



Enforcement of Beach Bye Laws

Our community wardens carried out patrols at weekends for the months of July and August, at our coastal beaches and inland waterways to monitor compliance with the Beach Bye Laws. The wardens engaged with the public and gave information on the requirements of the Beach Bye Laws.

A variety of issues arose and were dealt with on the ground, most notably littering, dog control, dog fouling and camping at the beaches. In total, 2 fines were issued under the Beach Bye Laws.

Waste Management Bye Law Campaign

In conjunction with the Beach Bye Law patrols, more than 50 households in the Kilkee area were written to under the County Clare Waste Management Bye Laws, requesting evidence of how they managed their waste. This campaign arose from complaints that short-term residents (in holiday homes / caravan parks) did not have a kerbside refuse collection service and were disposing of their waste in street litter bins. This campaign yielded a high response rate, with most respondents either providing receipts for the Lisdeen Civic Amenity site or providing a written statement that they bring their waste home to their primary residence.

The wardens also engaged with food retail businesses in Kilkee, requesting that they put additional measures in place to manage litter originating from their premises.



Gum Litter Taskforce

Gum Litter Taskforce

The 2022 Gum Litter Taskforce (GLT) “Bin It” gum litter education campaign was launched in Ennis by Ennis Tidy Towns in conjunction with Clare County Council. Councillor Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Councillor Mary Howard, Cormac McCarthy, Chairperson of Ennis Tidy Towns, volunteers from Ennis Tidy Towns, and members of Clare County Council’s Waste Enforcement team attended the launch.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to complaints relating to waste and litter. In total, 221 complaints relating to waste and litter were received from the 1st of July to the end of August. They have been investigated and are being closed out.

Notifications of Controlled Burning

In total, 7 notifications of controlled burning were received and processed between July and August, as per the Waste Management (Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning) Regulations 2009. Each of these applications is inspected by a Community Warden or Executive Engineer.



Beaches

Lifeguards continue to monitor our beaches 7 days a week during the busy summer months.



Lifeguards Ballycuggeran

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 have been no further developments regarding the framework.

Water Services Operations

Water and Wastewater Operations

The following statistics provide an indication of the level of activity / work being carried out by the water and wastewater teams throughout the county from 24th June 2022 up to and including 25th August 2022. The figures do not however reflect the time invested by the teams which is required to resolve each complaint/issue.

- 77 Customer Complaints were dealt with and closed out
- 0 Emergency Work Order were received during the timeframe
- 782 Reactive Maintenance Work Orders were dealt with and closed out
- 1 Customer Asset Flooding Work Order was received during the period
- 293 Service Requests (SR's) were raised for Field Requests and Follow On Work Orders for Reactive Maintenance work
- 51 Outage Notices were placed on the IW portal during the period. 41 for unplanned burst water mains, leak repairs, ESB outages, fire hydrant installations and water outages. 10 Communication notifications issued for mains water supply flushing, step testing, water discolouration, leak repairs.

Water Operations.

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

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

- Lifford Road – Burst Watermain
- Church Drive, Clarecastle – Burst Watermain
- Maddens Terrace, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Cloughleigh Estate – Burst Watermain
- Cusack Road, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Various leak repairs from SES – Tulla Road
- Claremount, Clarecastle – Burst Watermain

- Carran WTP x 2 – Burst Watermains
- Station Road, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Steeles Terrace, Ennis – Burst Watermain
- Remedial Action List upgrade ongoing in Corofin Water Treatment Plant.
- Ongoing Meter Installations/Replacements for Non Domestic Programme.
- Shareridge watermain replacement - O Connell Square/ Street Ongoing
- Tankering to Carran WTP during dry spells in July & August
- Existing Borehole testing in Carran WTP

Major Outages for West Clare Area for period below:

- Water Tankering to Moveen Reservoir Kilkee
- 25th August Doonbeg 225mm A/c
- 21st August Lisdeen 225mm A/c
- 19th August Bog RoAD Kilmihil 50 mm OB
- 17th August Doonbeg 225mm A/c
- 17th August Cree 225mm A/c
- 16th August Doonbeg 225mm A/c
- 10th August Doonbeg 225mm A/c
- 8th August Doonbeg 100 mm
- 5th August Coore 50 mm OB
- 27th July Doonbeg 125 mm A/c

Major Outages for North Clare Area for period below:

- 21st August Lisdoonvarna
- Water Tankering to Ballymacraven WTP Ennistymon
- Water Tankering New Quay Reservoir
- Water Tankering Fanore Reservoir
- 8th June Bell Harbour 100 mm leak
- 8th June Ennistymon Leak 100 mm
- 1st July Rockmount 150 mm
- 8th August An Gregg Ard Lahinch Pump failure
- Circular Road Ennistymon Mains Upgrade

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

- Bothar na Rinne, Shannon – Burst Watermain
- O'Reilly Park, Shannon – Burst Watermain
- Shannon Industrial Line – Burst Watermain
- Clonlard, Westbury – Burst Watermain
- Teerovannan/Iragh, O Callaghans Mills (numerous)– Burst Watermain
- Bunratty/Cratloe – Burst Watermain
- Riverview, Scarriff – Burst Watermain
- St Luas Villa, Killaloe – Burst Watermain
- Corrib Drive, Shannon – Burst Watermain
- Barry's Shop, Ardnacrusa – Burst Watermain
- Larkins Cross, Corbally – Burst Watermain
- Hillcrest Grove, Kilkishen – Burst Watermain
- Tulla Step Testing
- Sixmilebridge Step Testing

- Tankering to Tulla & O Briens Bridge for drought period to assist demand on network
- Potassium Permanganate Dosing unit install at Castlflake WTP – Ward & Burke

Water Conservation

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

Wastewater Operations

Two rising main breaks occurred on the foul rising main in Kilkee on the 11th and 18th of August. The breaks were successfully repaired by the West Clare Operations Crews without any disruption to service or negative environmental impact.

Works are progressing well on the new Kilkee twin rising main project with pipe connections to the pumping station nearing completion. 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.

A total of five Office of Environmental Enforcement (EPA) Site Visits were carried out at wastewater treatment plants in Clare in August 2022. The site visits took place at D0424-01 Crusheen, D0422-01 Inagh, D0081-01 Ennistymon and D0086-01 Ennis North. These site visits are a sample on a particular day of an installation's compliance with some of its licence conditions.

Safety handrails, walkways, stairs and step-overs were installed at Miltown WwTP in July. The installation will ensure that maintenance staff will be able to easily and safely access various areas of the plant.



Planned upgrade works were successfully carried out to the existing clarifier at Clareabbey WwTP in July. The works involved the installation of a new scraper, scumbox and spraybar. The works took a total of 2 days to complete. Round the clock tankering of wastewater was required at Westfields Pump Station to facilitate the upgrade works. Clare County Council water services staff together with sub-contractors worked together to ensure the works caused as little disruption as possible



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. The rising main from Frances Street pump station to the new WWTP was partially completed with a road closure and traffic diversions in place. The cofferdam for the new storm storage tank at Frances St Pump Station site has commenced. 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.



Kilrush cofferdam excavation



Kilrush RM reinstatement.



Kilrush WWTP

Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme:

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

The contractor has installed the rising main in the land adjoining the N85, from the Clareabbey WWTP to a point opposite the Maxol service station. They are also installing the rising main from Clarecastle School and are continuing northwards with temporary traffic management in place. Works on the rising main and pump station are programmed to be substantially complete by the end of November.

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

Liscannor Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Construction of the Liscannor project is ongoing. The scheme will comprise of a new wastewater treatment plant at Corcomroe, a pumping station adjacent to John P Holland Park, rising main, gravity sewer and connection to the existing outfall. At the WWTP the main structures are complete.. Mechanical and electrical works are ongoing. At the pump station the permanent security fencing was installed in conjunction with the splayed entrance. Work on the pipelines is substantially complete.

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



Liscannor WWTP

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 and a draft plant layout is being prepared. Draft EIA Screening and NIS have been prepared. A Landscape Architect is working on a design to screen the proposed plant. A Solar PV system is being considered and the sizing required will be based on the power requirements of the scheme. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

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. Site walkovers have taken place and preparation of all necessary ecology and environmental reports is continuing. A Solar PV system is under consideration. 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. When the reports are approved the Consultants will then commence work on selecting a location for the WWTP and commence studies on a new sea outfall.

