



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meitheamh / June
2023



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FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection

Previous years and 2023 to date – statistics to 30th May, 2023

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	61
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	1
Appeals to Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	10	7
Data Requests – Erasure Request	0	1	1	0
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	16

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 May included:

- Mayoral Reception recognises outstanding contributions and achievements
- Feedback invited on new Climate Action Plan for Clare
- Major Boost for Fire and Rescue Service in North Clare
- Clare Museum launches new website
- Council selected to be a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champion
- Ennis to represent Ireland at international 'Communities in Bloom' competition.

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 May, the Communications Office:

- Posted 51 times on Facebook, with total followers now 18,068
- Posted 47 times on Twitter, with total followers now 8,056
- Instagram followers are now 2,855.

(Statistics accurate as of 29/05/2023)

Meeting with parliamentary representatives



The Chief Executive of Clare County Council, Pat Dowling, met with the local parliamentary representatives as a group in the Boardroom at Áras Contae an Chláir on Monday, 29th May, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate good communication and to provide an update on current developments in the county.

The briefing was attended by the Management Team of Clare County Council and provided an opportunity for a general discussion on the major strategic issues facing the Council at the present time.

Print and Graphic Design

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

Register of Electors Modernisation Project

Work is ongoing on the Modernisation Project following the enactment of The Electoral Reform Act 2022. The way the public register to vote has changed, with the electorate now being requested to include their PPSN, Date of Birth and Eircode on their registration details.

The Franchise Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is commencing a national media campaign this June calling the public to visit www.checktheregister.ie to update their details.

Clare County Council plan to launch a local publicity campaign and hold workshops once the national campaign has been completed.

FINANCE

Procurement

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 21st April to 28th May 2023 incl.:

Tender Name	Publication Date	Response deadline (Irish time)	Procedure
Killaloe MD Bridge Remediation Works	25/05/2023	15/06/2023 12:00	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)
Clare County Council National Road Contract 2023	22/05/2023	09/06/2023 12:00	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)
Extension & Renovation Works to Houses 3, 4, 10, 11 & 12, St Senan's Terrace, Kilrush, Co. Clare	03/05/2023	25/05/2023 12:00	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)
HR2023 Counselling Services	28/04/2023	30/05/2023 16:00	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)
Replacement Sluice and associated works at Lough Donnell	26/04/2023	17/05/2023	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)
Bridge Rehabilitation Works	24/04/2023	16/05/2023	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)
Clare County Council Regional and Local Roads Pavement Overlay Scheme 2023	21/04/2023	12/05/2023	Open Procedure (NON OJEU)

HUMAN RESOURCES

Work Area	Update
Recruitment	<p>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during May:</p> <p>Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Climate Action Officer (Eligibility) Temp Technician Grade I (Eligibility) Staff Officer (Eligibility) Staff Officer (Desktop Shortlisting) <p>Interviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch Librarian Final Interviews Clerical Officer Shortlisting Temp Technician Grade II Canteen Attendant Temp Technician Grade I Traffic Litter Warden A/Senior Executive Engineer Graduate Planner Clerical Officer (Final Interviews 2 of 8 days) <p>The following competitions were advertised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Officer Panel 2023 Lifeguard Instructor Active Ennis 2023 (Sporadic Cover) Foreman Countywide Panel 2023 Supervisor (Gardening Section) Customer Services Officer (Security) Panel 2023 Temporary Technician Grade I (Civil, Architectural & Building) Project Manager – Tourism Sites & Services

<p>Learning and Development</p>	<p>Online Training Programmes / Webinars / Information Sessions held in May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-Day SLG at Roadworks x 2 • Change Management • Competency Based Interview Training – Foreman & Analogous x 2 • Competency Based Interview Training – G5 & Analogous x 3 • Competency Based Interview Training – SEE & Analogous x 1 • CPC Module 4 x 5 • Derelict Sites Dangerous Structures • Inspection of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems • Practical Payroll Training • PSWT Training • RCT Training • Ride on Roller x 2 • Serious Incident Simulated Desktop Exercise x 4 • Water Services Area Safety Briefings x 5 <p>Essential Skillz on-line Courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber Security • Ergowize • GDPR • Health & Safety Induction • Slips, Trips & Falls • Working in a Covid Era <p>Health & Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual Handling • Safe Pass
<p>Employee Wellbeing</p>	<p>Clare County Council arranged events for National Workplace Wellbeing Day again this year. Our staff in the HQ canteen provided healthy options for all staff which included vegetarian/ gluten free options, fruit pots, fruit smoothies and fruit. Fruit was distributed to the MDs also for all indoor/outdoor staff. A free gym/swim was made available to all Council staff from Active Ennis. The Learning and Development Section of HR also added a wellbeing initiative talk on the day presented by Ciara McGinley of Fabtrition covering the four Pillars of Wellbeing. The link to the recording can be found on the Learning and Development Intranet page under News and Wellbeing. A Singing for Wellbeing pilot session led by Etain McCooley also took place in May.</p>
<p>Unions</p>	<p>The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.</p>

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Social Directorate continues to face challenges in the coming months and right through 2023.

- Our Housing Delivery plan targets for 2023, while challenging, are on course to meet our target of 149 units for the year.
- The winter eviction ban ended on 31st March 2023. We have in excess of 80 clients with Notice To Quits in existing private rental agreements. Our Homeless Action Team, HAP Placefinder, Acquisitions Team are actively engaging with these clients to assist them in accessing other housing solutions and to avoid the need for entering into homeless services. We are investigating options around purchasing a number of these properties, while AHB purchases are supporting further clients. We continue to provide advise to clients who do not qualify for social housing support but may be able to avail of the Cost Rental tenant in Situ program through the Housing Agency. One family has required emergency accommodation to date while a number of

families have been offered council or AHB properties recently.

- Work on the new County Library continues at pace and great progress is now visible on site. This will prove to be a fantastic addition to the town and county when complete.
- We expect applications process on the Enhanced Defective Concrete Block Grant Scheme to open in coming weeks. We have staff and IT systems in place to support an online portal for clients to submit applications.
- We will advertising for developer led Expressions of Interest re Affordable Housing Schemes for Ennis and Shannon during June. We are also finalising a scheme of priorities for allocating properties should demand for same exceed availability. As a reserved function this will be brought before the members for final adoption.

We are confident that the team in the Directorate, supported by the Elected Members, will continue to deal with all challenges and meet targets for the coming year.

HOUSING

For 2023 the housing public counter remains open to the public, without appointment, from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 to schedule same.

The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on **065 684 6291** or by email: hat@clarecoco.ie

Social Housing Demand - Assessment of housing need

Our greatest demand throughout the county is for 1 and 2 bed-roomed properties. There are 2,176 applicant households who have a requirement for this property type. The Allocations/Assessment Team are currently carrying out a review of the areas where the demand for this property type is greatest. This exercise was carried out recently in the Shannon area which was very successful and was an opportunity to meet with households in person and update their details. This exercise is currently being carried out where applicant households have selected Feakle/Scariff/Whitegate as an area of preference, it provides an opportunity for the Allocations/Assessments Team to effectively communicate with households in relation to the following:

- Confirmation that applicants are still seeking social housing support.
- Ensure that applicants qualify or continue to qualify for social housing support.
- Addition of new household members.

- Any changes relevant to a household's housing requirements e.g., marital status, any medical conditions, details in relation to disability etc.
- The requirement to complete the HMD-Form 1 Disability and/or Medical Information Form where there is a requirement for social housing due to disability or medical grounds.
- Any change to employment status.
- Current income.
- The importance of using Choice Based Letting (CBL) website - for households that are not using/accessing this site, an onsite demonstration is given to households.

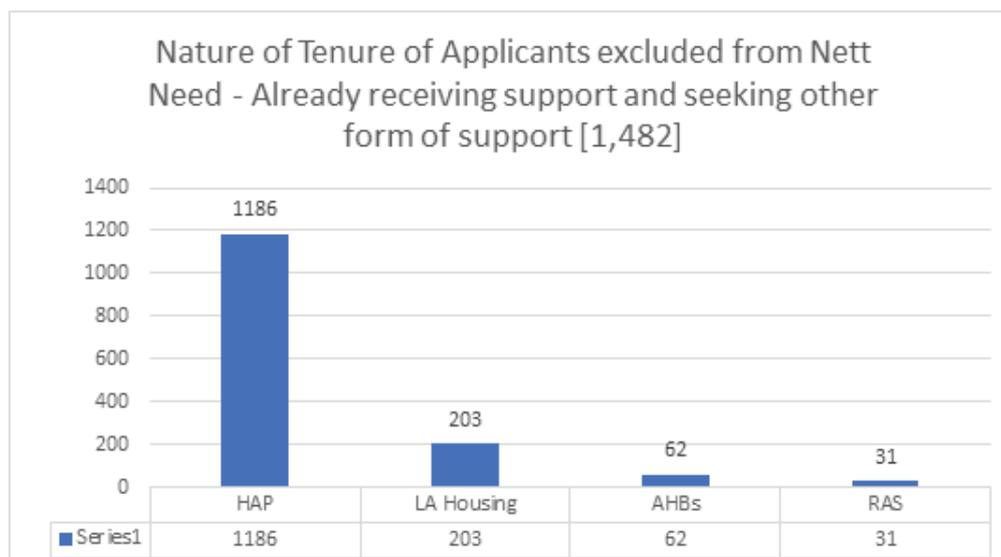
This assessment of housing need of applicant households is carried out through a combination of face-to-face meetings, assessment via phone or zoom meetings. This exercise will continue throughout the County. This ongoing review of applicants will also help reduce workload for annual assessment of needs which is expected to be announced for November 2023

Current Housing need as of 31/05/2023

Total Households on Waiting List	2,844
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,482
Nett Need	1,362



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



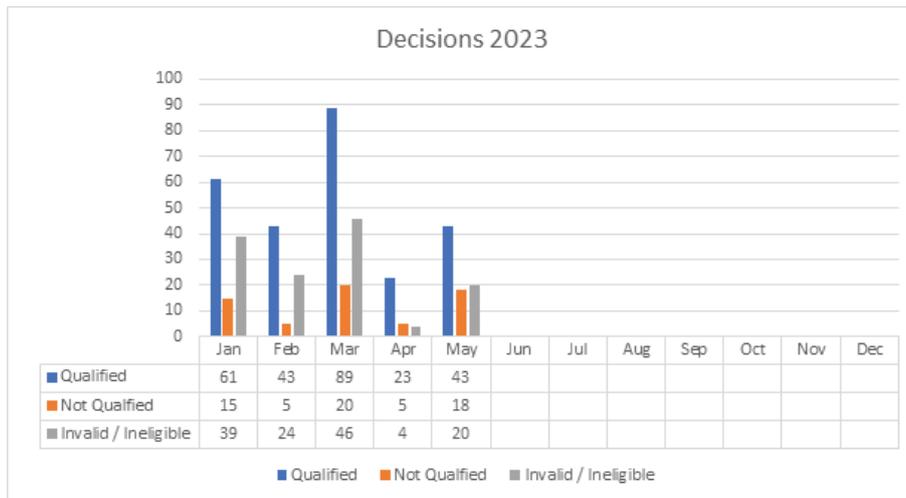
Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved:

HOUSING AUTHORITY BEDS APPROVED				
FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Grand Total
ENNIS	918	199	82	1199
SHANNON	178	26	13	217
CLARECASTLE	127	28	11	166
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	129	26	4	159
KILRUSH	101	32	7	140
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	105	21	4	130
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	73	37	11	121
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	71	13	2	86
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	67	10	1	78
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	55	15	6	76
COROFIN/RUAN	56	18	2	76
KILLALOE	56	14	2	72
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	47	10	3	60
SIXMILEBRIDGE	39	9	7	55
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	35	8	3	46
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	35	7	3	45
CLONLARA	21	8	2	31
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	4	3	28
QUIN	17	6	1	24
KILMIHIL	10	5	2	17
KILMALEY	9	2		11
KILFENORA	6	1		7
Grand Total	2176	499	169	2844

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Newly Qualified Applicants

New income limits became effective on 1st January 2023. While there was an increase in qualifications during March our numbers have stabilised again for April.



New Income Limits from January 1st, 2023

01-Jan-23	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children
1 Adult	€35,000	€35,875	€36,750	€37,625	€38,500	€39,375	€40,250
2 Adults	€36,750	€37,625	€38,500	€39,375	€40,250	€41,125	€42,000
3 + Adults	€38,500	€39,375	€40,250	€41,125	€42,000	€42,875	€43,750

The latest increase in income limits has not seen any major effect on our housing list with less than 10 households qualifying based on January increases.

Allocations

Properties which are available for letting are advertised on the CBL website. Following the close of the advertising cycle a formal re assessment of the household’s eligibility and need is carried out. We also check that the person circumstances has not changed, which may result in the household being deemed ineligible for social housing support. A breakdown of the basis of need to whom the properties allocated year to date is set out hereunder:-

Homeless including households that were at risk of homelessness	31%
Medical Needs	27%
Financial	25%
Overcrowding, compassionate, involuntary sharing and unfit	19%



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme with 3 new applications this year to date. We currently have 10 open cases at various stages of the legal process which are expected to complete in 2023. Sale of 2 properties has completed in 2023 to date.

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



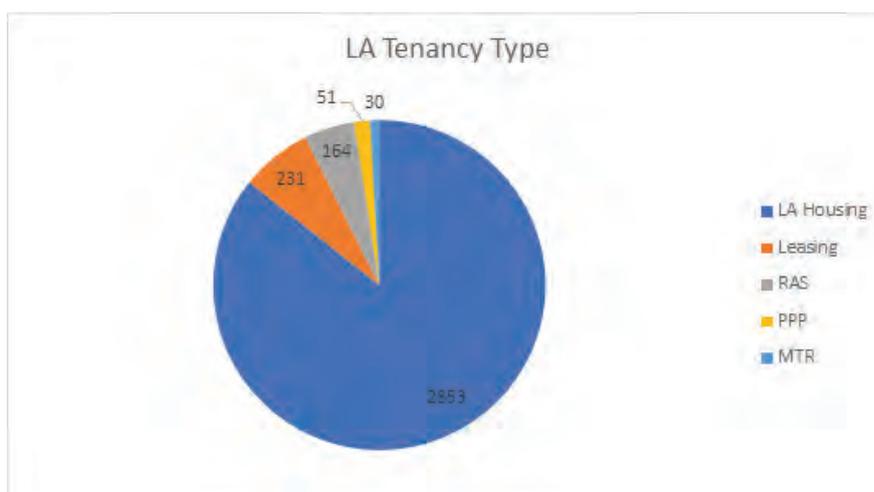
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Housing Tenancies:

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

31st May 2023			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	9	1294	1303
Killaloe MD	2	362	364
Shannon MD	3	724	727
West Clare MD	4	950	954
Grand Total	18	3330	3348

*3,348 households comprises of 5,749 Adults and 3,107 children. Total people 8,856, or 2.6 per household average



In addition we have 1,186 active HAP Tenancies.

Approved Housing bodies are providing approximately 800 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants.

Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties and these properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

Vacancies

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accom	2	8	2	0	12
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	4	10	1	0	15
Casual Vacancies	19	14	6	5	44
TOTAL	25	32	9	5	71

Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continue to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, dealing with ASB complaints as well as inspecting Local Authority tenancies and

providing the necessary supports to tenants.

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing asb@clarecoco.ie.

	20th April to 24th May	Total year to date
ASB Complaints recd	102	282
Housing Inspections	33	307
Referrals to TSS	8	12
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	16	53
Abandonment Notices issued	0	5
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	0	29
Repossession Orders	0	1

The Tenancy Enforcement team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and Traveller sites and have a very visible presence to manage and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour with over 4,000 observations of tenancies as part of these patrols in the year to date. The working hours of the TEO team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The TEO team can be contacted out of office hours,

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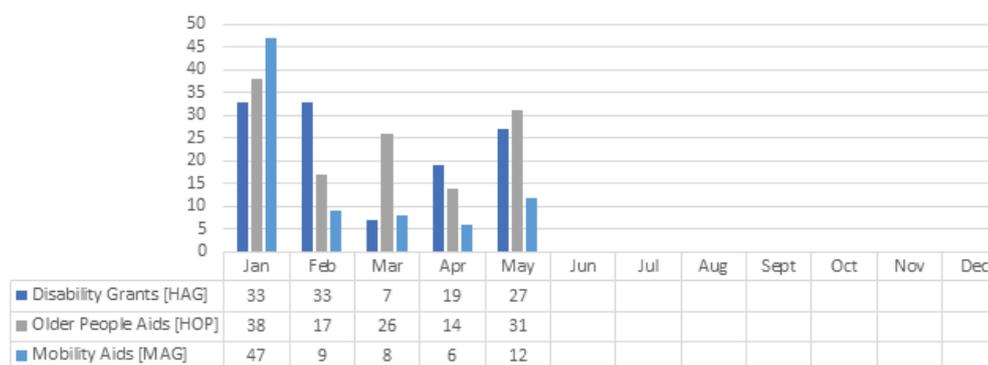
should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. **(087) 4169496**

Private Rented inspections:

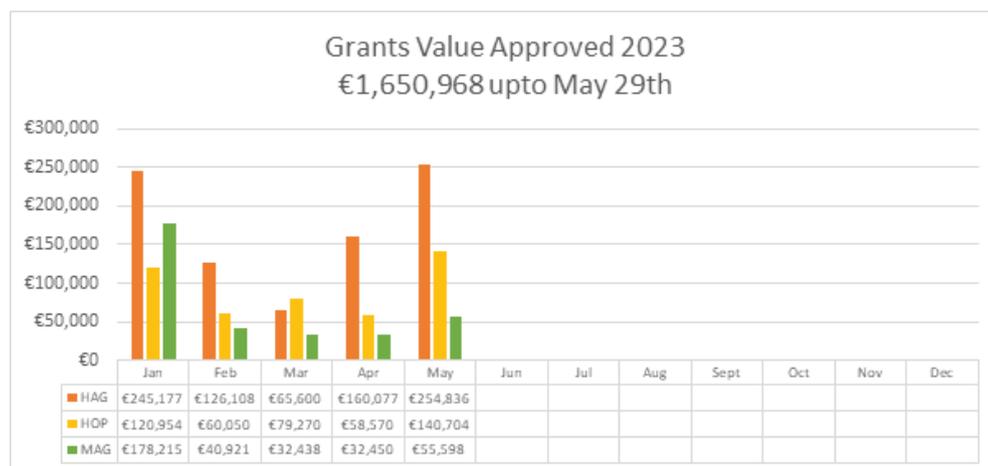
534 inspections carried out up to May 2023. These inspections were carried out on HAP, RTB, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that were received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards.