Newmarket on Fergus Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

It is proposed to construct a new pumped 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. Workshop 4 was held on the 12th of July. It is anticipated that the planning application will be lodged in October 2022.

Following planning approval construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023 and be completed by mid-2024.

Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade:

Construction is continuing on the WWTP scheme. Process pipe-work has been installed and testing is ongoing. Hydrostatic testing of the storm tank and pumping station are also complete. Works are continuing on the construction of the percolation areas.



Kilfenora WWTP

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 Agency's remedial action list.

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

Rockmount Water Treatment Plant\ Reservoir

These works involve the decommissioning of the existing water treatment tanks and installation of a new concrete storage

reservoir and associated siteworks. The Rockmount area is supplied with treated water from the old Doolough Water Treatment plant and the existing Rockmount plant no longer operates. Additional storage capacity is required to provide network stability and quality of service. Construction of the reservoir is now substantially complete. The anticipated completion and bringing into service of the reservoir is Q3 2022.

Rehabilitation of Watermains

The following watermain rehabilitation projects are currently programmed or underway:

1. Shannon Town, replacement of 300mm trunk main along edge of R471 at an Bóthar Mór -under construction
2. Lifford Road, Ennis – Installation of new main to replace backyard services – at design stage

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 will then proceed to prepare an options report 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 project has been awarded and initial meeting with Council staff has taken place.

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 381 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Irish Water to date. Following on site surveys, 64

of these assets have been determined to be non-operational assets which Irish Water will not accept. Of the remaining 317 assets, 209 have now been fully transferred or recommended for transfer to Irish Water.

The 108 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (14 assets)**

These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed. At present there are 7 assets under further query and 7 reports ready to issue to Irish Water.

- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (60 assets)**

This is a department within Irish Water dealing with special projects which includes facilitating the Asset Transfers from Local Authorities. The majority of assets in this category are folios under third party ownership but where long standing use and some evidence of previous land dealing is present. Irish Water are now advocating that property in long term operational possession but not in the Council name be obtained by the adverse possession process. Circular L1 2022 has confirmed department support for this approach. All assets which have not yet transferred will be examined to see if they can be progressed using this method.

- **Property Registration Authority Ireland (1 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.

Rural Water Programme

Under the 2019-2021 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme a contractor has been appointed for the replacement of 4.2km of existing watermains on the Ballycar GWS. Construction is due to commence in late September pending a successful road closure application. Works due to commence on the connection of 6 no. dwellings to the Portdrine GWS is awaiting commencement. Due to the location of the works adjacent to the N18 licences and approvals by the TII are required. The installation of a bulk meter on the Lisdeen GWS was completed in mid August to facilitate the submission of a taking in charge application on behalf of the scheme.

Invitations for the submission of bids for the 2022-2024 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are still awaited. Engagement continues with GWS's wishing to progress works under the upcoming programme.

The Mountrivers Group Sewerage Scheme (Doonbeg) was submitted by Clare County Council for taking in charge by Irish Water in August. The Rural Water Programme continues to work with a number of GWSs in respect of progressing funding applications to facilitate necessary works for taking in charge applications.

51 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.

Measure A8 Unsewered Towns and Villages.

A workshop was held with the Dept of Housing Local Government and Housing on the 15th June and further clarifications on the proposed scheme were issued in July and August from the Department to enable bids to be submitted for funding prior to the September 15th deadline.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Two Ennis based projects have been shortlisted for the *Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022* under the following categories;

Enhancing the Urban Environment: Ennis Public Realm Enhancement - Parnell Street, Lane-ways & Bow-ways

Age Friendly Initiative: The accreditation of Ennis as an Age-Friendly town

The implementation of the 'Ennis Age Friendly Town Strategy' (2021) project has also been shortlisted for the *National Age Friendly Achievement Awards* under the category 'Age Friendly Environment Award (Outdoor Spaces and Buildings)'. The implementation of this strategy continues to be a priority for Ennis MD.

Kayak le Chéile

An access ramp and gate have been installed at the rear of Cloughleigh school to link the school to the river walk, facilitating access to the river for the 'Kayak le Chéile' project which the school is delivering to its pupils.



Public Realm - Clarecastle

Work is continuing on the public realm project, with the overhead wires recently undergrounded by the ESB. The next stages will include, kerbing, paving, public lighting and a road overlay. EMD are engaging with Clarecastle Tidy Towns, preparing for the installation of bicycle stands and a bicycle service station at the plaza.



Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme

Works are continuing on the Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme, laying the rising main between Clarecastle and Clareabbey [Shareridge on behalf of Irish Water].



Ennis Flood Relief Scheme

The Ennis Flood Relief Scheme, storm water pump maintenance has been carried out in recent weeks. These works will now be included in the annual maintenance programme.

Footpath Works

The following footpath works have recently been completed in the Ennis MD:

- Sealing works at Oak Park, Ennis and St. Josephs Terrace, Clarecastle
Oak Park, Ennis - 1,124sq. metres
St. Joseph's Terrace, Ennis – 1,120sq. metres



Work has commenced on the pedestrian crossing at St. Flannan's College on the R458



- Replacement works and installation of dished crossing points at Ashfield Park, Ennis



Overlay Works

Recent overlay works have been carried out at Watery Road, Toonagh, New Road, Gort Road Industrial Estate and R458 Flannans roundabout to Clareabbey.



- Footpath installation to the side of Powers pub, Clarecastle



Accessibility/street maintenance

Hedge and branch trimming has been carried out in multiple locations around Ennis over the last number of weeks to ensure accessibility for all using the public realm. Responsibility for maintaining hedges and overhanging trees on private property that may impact public right of ways lies with the landowner.

Pedestrian Crossings

An uncontrolled dished pedestrian crossing was installed on New Road by Ennis CBS.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce

The Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce is meeting on a regular basis. Clare County Council continues to play an active role representing the Local Authorities including Limerick City & County Council, Kerry County Council and Tipperary County Council. The taskforce is scheduled to report to Government by year end.

Moneypoint Site

ESB is exploring the opportunity to repurpose the existing Moneypoint power generating station into a “renewable energy hub”. At the moment Moneypoint is a primarily coal-fired power station, with the capability also for oil fired electricity generation. In line with ESB’s ‘Green Atlantic’ vision for the future of Moneypoint, and the harnessing of floating wind energy from the Atlantic Ocean, part of the Moneypoint Station site is to be converted into a floating wind hub in the next number of years. On August 25th the Council’s Elected Members and Management Team visited Moneypoint power station and received a number of presentations of power generation, power storage and offshore renewable energy (ORE).

The ORE facility, when constructed, will act as a dual-purpose deployment hub for the deployment of the proposed Moneypoint 1 and 2 wind farms (0.4GW & 1GW respectively). Additionally, it is proposed to develop a 1GW green hydrogen electrolysis facility on site, with electricity supplied by future

offshore floating wind projects. A project of this scale will be significant for the development of the offshore wind industry in Ireland, contributing to the creation of jobs both locally in County Clare and across the rest of Ireland.



Clare Economic Taskforce

The next meeting of the Clare Economic Taskforce is set to take place on the 2nd September 2022 with a continued focus on informing and guiding economic development and job creation in County Clare. Eoin Gavin, CEO of Eoin Gavin Transport and the newly appointed president of Shannon Chamber of Commerce, and Professor Kirsten Mey, President of University of Limerick recently joined the Taskforce and will attend the meeting.

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC INITIATIVES (SEI)

Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

Following the completion of the *Shannon Town Centre Masterplan* (January 2022), the required SEA and HDA environmental assessments were completed in July in addition to graphic design of the final masterplan.

Background work and stakeholder engagement commenced in August on the preparation of an application under URDF which is anticipated to be called by end of year. In addition, background work on number of projects and initiatives identified in the Implementation Strategy for the Masterplan continued, in particular in relation to the proposed One Shannon Hub.

One Shannon Hub

In July, a Design Brief for the One Shannon Hub, prepared over a number of months was completed. The Design Brief was prepared in consultation with the Elected Members of Shannon Municipal District, a targeted number of community stakeholder and followed a technical assessment of the site and comparative developments in Ireland and internationally.