Housing Grants

Grants Approved 2023
327 upto May 29th



Grants Value Approved 2023
€1,650,968 upto May 29th



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

Loans data for 2023 up to 20/04/2023: There are currently 33 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. This includes 1 new approval on 31 March 2023.

61 Applications Received to 31/12/2022 and 13 Applications in 2023

33 Local Authority Home Loans Approved

5 Local Authority Home Loans Drawn Down in 2022 and 1 Drawn Down in 2023

12 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans Drawn Down in 2022

Traveller Accommodation

The Department introduced a nationwide Pilot Caravan Loan Scheme in 2022 under Section 25 of the Traveller Accommodation Act 1998. The scheme is currently closed but is being reviewed by the Department and we are hopeful that the scheme will be reintroduced as others have expressed their interest in availing of the scheme. Clare County Council continue to progress on our Traveller Accommodation Program [TAP] and have recently agreed to work with the Traveller Community Development Program to prepare a detailed needs analysis around traveller needs in preparation for the next TAP for which consultation is which is expected to commence in Mid 2024

Homeless Services (Homeless Action Team - HAT)

The demand for Homeless Services, Advice/Support and the provision of Emergency Accommodation within this region is continuous. The 31st of March 2023 saw the cessation of the moratorium on eviction/Winter Eviction Ban (Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination dates of certain tenancies) Act 2022). This in turn has had a ricochet effect on the Homeless Action Team with a noted increase in the number of

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presentations, queries and matters arising around Notices to Quit. This has had an impact on both Family and Single Units, while also on Family/Single Units that exceed the Social Housing Income Limits.

Following this, increased demands have been placed on the Homeless Action Team surrounding assessments and the demand/need for assessments to be carried out, with the appropriate actions or referrals put in place following this.

Presentations to Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT)

During May 50 new clients presented to HAT, with a further 200 repeat engagements. The needs and requirements of these presentations varied. A number of these presentations availed of advice and prevention works and supports from the Social Care Team in HAT. As a result, they avoided entering a homeless situation due to early intervention by the team. Advice regarding legislation on NTQ's, support from the HAP Place-finder, allocations in advance of homelessness situations, and other supports offered by the team ensured many of these clients avoided the requirement of being placed within emergency accommodation. This demonstrates the positive effect the prevention work employed by the HAT Team, which is an equally imperative part of this team's work.

Other individuals and families were supported in accessing Emergency Accommodation either within our services

or through private establishments. However, as Emergency Services and Accommodation remains at capacity with continuous demand for additional capacity, a number of individuals remain overstaying with friends or family until a vacancy presents within Emergency Accommodation.

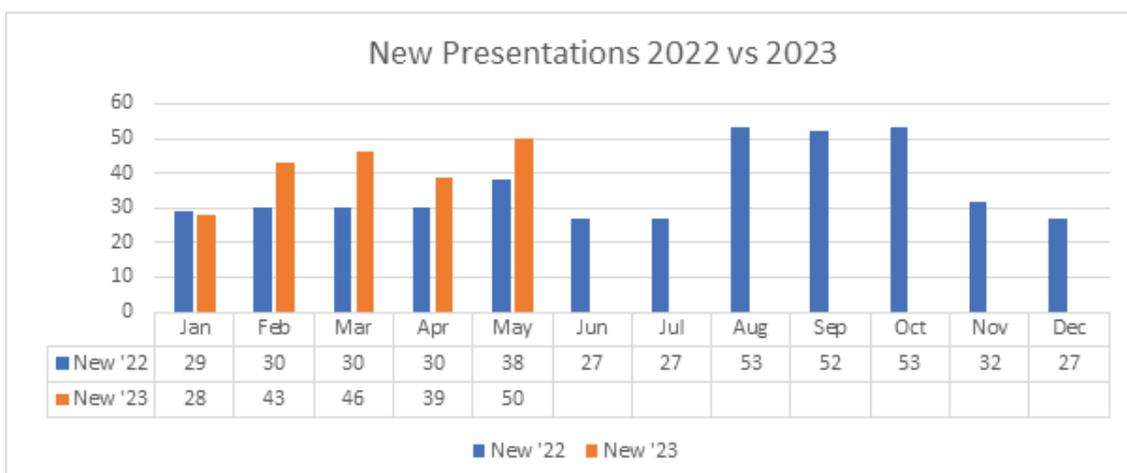
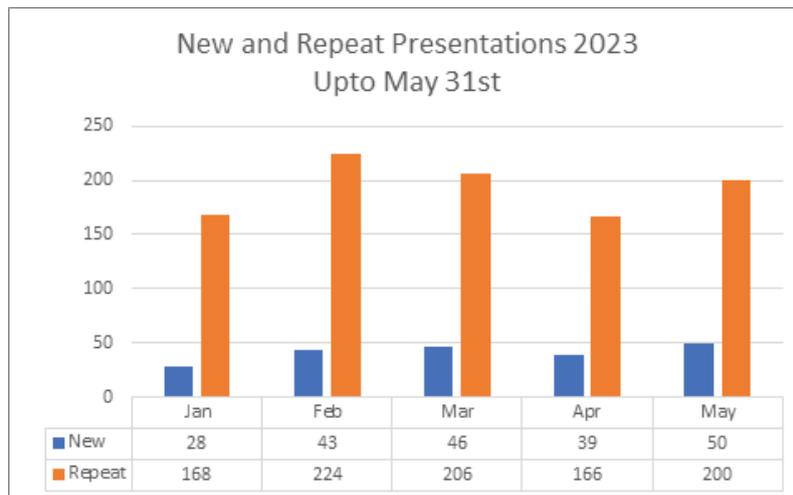
The Council continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options. However, this is proving challenging due to competing demands for accommodation in the County.

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

Exits from Homeless Services

Clare Homeless Action Team continues to focus on exits from homeless services and during the period 14/04/23 to 18/05/2023 the following exited from homelessness:

- 2 x LA Tenancy
- 2 x AHB Tenancy
- 1 x Own Front Door Property
- 2 x Discharged from Services (1 due to non use of bed; 1 to hospital)



• **Emergency Accommodation Status as of 18th May 2023:**

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge Weather Initiative	0	5	0	0
Cusack Lodge	5	7	11	1
Westbrook	0	16	0	1
Westbrook Weather Initiative	0	1	0	0
Ashford Court	10	18	19	1
EA Families	2	3	6	2
EA Individuals	0	5	0	4
TOTAL	17	68	36	10

Affordable Housing Schemes for County Clare

Under the original eligibility criteria for Affordable Housing Clare did not qualify at a county level to deliver Affordable Housing as the HNDA (Housing Needs and Demand Assessment) conducted by the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) did not meet their affordability constraint threshold. However, in consideration of recent flexibility introduced by the DHLGH, Clare County Council undertook expression of interest surveys to ascertain levels of interest and eligibility for potential affordable housing schemes in Ennis and Shannon and submitted a detailed application to the DHLGH in March for both Ennis & Shannon for access to the Affordable Housing Fund (AHF). Recently, CCC have received approval in principle to this application from the DHLGH now allowing CCC to submit detailed applications to the fund for specific developments. In this regard CCC propose to launch an Expression of Interest Campaign in the coming weeks seeking proposals to deliver affordable homes in Ennis & Shannon. Also, CCC will be engaging with our Elected Members for the purposes of developing a Scheme of Priorities (SOP) in accordance with the Affordable Housing Act 2021, which is subject to Ministerial approval. This SOP will be referenced regarding the future allocation of affordable homes.

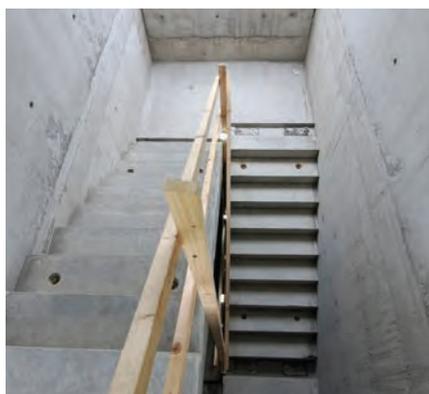
Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

Clare County Council continue to engage with the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage (DHLGH) in relation to the Enhanced Defective Blocks Grants Scheme. The draft regulations were presented to the Elected Members in February following which CCC made a submission to the DHLGH on behalf of the Elected Members regarding these draft regulations. Recently Clare County Council received a detailed response from DHLGH regarding the Elected Members submissions which has since been circulated. Clare County Council now await the finalised regulations, confirmation of a commencement date for the scheme, and circular in relation to same.

Clare County Council have the relevant Staff and systems in place for the administration of the Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme. Proposed applications to the scheme when it is open will be submitted on-line through CCC’s website and supporting information on same shall be provided to further assist homeowners regarding the application process on our website when the system goes live. In the interim, Homeowners are directed to our website, where the Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage “Your Questions Answered” document is available to provide information on the proposed scheme. In addition, CCC’s Defective Concrete Blocks Team are willing to assist with any queries Homeowners may have. This Team can be contacted by email at dcb@clarecoco.ie or alternatively by phone at **065 6846334**.

New County Library Construction Project

Construction work continues to make progress on the new Clare County Library and Art Gallery building. The external composite cladding panel installation, Level 03 primary structure steel frame and all other reinforced concrete works are now complete. Blockwork and insulation works will be completed shortly. Curtain wall and glazing frames installation is underway. Precast Stairs throughout the building have also been installed. Roofing Contractor is on site installing Cladding and roofing membrane with M&E contractor also commencing first- fix works. The state-of-the-art new build will provide a key resource for research, study, recreation and art in a centralised location of Ennis town adjacent to the well-established glór theatre.



New County Library Construction Project



New County Library Construction Project

Update on capital programme:

Works continue to progress on our ambitious capital programme, with schemes in Scarriff, Clarecastle and Sixmilebridge under construction currently. Design work is ongoing on a number of other social housing projects, which are at various stages of development.



Construction work underway on the Scarriff housing development



Construction work in progress on the Clarecastle project



Construction work in progress on the Sixmilebridge project

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SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Scarriff	18	Under construction.	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Design recommenced.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Clarecastle	5	Under Construction.	Q1 2023	Q4 2023
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Part VIII Withdrawn. Determination issued to ABP and awaiting outcome.	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Under Construction.	Q1 2023	Q2 2024
Ennistymon	30	Stage 2 approved. Stage 3 application currently being prepared.	Q2 2023	Q4 2024
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 2 approved. Public consultation held in January 2023. Planning application being prepared for submission to ABP.	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
Moore Street, Kilrush	21	Stage 1 approval. Design Team appointed.	Q1 2023	Q2 2025
Doonbeg Road, Kilkee	25	Stage 1 approval. Design Team has been appointed.	Q4 2023	Q2 2025
St. Senan's Terrace, Kilrush	5	Single stage approval, tender assessment commenced.	Q2 2023	Q4 2023
Clarehill, Clarecastle	13	Contracts signed for Turnkey Acquisition. Construction due to commence July 2023	Q2 2023	Q4 2024
Subtotal	186			
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Housing Ireland)	22	CALF - Property transfer complete, reapply for planning permission in due course when site assessment completed	Q2 2022	Q2 2025
Limerick Road, Ennis (Cluid Housing Assoc)	15	CALF Acquisition - Under construction	Q3 2022	Q2 2023
Limerick Road, Ennis (Inis Housing)	18	CALF Turnkey - construction in progress	Q1 2022	Q3 2023
Market Street, Ennis (Peter McVerry Trust)	14	CAS Turnkey - contracts currently being signed and construction to commence.	Q2 2023	Q2 2024
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen (Circle Housing Assoc.)	16	CALF Turnkey - construction commenced. 6 units to be delivered in Q1 2024 10 units to be delivered in Q2 2024	Q1 2023 Q1 2023	Q1 2024 Q2 2024
Church Road, Tulla (Cluid)	2	CALF Turnkey (Part V) - Completed	Q1 2022	Q2 2023
Ballyminogue, Scarriff (Focus)	4	CALF Turnkey - under construction	Q1 2023	Q3 2023
Dooneen Park, Kilrush (Banner Housing)	2	CAS Construction - under construction.	Q4 2022	Q2 2023
Kincora Park, Ennis (Saint Vincent de Paul)	1	CAS Construction- completed	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Ashfield Close (Sophia Housing)	6	CAS Construction - Dept approved	Q2 2023	Q2 2024
Roslevan (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland)	25	CALF Turnkey - completed.	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Lahinch (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland)	3	CALF Turnkey (Part V) – completed and sale to CHI to close shortly	Q2 2022	Q2 2023
Subtotal	128			
Total	314			

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Clare County Library

There was a range of events in libraries to mark Bealtaine, the festival celebrating creativity for older people. Other programming included the World of welcome for Ukrainian children and their classmates in Shannon, Sixmilebridge and Newmarket libraries. These events were funded by a donation to Clare Libraries from the Community Foundation of Ireland.

Eight home deliveries of library resources, books, audio books and DVD's, were made this month. There is continued interest in online e-resources.

Online Resources usage as follows:

1736 E-Books	2992 E-Audiobooks	618 E-Magazines
156 Online courses	2238 Press Reader	64 Transparent Languages

Marketing & social media

New marketing resources include a redesign of the Clare Libraries user guides for all e-resources and the Irish Newspaper Archives. An outreach event for Biodiversity Day took place in Scariff.

	New Followers	Total Followers	Posts Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes	Engagement
	56	6975	31100	398	3000
	-2	2114	2719	15	69
	28	1880	1686	194	1300

Total number of in branch and online events	224
Total audiences at live events	2390
Total audiences at online events	530
Total number of outreach events	9
Total audiences at outreach events	158



Sixmilebridge Library – World of Welcomes with Music Generation.

Right to Read

Clare Libraries in collaboration with the Glucksman Art Library launched, Green Lines: Irish artists that respond to themes of Climate Change, The Environment, and Sustainability.

Green Lines is an exhibition featuring Irish artists that respond to themes of climate change, the environment and sustainability and is available for public viewing in Seán Lemass Library, Shannon during regular opening times. This is a Glucksman exhibition and comes to Clare Libraries courtesy of University College Cork Art Collection and is funded by the Arts Council of Ireland. Green Lines showcases the works of four different artists. A series of events highlighting the importance of climate awareness for children was held with a visit to four libraries including Shannon by award-winning writer and illustrator Oisín McGann. Oisín's events for children focus on his popular book "A Short Hopeful Guide to Climate Change" published by Little Island, 2021.

Climate action and awareness related events will continue throughout the summer facilitated by local arts practitioners in conjunction with Summer Stars, the annual Summer Reading Programme for children.



De Valera Library - Supporting Brain Health and Wellbeing - HIAYL Event - Darragh Howley, Performance Psychologist & Fitness Specialist

Healthy Ireland

Three Healthy Ireland at Your Library events took place this month. Six people attended a Self-care and nature talk in Ennistymon Library, given by Joanne Hanrahan, psychotherapist and eco specialist.

Darragh Howley, Performance Psychologist & Fitness Specialist, shared his expertise with thirty seven adults in DeValera Library, Ennis on the practical ways of supporting brain health & well-being through exercise and nutrition. Yoga teacher Trish Cleary delivered a Chair Yoga class to eight adults in Tulla Library. These ever-popular classes accompanied with music, takes participants on a trip down memory lane with Doris Day and Andy Williams.

Creative Ireland



Scariff Library - Spin a plate - Cruinniú na nÓg - Circus Explorer

Cruinniú na nÓg is happening on Saturday 10th June and is in planning phase with 31 events taking place around the county, including workshops in biodiversity, foraging, film, theatre, mural painting, drumming and rap. Children from a variety of

communities will participate, including 22 schools, the Direct Provision Centre in Lisdoonvarna, the Ukrainian community in Lisdoonvarna and the Traveller community in Killaloe.

Decade of Centenaries

Three lectures took place in May as part of the Clare Decade of Centenaries programme. Colm Liddy gave a lecture on Nan Hogan of Cumann na mBan in Shannon Library as part of the Bealtaine Festival. Dr Joe Power gave two lectures on the Civil War in Clare - one in DeValera Library, Ennis and one in Kilrush Library. An online lecture was recorded by Vincent J. Quealy, an Irish American who has written a book based on the story of his grandparents in Miltown Malbay during the revolutionary years "Reflections of an Irish Grandson". The video can be viewed on the You Tube page of www.clarelibrary.ie

Clare Archives

The Barrett collection continues to be catalogued and processed. An additional accrual of material will need to be taken this month from a warehouse to our repository for processing. A quotation has been sought for the conservation of a 'Shannon navigation register of vessels', 1884-1888. It is expected that the conservation would be complete by late Summer. Queries relating to Board of Health Records and Our Lady's Hospital Records have been dealt with this month through research by the Archivist. Queries relating to various collections within the archives have been dealt with by the archivist in conjunction with the Local Studies Library.

The archivist will be giving a presentation to the Kilrush and District Local Historical Society at the end of the month. The scanning project is continuing. Material from the Kilrush Urban District Council (1899-2001) is in the process of digitisation. The Clare Grand Jury Collection is now available to view at Clare Grand Jury - Digital Repository of Ireland (dri.ie). The Board of Guardian Records' metadata is the current project as the next collection to be available through the DRI.

Clare Arts Office

The month started with hundreds of people gathered on the Courthouse Steps in Ennis for Bealtaine Voices, with Mike Hanrahan and four choirs throughout the county. Culturlann Sweeney, Kilkee hosted two film screenings, a number of youth theatre workshops, a youth theatre performance, an exhibition launch and a concert with 195 people attending in total. Three exhibitions took place in Ennis, Scariff and Kilkee and three Riches of Clare Concerts took place with over three hundred people attending.

The Arts in the Community programme continued with the hospital radio taking place twice a week in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and arts activities in Raheen Hospital.

Clare Youth Theatre held two productions in glór and youth theatre members started a summer film project with CLDC. Work also began on a new mural in the car park in glór and the call out for street art countywide was advertised. The Arts Office continued support to artists & arts organisations by promoting their work on three "Arts in Clare" slots on Clare FM and issuing a monthly newsletter to the sector. The Arts Officer attended

16 meetings with artists and arts organisations in support of their work and attended conferences on Festivals and Creative Places and a Just Transition Workshop. Support was provided to six different film projects including one from Fáilte Ireland and one from PBS Network in the US with Michael Londra who covered both East and West Clare. A call out for bursaries also took place.

Minister of State, Anne Rabbitte TD opened the Embrace Arts and Disability Showcase in glór which had over two hundred and fifty people in attendance. The Embrace exhibition ran for three weeks in glór. The Arts Office Facebook groups has a combined membership of 4,613 and the Facebook pages reached 7,403 people this month.

Clare Museum

The museum held Bealtaine themed workshops for school children with 205 children from four local schools attending. The curator catalogued 82 items from the Georgina Frost collection to the database. These will now be photographed for uploading to the website in the coming weeks.

A museum volunteer is now listing the Georgina Frost collection and preparing it for cataloguing. A total of 29 images were uploaded from the database to the museum website, bringing the total number of images on the website to 720. Twenty social media posts were created during the month and many of these were shared on other local facebook pages helping to broaden the audience.

The museum website (funded by the Heritage Council) was launched on International Museum's Day.

KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Delegation by Killaloe MD to Irish Rail Requesting the reopening of Crusheen Railway Station

In early May, the Elected Members of Killaloe Municipal District together with Senior Planner and Killaloe MD Coordinator Brian McCarthy led a delegation to meet Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann and Sinéad Clair, Delivery Strategy Manager, Capital Investments, Iarnród Éireann to advocate for the reopening of the Crusheen Railway Station.

The re-opening of the Crusheen Railway station is a strategic objective of the Elected Members of the Municipal District of Killaloe - Strategy and Workplan and the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029. Following what was an open, positive and supportive exchange, the MD will now seek to prepare a business case and continue to advocate for its reopening.



Elected Members of Killaloe Municipal District with Jim Meade, Chief Executive, Iarnród Éireann and Sinéad Clair, Delivery Strategy Manager, Capital Investments, Iarnród Éireann

Rural Regeneration Development Fund - Scariff Regeneration Plan

Progress continues on this Category 2 project. The overall project also includes proposed public realm improvements to Market Square and construction of a public car park on the adjacent green field site.

Discussions on proposed plans between the Municipal District and the community, represented by Scariff Town Team and Scariff Community Council, continued during May with a view to arriving at a design of Market Square and town centre. Discussions are due to conclude shortly with a view to then applying for consent for the Market Square plans over the summer period.

It is anticipated that an application under RRDF will be ready for later this year and will provide for the development of designs for a Multi Service Innovation and Engagement Hub and improved public realm for the Market Square in the town centre, as well as the development of an adjoining town centre carpark which is in the process of being acquired.

Killaloe Bypass and Bridge Cross - progress

The Elected Members and Killaloe MD met with the PMO and representatives of SISK to get an update on the Killaloe Bypass and Bridge crossing due the month.

Ballycuggeran - Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Following the receipt of funding offer in December for improvement to footpaths and accessibility, the focus of the MD office has been on consultation with stakeholders and accessibility advocates to devise the best approach to provide access to the waters for persons with disabilities. In

that regard, following meetings with a number of groups a preferred design approach for the provision of a hoist and access pontoon has been agreed. A procurement process is near conclusion for the preferred design and it is anticipated the hoist will be provided and installed later this year.

Biodiversity Week and Enhancements to Killaloe MD Offices and Library

As part of ongoing enhancements to the Killaloe MD offices and Library and to launch a programme of events in Killaloe MD for Biodiversity Week, Killaloe MD welcomed the children and teachers from Junior and Senior infant and 1st Class Lakyle National School to our offices this week to plant pollinator and bee friendly plants under the watchful eye of the Mayor and Killaloe MD Councillors. Following a talk in the library about Swifts, the enthusiastic students also assisted our Pdraig Myles with installing Swift Boxes on our building for Biodiversity Week.



School children and teachers from Junior and Senior infant and 1st Class Lakyle National School visiting Killaloe MD Offices to plant bee friendly pollinators and install Swift boxes

May 2023 works/projects Killaloe MD

During the course of the Month Killaloe MD staff were involved in the following Projects / Meetings / Correspondence:

Projects / Meetings / Correspondence:

2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works underway on roads in preparation for Surface Dressing, and restoration improvement strengthening roadworks, e.g. at Rosroe, Kilmurry [Roadworks photos 1,2,3]



Meeting held with Feakle Community Council regarding improvements to footpath linkages from Feakle Village to the Post Office/Peppers and to Smyths/Digital Hub. Specialist contractor engaged to undertake refurbishment works to the pedestrian 'green' bridge at Killaloe.

ORIS:

Tender process with specialist contractors completed on the proposed access facility for water activities at Ballycuggeran Pier, including disability hoist.

NTA Active Travel:

Clarisford - 100% complete.



Tulla - 60% complete - Works on pedestrian crossings and footpath upgrades re-commenced.

Safety Improvement Work (Low Cost Safety) projects:

Draft designs completed and forwarded to Road Design for review, in advance of landowner engagement at Cloonamirran and Cranagher.

Initial draft designs completed subject to review at L3084 Killaloe.

Design completed and agreed for R462 Tulla safety improvement works.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Transfer of Shannon Heritage to Clare County Council



The Clare assets of Shannon Heritage, and the DAC (Designated Activity Company), have been formally handed over to Clare County Council, following the signing of an historic agreement on 8th May 2023. The handover includes the operation of Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Craggaunowen Bronze Age Park, Knappogue Castle and Gardens and the retail unit at the Cliffs of Moher Experience. 90 permanent staff also moved across to the local authority. The assets will now be managed, developed and promoted by Clare County Council's new Tourism Development Directorate.

The completion of the handover has been welcomed by the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan, and Minister of State, Jack Chambers.

The development was described as a milestone moment for Clare tourism by the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council. "The road to securing this transfer has been long but will prove to have been worth it for both tourism in the county and the local economy," added Councillor Tony O'Brien said. "Clare County Council's proven track record of delivering for Clare tourism is matched by the decades of experience and dedication of Shannon Heritage workers who can now look forward to an exciting new chapter for Clare tourism and a brighter future for these important visitor attractions."

Pat Dowling (Chief Executive) thanked those who had worked on the deal and the Government for the support. In April 2023, the Government confirmed €6m to cover the cost of the transfer of the assets. Now that the transfer is complete, further funding will be available to the council over the next two years.



RTÉ Nationwide Coverage of Clare



RTÉ Nationwide Presenter, Anne Cassin opened the RTÉ Nationwide show on the 22nd May 2023, to interview Chief Executive Pat Dowling and many other key stakeholders, as the show focused on the Visitor Attractions of County Clare and in particular the show joined in the celebrations of marking 60 years of entertainment at Bunratty Castle.

RTÉ Today show broadcast from Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre



RTÉ's *Today* show shone a spotlight on the Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre and Scattery Island during an outdoor live broadcast on Wednesday 24th May, 2023. Representatives of the local community and tourism sector presented at the Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre that profiled the extensive restoration works that have been underway since 2021. The programme also profiled Food producers from the Burren GEO food and was also host of live performances from local musicians

The DigiClare team played a pivotal role in ensuring the connection strength allowed the outside broadcast to instantly live stream to the RTÉ Studio in Cork.



Vandeleur Walled Gardens & Visitor Centre, is scheduled to open the new Visitor Centre, later this month and an Open Weekend will take place on June 3rd and June 4th whereby members of the local community are being invited to get a flavour of what's new at our visitor attraction during an enlightening talk at 10.30am each day.

GEOfood, The Geopark Academy and preparation for the UNESCO re-validation



The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark had a busy month promoting GEOfood at various events including The Burren Slow Food Festival and the RTÉ *Today* show broadcast from Vandeleur Walled Gardens.

They also had a GEOfood Afternoon Tea event for the Burren Ecotourism Networks Burren Wellness Month which was hosted by the Connole family at Burren Fine Wine & Food.



The team have the first Geopark Academy event on May 27th and 28th where they will host an array researchers who will share their latest research on the geology, ecology, archaeology and culture with attendees.

The Geopark are preparing for their UNESCO re-validation visit in June and are excited to share all of the wonderful work they do with the evaluators.

Graiguenamanagh Site Visit to explore best practice in Campervan and RV Parks



A comprehensive assessment of Campervan RV Provision in County Clare is underway by Repucon, who has been commissioned by the Tourism Department of Clare County Council. As part of this, a Study Tour took place to see how a social enterprise has pivoted to take advantage of opportunities for the town whilst creating jobs locally. A group of elected members, community and Council staff attended a very informative Study Tour to the Barrow Valley Activities Hub and Motorhome Aire.

The Barrow Valley Development Group is very active and engage with visitors and local businesses to develop their product, ensuring it generates benefit for the local community and local businesses in Graiguenamanagh. Surveys have shown the economic return to be more than €1.5 million to the local economy and creating up to 11 jobs.



Study Tour to Barrow Valley Activities Hub and Motorhome Aire site in Graigeunamanagh pictured L-R (front): Joan Tarmey (Tourism Officer), Roy Capon, Anne Griffin (Senior Executive Officer), Martin O'Brien (Director of Barrow Valley Development Group), Siobhan King (Fáilte Ireland), Cllr Cillian Murphy, (Back row) Cllr Tom O'Callaghan, John O'Malley (Senior Executive Officer), Tom Mellett (Senior Executive Engineer), Luke Aston (Loop Head Tourism), Cllr Paul Murphy, Brian McCarthy (Senior Planner) and Mark O'Connell (Repucon). Missing from photo: Aideen Day (Loop Head Tourism).

Refurbishment works to Lighthouse Keepers Cottage, Loop Head



Photo; Michael McMahon, MMEL Electrical, Conor Hourigan, Drake Hourigan Architects, Graham Reidy, Rogerson Reddan & Assoc, David Clarke, MF Construction, Colette Costello, Head of Operations Loop Head Lighthouse and Pat Curtin, MF Construction.

Refurbishment works of the Light House Keepers Cottage, Loop Head Lighthouse are underway with Martin Fitzgibbon Construction being appointed as contractors to carry out restoration works to include new floor, wall and ceiling finishes, installation of attic & ground floor insulation together with upgrade to existing mechanical and electrical installations.

When complete the house will be made available for accommodation purposes for short term lets. This project has been prioritised by Clare County Council in line with the current accommodation crisis and will also increase the economic benefits to the local community.

Festivals / Events and Delectable Dining in Clare

THE CLARE ECHO Thursday, May 25, 2023 19
 Support journalism in Clare by subscribing to www.clareecho.ie/subscribe News



Enjoy Delectable Dining in Clare

Whether you're in the mood for fresh seafood, fine dining experiences, or simple yet excellent dishes, Clare's restaurants have something to suit your taste. With summer approaching, there's no better time to support local businesses and indulge in the gastronomic pleasures that Clare has to offer. Below we feature a selection of places to eat. For a more complete listing, see www.VisitClare.ie/dining



RAW Interiors & Café, Killaloe

Monks, Ballyvaughan

Monks is all about fresh and flavoursome food – bringing you the best of 'local' cuisine. You can indulge in a platter of the freshest local oysters, savour a bowl of creamy chowder, or choose from their extensive menu, with a special focus on seafood.

Henry's, Ennis

Henry's focuses on executing simple things exceptionally well, incorporating as much locally sourced produce as possible. They offer menus and dishes that cater to all palates and take pride in accommodating various dietary requirements.

Durty Nelly's, Bunratty

Everyone is familiar with Durty Nelly's. It's where locals and visitors come together to enjoy drinks, music, and great food from a diverse menu featuring everything from oysters, smoked salmon, traditional fish and chips, slow-roasted lamb shank, steaks, and more.

Oar Restaurant, Doolin

Oar Restaurant offers elegant dining in a welcoming ambience in the heart of Doolin. Owned and managed by restaurateur Kieran O'Halloran, it is one of Ireland's most highly acclaimed restaurants. They make use of the finest local ingredients to craft exceptional dishes.



OAR Restaurant, Doolin

RAW Interiors & Café, Killaloe

When you visit RAW for breakfast, brunch, lunch, or dinner, you will experience the unique RAW vibe. Besides offering delightful food, they also sell a distinct selection of eclectic products and gifts from around the world.

Linnane's Lobster Bar, New Quay

Linnane's Lobster Bar serve food with an emphasis on fresh local produce, sourcing from within the Burren where possible. They are known for their seafood, but cater for all tastes and serve fresh seafood, meat and vegetarian dishes.

Long Dock, Carrigaholt

The Long Dock is renowned for its fresh seafood, thanks to the local fishermen who supply them with the finest catch from the area. They also know that there is no sweeter crab meat than that which comes from the bay just 200 meters from their pub.

Wild Honey, Lisdoonvarna

Wild Honey Inn is a Michelin-star pub. Chef and owner Aidan's philosophy revolves around sourcing fresh, seasonal produce from both the waters and the wild. Their menu is based on high-quality fresh, seasonal, and organic produce and consists of wild fish, shellfish, and meats.

Sweet N Green, Ennis

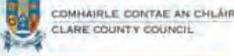
Sweet N Green is all about authentic food, sourced locally, with a focus on health and wellness. Their menu is packed with flavourful dishes that prioritise nutrition for both fitness and overall well-being. They cater to all tastes, offering options for plant-based, vegetarian, and coeliac-friendly meals.

Clare restaurants please note, if you are not featured on VisitClare.ie, and wish to be, see details on www.VisitClare.ie/web.

VisitClare.ie/dining



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Enjoy Clare's Festivals and Events

Experience Clare's diverse events, from cultural celebrations to music festivals. For a list of upcoming events, visit www.VisitClare.ie/events

Geopark Academy, Kilfenora
May 27 and 28, 2023

A weekend of talks, walks, and insights into the latest research in geology, ecology, archaeology, and culture of the Burren. Free, requires booking.

Fleadh Nua Festival, Ennis
May 27 to June 5, 2023

An international festival that attracts artists and supporters from around the world. It features concerts, céilís, sessions, recitals, Irish dance competitions, and street entertainment.

Doonbeg International Jazz Festival
June 2 to 5, 2023

A weekend filled with Swing, Dixie, Latin, and Jazz performances, as well as free musical workshops. All performances are free. There are workshops for children and young people, including swing dance lessons.



The Caherconnell International Furnace Festival

Doolin Folk Fest
June 9 to 11, 2023

A beloved event known for its diverse music programme, making it a must-visit on the summer festival calendar.

Fleadh Cheoil an Chlair, Ennis
June 10 and June 17/18, 2023

Three days of music, song, and dance events, competitions, and displays.

Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy Miltown Malbay, Spanish Point, Quilty, and Mullagh
July 1 to 9, 2023

In its 51st year, the famous Summer School offers a week-long immersion in Irish traditional music, song, and dance, including tuition, lectures, recitals, concerts, and céilíthe.

Armada Festival of Music and Dancing, Spanish Point
July 2 to 9, 2023

Coinciding with the Willie Clancy Summer School, features Ireland's top céilí bands, set dancing, country artists, social dancing, sing songs, music sessions, and more.

Feile Brian Ború, Killaloe
July 5 to 9, 2023

A festival dedicated to commemorating Ireland's greatest High King. The program includes firework displays, kayaking, sailing, swimming, historical lectures, guided tours, workshops, and adventures.



The Kilfenora Céilí Band, will feature in concert at the Vandeleur Festival

Vandeleur Festival Kilrush
July 21 to 23, 2023

Enjoy a range of fantastic events, including concerts, fire shows, exhibitions, CD launches, and fashion shows hosted by Vandeleur Walled Garden and Kilrush. Features both free and paid events.

The ŠKODA Ring of Clare Cycle, Ennis and Clare
July 22, 2023

Part of the ŠKODA Celtic Cycle. Cyclists ride along the Wild Atlantic Way, passing through the breathtaking Loop Head peninsula and along the beautiful Shannon Estuary.

Kilrush Traditional Music & Set Dancing Festival
August 2 to 7, 2023

A seven-day traditional music and dancing festival in Kilrush, featuring four free open-air céilís in the square, as well as displays, concerts, and workshops.

Feakle Festival of Traditional Irish Music
August 9 to 14, 2023

The 36th Feakle Festival, showcases the best of traditional music, song, dance, and poetry through concerts, master classes, recitals, céilís, sessions, walks, outdoor events, and children's activities.

Caherconnell International Furnace Festival, Carron
August 26 and 27, 2023

The unique Festival is where iron is smelted from small clay furnaces and forged into objects of art. This festival connects back to the rich history of iron production in Ireland through the ages.

The KPMG Women's Irish Open, Dromoland
August 31 to September 3, 2023

Witness some of the world's best golfers competing for the coveted Irish Open trophy.

 VisitClare.ie/events

WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH LEA

In recent times all crews have been concentrating on getting the roads listed on the 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Roadworks Programme) prepared for remediation and resurfacing. Much time has been spent on drainage works, surface preparation works and hedge cutting / boundary preparation.