The One Shannon Hub development will combine Shannon MD Civic Offices, an Adaptable Performance Space, Community Library, Co-Working facilities and Workshops on a site identified in the Masterplan in Shannon Town Centre. These facilities will include education and training spaces for local businesses, exhibitions and cultural events. Above all, it will be a meeting space for the local community. It is envisaged that The One Shannon Hub will play an important enabling role and focal point for the further implementation of the overall *Shannon Town Centre Masterplan*.

The Design Brief formed part of the second stage of the procurement process and Tender for an Integrated Design Team for the One Shannon Hub and Public Realm. The final stage of the procurement process is scheduled to be completed with the receipt of tenders in September. It is anticipated the design

team of the One Shannon Hub and public realm will be selected in November.

In July, Clare County Council's property unit concluded the acquisition of the leasehold interest in lands at the centre of Shannon town, earmarked for the development of the One Shannon Hub. This acquisition from Shannon Venue CLG represents a significant step forward in the Council's ambition for the Town Centre.

It is anticipated the One Shannon Hub project and associated public realm in the town center will form a significant component of the URDF application referred to above.

Roche Masterplan

Following consultation with the Clarecastle community earlier in the year, and the completion of several environmental reports and assessments including Screening for both Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment, the Roche Masterplan is under preparation. It is anticipated that a Draft of the Masterplan will be ready in early December.

Clare Maritime Training Centre

Following the completion of a funding application under RRDF for the Maritime Training Centre and a subsequent invitation from the Department of Rural and Community Development, a promotional video was prepared as part of the proposed RRDF funding application <https://vimeo.com/745361019/26ff5f991e>. The proposal to support a maritime training centre in Kilrush formed part of a wider submission from Clare County Council to the Shannon Estuary Taskforce referred to above. Continued engagement with off-shore renewable energy companies and maritime agencies throughout the summer further emphasises the opportunities for a maritime training centre in West Clare to service the existing needs of the maritime industry and in particular the emerging renewable energy and off-shore developments anticipated over the coming years.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

The Chief Executive's Report on the 1,015 written submissions received during the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 public consultation time period was issued on the 10th July 2022 to the Elected Members for their consideration. The report sets out a summary of each submission and the Chief Executive's response and recommendation for each. A series of informal workshops has commenced with the Elected Members, with five held during the week of the 18th July prior to the summer recess, and workshops will recommence on Thursday 1st September with a further 15 workshops scheduled. The informal workshops are arranged by Municipal

District to facilitate Elected Members to consider those submissions which relate specifically to their respective areas, as well as three workshops for the full Council to consider more strategic policy issues raised. The Elected Members have until late October to consider the Chief Executive's Report and to agree by resolution at a Special Council Meeting any proposed material alterations to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. Any proposed material alterations agreed require the planning authority to determine if an appropriate assessment and/or strategic environmental assessment are required and if so, to specify how long is required for these to be undertaken. This will determine the date for when the proposed



material alternations to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will be placed on public display for a further period of public consultation, anticipated to be towards the end of the year.

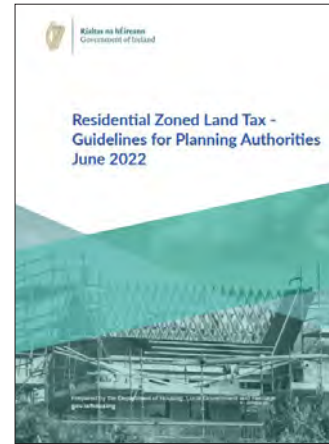
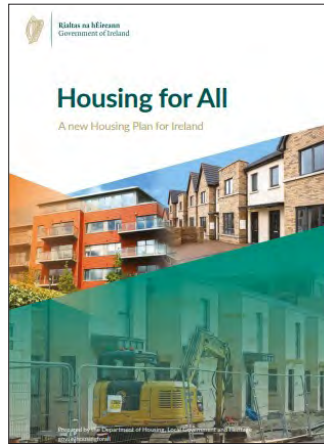
Sixmilebridge Town Centre Masterplan

In December 2021, the Minister for Rural and Community Development announced that Sixmilebridge has been selected as a pilot town under the Town Centre First Initiative to prepare a masterplan for the town to tackle dereliction and revitalise the town centre. Following a tender process the successful tenderer, Allies and Morrison Ltd., were appointed at the beginning of July and on the 12th July an inception meeting was held and site visit to Sixmilebridge organised. This was attended by several members of the multi-disciplinary Design Team from Allies and Morrison Ltd., Tobin Consulting Engineers, Southgate Associates and Repucon Consulting Ltd. as well as Councillors

John Crowe and PJ Ryan and representatives of the Shannon Municipal District Office and the Forward Planning Team. Work has been on-going since the July by way of follow-up to the wealth of information shared during the meeting and site visit. Public consultation is central to the project and the first of three public consultation stages will take place in Sixmilebridge in mid to late September when a Walkability Audit of the town centre will also be undertaken.

The Masterplan, due to be completed by June 2023, will be key to leveraging funding from multiple funding streams, including RRDF and Town & Village Renewal Scheme as it will provide a co-ordinated programme of investment for the town into the future.





Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Housing Policy Objective 15.2 of Housing For All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland, 2021, proposed a new tax to activate vacant land for residential purposes as a part of the Pathway to Increasing New Housing Supply. The RZLT, introduced by the Finance Act 2021, will come into effect from 2024 and will be managed by the Revenue Commissioners. 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 first step involves the preparation of maps which identify lands that fall within the scope of the tax. The Forward Planning Team are currently engaging with stakeholders, including Irish Water and Transport Infrastructure Ireland, in this regard. Draft Mapping will be placed on public display in early November and submissions invited from landowners and the public.

Ennistymon Enhancement Plan

Clare County Council, together with its partners Clare Local Development Company and Ennistymon Town Team, and the design team led by Helena McElmeel Architects continued work on the preparation of the Ennistymon Enhancement plan. A public event exhibiting the enhancement plan was held in the Teach Ceoil on the 12th July. The event was well attended by the community, and the plan was positively received. The design team issued a draft of the final report in August, and it is expected that the final report will be issued in September.



Corofin Enhancement Strategy

Clare County Council and National Parks & Wildlife Services (NPWS) continued in their partnership to prepare an Enhancement strategy for the village of Corofin. The steering group met with the design team in July, where they gave an update on their progress. The first stage of the design process continued into August. The second stage of Public Consultation will be held at the Corofin Community Hall on the 14th September, where the design team will present emerging proposals on the enhancement strategy to the local community and key stakeholders.

The Manchester Martyrs Monument

The Manchester Martyrs Monument in Kilrush is being repaired and restored with grant aid from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the Historic Structures Fund. Works progressed well in July, and the restored railings were installed in August. The restoration of the wrought-iron railings was carried out by a historic blacksmith, and the installation of the repaired railings marks a significant milestone in the overall project. Work will continue through September, and it is envisaged that the project will be completed in October.



Installation of restored wrought-iron railings. Photo by Kilrush & District Historical Society.

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. The project team prepared the tender documentation in July and tenders for the fabrication of the structures were sought in August. It is expected to conclude the tender process in September.



Hastings’ Farmhouse, Shannon

Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna have been successful in a small funding application to the Heritage Stewardship Fund as promoted by The Heritage Council. The application focused on Hastings Farmhouse in Shannon, a protected structure and a rare building type of historic and architectural significance. The Fund provides support to bodies who have responsibility for the care of heritage objects and those who play a key

role in the heritage infrastructure of Ireland and are vital to the delivery of national policy and plans. The partnership between Clare County Council and Dúchas na Sionna is a key step in safeguarding the heritage of Hastings Farmhouse. This project will look to put in place key structures and frameworks which will guide the future development of this protected structure and to determine a cost plan for proposals developed. A primary goal of this project is to increase accessibility to the site, and works will be undertaken to allow better access for all members of our community. An event was held at Hastings Farmhouse as part of Heritage Week.