Road strengthening & resurfacing works have been completed in all four sGSS areas within the last month. Thin overlay microsurfacing with "Ralumac" was completed on some regional roads, at the roundabout in Kilkee and on Toler Street, Kilrush.

Our surface dressing programme is next on the agenda.

Other minor works and requests from councillors (funded for from GMA) were also completed.



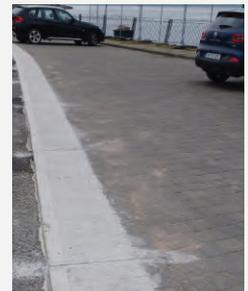
New footpath at O'Connell Street, Kilkee.



Install a speed ramp at Lisdeen Civic Amenity Site



Install new bicycle stands at Frances Street, Kilrush.



Replace a line of damaged kerbs at Cappagh Pier.



Thin overlay "Ralumac" on R487 near Kilbaha



Thin overlay "Ralumac" on R473 near Ballycorick



Replace damaged pipe grids on 2 large surface water outfall pipes in Quilty



Thin overlay "Ralumac" on Toler Street, Kilrush

North Clare



The toilets at Fanore are open following an extensive refurbishment.



Road Strengthening at Coolmeen



Road Strengthening near Kildysert

The roadworks programme is progressing well with 80% of restoration improvement roads completed. Surface dressing is expected to commence in the coming weeks.



PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Sixmilebridge Town Centre First Masterplan

The preparation of the Town Centre First Masterplan for Sixmilebridge is nearing completion. After the final round of public consultation on the proposed strategy for development, the focus is now on completing the final report and incorporating the positive feedback that was received.

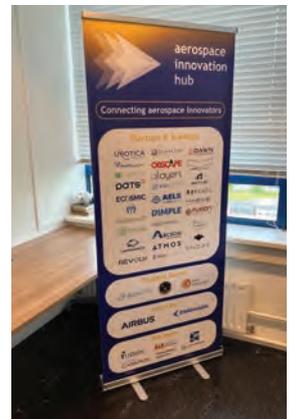
The design team Allies and Morrison met with, presented and received feedback on draft proposals and concepts to the Elected Members of Shannon M.D. and the Sixmilebridge Town Team on the 5th May 2023. Members of the public were invited to attend a Community Drop-In Event at the Town Square in Sixmilebridge on Saturday 6th May, where the design team and the Town Centre First staff were available to speak with the public and receive feedback. An online survey was also launched on the Clare County Council 'Have your Say' platform to gather feedback from the community on the proposed concepts and strategy for the enhancement and growth of Sixmilebridge.

The final plan will be presented to the Town Team on the 9th of June for approval and sign off before it will be issued to the Town Centre First National Network by mid June for review. Background work has already commenced to identify upcoming funding streams that align to key projects identified in the implementation plan, and the Town Regeneration Officer and Rural & Community Development Officer is working with the Town Team to prioritise these projects.



Shannon Town Centre Masterplan

The Town Centre First team, in collaboration with the Shannon Municipal District, is engaged in ongoing discussions with the URDF department and key stakeholders as part of the implementation of the Shannon Town Centre Masterplan and advancing the design of the One Shannon Hub as a key community, civic and cultural Multifunctional Centre. Clare County Council has secured over €200k in funding under Interreg Europe towards advancing an Innovation Campus in Shannon which is a key intervention of the Masterplan.



Lisdoonvarna Vision

The Town Centre First Team continues to work with the design team appointed for the Reimagine Hometown Architect Initiative in the development of the 'Lisdoonvarna 2050 - A Vision of Wellbeing' project.

who will form the Advisory Board of Clare MEZ DAC. This company has been established as a key requirement of the Enterprise Ireland funding which was allocated to this project previously.



Clare Maritime Education Zone (Clare MEZ) - Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

The Project Delivery Team are currently identifying industry partners who will work in partnership with Clare County Council to deliver the Kilrush Maritime Training Centre.

Clare County Council welcomed Dr Loic Guyon the Honorary Consul of France to Áras Contae an Chláir on the 16th of May to discuss the potential of reestablishing the twinning of Kilrush with Plouzané and the potential opportunities it presents in the context of Clare County Councils proposals for a Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush. The twinning of Plouzané in Brittany, with Kilrush in County Clare is one of the oldest twinning's dating back to 1982. Saint-Sané, the Irish monk of the Vth century and founder of the parish of Plouzané, was originally from Kilrush and buried on the island of Scatterry or Inis Cathaigh. The twinning of Kilrush with Plouzané presents a unique opportunity to establish links with the European Institute for Marine Studies (IUEM), the French Institute for Ocean Science and Campus Mondial De La Mer all located Plouzané. The training and research undertaken at these centers are closely aligned with the overall Vision for Clare MEZ and for the Marine Training Centre in Kilrush. We are extremely grateful to the Consulate for taking the time to meet with us in Ennis. Picture in folder

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

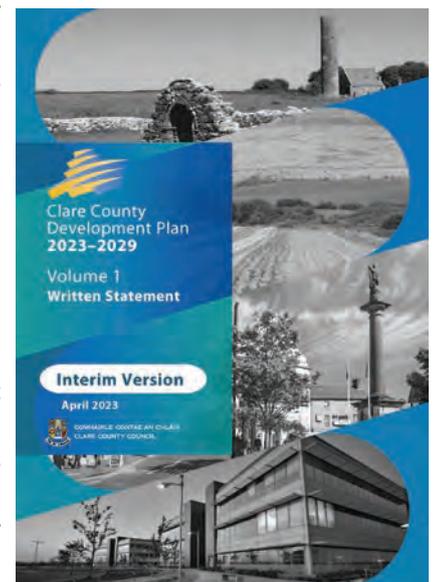
Following a Special Council meeting on the 9th March 2023, when the Elected Members of Clare County Council agreed by resolution to make the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, the Plan came into effect on the 20th April. The Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 is now the principal planning document for the functional area of the local authority area over the 6 year statutory period of the plan 2023-2029.

On the 18th April the Minister of State in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued a draft Direction to Clare County Council, upon the recommendation of the Office of the Planning Regulator. The Draft Direction was made having regard to the opinion of the Minister that Clare County Council, in making the development plan, has failed to implement recommendations made to it, as the planning authority, by the Office under Section 31AM of the Act; the Plan, as made, fails to set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area; the Plan is inconsistent with national and regional policy objectives specified in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES); and the Plan, as made, is not in compliance with the requirements of the Act.

The Draft Direction sets out the steps which the Planning Authority is required to take with regard to the Development Plan. These relate to specific zoning objectives for lands

identified in Kilrush, Killaloe, Mullagh, Liscannor, Broadford, Cooraclare, Ballynacally and Ennis, as well as to the provision for 'Existing Accesses onto National Secondary Roads' under 'Exceptional Circumstances' of section 11.2.9.3 of the Plan. The Draft Direction includes a Statement of Reasons for requiring these steps to be taken by the Planning Authority. The Draft Direction is available for viewing on the Clare County Council website and at the Council Offices in Ennis, Shannon, Kilrush, Ennistymon and Scariff.

In accordance with the statutory requirement of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, a notice of the Draft Direction issued by the Minister was published in the Clare Champion on the 28th April which set out the reasons for the Draft Direction and invited submissions/observations to be made during the two week public consultation period from the 28th April to the 11th May. The Elected Members of the planning authority may make a submission directly to the Office of the Planning



Regulator at any time up to the conclusion of the 2-week public consultation period and must also send any such submissions to the Minister.

A total of 25 submission were received during the public consultation period and the Chief Executives’ Report on these is currently being prepared. The Chief Executive’s Report will then be circulated in early June to the Elected Members, the Office of the Planning Regulator, and the Minister. The Office of the Planning Regulator will then consider the Chief Executive's report together with any submissions made and will make a further recommendation to the Minister, regarding whether the Direction is to be issued with or without minor amendments, or not issued.

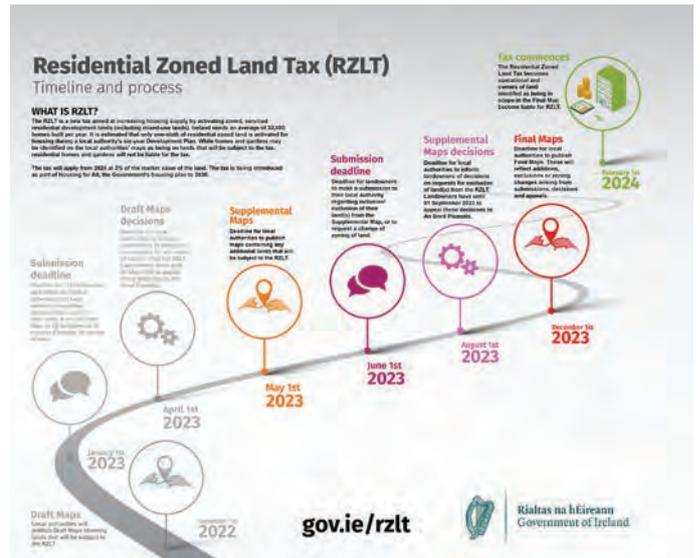
Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The RZLT is a new tax aimed at activating existing planning permissions, increasing housing supply and regeneration of vacant and idle lands in urban locations. RZLT will come into effect from 2024.

The first phase of the RZLT process included the publication of a Draft Map on 1st November 2022 identifying zoned and serviced land which fell within scope for the tax. This was followed by public consultation during which 63 submissions were received. All submissions were assessed by the Planning Authority (PA) and landowners were notified of the PA’s determination (decisions) by 1st April 2023. Subsequently, 15 appeals were received by An Bord Pleanála and a decision is due on these by 21st August 2023.

The second phase of the RZLT process commenced with the publication of a Supplemental Map on 1st May 2023 identifying additional zoned and serviced land - not included on the Draft Map - which falls within the scope for the tax. The Supplemental Map is currently on public display and submissions will be accepted up to and including the 1st June 2023. Information on this stage of the process is available on the Council’s website including the Supplemental Map, links to all the necessary information, a short explanatory video, guidance on how to make a submission and points of contact options. While the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has launched a national media campaign, the Council has launched its own media campaign including social media posts and adverts in the local radio and newspaper, to further raise local awareness and provide information on the RZLT. A number of enquiries have been received to date.

The next step after 1st June 2023 is to consider the submissions received on the Supplemental Map. The Council is required to notify those who made submissions requesting their lands to be removed from the scope of the tax, of its determination, by 1st August 2023. Following this, if they wish to do so, submitters can appeal the decision to An Bord Pleanála. The closing date for appeals is 1st September 2023.



Public realm works at Parliament Street, Ennistymon

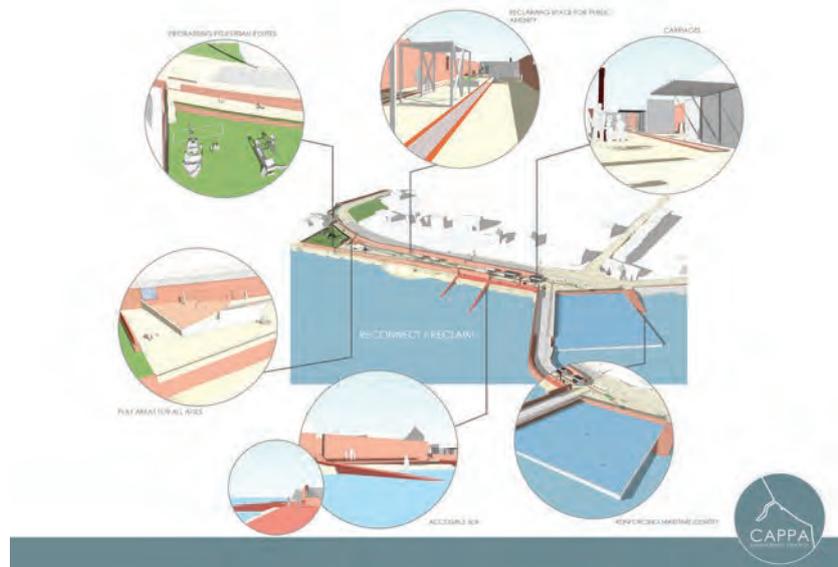
The Forward Planning team were successful in securing funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022 to undertake public realm enhancement works at Parliament Street, Ennistymon. This follows on from the Ennistymon Enhancement Plan, where Parliament Street was identified as an area with high potential to contribute positively to the streetscape of Ennistymon town centre. This plan-led project proposes to enhance the public realm offering at Parliament Street to make it a more pedestrian friendly, age-friendly, and accessible street. The brief development stage is nearing completion and tenders will be sought for consultancy services in June.



Site of proposed public realm works at Parliament Street, Ennistymon.

Project at Cappa Village, Kilrush

The Forward Planning team was successful in securing funding to deliver works at Cappa Village under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2022. The project arises from the Cappa Enhancement Strategy which identified key sites to sustainably develop the village while preserving its maritime character and scale. The funding provides for a new connection to be made from an existing recreational amenity to the adjoining coastal walk. This will further usage and increase connectivity with adjoining residential areas while opening up views to the Shannon Estuary. Universal design and inclusivity underpin the



proposal, which will open up a valuable recreational amenity to all who wish to use it. The proposed amphitheatre seeks to create a social space in the village which can accommodate day to day, as well as special outdoor events. The brief development stage is nearing completion and tenders will be sought for consultancy services in June.

HERITAGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity Week (19th - 28th May)

County Clare hosted a range of exciting events and talks to celebrate National Biodiversity Week. National Biodiversity Week is co-ordinated by the Irish Environmental Network with the support of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local Authority Heritage and Biodiversity Officers across the country as well as communities and NGOs who organised events to celebrate and explore local biodiversity. Some of the events included a talk provided by ecologists and farmers at Inagh National School who highlighted the important role of pollinators, and the simple habitat enhancement measures communities and farmers can provide for biodiversity such as pond creation, wildflower meadow creation and best practice hedgerow management. Irish Seed Savers hosted a guided tour of the gardens and orchards at their base in Scarriff and demonstrated how traditional orchards are havens for biodiversity supporting a range of wildlife. Coastwatch Ireland led a field trip at Quilty to survey the unusual Blue Carbon Seagrass Beds. Clare County Council in conjunction with Shanakyle Bog Restoration Group organised a walk and talk at Shanakyle Bog located near Parteen. This event showcased work carried out to rewet peatlands and their function in terms of conserving active raised bog habitat, providing a wildlife refuge for endangered species and the provision of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and flood prevention.



'No Mow May' Campaign

In keeping with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan's annual campaign 'No Mow May', Clare County Council has continued to manage the Council grounds for pollinators. This has also been implemented by Tidy Towns initiatives and homeowners across the county. This simple measure avoids cutting grass for the month of May. By adopting a 'no mow' policy, the pollen count will increase significantly, boosting the amount of nectar available for pollinators. With this measure, wildflower species such as cuckoo flower, ox-eye daisy and hawksbeard are already providing a nectar source for pollinators.

More than half of Ireland's bee species have undergone substantial declines in their numbers since 1980. The distribution of 42 species has declined by more than 50%. Such is the decline of pollinators in Ireland, two species have become extinct in Ireland within the last 80 years. Reduction in the diversity and/

or abundance of pollinators can reduce crop yield. The annual value of pollinators for human food crops has been estimated at €153 billion world-wide, £603 million in the UK; and at least €53 million in the Republic of Ireland. For example, regional estimates of the value of pollinators to individual crops have also been assessed, with values of over £7 million per annum for apples in Northern Ireland and €3.9 million for oilseed in the Republic of Ireland.



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of May 2023, together with the year to date figures. The percentage of e-planning applications continues to grow with 41% of the planning applications received in May being submitted by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	May 2023	Year to date
No. of planning applications received	112	498
No. of Planning Decisions made	102	398
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	6
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	22	98
No. of Section 5 applications	10	38
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	4	18
Submissions received regarding Compliance	30	143

TAKING IN CHARGE OF HOUSING ESTATES

Arda Na Deirge, Phase 2 (houses 12 to 19) was taken in charge on the 22nd of March 2023 at the Killaloe Municipal District meeting.

Fort Lawn, Kilrush was taken in charge on the 3rd of May 2023 at the West Clare Municipal District Meeting.

Both of these estates were completed by the developer, to the required standards, in accordance with the planning permission and Clare County Council's Taking in Charge policy.

Remedial works are progressing at the Móinin estate in Kilkee. It is hoped to have this estate formally taken in charge by Autumn 2023.



Arda Na Deirge, Killaloe

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

The table below provides a summary of Enforcement activity for the month of May and for the year to date 2023.

May 2023 Stats are as follows:

New complaints received	20
New files opened	17
Files closed	4
Warning Letters issued	14
Enforcement Notice issued	2
Legal	0

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- The Trading Online Voucher Scheme, which provides grant support to small businesses to develop an e-commerce website. In May, four further applications were approved bring the year total to fourteen. One grant was drawn down in May.
- Mentoring: LEO Clare has continued with a strong requirement for all of our Mentoring Options including mentoring in Starting a Business, Finance, Digital Marketing, Export Development and Brexit. In May 13 mentoring applications have been assigned. LEO Clare also ran two mentoring clinics for the Retail and hospitality sectors in which a further 17 businesses registered.
- Training: LEO Clare continued their training support offering during May. LEO Clare ran six training programmes throughout the month with over 100 participants registered. Training included, Start Your Own Business Programme, Cyber Security Training, Digital Marketing Programme and Instagram workshop.

May Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their third evaluation meeting of 2023 on May 22nd. Five applications were approved including two Feasibility, two Priming and one Business Expansion grant totaling €100,100.

Building Better Business

LEO Clare attended the recent Building Better Business Information event in University of Limerick.

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment held an event for businesses which highlight the opportunities and challenges presented by the transition to a low carbon economy and the digital transformation. The event in Limerick was also the official launch of the energy efficiency grant which will be available through the Local Enterprise Office.

LEO Clare clients Torpey Wood Products, Wild Irish Chocolate and AIP Thermoform were also in attendance and all met Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney.



Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney with Patricia Farrell, Wilde Irish Chocolates.



Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney with Michelle Mulleady, AIP Thermoform.



Sean Hayes of LEO Clare.

Business Growth for Female Entrepreneurs

LEO Clare completed a Six-month management development programme with 26 Female Entrepreneurs. Each of the participants will continue to receive mentoring support over the remaining calendar year.



Student Enterprise Awards

Three Students from St Joseph's School, Spanish Point, CBS Ennistymon and St John Bosco Community School, Kildysart, represented Clare in the National Student Enterprise Awards Friday 5th May in Croke Park, Dublin. Unfortunately, Clare had no winners this year, but all schools were given great recognition for their projects.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit in May 2023 (up to 29th May), together with the totals for 2023 to date and the full year 2022.

We continue to assist many solicitors on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc. and the activity levels are indicative of an active property market in the County generally. In addition to the Table below, significant property transactions are underway which will add to the economic development of the County and these are related to individual projects.

Transaction type	May 2023	Year to date 2023	Full year 2022
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	1	4
Licence to use property / building	0	2	13
Grazing Agreement for Lands	2	17	22
Deed of Transfer signed	3	9	19
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	1	2
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	0	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	1	10
Allotment Agreements signed	0	39	39

Grazing of Lands 2023

All of the agreements for grazing of lands have now been signed for the year 2023, following the annual tender process completed in January.

Casual Trading

A total of four casual trading licences were issued in May for Kilkee Market Area, Ballallia Lake, Ennis and the Kilrush horse fair. As we enter the Summer season, licence applications are currently being assessed for events and Festivals.

In addition, there is a focus on enforcement of the Casual Trading Act, 1995. The Team recently enforced the Act by ensuring that an un-licensed Trader was removed from the Car Park at the Poul nabrone Dolmen, which is not a designated casual trading area.

DERELICT SITES

To date in 2023, a further 22 properties have been identified as derelict. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to understand the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict stage. Since the start of the year, a number of properties have been brought to the market and some are at 'sale agreed' stage and we continue the engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. Due to the Vacant Property refurbishment Grant (see details below), there is a noticeable increase in the number of derelict and vacant properties on the market at the current time.

We are also seeing the outcome of sales agreed in 2022, with planning applications for refurbishment increasing and some works commencing on individual properties. We are also advising owners of residential properties of the grant that is available for refurbishing vacant and derelict properties to residential use – see further information below. With time and effort, working with owners, financial institutions and other departments, there are definitely options for positive re-development and re-vitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in April and the year 2023 to date, together with comparative figures for the full year 2022.

Derelict Sites	May 2023	Year to date 2023	Full Year 2022
No. of new files opened	8	22	69
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	2	17	33
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	0	12	22
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	0	0
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	1	4	21
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase (CPO) (see note below)	1	4	6
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	3	4

Compulsory acquisition of Derelict sites (CPO)

2022 Six CPOs were initiated in 2022, three have been vested in Clare County Council and one is outstanding in the Property Registration Authority. The CPO process on two more properties has been ceased as works have commenced on them following engagement with the owners / reputed owners. We are working with the Housing Department to return the first three properties to living accommodation, following refurbishment or re-development. The Housing Department has commenced site clearance work on one house that was acquired by CPO in 2022.



2023 A further four CPOs have been initiated to date in Quarter 1 of 2023 and publicly advertised. These proposed acquisitions by CPO are at the following locations and in some cases, if engagement arises following commencement of the procedure, we will work with owners:

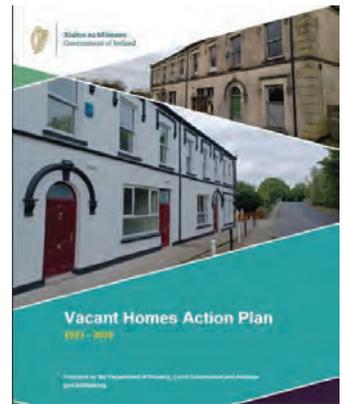
- Bungalow at Dough, Spanish Point
- Bungalow at Breaffy South , Spanish Point
- Terraced three storey commercial building at 20 Parnell Street, Ennis, County Clare
- Two storey terraced dwelling at Church Street, Scariff, Co. Clare

We are also commencing work on two further CPOs and details of these will be shortly advertised.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has recently launched a CPO activation programme for local authorities and has set targets for CPOs for each local authority. In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (which applies to Ennis and Shannon) will provide funding for CPO's on a rolling basis with the objective being that these properties would then be released to the open market.

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT-FOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

Clare County council welcomes the decision by the government to extend the Croí Conaithe Vacant and Derelict Property Refurbishment Grant to those who wish to renovate a vacant or derelict property for either permanent occupancy or long term rental along with increased funding in recognition of the costs involved. This measure will boost the supply of rental properties and options for permanent homes and will deliver on a key plank of Housing for All National Policy and the Vacant Homes Action Plan, the key objective of which is to reduce vacancy and dereliction in our cities, towns, villages and rural countryside and provide more housing options in the process.



The changes to the existing Vacant Property Refurbishment Scheme have come into effect. The key changes are that:

- Vacant properties built prior to 2007 (previously 1993) will now be eligible.
- The grants have been increased:
- Vacant Property - Maximum grant increased from €30,000 to €50,000
- Derelict property requiring structural works - Maximum grant increased from €50,000 to €70,000
- The scheme is now open for rental properties - each property owner will be eligible for one owner occupier grant and one rental grant.
- The time period for completion of works is 13 months from the date of grant approval.

The revised grant amounts are to be applied to all existing approved applications, which have not been drawn down.

Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria is published on the Council's website. The contact email address for further information and guidance on the grants scheme is vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie. In addition, a communications programme for the revised scheme will be conducted from May to July to include walk-in clinics and ongoing support will be available for applicants. The objective is to ensure that the approach of the Council is consistent and gives opportunities and information on the grant to owners of vacant and derelict properties.

This will include communication to existing applicants, owners of derelict properties that we are currently dealing with and the wider public. During May, an interview piece was done on Morning Focus Programme on Clare FM and a detailed briefing was given to the elected members. To date, we have received approx. 200 queries on the grants scheme.

The following table shows the status of the applications received to date. Based on the applications received and the revised grant levels, there is a potential investment of €3.5 million this year in refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties to be returned to economic use as permanent homes.

No. of Applications Submitted		Overall %
2022	33	33%
2023	67	67%
Total no. of Grant Applications	100	100%
Grant Use		
Private Residence	98	98%
Rental Property	2	2%
Decisions Made		
Approved	9	
Approved in Principle	9	
Rejected	4	
Withdrawn	6	
Total	28	28%
In Progress		
In Progress	18	
Further Information Requested	27	
Awaiting Technical Inspection	27	
Total	72	72%

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

EVENTS

Rás Tailteann

An iconic sporting event in Ireland, stage 2 ‘Birr to Ennis’ finished outside Barefield N.S. on Thursday May 19th. Spectators were treated to a bunch sprint and photo finish with 62 cyclists all together in the sprint. Deputy Mayor of Ennis MD Cllr Mary Howard was at the finish to welcome winner Matthew Fox and 146 cyclists from all over Ireland, UK, Austria and USA. The event resulted in up to 500 people staying over in Ennis, including officials, cyclists, 35 teams with 5 support members. Locals and visitors gathered at Glór the following morning, to mingle with cyclists while they registered for stage 3 ‘Ennis to Castlebar’. The Mayor of Ennis, Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy raised the flag indicating the commencement of the neutral

start through the town and out to Ballymaley where they began the next 151km. Ennis MD met with Rás officials and An Garda Síochana on a number of occasions to plan the Ennis stages to ensure minimum disruption. They also provided support on both days.





Clare v Cork - Cusack Park

Ennis MD liaised with various stakeholders including Clare GAA and An Garda Síochána to put in place a temporary traffic management plan for the Munster Championship hurling match in Cusack Park. The game itself was at sold out capacity which generated close to 20,000 people in around the grounds on the day. The Ennis MD outdoor crews commenced work early the morning after to ensure the town was litter free before doors opened in the town for business Monday morning.

ENVIRONMENT / PUBLIC REALM

Ennis Tidy Towns plaque

The 'Supervalu Tidy Towns National Award Winner 2021' plaque was installed in the Temple Gate Plaza area. Ennis Tidy Towns, Ennis Street Cleaning and gardening crews and other volunteer groups continue to do amazing work around the town of Ennis.

Weed control

Ennis MD have commenced weed control/prevention measures over the last number of weeks, promoting biodiversity best practice measures, by introducing an electric powered weed removal device in around the town centre area.

Environmental/illegal dumping cleanup

Ennis MD continue to assist the Environment section in collecting and inspecting cases of illegal dumping in around the Ennis District area. Black spots noted over the last number of weeks include Kevin Barry Avenue, Lifford AFC, Drumcliff, Woodquay Carpark and Clareabbey.

Pothole repair

Pothole and trench repair works continued around the town over the last number of weeks. Road defect repairs were carried out on Harmony Row (Colaiste), Silvergrove, Glensheen, Elm Park, Dalcaissen Drive and Fergus Park.

Boundary wall repair – Phoenix court

Following partial collapse of a boundary wall between Phoenix Court and Ennis Showgrounds, Ennis MD crews carried out an inspection. Loose capping and stone which may have potential to fall, were re-pointed and repaired by Ennis MD outdoor crews. Landscaping around the immediate area was also carried out during the works.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Annual Roadworks Programme) is well underway.

Strategic Transportation

Transportation Progress Update

Active Travel

Tulla Road Cycle scheme

- Four out of five people consulted during the non-statutory public consultation indicated they are in favour of the scheme.
- The design team made feasible alterations to the scheme proposals as requested by the public.
- A statutory process has been advertised under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994. Submissions in respect of the scheme proposals may be made until 12th June, 2023.

Connecting & Co-creating Ennis

- A raised courtesy crossing has been installed across the goods entrance to Tesco shopping centre in Ennis.
- A section 38 has concluded for the provision of a suite of raised courtesy crossings within the town to improving permeability.

Bridge Permeability Assessment

- Transportation consultants are continuing to advance the 'Feasibility and Options Selection' phase to assess permeability across bridges throughout the County.

'Safe Routes To School' programme

- Preliminary design has been completed for Clonmoney National School in consultation with An Taisce under the 'Safe Routes To School' programme. The resulting Section 38 will be advertised presently.

Local Transport Plan for Ennis

- A 'Request for Tender' has been advertised for the appointment of a consultant to prepare a Local Transport Plan for Ennis town.



National Cycle Network/ Cycle Connects

The Active Travel team has provided Environmental Assessment information to consultants working on behalf of the NTA in relation to specific sections of the proposed cycle routes that had been identified for further evaluation.

Cycle and traffic counts

The Active Travel team is currently in the process of procuring the installation and ongoing maintenance of cycle counters on strategic cycling routes identified within the town of Ennis.

Public Lighting

For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported online at <https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland>, by Phone (0818-372772) or via Local Authority Identification (<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight>).

Road Design Office

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

TII Road Safety Projects

Project	Progress Update
TII HD 15 Sites	<p>N85: Clareabbey roundabout - Arup on behalf of TII are working on capacity modelling for any proposed changes to roundabout.</p> <p>Lahinch Rd/Shanaway Rd. junction - Conceptual design for an Active Travel Scheme on N85 and Cusack Rd. is being developed, this will incorporate Shanaway Rd. junction.</p>
TII HD 17 Sites	<p>N67: The preferred option for N67/L50222 (New Quay Church) has been agreed. The Feasibility and Options Report is ready for submission.</p> <p>The preferred option for N67/L6051-0 (Mount Charles Terrace, Kilkee) has been agreed. The Feasibility and Options Report is ready for submission.</p> <p>Minister Place, Kilkee the Design Report and Quality Audit is ready for submission.</p>
Special Speed Limits	Tobin Consultant Engineers, on behalf of TII, has been instructed to carry out pre-installation speed surveys at Caherea, New Quay and Rineen National Schools.

Other Projects 2023

Project	Progress Update																										
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	<p>Status:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Magherabaun Bridge</td> <td>Works completed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballycloghessy Bridge</td> <td>Consultant appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cloghera Bridge</td> <td>Contractor to be appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crean Bridge</td> <td>Contractor to be appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drimeen Bridge</td> <td>Contractor to be appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gortnaglough Bridge</td> <td>Contractor to be appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inchiquin Bridge</td> <td>Contractor to be appointed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alagha Bridge</td> <td>Tender advertised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballybran Bridge</td> <td>Tender advertised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dromore Bridge</td> <td>Tender advertised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gortalassa Bridge</td> <td>Tender advertised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wyndham Bridge</td> <td>Tender advertised</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Knockanena Bridge</td> <td>Tender advertised</td> </tr> </table> <p>The consultant is appointed to complete the 'Appropriate Assessment Screening' for bridges under this programme.</p>	Magherabaun Bridge	Works completed	Ballycloghessy Bridge	Consultant appointed	Cloghera Bridge	Contractor to be appointed	Crean Bridge	Contractor to be appointed	Drimeen Bridge	Contractor to be appointed	Gortnaglough Bridge	Contractor to be appointed	Inchiquin Bridge	Contractor to be appointed	Alagha Bridge	Tender advertised	Ballybran Bridge	Tender advertised	Dromore Bridge	Tender advertised	Gortalassa Bridge	Tender advertised	Wyndham Bridge	Tender advertised	Knockanena Bridge	Tender advertised
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Liaison with NTA regarding bus stops	The Road Design Office has met on-site with members of the Bus Stop team from Bus Eireann to review ongoing works at Doolin, Cliffs of Moher, Kilnamona and Kilnaboy.																										

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Liaison with NTA regarding bus shelters	The NTA has approved 15 bus shelters for the 2023 programme. Bus shelters have been installed at Ardnacrusha and Fernog, Shannon during May.
Low-Cost Safety Schemes 2023	The design has commenced for the scheme at Benson Box, Killaloe.
EuroVelo	All snags on the EuroVelo route in County Clare were completed in advance of the launch of the National EuroVelo 1 – Atlantic Coast Route which took place on 18th May, 2023.

Health And Safety

Updates to the Occupational Health and Safety Management System, approved by Management Team, was communicated to all staff during March. In addition the high level Health and Safety objectives were approved by the Safety Management Committee in March 2023. These objectives inform the priority work areas for the Health and Safety team who continue to deliver their work schedule including the updates to Annual Safety Statements, Risk Assessment reviews, in person briefings, Safety inspections, compliance reviews and support and guidance across all departments of the Council.

The team are supporting a trial of Traffic Management Software using a handheld device in the West Clare MD and are delivering Serious Incident Simulated Workshops to senior staff in each Department.

General Design Office

Project	Progress Update
Fanore Public Toilet Refurbishment	Refurbishment works are complete and the toilet is now open in advance of the busy summer season. The project provided for the installation of external shower and drinking water fountain, the complete internal refurbishment of the toilets to provide for a Part M compliant WC with baby changing facilities. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;">   </div>
Technical Surveys of Shannon Heritage Properties	Lambert Smith Hampton Building Surveyors have been formally appointed to carry out requisite technical surveys of the various Shannon Heritage Properties taken over by Clare County Council. The survey works will take some months with a completion date of mid-December 2023. <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>
Town and Village Renewal Schemes	Clonlara - Tender submissions received 15th May, 2023.
Vandeleur Walled Gardens, Kilrush, Upper Carpark.	Preliminary design proposals approved, tender drawings in process to go for pricing end May 2023.
Cliffs of Moher Footpath	The works on the Northern Loop at the Cliffs of Moher is progressing. 300m of dry stone wall has been rebuilt to date. <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>

CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

<p>Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building</p>	<p>Clare County Council has recently re-engaged with the Design Team to progress the scheme following a pause period on the design process to allow time for surveying, monitoring and consideration of some of the more significant environmental requirements and land-use options impacting on the proposed development.</p>
<p>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</p>	<p>The Project Team continue to liaise with the URDF section of the Department regarding the detailed design and related construction industry inflation costs. In the last week, we have submitted the updated Final Business Case for their consideration and approval in order to move forward with the contractor appointment. In parallel, the Design team has been retained by Uisce Eireann to progress the rehabilitation of sections of the foul sewer in the town centre. These works, which will be completed as part of the main scheme, represent an additional investment by Uisce Eireann in Ennis to future proof and improve the services within the town.</p>
<p>Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake’s Corner)</p>	<p>The Judicial Review proceedings are still ongoing with the next Court Hearing date set for 12th June, 2023, following which we will be better informed as to our next step in the delivery of this critical and much awaited infrastructure.</p>
<p>Killaloe Bridge and By-Pass</p>	<p>The improvement in the weather has seen a marked increase in productivity across the scheme. Earthworks and the associated mass haul and deposition of fill material is progressing well. Marine Plant for Instream Works (East Pier 2, West Pier 2 and Centre Pier) were mobilised at the end of April in preparation for the commencement of Instream Works in early May which are progressing well. Consultations with the Marine Stakeholders and discussions and agreement on Method Statements were carried out in advance of the commencement of Instream Works. Ongoing consultations with Traffic Management Stakeholders continue.</p> <p>Works are progressing on the Eastern Abutment (Tipperary side) and the East Pier 1 pile cap has been poured. On the Clare side of the River, the Piles are completed on the Western Abutment and West Pier 1. A number of minor structures have also been installed including gabion walls, culverts, mammal passes and accommodation passes. The main activities being carried out currently on the Killaloe Bypass section are cut and fill earthworks operations i.e. the cutting at Ballyvally and construction of embankments in Shantraud and the transfer of filling required for the construction of the new Kincora roundabout.</p> <p>From this section of the project, surplus fill materials are also being mass hauled to the R494 via O’Briensbridge for deposition at the embankments to the new Kilmastulla and Railway bridges.</p> <p>The gravity sewer and rising main along Section 1 (Roolagh Junction) of the R494 have recently been completed and the temporary traffic management for this Section has been removed. Utility diversions continue on a section-by-section basis. Deposition of fill to low-lying offline areas is almost complete.</p> <p>The concrete deck pour to the new Kilmastulla Bridge crossing has been completed and the cattle underpass has been installed.</p> <p>It is currently envisaged that the demolition of the Railway Bridge requiring the Road Closure of the R494 is scheduled for late Summer 2023 with precise details to be announced nearer the date. Further information including monthly drone footage on the scheme is available on https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/</p>