An on site meeting with Duchas na Sionna, Clare County Council officials and QS company was held on site on 31st August to examine the key elements of the proposal for restoration.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below summarises the number of planning applications during the months of July and August and also gives the year to date totals.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	July 2022	August 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of planning applications received	106	83	773
No. of Planning Decisions made	89	82	695
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	0	19
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	21	22	152
No. of Section 5 applications	10	2	57
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	4	6	36
Submissions received regarding Compliance	24	40	263

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The table below summarises the activity in relation to planning enforcement during July and August, together with the year to date totals.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT	July 2022	August 2022	Year to date 2022
No. of new complaints received	10	10	117
No of Files Opened	7	13	75
No. of Warning Letters issued	11	20	107
No. of Enforcement Notices served	2	1	17
No. of Legal Cases initiated	0	0	1
No. of Enforcement files closed	0	9	39

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY



Clare Heritage Week

Clare Heritage Week was a huge success with eighty-eight events and projects organised, with good numbers attending the wide variety of heritage activities that took place over the nine days of Heritage Week.

The National Heritage Week Awards 2022 are now open for nominations until the Monday 5th Sept @5pm. This year's Heritage Week Awards will comprise the county awards, as well as a number of special categories: National Heritage Hero

Award; Sustainable Heritage Award; Biodiversity Award; Wild Child Award; Water Heritage Award, Sustainable and Inclusive Event Award.

Further details available at <https://www.heritageweek.ie/about/heritage-awards>

Lisdoonvarna Heritage Plan

Clare County Council in partnership with Lisdoonvarna Failte has appointed a multi-disciplinary team led by Drake Hourigan Architects to prepare a Heritage Plan for Lisdoonvarna, which is funded through the Heritage Council (Clare Heritage Plan Fund) and Clare County Council.

The Plan will look at the heritage opportunities and challenges within Lisdoonvarna and incorporate them into a sustainable Heritage Plan, including the wider Green Infrastructure. The Heritage Plan will identify key actions and projects for future development, together with opportunities to be delivered that will have a positive impact on Lisdoonvarna. This will include the identification of specific proposals for the improvements to the Heritage assets of the study area, including to the public realm, to expand or improve green infrastructure, improved access arrangements, connectivity and linkages. It is envisaged that the heritage plan will feed into the tourism plan and a future masterplan for Lisdoonvarna.

Good communication is part of the ongoing process of heritage awareness, local community participation and involvement and is essential in the process. To this end a public consultation strategy is a key part of the project with review and presentation of the findings to the community and relevant stakeholders during the course of the project. Heritage Week provided a great opportunity to engage with the local community on the project and several community workshops have taken place. A questionnaire has been distributed to the wider community and town walks have been organised, while the first stage in the design process is underway, all very much informed by the outcomes and observations obtained from the public consultation process.

Clare Community Archaeologist Service

Edel Barry is actively involved with communities in Clare, visiting archaeological sites and advising on appropriate conservation work, best practice and access to resources. Edel showcased several important aspects of archaeology in Clare during Clare Heritage Week, including the conservation of old buildings, Holy Wells, High Crosses, Derrainy, Whitegate and its history and a cycling tour of Kilfenora. This role is funded and administered by Clare County Council and co-funded by the Heritage Council.

Clare / Irish Community Archive Network

Several new communities have signed up to join the Clare section of the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) which is a portal for community heritage and an archival network in County Clare. The new Clare groups will be involved in training to establish their own heritage websites. In addition they will attend networking events and be involved in further projects and ongoing training on many aspects of heritage and IT. Details can be viewed on <https://clareheritage.org/>.

The Community Archives Conference 2022 was held in NUI Galway in July. The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) is part of the Archives and Records Association (UK and

Ireland). Every year it gives awards to outstanding groups and projects to highlight and celebrate their work across the UK and Ireland. The winner of the Gathering and Preserving Category was Scattery Island Heritage Group, Kilrush, which was an amazing achievement given the many other entrants from Ireland and the UK.

[Award for Scattery Island Heritage Group | The Clare Herald](#)

Roundabout Shannon Heritage Group gave a presentation on the work and research going on at Hastings Cottage in Shannon at the conference.



Kilrush Collaborative Town Centre Health Check

Fifteen masters' students from Queens University Belfast will be undertaking a Kilrush Collaborative Town Centre Health Check and will be in Kilrush in September to undertake the studies. This research exercise is being completed in conjunction with Kilrush Town Team, the Heritage Council and Clare County Council. All information collected will feed into a Collaborative Town Centre Health Check for Kilrush, which will then be compared to the previous Town Centre Health Check undertaken in Kilrush. The planning students will be involved in detailed land use studies using CHTHC methodology. They will use online questionnaires, foot fall counts, vehicle counts etc. Car parking (on-and off-street) utilisation rates will be recorded across the study area, as well as walkability audits including permeability, legibility and floor scape maintenance and quality will be completed. A consultation with young people from local secondary school as well as interviews will be pre-organised with key actors in the study area.

Quin Heritage Action Plan

The Heritage Officer attended the briefing meeting held to create an action plan to identify some of the opportunities for awareness, interpretation and access to Quin Abbey and surroundings, to provide visitor information and services and to add to the attraction that will help locals and visitors understand, experience and enjoy the cultural and natural heritage of the area while acting as a boost to the local economy. This work is funded by LEADER and commissioned by Quin Heritage group.

Clare Cillíní survey

Clare Cillíní survey is continuing with all sites surveyed to date being uploaded to the Clare Heritage website.

Clare Wetland Survey

The Clare Wetland Survey tender has been awarded to Wetlands Survey Ireland who are at present gathering further data to guide the direction of the survey work which will begin in the autumn.

Barn Owl Survey

The Barn Owl Survey is coming to completion with an estimated 14 pairs of Barn Owls proved breeding in Clare. This is less than was anticipated. Barn Owl nest boxes will be allocated and erected throughout the county in the coming months.

Review Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Control Measures

Clare County Council have commissioned the expertise of Prof. Joe Caffrey of INVAS Biosecurity Ltd to review Invasive Alien

Species (IAS) treatment in the Clare Municipal Districts. This work aims to assist Clare County Council in the treatment and control of Invasive Alien Species and advise where needed. Round-table discussion with Roads staff will take place and site visits to view some of the Invasive Alien Species (Knotweeds and Giant Hogweed) treated sites in County Clare.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat Species Action Plan (SAP)

The Lesser Horseshoe Bat roosts continue to be discovered along the Shannon Estuary at several different locations towards Kilrush, which indicates a spread of their known territory and a positive indicator for the Clare population of this bat species. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat SAP has just been published by National Parks and Wildlife Service and is available now on the NPWS website here: <https://www.npws.ie/publications/species-action-plans>. Clare County Council are involved in the initial Steering Group meeting for the Lesser Horseshoe Bat SAP and hope to be active in the implementation of this plan.

The film Sammy | A Pine Marten Story

The Heritage Officer attended the preview screening of the film Sammy | a pine marten story, made in Loophead by Tony Whelan of Canola Pictures. It features the story of a pine marten rescued in Loophead and its short life at the Querrin Nature Reserve and of the care and attention it received from all the people who encountered it, among them Trea and Kevin Heapes and Frank O'Neill. It showcases these incredible creatures and their struggle for survival.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Works to the protected structures allocated funding under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme are ongoing. An updated progress report on works is to be issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on Friday, September 16th. Monitoring of works by the Architectural Conservation Officer are ongoing.



Historic Structures Fund

Works to the protected structures allocated funding under the Historic Structures Fund are ongoing. An interim report on progress works is to be issued to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on Friday, September 16th. Monitoring of works by the Architectural Conservation Officer are ongoing. Beneficiaries include Killaloe Cathedral & Frawleys Pub, Lahinch.



Community Monuments Fund 2022

Clare County Council was awarded a total of €29,520 under the Community Monuments Fund 2022, under Stream 2. The money is to be used to complete Conservation Management Plans of the three medieval churches of Killofin, Labasheeda, Killchreest, Ballynacally and Templemaely, Ballyallia. A team compiled of architects, environmentalists, engineers and archaeologists has been appointed with the Conservation Management Plans due for completion in mid-October 2022.