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme	Scheme consultants JBA & JB Barry have submitted the draft Public Consultation feedback report and the draft Options Report during May. The submission of the Options Report has allowed the planning level design for the Preferred Fluvial Scheme to commence. The EIAR scoping report and Appropriate Assessment screening for NIS have both commenced.
Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)	<p>RPS Consulting Engineers are currently finalising the detailed design stage of the road element of the scheme. Once completed, the detailed design will assist with the respective landowner negotiations, land-take requirements and completion of the tender documents (Drawings, Specifications & BOQ) for a competitive Tender process expected in late June/early July 2023.</p> <p>Monthly progress meetings continue to be held with RPS to review progress associated with the detailed design & tender document preparation. We also continue to liaise closely with the LIHAF section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the proposed delivery of the overall scheme. Moreover, cross directorate meetings are continuing with our colleagues in Housing & Planning regarding the optimum design and composition of the housing element of the scheme.</p>
Lough Donnell Culvert Repair works	The Tender for the appointment of a Contractor was advertised last month. Tender submissions are currently being assessed. It is intended to award the contract to the successful tenderer in the coming weeks with a view to commencing construction works in early July.
N19 Shannon Airport Access Road	<p>The Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage is currently ongoing. The Preferred Option includes a combination of active travel measures, improvements to public transport, along with new and improved road infrastructure between Drumgeely roundabout and Knockbeagh Point roundabout on approach to Shannon International Airport.</p> <p>The design of the Preferred Option has been developed following detailed consideration of landowner engagement, stakeholder feedback, environmental surveys, transport surveys and ground investigations.</p> <p>Phase 3 is expected to be completed in Q3 2023 with Phase 4 (Statutory Consent) progressing thereafter. This will involve a Development Consent Application & EIAR to An Bord Pleanála.</p> <p>Workshops with all major Utility Providers were also undertaken in the period to agree and finalise utility diversions for the scheme.</p> <p>Further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie</p>
Quin Flood Relief Scheme	Clare County Council is working closely with the consultant and the OPW in the final preparations to commence construction works in the coming weeks.
Remediation of sites containing ACM	A workshop involving the appointed expert designers, local MD Engineers, and project team was convened in May. This was a very effective session and will inform traffic planning arrangements and minimise potential disruption during the export of bulk soil material from the sites. Geophysical surveying was also completed at all sites during May. The data generated from this exercise will allow conclusion on aspects of the design. Tender documents will be issued to the market in the coming weeks in respect of the disposal of and processing of excavated materials. In parallel, Clare County Council is presently conducting environmental screening assessments as part of due diligence for which completion will be required prior to finalisation of contracting strategy. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with our agreed approach following discussion and consultation with the EPA.
Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	A meeting between Clare County Council, RPS, Shannon Airport Group and NPWS was held on May 4th to discuss the preliminary embankment options and constraints associated with the adjacent lagoon, WWTP access road and the breakwater. Positive feedback was received from NPWS.
Springfield, Clonlara FRS	The two 400mm pumps have been installed on constructed reinforced concrete plinths. The associated ductile iron pipework to connect the pumps to the outfall and the sump are also being installed. The pump discharge area will be under construction shortly. When this work is completed, the manufacturers and their agents will travel to Springfield to commission the pumps. In parallel, work is continuing on the accommodation works associated with landowners, drainage, land restoration and the fencing. All works are expected to be completed by the end of July 2023.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	Clare County Council remain available to meet landowners to discuss their concerns throughout this process. Planning applications along the route corridors continue to be monitored. Work continues on the 'Option Selection Report' in line with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Requirements. Preparations for the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor Public Consultation (PC3) are ongoing. Workshops are being held with TII Land Valuation Department and the team advancing the Galway to Athlone Greenway Route in preparation for the Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreements that will have to be executed with landowners to align with the Code of Best Practice. The procurement of a land valuer is ongoing and the Topographical Surveys are ongoing and nearing completion.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	Feedback from Public Consultation 2 has been assessed and the report is awaited from the consultants. Work has commenced on the 'Option Selection Report' in line with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Requirements based on the desktop constraints studies undertaken by the environmental specialists and the feedback from PC2. Information on other planned complementary works at Corofin (e.g. Burren Visitor Centre) has been collated and is being assessed by the consultants in the finalisation of the Option Selection Process. Engagement with landowners is ongoing.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay & Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	Following Senior Management review, letters of intent and regret have issued in the past week to all tenderers. Following the necessary standstill period and subject to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Approval, Clare County Council will enter contract with the successful tenderer.
Other Greenway Proposals	Landowner negotiations in Shannon, Bunratty and Sixmilebridge is continuing. Clare County Council are working with TII and Waterways Ireland on developing the proposal between Limerick/UL and Scarriff.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Long Service Awards For Fire Service Personnel

Councillor Tony O'Brien, Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, presented Long Service Awards (for service up to February 2023) to personnel from Shannon, Kilrush and Kilkee Fire Brigades.

- 5-Year Award: Firefighters Fergal McGrath, Gerard Geary & Deborah Hickie (Kilkee); Firefighter Ryan Adams (Shannon)
- 10-Year Award: Firefighter Barry Coleman (Kilrush); Driver Mechanic Ger Hennessy (Kilkee); Sub Station Officer Aaron Skerritt and Former Firefighters Killeen McLaughlin & Hugh Kelly (Shannon)



New Class B Fire Appliance

On Monday, 15th May, 2023, Clare County Fire & Rescue Service unveiled the latest addition to its fleet as it formally took delivery of a new Class B Fire Appliance at Ennistymon Fire Station. Built by HPMP Ltd. From Tullow in Carlow, the new €435K vehicle represents a significant boost to the capabilities of the fire and emergency services in Ennistymon and surrounding areas. The Class B Appliance contains a full range of fire-fighting equipment, including a portable pump, generator, breathing apparatus and crash rescue equipment. The appliance also carries a set of ladders capable of reaching up 13.5m in height. The vehicle will carry a crew of 6 and will be permanently based at Ennistymon Fire Station as part of their emergency response along with a Water Tanker, second Class B Fire Appliance and 4 Wheel Drive. The appliance was fully grant funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage under its Fire Appliance Procurement Programme 2021-2023.



Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during May, including a Chainsaw Operator Refresher Training Course, Pole Saw Training, Water Tanker Driver Training, Compartment Fire Behaviour Training and Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training. A QQI accredited Fire Fighter Skills Course was held in the Ennis Fire Station Training Centre for 15 new recruit fire-fighters from Brigades across the country including 2 personnel from Clare County Fire & Rescue Service (pictured).



Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	April 2023	May 2023 (Up to 25.05.23)	Year to Date
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	71	59	375
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	9	2	36
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	4	7	27
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	2	0	4
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	4	2	15
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	1	6	17
Number of Commencement Notices Received	28	24	155
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	1	3	5

(Note: In the May Monthly Report, the April figures related to 1st-21st April due to timing of report)

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Clare Civil Defence

Operational Duties

- Civil Defence provided medical cover for Rás Tailteann (Barefield); Clare's Football and Hurling Championship games versus Dongeal and Cork (Cusack Park, Ennis); Munster Intermediate Camogie Final Cork vs Kerry (Cusack Park, Ennis); West Clare Cycle; Clare Athletics Club Community Games (Lees Road); Clare Youth Soccer Festival (Lees Road).
- Clare Civil Defence was tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist in a search for a missing person in the Liscannor and Galway Bay area.



Members' Training & Professional Development

- Emergency First Responder Course.
- 50 members attended the Annual Safety Briefing Sessions delivered by the Health & Safety Section of Clare County Council.

63rd International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023
Ten members attended the 63rd International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The team marched in the parade each morning in full dress uniform and attended various events throughout the 5-day trip. Over 100 Civil Defence volunteers from units throughout Ireland travelled to the event.



ENVIRONMENT

An Taisce Green Schools

18 Clare schools were awarded 'Green Flags' at this year's awards ceremony at the Galway Bay Hotel for their work on the themes of Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity and Global Citizenship.

Green Schools is operated by the Environmental Education unit of An Taisce with Clare County Council's Greener Clare team. It is a long-term environmental education and awareness programme where schools contribute to protect and improve our environment as well as mitigate the effects of climate change in their locality.

SDG Champion programme 2023 / 2024

On 3rd May, 2023, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, announced Clare County Council as one of 26 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

Champions. Being an SDG Champion will help embed the SDGs further into our work programmes. Aligning our work programmes, across all directorates, with the SDGs will benefit our county in terms of sustainable development, economy, environment, and equity. During our term as SDG Champion,



we will raise awareness of the SDGs and demonstrating their application in our organisation’s day-to-day activities.



Clare Garden Festival

Our Environmental Awareness Officer had a Greener Clare awareness stand at this year’s Clare Garden Festival. There was a focus on promoting Food Waste Recycling with 500 free kitchen caddies distributed to help promote the separation of food waste. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Greener Gardening, Greener Cleaning, Home Composting as well as Reduce Your Use campaign were also promoted at this event.



Communication Campaigns

The Environment Section ran print and/or social media (@GreenerClare and @ClareCoCo) campaigns in the following areas: management of Invasive Alien Species; National Waste Management Plan; MyWaste.ie recycling list and identified bathing waters. We also promoted ERP Waste Electrical Equipment event at Kilrush, Bike Week, Biodiversity Week,

CLDC Invasive Alien Species training, Clare PPN Just Transitioning event as well as Clare Libraries New Climate Action Arts and Education Programme

AIE Requests

There were no additional AIE Requests received in May. Two additional appeal notifications were received in May for investigation from the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information (OCEI) requesting submissions relating to two AIE Requests from 2022.

Gardening

The Council, as a pollinator friendly measure, is implementing No Mow May this is the temporary suspension of grass cutting at various locations during May. This measure supports the growth of naturally occurring pollinator friendly plants in lawn areas and is a good demonstration of how simple actions can help promote pollinating insects and biodiversity in our communities.

The Gardening team with the assistance of Ennis Municipal District staff are preparing pollinator friendly tiered planters to demonstrate how pollinator friendly measures can be implemented in confined and urban spaces. This initiative proved successful in promoting pollinator friendly planters in an urban space with the planters located at various locations within Ennis town.

The Environment section are supporting Ennis Tidy Towns in the international “Communities in Bloom” competition. The Gardening team are busy ensuring the plants are ready and are committed to enhancing Ennis’ open spaces with pollinator friendly perennial plants in advance of the judging for this competition. There are ~26,000 plants and flowers to be planted to provide a visually attractive and biodiverse landscape within Ennis town.



ENVIRONMENT

Water Enforcement and Laboratory Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific teams to date in 2023:

Water Enforcement Scientific Team	May 2023	Jan to May 2023
Bathing Water (testing)	19	19
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	30	30
Enforcement actions (\$12 issued or number of 'active' cases)	0	0
Inspection of Section 4 licenced premises	0	14
Planning applications (Agriculture)	3	8
Planning applications (Domestic)	32	147
Planning applications (Large Developments)	0	12
Planning applications (Forestry)	10	35
Pollution complaints received	11	42
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	2	22
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	1	85
Rivers	50	129
Warning & advisory letters issued	2	2

Waste Management

Recycling Centres - The tenders for Waste Management Services have all been assessed in conjunction with the Office of Government Procurement (OGP). The tender will be awarded shortly following final consultation with the OGP.

Bring Banks - Seasonal Bottle Banks at White Strand Doonbeg and White Strand Miltown Malbay are now in place and will remain so until the end of the season.

An additional collection has been added at the Kilkee bottle bank site for the summer season.

Waste Enforcement - the team continue to respond to illegal dumping complaints.

Waste Facility Permit (WFP) / Certificate of Registration (COR) Applications

To meet the requirements set in the 2023 RMCEI plan routine inspections of 6 WFP/COR sites have been carried out by the Waste Enforcement team to date in May 2023.

Targeted Inspections

In line with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan, the work area prioritised for planned targeted inspections in May was End-of-Life Tyres. Tyre retailers around the County were inspected to check current membership status with Circol ELT.

Tidy Towns Groups

The Environment section, through our Community Wardens are supporting these groups through the provision of litter pickers, bags, signage, and assistance with clean-ups. This activity has intensified as adjudication of Tidy Towns competitions is commencing across the County over the coming weeks.

Fines and Directions issued under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as Amended) and Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as Amended) A total of 9 Litter Fines and 2 Notices under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act 1996, have issued in May. One litter fine, for Unauthorised Advertising Signage was paid in May. The Waste Enforcement Team continue to pursue open fines and investigate new complaints for evidence.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter related complaints in May. A total of 157 complaints relating to litter and waste were received in May, 75 of which are now closed. The remainder are under investigation and appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

Beach Lifeguards

Clare County Council is the first local authority to introduce beach lifeguards during the month of May. Lifeguards were on duty for the weekend of 20/21 May at Lahinch and Spanish Point and again for the weekend of 27/28 May at Kilkee, Fanore, Lahinch and Spanish Point.

Blue Flag

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels. Beaches and marinas that achieve this accolade must comply with a specific set of criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety, and beach management. At beaches, the bathing water must comply with the excellent standard in accordance with the 2006 EU Bathing Water Directive.

The Green Coast Award is a symbol of environmental excellence. The award is for beaches which have excellent water quality, but which are also prized for their natural, unspoilt environment.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Clare County Council received 8 Blue Flag and 4 Green Coast flags at an awards ceremony in Dublin on the 19th May, 2023. Beaches that achieved flags are identified below.



Blue Flags	Green Coast Awards
Ballycuggeran	Ballyallia Lake
Fanore	Bishops Quarter
Kilkee	Carrigaholt Beach
Lahinch	Seafield
Mountshannon	
Spanish Point	
Whitstrand Doonbeg	
Whitstrand Miltown	

New Bathing Water Designations

Under the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No 79 of 2008), Clare County Council invited the public to comment on

the existing designated bathing areas and to make submissions in relation to potential new designations. Advertisements were placed on the Council web site and in the local media. Closing date for submissions to Clare County Council is 28th September 2023 and can be posted to Environment Section, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare or submitted by email to enviroff@clarecoco.ie.

Bathing Water Quality Report

The EPA report on bathing water quality in Ireland in 2022 was published in this month with the bathing water quality status as per the table hereunder:

Location	Status
Ballyallia Lake	Excellent
Ballycuggeran	Excellent
Bishops Quarter	Excellent
Cappa Pier	Good
Carrigaholt Beach	Excellent
Fanore	Excellent
Kilkee	Excellent
Lahinch	Excellent
Mountshannon	Excellent
Seafield	Excellent
Seafield, Quilty	Excellent
Spanish Point	Excellent
Whitstrand Doonbeg	Excellent
Whitstrand Miltown	Excellent

CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Plan Development

The process of developing the Climate Action Plan for Clare continues. The process is divided into three stages – Initiation, Draft Plan and Completion.



Climate Action Plan Summary Report

Focus to date has been on the development of the Summary Report (cover photo below) which sets the context for the Climate Action Plan and reports on current and projected climate risk for the County along with emissions levels across all sectors. The Summary Report was published on Friday, 26th May, 2023, across a number of platforms including the Clare County Council website, the Have Your Say platform and across social media.

The purpose of the Summary Report is also to act as an engagement tool to seeks feedback and submissions from the public, communities across the county, PPN and interested stakeholders. This feedback will be evaluated and used to inform the actions within the Climate Action Plan.

Briefings relating to the Summary Report were held with Management Team, Senior Team and with Elected members across all four Municipal Districts during the week ending 19th May.

A Transition year ‘climate survey’ was also launched across all secondary schools in the County to garner opinion on Climate Change and young people’s attitudes to same.

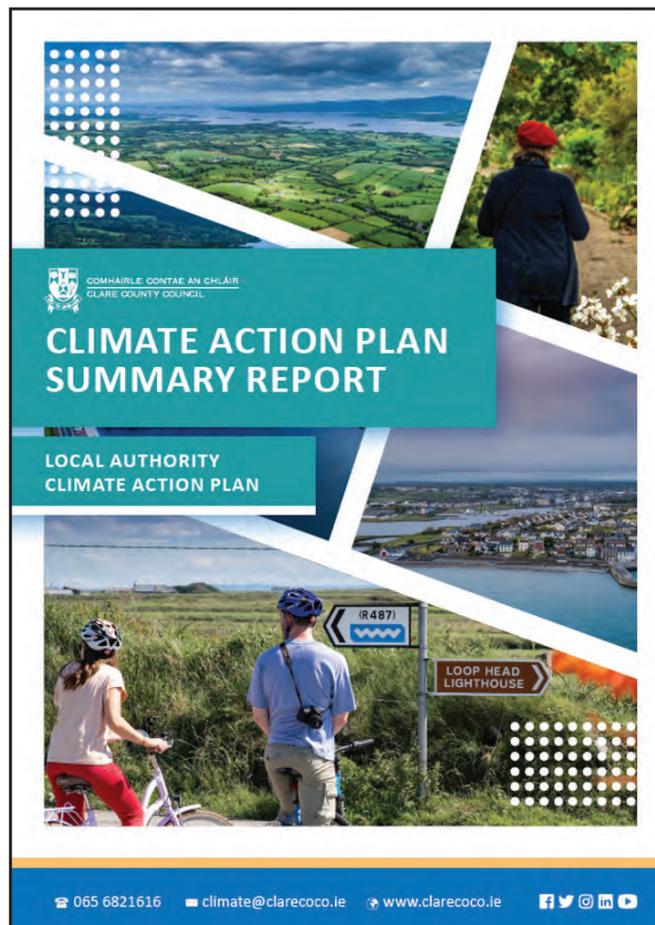
The next phase of work on the plan involves workshops with stakeholders and the writing of the draft plan itself with an anticipated draft due for publication in late September/early October.

Energy Management & Efficiency

Pat Stephens, Manager of Limerick Clare Energy Agency, since 2005, retired from Clare County Council in May 2023. Pat was instrumental in ensuring that Clare County Council gained the ISO50001 Energy Management System award. Pat also worked with the various managers and staff throughout the Council on a consistent basis to reduce energy consumption. We wish Pat a long, healthy and happy retirement. The role of Limerick Clare Energy Agency manager is currently being recruited.

Clare County Council continues to improve energy efficiency throughout its facilities and day-to-day operations via a range of measures:

- Clare County Council’s participation in the Office of Government Procurement frameworks on energy, particularly electricity, has significantly mitigated energy inflation.
- The Energy Management Team met in mid-May to assess current data and trends.
- An energy audit project at Áras Contae an Chláir, Buttermarket Campus, Cliffs of Moher Experience and Active Ennis Leisure Complex commenced in late May. This project will consider all aspects of energy usage for these significant energy users. A ‘Register of Opportunities’ will be developed for the four sites with a ‘Gap to Target’ pathway established to achieve a 51% Carbon Emission reduction by 2030 (from a 2018 baseline) and a 50% Energy Efficiency target (from a 2009 baseline).



WATER

Future Delivery Of Water Services

The Master Co-Operation Agreement (MCA) and the Data Sharing Agreement was signed by the Chief Executive on 5th May, 2023.

The new master agreement will replace the existing Service Level Agreement on the effective date. The anticipated effective date for Clare County Council is 30th September, however this date has not yet been confirmed.

Water Services Operations

Water Operations

Hereunder is a synopsis of activity of water services staff in response to water outages:

Area	Date	Location	Issue
East Clare Area	26.04.23	Runard, Clonlara	Burst main
	26.04.23	Broadford, O'Callaghans Mills, Kilkishen	ESB Outage
	03.05.23	Kilkishen, Ballycar, Tulla, O'Callaghans Mills	Burst main
	05.05.23	Ballinruane, Whitegate	Burst main
	10.05.23	Larkin's Cross / Parteen	Burst main
Ennis Area	24.04.23	Sandfield Rd	Burst main
	03.05.23	Mill Rd	Burst main
	04.05.23	Drumbiggle Rd., Golf Links Rd	Burst main
	11.05.23	Hermitage	Burst main
	17.05.23	McNamara Pk	Burst main
West Clare Area	23.04.23	Doonbeg	Burst main
	24.04.23	Kilmihil	Burst main
	26.04.23	Cappa, Kilrush	Burst main
	27.04.23	Kilrush Town	Burst main
	28.04.23	Doonmore, Doonbeg & surrounding area	Burst main
	30.04.23	Doonbeg	Burst main
	03.05.23	Doonbeg	Burst main
	03.05.23	Kilmurray McMahan	Burst main
	05.05.23	Labasheeda	Burst main
	06.05.23	Killimer / Labasheeda	Burst main
	08.05.23	Killimer	Faulty Valve
	15.05.23	Mullagh / Cree	Burst main
	17.05.23	Doonbeg & surrounding areas	Burst main
	18.05.23	Cooraclare / Brisla	Burst main
	19.05.23	Bansha / Lisdeen / Lislanahan	Burst main
21.05.23	Killimer / Kilrush	Burst main	
22.05.23	Doonbeg / Doonmore	Burst main	
22.05.23	Mountrivers/Doonbeg & surrounding areas	Burst main	
North Clare Area	05.05.23	Kilfenora	New meter
Shannon	03.05.23	Shannon Town	Burst main
	10.05.23	Sixmilebridge / Feenagh	Burst main
	23.05.23	Ballycasey / Shannon	Burst main

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Water operations team in conjunction with the Environment staff are co-operating with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the EPA and Úisce Eireann in the investigation into a water pollution incident at Ballymacraven, Ennistymon.

Water Conservation

Leak Detection Works	Mid Clare – Drumbiggle in Ennis DMA North Clare – Kilfenora, New Quay / Bellharbour Shannon/East Clare – Killaloe, Ardnacrusha, Shannon (various) including Shannon Ind. Est.
Leak Detection Fix Operation	Various locations including Bellharbour, Kilmihill, Kilmurray McMahon

Wastewater Operations

Dun Na Hinse PS Ennis	A rising main break occurred on the foul rising main near Dun Na Hinse pumping station on 10th May. It was successfully repaired by the Ennis Operations Crew without any disruption to service or negative environmental impact.
Lackyle WwTP Ardnacrusha	<p>Wastewater Operations are co-operating with ongoing investigations regarding a wastewater pollution incident in the Blackwater River Ardnacrusha on 23rd May. A funding application was submitted to the Department of Housing and Local Government Heritage (DHLGH) under a National Taking in Charge programme in Q2 2021 to resolve long-term issues at two sites in the Ardnacrusha area. Updated cost estimates to reflect construction inflation were submitted to the DHLGH in Q1 2023. We are still waiting on a decision from the DHLGH.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>
Newmarket-an-Fergus WwTP	Mechanical breakdown of the rotor wheel in the oxidation ditch in Newmarket-an-Fergus wastewater treatment plant occurred in May. The rotor wheel is used to mechanically aerate the wastewater and has been taken off site for repair. It is expected to take 2 months for the repair to be completed. A temporary surface flotation aerator is being used to provide additional aeration in the interim.

Úisce Eireann Capital programme

Ballycannon and Elton Court Sewerage Pumping Station Upgrade	A project to upgrade the pumping facilities at Elton Court and to provide the required replacement infrastructure to allow the decommissioning of the existing Ballycannon wastewater treatment facility is underway. The construction of a new storm water holding tank and new wastewater pumping chamber on the existing pumping station site at Elton Court is ongoing, with final mechanical and electrical work expected to be completed in July. This will improve the capacity for pumping wastewater to the Limerick main drainage network. A new rising main from the existing Ballycannon plant to the Elton Court site and new pumping facilities at the Ballycannon treatment plant will then be constructed. When completed this will allow for the decommissioning and demolition of the Ballycannon WWTP. Planning permission for the works at the Ballycannon site has been submitted with a decision due on 06/06/23.
Ballymacraven Water Treatment Plant	This plant provides water to the North Clare Region, including Ennistymon, Lahinch, Lisdoonvarna, Doolin and Ballyvaughan. Phase 1 of this will modernise the water treatment processes at the plant with Phase 2 delivering the sludge handling inline to follow. Phase 1 Work has commenced with the construction of a new third water clarifier underway, with base poured and in place and wall pours complete. This phase 1 upgrade is programmed to be complete by Q4 2023.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Ballyvaughan WWTP	A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station including pipework extensions are proposed in Ballyvaughan. Design of the treatment plant and pump station is ongoing. Preparation of planning application documents is continuing.
Clarecastle Sewerage Scheme	This scheme consists of a new pumping facility at Quay Road and new rising main from Quay Road connecting to Clareabbey Wastewater Treatment Plant inlet. The routine discharge of raw sewage to the River Fergus at Clarecastle Quay has ceased.
Clonroadmore & Clareabbey WTPs	A project has commenced to examine the two wastewater treatment plants serving Ennis to ensure adequate capacity is available to cater for the future growth and development. The output of this stage of the project is a feasibility study report which will inform the decision on the most appropriate option to develop capacity in the plants. The consultant is preparing options reports for each plant and assessing the assimilative capacity available in the River Fergus.
Doonbeg WWTP Upgrade	This scheme is in the 'Early Contractor Involvement' programme. Uisce Éireann appointed Consultants to produce a marine model for the coast of Clare and the contract commenced in late May. This is required to inform the design of the WWTP upgrade.
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 Uisce Eireann to have confidence in obtaining the best value for money on network improvement. The consultant has completed an unverified preliminary model build and will now proceed to check and verify this using survey and flow data to be gathered by a contractor once appointed.
Ennistymon And Lahinch WWTP Upgrade	Work on selection of an exact site, pipeline route, detailed design, land acquisition and a planning application will commence in the coming months. Data from the marine model mentioned above will be used in the design.
Inagh Wastewater Treatment plant Upgrade	Úisce Eireann is progressing the design for an upgrade including additional headroom at the Inagh Wastewater treatment plant under the IWSS programme. A designer/contractor has been appointed and is undertaking options development for the upgrade.
Kilfenora WWTP Upgrade	Mechanical and electrical works continued at the WWTP and at the percolation area. Process testing has commenced at the WWTP.
Kilkee WWTP	A new wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and rising main are planned for Kilkee. It is planned to continue the use of the existing sea outfall at Intrinsic Bay. Design of the treatment plant and pump station is ongoing. Preparation of the planning application documents is continuing.
Kilmihil WTP upgrade	A project under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP), to modernise the existing wastewater treatment plant for Kilmihil, is at design stage. The project includes new inlet works, primary and secondary treatment with nutrient removal and a storm water holding facility. It will provide sludge dewatering and storage capacity. The stage 4 design workshop was held in May.
Kilrush WWTP	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. At the WWTP mechanical and electrical works continued. The tanks, pipework, pumps and motors were tested with clean water. The green areas were graded and seeded. At Frances St Pump station mechanical and electrical works continued. Fencing , gates, kerbing and footpath works were undertaken. Completion of the overall scheme is due in mid-2023.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Liscannor WWTP	The scheme now consists 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. Treatment of wastewater is continuing.
Miltown Malbay WWTP Upgrade	The upgrade project is now at the investment planning stage. Workshop minus 1 re-rerun was held in mid May to further discuss options for a proposed outfall and potential WWTP sites. The issue of inclusion of Spanish Point in the scheme is being pursued. Uisce Éireann indicated that funding may not be available. Data from the marine model mentioned above will be used in the design.
Newmarket on Fergus WWTP upgrade, rising main and outfall	It is proposed to construct additional treatment facilities at the treatment plant and a new 400mm diameter rising main which would outfall to the Rine River thereby ceasing discharge of treated effluent from the existing wastewater treatment plant to the Lough Gash turlough. Preparation of the further information submission is ongoing and further surveys have been completed. Preparation of the tender documents is ongoing. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2024.
Old Doolough Water Treatment Plant	Úisce Eireann is progressing the design for a package plant to be installed to supplement the water supply at Doolough and facilitate the decommissioning of the Old Doolough water treatment plant. Options are being developed for this work.

Note: WWTP indicates wastewater treatment plant, WTP indicates water treatment plant.

Asset Transfer

Following an assessment of the water and wastewater networks in County Clare, 384 sites have been identified for potential transfer to Úisce Eireann to date. Following on site surveys, 69 of these assets have been determined to be duplicate, non-operational assets or assets which Úisce Eireann will not accept. Of the remaining 315 assets, 221 have now been fully transferred to Úisce Eireann. The 94 assets remaining to be transferred are divided into the following four categories:

- **Report prepared / Pending/ Internal Query (5 assets)** – These consist of assets for which a report is being prepared or which need further investigation or information /approval from another council section to proceed.
- **National Special Projects Office (NSPO) (69 assets)** – This is a department within Úisce Eireann 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. Úisce Eireann are now advocating that property in long term operational possession but not in the Council name be obtained by the adverse possession process. Circular L1 2022 has confirmed department support for this approach. All assets which have not yet transferred will be examined to see if they can be progresses using this method, Clare County Council is progressing ten sites as a pilot project and attempts to engage with registered owners is underway.
- **Property Registration Authority Ireland (0 assets)** – At present there are no assets submitted to the PRAI to be subdivided.
- **Outstanding assets to be reported on (20 assets)** – These are 3rd Party/Unregistered assets. To transfer these, detailed searches through historical Councils records are required in order to submit to Úisce Eireann 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

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

Clohanes GWS	Works on the replacement of 600m of end-of-life mains has now been completed, & operational. It is hoped to progress the submission of a taking in charge application for the scheme once necessary minor verification works have been completed by the scheme
Ballycar GWS	Following completion of 4.2km of mains rehab, full road restoration is currently underway and shall take approximately 2weeks

The Council is still waiting on the call for requests for submission of bids for the 2022-2025 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme. Given that we are in June the scheme operators are expressing frustrations with the delay as they have projects ready for inclusion in this call.

Under the ‘Grant for the Improvement of a Private Water Supply to a House’ 34 applications have been received to date in 2023.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cathaoirleach Michael Begley attends official opening of new manufacturing facility in Shannon

Cathaoirleach Michael Begley was present at the official opening of the new state of the art organic light-emitting diode (OLED) manufacturing facility in the Free Zone in Shannon on Thursday, 18th May, 2023. The new facility will result in the creation of 50 additional high-tech jobs for the mid-west region. The opening of the facility is an endorsement of the high quality skilled talent pool that is available in the Shannon region underpinned by the strong Irish educational system as well as the strategic mid-west location. The event was attended by Minister for Education Norma Foley, Oireachtas Members, Elected Members and officials, IDA officials, PPG and other associations.



expanded in recent times from 75 to 98 branches across Ireland. Various companies from the Shannon region attended in Dromoland along with Shannon Chamber of Commerce, Ennis Chamber, the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr Tony O'Brien, Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprises.



Shannon Commercial Properties brief MD Members

Ray O Driscoll, Chief Operating Officer, The Shannon Group along with his colleague Vanessa McTigue, Head of Business Development and Leasing attended a briefing session with the Shannon MD Councillors on 16th May, 2023. The presentation was very informative and outlined current and future expansionary plans. The team in Shannon Commercial Properties have developed over 1.3m sq.ft of new and refurbished building solutions.

Shannon Commercial Properties provide property solutions from Irish enterprises to large multi-nationals. They lease and sell office and industrial buildings in the Shannon Free Zone Area. A process of refurbishment of older buildings is currently underway in addition to new builds. The high standard of the buildings is evident and is facilitating and enabling employment growth in the region. Multi-use space is a key feature of many of the units which in turn, results in various sectors/clusters such as engineering, med tech, aviation, Research and development, light engineering and enterprise locating in the business campus. The Shannon Free Zone is on track to be Ireland's largest commercial business park with over 300 companies positioned here and in excess of 8,000 employees.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors of Shannon Municipal District commended Mr O Driscoll and Ms McTigue for their programme of works and on the positive impact on stimulating economic activity in the region.

Permanent TSB open for business in Shannon Town

An event was held on 12th May, 2023, in Dromoland hosted by Niall Hanley TSB to mark the opening of the Permanent TSB Branch in Shannon. The bank has invested significantly in refurbishing the former Ulster Bank location in the heart of the town in the Skycourt Shopping Centre. Permanent TSB has

Community Recognition Fund

The Municipal District office was involved in putting forward applications for funding under the Community Recognition Fund and in offering advice and guidance to various community groups that sought assistance with their funding applications. The Community Recognition Fund 2023 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Some of the successful applications included funding for a bandstand in Bunratty, site clearance works at the athletics site in Shannon and a sporting strategy for the town, provision of outdoor gym equipment, entrance gates, turnstile, piers and associated works at Graveyard in Clonlara. An overall total of 22 diverse projects across the MD have been approved for funding under the Scheme. It is a requirement of the Scheme that 60% of the works are completed in 2023 with the remainder in 2024.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Bus Eireann

Representatives from Bus Eireann briefed the Shannon Municipal District Councillors and outlined points of interest in relation to the bus service in the Shannon MD Area.

Summary Of Other Works

Ballycasey Park Active Travel Project	Works are substantially complete at this location. These works will offer a much needed amenity in the area and will make the community safer and more accessible. The project will have a positive impact on the health and well-being of residents and visitors.
Grass-cutting	The grass cutting continues, we are currently on target at cut 8
Outdoor Recreational Infrastructural Project in Newmarket on Fergus	Works are progressing at pace, community engagement continues with local community group in Newmarket on Fergus.
Shannon to Bunratty & Sixmilebridge Greenway	Discussions with landowners are continuing on 1st phase to Bunratty.
Town Village Renewal Schemes	The letter of Intent has issued to the preferred Tenderer in respect of Bunratty; Tender evaluations underway in respect of Clonlara (Clonlara); Finalising details on the Tender package (Drumgeely); Discussions and proposals ongoing with relevant landowners (Parteen).
Footpath Refurbishment Contract	Improvement works were carried out at a number of locations in the MD including Shannon Banks, Rossbracken Shannon, Lackyle Height in Ardnacrusha, Clonomra Estate in Clonlara, Delginis in Shannon,

Additional Parking spaces were provided at Lee Park, Shannon.
New Parking layout with disability space at Health Centre, Sixmilebridge.



Delginis, Shannon



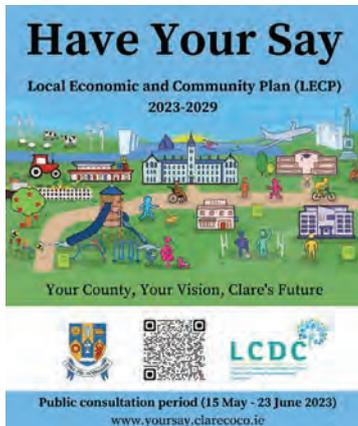
Additional Parking spaces – Lee Park, Shannon



New Parking layout with disability space at Health Centre, Sixmilebridge

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

New 6-Year Plan to Guide Economic and Community Development of Clare



A public consultation process has commenced around the development of a new six-year plan that will guide the future economic and community development of County Clare.

The high-level goals of the new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029 are informed by the Clare Draft Socio-

Economic Statement, which is the subject of a series of public information sessions throughout the county over the coming weeks.