Section 57 Applications

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

Section 57 Declarations	July & August 2022 up to & including 26/08/2022	Total Year to date 2022
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	7	22

National Heritage Week 2022

The Architectural Conservation Officer, Bláthmhac Ó Muirí, took part in an event organised by Edel Barry, Community Archaeologist and Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer on Monday, 15th August with a presentation entitled “The Vernacular: The ACO View”. The presentation outlined the importance of vernacular architecture to County Clare.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- The Enhanced 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-six applications have been approved, seven in July and August, while in a further four grants were drawn down totalling €8,825.00.
- 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 July and August, over 25 mentoring applications have been assigned.
- 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 11 Green for Micro applications, 10 LEAN applications and 1 Digital Start Application
- Training: Although a quiet period for Training Programmes, LEO Clare held four training courses over the two months which saw 40 participants take part. These included training digital marketing and start your own business. LEO Clare also began planning our 2023 programme with over 50 courses already confirmed.

digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

Alongside this, LEO has also launched a digital learning platform in partnership with Google, “You’re the Business”, which aims to help business by educating them on how to Get Online, Grow Online and Go Global.

Although both are now open for applications, LEO Clare will officially launch the Programme and the Google initiative on Tuesday October 18th at the Future Mobility Campus in Shannon.

Client Engagement

Local Enterprise Office Clare engaged via our Business Advisors with over thirty of our current and former grant aided clients. In each meeting, clients were made aware of current supports available to the businesses.

Digital Start Funding & Google Partnership Commences

LEO Clare along with colleagues in Limerick and Tipperary procured several Digital Consultants to help local businesses to digitalise their businesses via the new Digital Start Fund.

Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give Local Enterprise Office funded clients that digital edge - from optimising processes to delivering a seamless



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
An Clár • Clare

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Schools Capital Projects

Under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education, local authorities acquire sites for some new school development projects. In Kilrush, the Council acquired a site on the Back Road in recent years for a permanent building for Gaelscoil Uí Choimín. A further meeting has been held with the

Department of Education and the Limerick Clare Education and Training Board in August to advance this project to the design stage. Clare County Council has almost finalized a masterplan for the overall site to include the school portion of the site and the remainder of the site.

Property Transactions

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

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

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

Buildings at Blake's Corner Ennistymon.

Emergency works were completed on the roof of the rear extension to Blake's building in Ennistymon, in order to safeguard the integrity of the building, which is a protected structure. The Council also cleared out some of the waste material in the rear yards, making this a much safer site. All material worthy of retention was retained for re-use, including the flag stones that were on the roof of the extension.

Casual Trading

As events and festival returned for Summer 2022, a number of casual trading licences issued were issued. In the period, a further one was issued for the Willie Clancy Festival in Miltown Malbay and two were issued for the Lisdoonvarna Festival to be held in September. Continued vigilance is needed around the County to ensure that only those with licences are trading in the designated trading areas.

Derelict Sites

To date this year, 46 new derelict site files have been opened and represents a significant effort by the Derelict Sites Team to take action against derelict properties throughout the County. This is the highest level of activity in any one year since the Act was first introduced in 1990/1991. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues

of dereliction and gaining an understanding of the reasons why the properties are in a derelict stage. A number of owners have brought the properties to the market and some are at 'sale agreed' stage with engagement with the new owners ongoing to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

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

The announcement by Government of grant aid for the refurbishment of vacant properties, for occupation as a principal private residence is very welcome. Details of the scheme for towns and villages can be found on the website where you can access all the information on the scheme, frequently asked questions and the application form for the Grants scheme - gov.ie - Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund Scheme (www.gov.ie) We have notified owners that we are engaging with and all solicitors

in the County of the Scheme as it may be of interest to them dealing with properties where it may be applicable, particularly first time buyers who are buying and intending to do up vacant or derelict houses in towns or villages for their permanent residence

This month, the improved properties highlighted are in Clonlara village and in St. Patrick's Terrace in Kilkee, where works have been completed or are underway. It is important to recognize the effort put in by the owners to improve their properties.



Clonlara before



Clonlara after



St Patrick's terrace

To date in 2022, the CPO acquisition process is completed on two properties, one in Kilrush and one in Ennis, both of which will now be redeveloped by Clare County Council for social housing. A further 2 CPOs are underway.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in July and August 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	July and August 2022	Year to date 2022	Full year 2021
No. of new files opened	21	52	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	8	26	20
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	4	17	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	14	0
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO)	0	5	0
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	4	0

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT



Biodiversity Sign erected along Shannon Embankment Walk August 2022

On-going Works:

Overlay works in Athlunkard and Sixmilebridge have been completed.

Grass cutting contract has continued with the 11th cut currently under way. Much favourable commentary has been received this year, especially for Shannon.

The second cut and lift of the designated Biodiversity areas was completed in August.

Line marking associated with our Surface Dressing programme has been completed. A number of other locations have had road markings upgraded.

Own crews have commenced works on the Low Cost Safety Scheme Cratloe NS and also on a footpath linking O'Garney Heights to Sixmilebridge which will include an upgrading the path outside the Sixmilebridge GAA pitch to increase capacity.

Bike Rental Scheme

The Bike rental scheme roll out by Co-motion is up and running, initial teething issues saw a temporary suspension of the scheme. These have been worked through with bikes being available again week beginning 22nd August. Approx. 1,000 trips occurred during the first three weeks.

Drumgeely ORIS project, additional information sign has been erected.

Meelick Active Travel – continuing contact with Landowners.
Drainage works at several locations have been carried out.
Work has completed on the Bunnabinnia, Cratloe LIS.

Additional Handrail at Tullyvaraga Hill Community Hall has been installed which will facilitate pedestrians with mobility issues.



Guide rail installed adjacent to Tullyarraga Hall.

Bunratty TVR, a tender for works is currently being prepared.

The M.D. has engaged with the organisers of the Women's Irish Open Golf event being hosted by Dromoland Castle in September and is providing support.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Irish Fest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.

Stateside Promoting of Clare as Visitor Destination



Pictured L-R at the Clare tourism showcase Sean Lally, Manager of Hotel Woodstock and Chair, Clare Tourism Advisory Forum; Joan Hamilton; Director, Burren Ecotourism Network; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council; Cllr. PJ Ryan, Cllr. Mary Howard; Cllr. Tony O'Brien (Cathaoirleach) and Cllr. John Crowe, Members of the of the Clare County Council Twinning Committee; Siobhan King; Client Services Officer Wild Atlantic Way, Fáilte Ireland; Cllr. Michael Begley, Twinning Committee; Melanie Lennon, Sales & Marketing Manager, Cliffs of Moher Experience; and Maurice Walsh, Manager of Durty Nellys and Vice-Chair, Clare Tourism Advisory Forum.

Representatives of the Clare tourism sector promoted the Banner County as a desirable visitor destination to more than 120,000 people at Milwaukee Irish Fest in Wisconsin at the weekend.

In the biggest international tourism promotion of County Clare since before the pandemic, the tourism delegation - led by Clare County Council and members of the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum - showcased Shannon Airport as a key gateway to the west of Ireland and all that Clare has to offer.

During the promotional visit, the Clare delegation also met with representatives of Tourism Ireland and group tour operators in a bid to bring Clare to the forefront of any international marketing of the county for 2023

Milwaukee Irish Fest, established in 1981 by members of Milwaukee's Irish community, is renowned as the world's largest Irish culture festival and is a centrepiece event for Irish music, history, dance, sports, and culture in the United States. Ennis musician Mike Hanrahan of Stockton's Wing fame and

local group Socks in the Frying Pan performed alongside dozens of other artists, including Dervish, Emma Langford, Eileen Ivers, Finbar MacCarthy and We Banjo 3.



Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, and Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council, pictured with Mike Mitchell, Executive Director of Celtic Milwaukee, the organisation behind Irish Fest, and Paul Mc Donagh, Trade & Industry Engagement Manager (USA), Tourism Ireland.

Killaloe Twinned with New London

Members of the Clare County Council Twinning Committee, led by Cathaoirleach Tony O'Brien, have signed a Twinning Charter between the Wisconsin city of New London and Killaloe.

The link between the two locations was first established by Cllr O'Brien in 2007 when he accepted an invitation from the city's local Shamrock Club, to meet with officials from the north Wisconsin city. The twinning link developed during the following 15 years with representatives of New London making numerous visits to the shores of Lough Derg.

New London boasts a population of over 7,500 and is best known for its annual St. Patrick's Day festivities and Grand Parade, when the city's name is changed to 'New Dublin' for the week.



Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, signing the Twinning Charter linking Killaloe with New London.

Speaking after signing the Twinning declaration, Cllr. O'Brien said, "New London was originally more Germanic in population than Irish, but in the late 19th century Irish immigrants passing

through found the verdant farmland reminiscent of their birthplace and began to settle outside of town near Northport. The Irish American community is now an integral part of this City."

Councillor O'Brien explained that there are many similarities between New London and Killaloe. He explained, "Both towns can boast excellent outdoor amenities. Like Killaloe, New London hosts such activities as boating, canoeing, hiking, biking, golfing and fishing. Within the city and surrounding area there are 900 acres of parks, trails and recreation facilities."

Mayor of Clare on Stateside TV:

Cathaoirleach O'Brien showcased County Clare with an outstanding reach by being interviewed on Fox TV and also on the largest Radio station in Wisconsin:



Cllr. Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, pictured with Kim Murphy, anchor of Fox 6 Wake Up, the most watched morning TV show in Milwaukee. The Cathaoirleach spoke about Clare as an attractive visitor destination and highlighted Shannon airport as a key gateway to the West of Ireland.

Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Experience Official Opening



Pictured at the official opening of Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Experience in Kilbaha South, County Clare, on Friday, 1st July, 2022 were (l-r): Kitty Garvey, whose late husband Brendan was the Loop Head's final lightkeeper before the lighthouse was automated by the Commissioner of Irish Lights (CIL) in 1991; Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Council; Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council; Deirdre O'Shea, Head of Tourism, Clare County Council; and Colette Costello, Head of Operations, Loop Head Lighthouse & Vandeleur Walled Garden.

Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Experience swung open its doors to visitors on 1st July 2022 for the first time since 2019 and following a significant upgrade of the historic and popular West Clare visitor attraction. Located at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary with its origins dating back to the 1670s, the lighthouse was first opened to visitors in 2011 and has since become one of West Clare's most popular attractions. The lighthouse also is one of the Great Lighthouses of Ireland and is one of two Signature Discovery Points in County Clare along the route of the Wild Atlantic Way.

A series of upgrade and renovation works have been completed at the Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Experience as a result of funding received from the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) with match funding from Clare County Council.

Visit www.loopheadlighthouse.ie for more information.



Loop Head Lighthouse, County Clare

Funding for Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) outdoor projects

The Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O'Brien, has welcomed the announcement of funding of €171k for seven outdoor amenity projects in County Clare. The projects were included in a recent funding announcement (3rd August, 2022) by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, of almost €6 million to develop 200 outdoor adventure projects across rural Ireland. The Department of Rural and Community Development highlighted that the investment, under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), will be key to enhancing our outdoor amenities such as our walkways, cycleways, rivers, lakes and beaches. It will also provide a major boost to local economies by attracting visitors and furthering our reputation as a destination for adventure tourism.



As part of the announcement, almost €4.3 million will be used to improve some 163 outdoor amenities across the country. Each project will receive up to €30,000 to support their enhancement. Furthermore, funding will also be invested in 37 outdoor projects that are currently at the early stage of development. These projects are to receive funding of up to €50,000. The seven projects in Clare, which will receive a total of €171,132 in funding, are:

- **Cullaun Lake Amenity works:** Development of a community area at Cullaun Lake, Kilkishen - €20,102
- **Doon Lake Amenity Development (PDM):** Design and planning for development of lake amenity at Doon Lake - €22,304
- **Ennistymon:** Development of a looped walking trail - €15,508
- **Kilnamona Walking Trail:** Creation of a new walking trail adjacent to Kilnamona GAA complex - €28,975
- **Kilrush Forest Trails:** Link the cycle routes from Kilrush Town Centre and along the nearby coastal roads - €21,207
- **O'Brien's Bridge Riverwalk:** Improvement to Errina Canal

trail surface in O'Brien's Bridge - €13,036

- **River Fergus Walk & Cycleway (PDM):** Plan and prepare for River Fergus Walk & Cycleway - €50,000.

Announcing the funding, Minister Humphreys said: "We're at the height of the Summer and whatever the weather I know families are getting out and enjoying Ireland's great outdoors. "The funding I'm announcing today will support the further development of our greenways, blueways and hiking trails making them even more enjoyable places for families to visit. "Every county will benefit from today's announcement so if you're a walker, a swimmer, a cyclist or even a fisherman – check out the list to see what's happening in your county. "Getting active in the fresh air outdoors can be a tonic for the body and soul and this was brought home to us all during the pandemic. "Some of these amenities are often hidden gems on our doorsteps so I'm encouraging people to get out and discover them over the rest of the Summer."



Welcoming the funding for County Clare, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, said: "Seven local projects can now be undertaken in County Clare as a result of this funding announcement. These are projects that can bring

economic and social benefits for the communities in question and collectively they will enhance the outdoor recreational offering in the county. I would like to thank the Minister and her Department for making this funding available and I look forward to the projects progressing."

Director of Rural Development at Clare County Council, Leonard Cleary, said: "Investment in our outdoor amenities helps to promote social interaction and improve the health of our communities. These projects will increase recreational opportunities and will attract visitors to our lakes, trails, walkways and cycleways. The projects will benefit a number of locations in the county."

Minister Humphreys added: "Over the last number of years my Department has provided unprecedented investment in our outdoor amenities, underpinned by our most ambitious rural development policy in decades – 'Our Rural Future'. "Outdoor recreation tourism is a growing sector internationally, and has the potential to have major economic spin-off benefits for our rural towns and villages. "My Department is at an advanced stage of developing the new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy which will underpin this investment and give it a platform for further growth."

Details of Measure 1 projects and Project Development Measures announced by Minister Humphreys are available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/90a66b-approved-funding-for-outdoor-recreation-projects/>

Funding for larger scale projects under Measures 2 and 3 of the scheme will be announced by Minister Humphreys in the coming weeks.

Completed CLAR Projects

Works have been completed on 3 CLÁR-funded projects in Killaloe, Kilkee and Crusheen. The CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and forms part of the Government's five-year policy for rural Ireland, 'Our Rural Future'. The funding is directed to small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline.

The works in Killaloe were completed under a 'Community Well-being Measure' and the funding was used to enhance the community allotment and gradens through the purchase of a polytunnel and garden shed. In addition, a potting shed was constructed which doubles as a covered outdoor space in the garden. The garden was also secured by the erection of nylon fencing around the entire perimeter



Killaloe Garden

The works in Kilkee and Crusheen were completed under Measure 1 – Schools/Community Safety Measure. In Kilkee, a new pedestrian crossing was put in place on the busy R487 road linking the Cluan na Mara and Marian Housing Estates and Kilkee Community College. This project was delivered by the

West Clare Municipal District office. In Crusheen, funding was provided to improve the footpath infrastructure at the National School in addition to the provision of a number of other safety measures to cater for the significant volume of traffic at school drop-off times. This project was delivered by the Killaloe Municipal District Office.



Killkee Crossing



Crusheen NS



Lisdoonvarna Park

CLÁR funding boost for Clare community projects

The Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O’Brien, has welcomed the announcement of funding of €481,468 for 10 community groups, sports clubs, and schools in County Clare, under the CLÁR programme Measure 1.

These clubs and groups were included in a recent funding announcement (15th August) by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, of €7.4 million to support 175 community groups across the country. The CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and forms part of the Government’s five-year policy for rural Ireland, ‘Our Rural Future’.

Measure 1 of the CLÁR programme provides funding for the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible community recreation facilities. Sports clubs, schools and community groups will receive grants of up to €50,000 to develop a wide and diverse range of community facilities in rural areas with successful projects including outdoor cinemas, astro-turfs, sensory gardens, hurling walls, basketball courts, walkways, public toilets, community gyms, renovations to old handball alleys and much more.