This plan will consider the future development of Clare from both a community perspective and an economic perspective. In terms of local community development, the LECP aims to meet the needs of individuals, groups, and organisations by developing community infrastructure, programmes and services. From an economic perspective the LECP will provide a framework to guide local economic growth and stability in specific geographical areas through retaining and attracting new business, creating employment, and supporting people to start their own businesses and social enterprises.

The development of a new LECP is being overseen by the Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), which has responsibility for local development and community-related funding in County Clare. The LCDC comprises 9 members from local government and agencies and 10 members from local development and community interests across Clare. The economic perspective of the LECP will be guided by Clare County Council's Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) which comprises 7 elected members and 6 members from various sectoral interests.

The first of four public consultations will take place on Monday June 12th in the Shannon Municipal District Office from 5pm to 8pm followed on June 13th at the Ennis MD Office in Drumbiggle, June 14th at the Killaloe MD Office in Scarriff, and June 15th at the Kilrush MD offices in Kilrush and Ennistymon (all 5pm to 8pm). Additional engagement with the business community will also take place.

“The LECP aims to encourage the people of Clare to start the conversation on topics that affect everyone who lives and

works in Clare and also those who visit the county,” stated Mr Murphy. “We want to make it an even better place in which to live, work and visit by creating new opportunities, improving connectivity and access, between rural and urban areas, and by protecting and enhancing services in the community.”

Six draft High-Level Goals are set out in the Clare Draft Socio-Economic Statement:

- Clare will be a County that priorities the physical, mental and social well-being of all citizens, where socio economic rights are realised, making it a healthy place to live work grow and learn;
- Clare will be a County which supports and promotes education facilitated via primary, secondary, higher and further education that provides opportunities for life-long learning, upskilling and personal development;
- Clare will have a Vibrant Retail, Industry, Agriculture, Marine and Tourism and Culture sector that will offer employment and recreational opportunities for all;
- Economic, cultural and social vibrancy in Clare will be enhanced so its people can live, work, invest and learn;
- Clare will be a County with strong and balanced urban and rural areas, where people can reach their potential, leading and supporting climate change transition to create empowered resilient and sustainable communities and business; and
- Clare will have a diverse, sustainable and innovative local economy to further enhance enterprise and employment opportunities.

Submissions or observations can be made online via www.yoursay.clarecoco.ie, by email to lecp23@clarecoco.ie or in writing to LECP, Rural Development, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2. All submissions received on or before the consultation period deadline of 5:00pm on Friday, 23rd June, will be reviewed and will influence the actions to be taken in the initial 2-year implementation plan and future iterations over the next six years.

The County Clare Draft Socio-Economic Statement and details of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023 – 2029 are available at www.clarecoco.ie.

Healthy Clare

Sustainable Gardening Workshop – Miltown Malbay LCETB



Clare County Council's, Greener Clare, Healthy Clare and Heritage Office teams hosted a Sustainable Gardening Course with renowned horticulturist and environmentalist Aoife Munn at the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board premises in Miltown Malbay on 1st April, 2023.

This one day course covered a lot of gardening topics including: organic gardening, pollinator planting, veg growing, mini pond building, pruning, cuttings and much more. The course was lively and interactive. The workshop was sponsored cross-directorately and aligns with our Sustainable Development Goals objectives targeting for example SDG2: Zero Hunger, SDG3 : Good Health and Well-being, SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG13: Climate Action, SDG14: Life Below Water, SDG15: Life on Land SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals.

'Not Around Us' Towards a Tobacco and Vape Free Clare Promotion at Eire Og, Inis



Éire Óg hosted Healthy Clare's 'Not Around Us' Towards a Tobacco and Vape Free Clare partners at their club in Ennis on Monday, 17th April, 2023. The event was in acknowledgement of their commitment to being a smoke and vape free space for everyone to enjoy. Éire Óg are the first GAA club in Clare to sign up to the initiative and it is hoped that they will inspire others to sign up to the initiative that is helping to denormalise smoking and vaping particularly in places where young people are likely to be; protecting them from second-hand smoke exposure, while signposting those who do smoke and would like help to QUIT to the HSE's QUIT supports. Another important aspect of the campaign is helping to reduce the environmental nuisance, cost of cleaning and damage that discarded tobacco products create.

For more information on the campaign and to sign up to the initiative please visit our Clare County Council dedicated webpage on https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/nau-campaign?tool=survey_tool.



The Healthy Clare and Greener Clare teams hosted information stalls at the Clare Garden Festival, in the Ennis Showgrounds on 30th April, 2023.

The Healthy Clare team discussed topics around 'Health and Wellbeing' with people of all ages from across the county. The monthly Healthy Clare Newsletter was distributed to attendees, along with information around Physical Activity, Healthy Eating and signposting to supports and services for people with mental health challenges. The team also chatted with the many primary schoolers at the event encouraging them to enter into this year's Healthy Ireland Sun Smart competition.

Cnoc na Gaoithe



The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Tony O’Brien, officially presented the 2023 LAMA award to Breda McNamara, Chairperson of the Cnoc na Gaoithe Development Committee. The Cultural Centre in Tulla received the national award for ‘Best Town and Village Regeneration’ project. It was chosen from a shortlist that also included the Ballinamore Area in Leitrim, #WeAreAthleague in Roscommon and the enhancement of O’Connell Street in Sligo. Funding under various schemes including the Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Leader and the Rural Regeneration

Development Fund facilitated the regeneration of the old convent building and former school building into a venue for classes, accommodation, a tearoom and a state-of-the-art multifunctional performance space and auditorium. Externally, an orchard garden has been restored, together with other landscaping, parking facilities and new entrances. In all, the works have transformed the site into an attractive space and amenity for locals and visitors to the village.

CLÁR Project

Fanore National School

Works have been completed on the Playground at Fanore National School. Funding of €50,000 was awarded to the School to fund this project under the CLAR 2021 Programme.

In addition to the playground, the basketball court was resurfaced.

CLÁR provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline.



LAMA Awards shortlisted nominee

Cathaoirleach Tony O'Brien presented Marie Molony with her certificate for being shortlisted for the LAMA Awards 2023 under the Community Volunteer Category.

Marie was a founding member of the Clare Branch of the Alzheimer's Society 32 years ago. The Alzheimer Society would not have been able to assist and support families and people living with Dementia without Marie's energy and 'can do' attitude. Throughout this time Marie has raised funding to set up and maintain services for people living with dementia.

She also volunteers with Eire Og GAA Club and runs 'Card Nights' which help older members of the club to engage with the wider community and keep socially engaged with each other.

When St Joseph's Apostolic Society was set up, its initial home was in Marie's kitchen!

Her sense of fun and finding enjoyment in everyday life is infectious.



Joint Policing Committee

The Clare Joint Policing Committee meeting was held in the new Stable Building at Vandeleur Gardens, Kilrush on 9th May, 2023. JPC members from the Council, Gardaí, Community groups, Oireachtas and elected Members attended an in-person meeting, along with members of the media. Superintendent John Ryan presented a comparison of crime statistics from 2022 to 2023 and various Community Engagement initiatives the Gardaí are involved in.

The Gardaí's presentation was welcomed by JPC members and generated a lot of discussion and questions from JPC Members in the following areas:

- The new Garda Operational Model
- Garda Recruitment and resources
- Community Engagement
- Property Marking
- Demand for illegal drugs
- CCTV.

In addition, JPC members were given a presentation by Patrick McMullin and Brian McManus from Clare Youth Service on Youth Diversion Projects in Clare.



Age Friendly Cultural Companions Social Event

Cultural Companions is a social network for older people to attend arts & cultural events together. It is run by the Age Friendly programme in Rural Development and supported by a Creative Ireland grant.

On 12th May Cultural Companions attended a Pottery Class in Ballymorris Pottery, Cratloe. They availed of transport from Ennistymon and Ennis. The members had a great day putting their creative talent to good use with 19 members attending. A number of new members joined the class and it was a great way for them to meet up, connect with others, and get a taste of what the programme is all about. Throughout the class the members interacted with each other and enjoyed it immensely.

At the end of May up to 45 members will be meeting up for another social gathering in Bunratty Castle and Craggaunowen.



Ukrainian Services Development

National Situation

As of 11th May, 2023, there are 82,200 temporary protection orders granted nationally. The 7-day rolling average of people arriving is 85, up slightly on last month's average but down over a wider timeframe – the average was 152 in December 2022 and 140 in September 2022.

There are 64,100 people accommodated and 15,500 children have been enrolled in school. The trends are consistent with the proportion of females arriving standing at 62% and the numbers of employments increasing proportionally to 21,320.

County Clare

The CSO figures show that there are currently 4,511 Ukrainian Beneficiaries in County Clare. Approximately 3,864 are accommodated in 34 multi-occupancy facilities: This number is lower than the number reported last month (4,115) which we attribute to a number of recent movements on foot so some hotel contracts ending coupled with the data we receive from the Department of Children being updated: The official CSO county numbers remain up.

With the above in mind, we can see that there are approximately 650 people living in residential settings. There are almost 300 of these people accommodated in formal hosted arrangements through the Irish Red Cross and Clare County Council's 'Offer-A-Home' (There are now 215 in 63 Offer a Home Properties).

The remaining 350 approx. people are in private hosting and rented arrangements across the county. Some of these people are contacting our office directly as their arrangements come to an end and we are working with them and the Dept. of Children to find alternative solutions locally.

International Protection

The number of International Protection applicants being accommodated in the county is in-creasing with a current estimate of 800 in Ennis, Tulla, Meelick. Inch & Lisdoonvarna – Scar-riff will be coming on stream in June – IPAS have begun to engage with us on their activities.

During the month (16/05/23) a group of approximately 50 people from the community in Inch visited the Council to voice their concerns regarding the recent allocation of accommodation at Magowna.

While Clare County Council does not have a role to play in the allocation of accommodation for Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection or International Protection applicants beyond the hosting schemes, we do coordinate the local Community Response Forum as part of the response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The residents were welcomed into the Council Chamber to meet with the Cllr PJ Kelly, Cllr Pat Daly, Cathal Crowe TD, Michael McNamara TD, Chief Executive, Pat Dowling and A/ Director of Services, Jason Murphy.

The residents presented their concerns and the Council confirmed that we are actively engaged with services to provide the necessary wraparound services for those staying in the facility – These services include immigrant support, transport, job activation, medical and training.

As of this week (22/05/23) the people now living at Magowna House have visited and met staff from the Limerick Clare Education Training Board, Clare Local Development Company and Department of Social Protection. Clare County Council will continue to work with the members of the Clare Community Response Forum to ensure those being accommodated across the county are supported.

Community Response Forum

The countywide Community Response Forum met on the 18th May via teams with local response forum meetings held on 25th April in Shannon, 4th May in Ennis, and 9th May in Lisdoonvarna.

Community Recognition Funding 2023

On 25th January, 2023, the national Community Recognition Fund 2023 was announced with €2.9m being allocated to county Clare – the third highest in the Country. Expressions of interest were submitted from across the county for funding to the value of €12.6m towards projects worth €16.7m. The approved list of projects was published on 19th May, 2023. (gov.ie - Community Recognition Fund 2023-List of Successful Applicants (www.gov.ie))

There are many other funding sources for the projects presented to us. These include Town & Village Renewal (TVR), Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), Active Travel, Community Grants and Sports Capital to name a few – It can be noted that the School System would benefit from a school specific investment programme.

Offer a Home

Clare County Council has received 119 offers of unoccupied homes under the 'Offer a Home' scheme since it's launch in December 2022. All of the 119 homeowners have been contacted and 113 homes have been assessed so far with the remaining home assessments scheduled. Of the homes that have been assessed 6 are not yet available and 28 have been withdrawn from the scheme as they were either unsuitable or the homeowner had a change in circumstances. We have successfully matched 63 of the homes and have accommodated 214 people that were living in hotel or multi-unit accommodation in the locality.

The number of homes offered under this scheme has decreased and of the 19 viable homes currently remaining 42% are located in rural areas of West Clare Municipal District, 5% are located in rural areas of Ennis Municipal District and 24% are located in rural areas of Killaloe Municipal District. We have received in excess of 300 expressions of interest from Ukrainian families currently living in hotel or multi-occupancy accommodation seeking to move into one of the offered homes.

It is worth noting that we continue to receive queries from homeowners about the scheme and there is still an interest and awareness amongst the community. Homeowners can register their unoccupied homes on the designated website: www.offerahome.ie or by contacting Clare County Council at offerahome@clarecoco.ie.

Ukrainian Health & Wellbeing Fund



The Department of Health in partnership with Local Authorities allocated €1 million nationally to support projects and initiatives that help to promote the health and wellbeing of Ukrainian people who have sought protection in Ireland, as part of the international humanitarian crisis arising from the war in Ukraine. Clare County Council

were delighted to be allocated €57,150 of this overall award. 13 local organisations were awarded funding which facilitated a large and diverse number of projects to be initiated. Funding has been drawn down in its entirety by the end of May deadline.

The projects had a broad reach into the local communities and the feedback received was very positive and created an open and inclusive space for communities to integrate and learn from each other. Over 2,000 people directly benefited from this funding in County Clare.

Some examples of the activities delivered under the ‘Ukrainian Health and Wellbeing’ Fund in Clare include;

- 6-week Fundamental movement skills for National School Children in 7 North Clare schools hosting Ukrainian pupils
- Supporting existing Health and Wellbeing supports offered by Family Resource Centres and Clare Sports Partnership across County Clare
- Supporting youth groups working with Ukrainian Teens
- Health and Wellbeing initiatives at Clare Libraries.

SPORTS & RECREATION

Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Intensive Swim Lessons for Summer

What: Beginners (kiddie pool), Beginners Plus (shallow end) & Improvers 2 (deep end)

When: Monday to Friday. Every Week of July and the first 3 Weeks of August

Times: 11-11.30am or 11.45-12.15pm

The Swimming Pool played host again this year for the Community Games qualifiers and finals.

The St Francis Credit Union Clare Community Games County Swimming finals took place in Active Ennis Leisure Complex on Friday 10th June. Fourteen areas from across the county were represented and the winning area was Doora - Barefield. A big thanks was extended to the Active Ennis Leisure Complex staff for their support.

Active Ennis leisure Complex - Ready for the Munster Final!



Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park, Active Ennis John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road, Active Kilrush Sports Complex & Active Ennis, Cloughleigh

John O’ Sullivan Park, Lees Road

County Athletics 2023

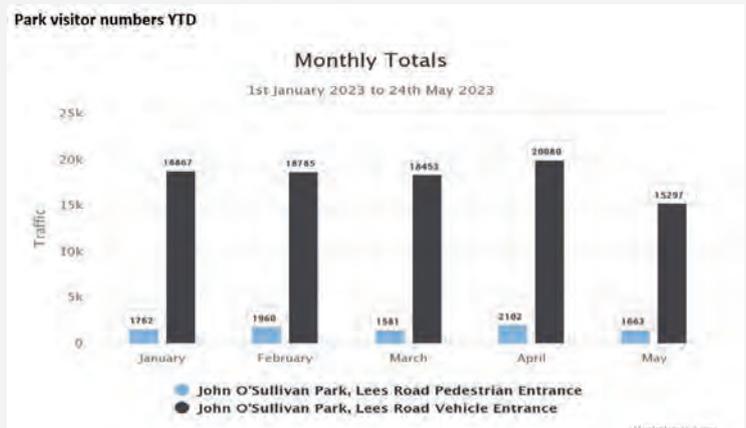
The St Francis Credit Union Clare Community Games Annual County Athletic Finals were held on Sunday,



SPORTS & RECREATION

14th May, in John O’Sullivan Park, Lees Road. Hundreds of children from twenty-six areas across the county participated in Relays, Track and Field events. There was an opening ceremony at 12 noon where all the competitors and their mentors paraded on the track behind their area banner. The Mayor of Ennis MD, Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, was present as was President of Clare Community Games, Mrs Cecilia O’Sullivan, the County executive committee, all the volunteers at area and county level who give so much time and energy for the children of Clare. Thanks was extended to Clare County Council, and the Team at John O’Sullivan Park for the wonderful facility to host the finals.

- 2,000 attended community games finals in May.
- 2 other significant athletics meets in May attracted similar numbers.
- Baby buggy bootcamp taking place every Tuesday afternoon on the track.
- Forest School continuing to go from strength to strength, running nearly year-round now.



Tim Smythe Park and other facilities

- Clare GAA have run 4 primary school blitzes in TSP recently, 100+ kids involved in each.
- Soccer Sisters utilising Coote Park for their activity every Tuesday evening.
- Usage steady in Cloughleigh Astro Turf with 6-8 bookings per week.
- Pitch maintenance programme completed in all facilities.

All sporting activities are welcome at these facilities with prebooking essential on

www.activeennis.ie www.activekilrush.ie

Any defects or operational issues can be reported by email to

info@activeennis.ie

Clare LSP have been shortlisted for LSP of the Year for the 2023 Irish Sport Industry Awards!

The Federation of Irish Sport has announced the shortlist of nominees for 8 Irish Sport Industry Awards categories, in association with Financial Broker.

The awards ceremony took place on Thursday, 25th May, in Dublin.

For more information visit <https://irishsportindustryawards.ie>

Earlier this month, Clare Sports Partnership launched the Season of Respect campaign, a cause which points the spotlight on the unacceptable culture of abuse on referees which is experienced across all sports.

Dr. Una May, CEO Sport Ireland was in attendance to officially launch the event as well as Clare Sport’s supporting organisations: Clare GAA, Clare LGFA, Clare Camogie, Clare District Soccer League, and Clare Schoolboys/girls Soccer League. Commenting at the launch on the negative culture that exists towards referees and officials, Una May highlighted:

“Clare isn’t unique in this. Clare has taken responsibility to tackle the issue. It is an issue that happens across the country. If we can’t get our coaches and parents who are in positions of authority to behave in an appropriate way, it is inevitable that young people will think that it is acceptable.”

Clare Sports Partnership continue to work with clubs and the community in the active participation in sport in the County. For further details on activities please check out

www.claresports.ie