The 10 groups in Clare, which will receive total funding of €481,468, are:

- **Kilkeedy Community Group:** Development of the Kilkeedy Community Playground - €50,000
- **Scoil Mhuire Lahinch:** Car Park Enhancement project - €50,000
- **Kilkee Playground:** Enhancement of the Kilkee Playground Facilities - €45,716
- **Kilfenora National School:** Provision of multi-use games area with fencing and access gate for use by the whole community - €50,000
- **Scariff Rugby Club:** Provision of Safety Works on the Club Car Park - €35,753

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 - Lisdoonvarna Community Park

Works have been completed in Lisdoonvarna Community Park. The project was funded (€90,242) under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 and is part of a larger project involving the creation of a universally accessible, looped heritage and bio-diversity trail through community owned parklands and the town centre incorporating wellness, exercise, recreation, culture and historical interpretation. The project was delivered by Lisdoonvarna Failte and has resulted in an attractive amenity and recreational space for use by the local community and visitors to the town. Lisdoonvarna Failte previously received funding of €25,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (Accelerated Measure) which enabled them to create an attractive public meeting space incorporating planting, seating and a heritage focal point within the Park. The group have also submitted an application under the 2022 Town & Village Renewal Scheme for the provision of a bike pump track facility which if funded and delivered will be a flagship component of the regeneration project within the 30 acre community park.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Kilmaley Meitheal:** Development of the Kilmaley Community Walkway - €50,000
- **Lissycasey GAA:** Development of the Lissycasey Running Track - €50,000
- **Kilmihil People's Park:** Provision of Public Walkway around Astro-turf pitch - €50,000
- **Tulla GAA Club:** Surfacing works on the Car Park including drainage, lining, and lighting at Tulla GAA Club - €50,000
- **Crusheen Sports Arena and Community Hub:** Development of a Multi-Use Games Area/Astro-turf in Crusheen - €50,000.

Announcing the funding, **Minister Humphreys** said: "Our Rural Future is all about a ground-up approach to rural development. Every community is different and the people who know best what their town, village or parish needs are the people who live there.

"It was for that very reason that I broadened the scope of the CLÁR programme this year to allow for a much wider range of eligible projects. The response from communities across the country has been overwhelming and that is evidenced by the diverse range and variety of successful projects under this year's scheme.

"I am pleased to award funding to a record number of applications this year. This funding will support sports clubs, schools, local development associations and other community groups in developing community facilities which will benefit people of all ages in our rural communities."

Welcoming the funding announcement, **Cllr Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council**, said: "Ten communities in Clare stand to benefit from the development of facilities being funded under this announcement. The sports clubs, schools and community groups are to be commended for what they are achieving in developing these projects. I would like to thank Minister Humphreys and the Department for making this funding available and I look forward to the projects progressing."

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development, Clare County Council, said: "I am delighted to see such deserving community projects receive funding under the CLÁR programme Measure 1. These projects will allow each local group to develop facilities for the future enjoyment of residents and visitors, creating new recreational opportunities in communities across the county. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of all the groups involved."

Minister Humphreys added: "I want to congratulate all of the successful applicants and I wish them the best of luck in carrying out these works which will make our rural communities even more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

"In view of the hugely positive response from communities, I am exploring the possibility of providing further funding for a second tranche of projects under CLÁR and I hope to make an announcement on this in the near future."

The full list of successful Measure 1 projects is available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/dafa3-clar-programme-successful-measure-2-applications/>

Cliffs of Moher Experience Hosts Tourism Scholarship



Clare County Council has partnered with the University of Limerick (UL) to sponsor a new PhD Scholarship Programme at the Cliffs of Moher Experience.

Working with UL's National Centre For Tourism Policy Studies (NCTPS) and The Kemmy Business School, Ireland's most visited natural attraction this week welcomed the sponsored

PhD student Ernesto Sanchez as part of the tourism research project he will undertake over the next four years.

READ MORE: <https://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/cliffs-of-moher-experience-hosts-tourism-scholarship/>

Plenty to see and do at the Cliffs of Moher during Heritage Week



The artisan crafts and produce of County Clare will be showcased at the Cliffs of Moher Experience as part of a series of daily events running throughout Heritage Week from Saturday 13th August to Saturday 20th August.

The Cliffs of Moher visitor centre will host local suppliers from a different part of the county each day, including Wilde Irish Chocolates (Tuamgraney), Creative Clay (Sixmilebridge),

artist Doreen Drennan Art Studio & Garden (Lisdoonvarna), Sallyann's Handmade Bags (Miltown Malbay), Irish Slate Craft (Lahinch), Wix and Wax Ireland (Ennis) and Glendara Art (Feakle).

READ MORE: <https://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/heritage-week-at-the-cliffs-of-moher/>

Cultural Companions visit to SCATTERY ISLAND and VANDELEUR GARDENS



The Cultural Companions Programme is funded annually through the Creative Ireland Fund and is part of the Clare Age Friendly Programme. It is a network of older people interested in attending arts and culture events together as a group. The aim is to provide increased opportunities for older people to engage with Ireland's vibrant arts and cultural scene as well as developing social connections.

In July, the Clare Age Friendly programme took 49 of the Clare Cultural Companions Members on an excursion to Scattery Island and Vandeleur Gardens. They learnt about Saint Senan, who was born in the area and built his monastery in the early

sixth century. The island boasts a mighty round tower, which at 36 metres is one of the tallest in Ireland. St. Senan's biggest legacy is that the River Shannon is named after him.



Built in the early 6th Century, stands 36 metres tall. One stormy night it was hit by lightning and a split occurred in the tower. In 1855 on the initiative of the Catholic Curate of Kilrush, the split was repaired with a grant of £40 from the Limerick Harbour Board.



The Head Gardener at Vandeleur Gardens, Karai, gave a great talk about the Vandeleur family who previously owned the estate and were descendants of Maximilian van der Leur, a Dutch Merchant, who settled in Ireland in the early 17th Century. Today the gardens have numerous trees, plants, a labyrinth, a maze, as well as a garden chess set.



To the west of the round tower, you can see St Senan's Well. Legend says it appeared when the saint plunged his staff into the ground while praying for water during a drought. The well still features in pilgrimage today, and is visited during the pattern on March 8th, Senan's feast day. It was said to cure ailments particularly those relating to eyes.

Inter-Agency visit to Mná ag Gáire Ukrainian Centre



Our colleague, Margaret Ryan (RIP) Staff Officer, Rural & Community Development was M.C. for the event prior to her untimely passing. Ar dheis Dé to raibh a hanam Dílis.

An inter-agency visit was held at the offices of Mná ag Gáire, Clare Women's Shed, where attendance included members of Clare County Council, Senior Management Team: Chief Executive Pat Dowling, Director of Service Leonard Cleary,

A/Director of Service Jason Murphy, [Chair of Ukrainian Response Forum], Director of Service Anne Haugh. The group also met with various organisations involved and were updated on the different activities they are providing. They

met with staff of Limerick Clare Education Training Board (LCETB) and Clare Immigrant Support Centre (CISC) staff, along with social inclusion and frontline staff coordinating and delivering English classes on the ground to Ukrainians. CISC and LCETB are collaborative partners on the Clare Ukrainian Response Forum. The visit was attended by Ukrainian volunteers, and representatives from Clare Volunteer Centre.



Pat Dowling & Management Team at Mná ag Gaire

Rural Development Strategy Draft for September



Clare County Council launched its Rural Development Strategy 2026 in 2017. This Strategy outlined a pathway to revitalised and reinvigorated rural communities across the county. As the Strategy reached its mid-point in 2021 it was important that a review of same took place. This Draft Renewed Strategy is based on the review of implementation of the original Rural Development Strategy adopted for Clare in 2017. The review recommended a renewal of the objectives and targets of the 2016 Strategy to allow the Clare Rural Development Forum to lead out delivery of additional actions to 2026, underpinning the successful implementation of the original strategy. The Draft Renewed Strategy has already been the subject of extensive consultation with key agencies, public participation bodies and the Elected Members of Clare County Council. It is currently available in draft form on the Councils Have Your Say Portal, offering all an opportunity to review the Draft Renewed Strategy 2026 and contribute submissions and comments via an online survey below prior to finalisation and adoption of this Strategy. The survey and questionnaire remains open until **Friday 16th September 2022**. Following receipt and review of submissions a final version will be prepared with a view to adopting and publishing in Q3.

Autism Awareness Program

Clare County Council was awarded €78,500 from this fund to promote and implement the “Autism Aware County Clare” programme. This multi-level, county-wide training programme will increase awareness of autism spectrum disorder in the wider community. Given that one in every 65 children of school age has an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis, this project has the potential to have a direct impact on a large number of individuals across County Clare. The Rural Development Directorate team have been active preparing a detailed specifications document and project plan around this program. This will be going to tender via the e-Tender process during September with a view to having consultants appointed in Q3 and the program rolled out county-wide in 2023.

Local Economic Community Plan

Clare LCDC will be commencing a process of reviewing the existing LECP Plan in the coming months and preparing a new Six Year Plan for 2023 to 2028. A steering committee is being finalised at present based on the prescribed socio-economic structure. It is expected that the LCDC will go to tender in Q3 seeking consultants to support the review of the existing LECP plan and development of new plan. This will involve wide and extensive engagement with the public and with state agencies, NGOs, and community groups county wide.

Pilot “Engagement” Project during LECP Process

In tandem with the above process, the LCDC in partnership with Clare Local Development Company, Clare Public Participation Network and Limerick Clare Education Training Board will be running a pilot project to ensure greater engagement of marginalised communities in the LCEP process. This portion is being funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development where Clare has been selected as one of four pilot projects nationally and will also receive mentoring support and guidance throughout this portion of the consultation.

Vandeleur Walled Garden



The Vandeleur Walled Garden was the host venue for the wonderful “Voices for Cancer” fundraising event on Friday 19th August, 2022 with all proceeds going to The West Clare Cancer Centre and Milford Care Centre. It was a fun night of entertainment with a huge turnout of locals and visitors supporting these very worthy charities. It was great to see some staff and Elected

Members from Clare County Council performing with the choirs on the night!

Thanks to all who attended and supported the event and watch this space for further events in the Vandeleur over the coming months.

Caherconnell Stone Fort Furnace Festival



In addition to a successful trip to Millwaukee, Clare will also take a trip back in time to when the residents of Caherconnell Stone Fort built clay furnaces and transformed Irish iron ore into weapons, utensils and various other items. The Caherconnell Stone Fort Furnace Festival will be open to the public on August 27th and 28th and is set to be an amazing spectacle. Dr. Eamon Doyle from the Geopark team is on the organising committee for the festival. He was also heavily involved in the running of the event throughout the weekend.

Heritage Week 2022

Heritage week 2022 was a busy one for the Geopark team with a mix of interactive events and activities happening throughout the week. From an ice age lecture to an online competition, and an antiques rock show to multiple walks and talks, there was something there to suit everyone. An enthusiastic Ukrainian group got in on the fun as they joined Dr Eamon Doyle for a walk and talk around Lisdoonvarna to learn about the fascinating geology (геологія) and hydrology (гідрологія) in the area.

A special thanks to Dr Gordon Bromley from the Geography Department in NUIG for taking the time to come and present his Total Meltdown: The End of the Ice Age in the Burren at the Burren College of Art.



WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Kilrush LEA

Works undertaken by the West Clare MD in August included-

- Overlay works to a section of the R473 in Killadysert village;
- Works on the provision of a footpath in Ballynacally village;
- Local improvement Scheme (LIS) works;
- Community improvement Scheme (CIS) works;
- Works to improve footpath access for the mobility impaired in Kilkee and Doonbeg;
- Upgrade to the roadside drainage in Rhynagonaught, Doonbeg. A large puddle was forming on the road in front of a number of homes. This issue has now been resolved;
- Improvement works to a junction in Tullycrine;
- New lighting columns and drainage in Cooraclare;
- Refreshing road markings and cleaning road signs near Killimer;
- Replacement of a damaged section of footpath leading to Ballynacally NS, before schools' resume.



LIS Lissycasey, Installation of drainage



CIS Road in Cloonlaheen.



Killadysert village, Surface overlay.



Doonbeg village, Improvements to footpaths to improve access for the mobility impaired.



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



Tullycrine Junction improvement works.

North Clare LEA



Cooraclare

Installation of new lighting columns
West Clare LEA carried out these works with the assistance of GMA from Councillor Bill Chambers.



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.



Ennistymon pedestrian Crossing

Ennistymon - pedestrian crossing and enhanced pedestrian facilities. Works completed as part of Failte Ireland Tourist Destination Town Project



Fitz's Cross, Doolin – pedestrian crossing

Fitz's Cross, Doolin - pedestrian crossing and new footpaths completed as part of Active Travel works.



Milltown Malbay Church – new footpath and public lights connecting car park to Church

Milltown Malbay Church - new footpath and public lights connecting car park to Church Street completed as part of Active Travel works.



Ruan Village – pedestrian crossing and traffic calming works

Ruan Village - pedestrian crossing and traffic calming works as part of Active Travel works.

UKRAINIAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT



Ukrainian Response

In July 2022, the Chief Executive established a new directorate in Clare County Council to respond to the impact of the on-going crisis in the Ukraine.

The new directorate is led by Acting Director of Services, Jason Murphy with Administrative Officer, Pádraig MacCormaic. New members will be joining the team in September. The team is meeting the various stakeholders both locally and nationally to both fully understand the dynamics of the response effort and inform the next steps.

Background:

The EU Council activated the 'Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55 EC)' on the 4th March 2022 to provide immediate protection in EU countries for people displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Directive was subsequently adopted into Irish law through Section 60 of the International Protection Act 2015.

Community Response Forum:

The new directorate will oversee the coordination of all elements of support required for the community in Co Clare through its Community Response Forum. The multi-agency forum includes elected members, Clare County Council cross-directorate services, state agencies, NGOs, and the Community and Voluntary Sector. The Community Response Forum met on 25th August. Membership includes:

An Garda Siochana	Clare County Council Departments
Clare County Council Members	Clare Local Development Company
Civil Defence	HSE
Clare Citizens Information	Irish Red Cross
Clare Immigrant Support Centre	LCDC

Clare Sports Partnership	LCETB
Clare Volunteer Centre	Local Link Limerick/Clare
Clare Care	Mid-West Simon
CLDC	Obair
County Childcare Committee	Order of Malta
Community Welfare Office	Public Participation Network
Family Resource Centres	DEASP
Lisdoonvarna Failte	TUSLA
Diocese of Killaloe	RCDO

Several regional fora are also being put in place to cover regions of the county such as North Clare / West Clare, Ennis and surrounds, Shannon and East Clare. There will be scope for greater representation from local groups to be involved in these regional fora.

Hotel / Hostel Accommodation

There are currently approximately 2,700 displaced Ukrainians accommodated in hotel/ hostel accommodation throughout County Clare across 23 premises covering 12 towns and villages. While it is difficult to be accurate with projections it is expected that these numbers will rise during in the coming month.

As new accommodation is activated by IPAS (International Protection Accommodation Service) the various services respond to settle-in our visitors while seasonal factors also re-focus the response as necessary – i.e., transport and educational needs into September. All agencies are responding as appropriate and there is significant interaction, support, and collaboration between services.



Councillor Clare Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis Municipal District pictured with Gerasko Larysa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Ireland at the recent launch of the Ukrainian Hub in Ennis.

Emergency Rest Centre

Clare County Council operates an emergency Rest Centre which is based in the Quin Road, Ennis, with capacity for 30 people. This facility was developed by the members of the Clare Civil Defence and has proven to be a vital focal point in the County's response efforts: The facility is a credit to the Civil Defence Team and the volunteers who spent many hours building and operating it over the last number of months.

We are currently finalising arrangements for on-going facility management of this service, and we continue to monitor the availability of accommodation across the county.

A second centre is managed and operated through Obair in Newmarket-on-Fergus with capacity for between 10-20 depending on the nature of family units.

Pledged Properties

An initial call for pledged property was made in March through Irish Red Cross. Clare County Council are working in partnership with Mid-West Simon to match Ukrainian individuals and families to approximately 35 remaining pledged properties.

Ukrainian Hubs

The Ukrainian Hub, established and run by 'Mna Ag Gaire' (Women's Shed), has proven very successful in Ennis. It provides a venue for a pop-up shop and is an ideal location for meet and greets, training courses, yoga, art and many other classes and activities.

It has recently been visited by Dept officials and the Ukrainian ambassador. This project has received funding supports from Clare County Council. Working with our Community Response Forum partners we are exploring the opportunities for other hubs in other locations.