



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

## TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

### MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Iúil / July  
2024



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# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## CORPORATE SERVICES

### Council Annual General Meeting



Councillor Alan O'Callaghan was elected Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council during the annual general meeting of the Council on Friday, 21st June, 2024. Cllr Mary Howard was elected Leas-Chathaoirleach for the forthcoming year.

- Site visit marks milestone in development of new library and arts facility.

#### 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 the period 1st May-18th June 2024, the Communications Office:

- Posted 147 times on Facebook, with total followers now 19,558.
- Posted 111 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers now at 8,539.
- Instagram followers are now 3,448.

*(Statistics accurate as of 18/06/2024)*

#### Local election broadcast live on YouTube

Clare County Council sponsored a live broadcast of the local election count on 8th and 9th June. It featured all the tally and count information from political analysts and media panels, comprising reporters from Scariff Bay Community Radio, the Clare Champion, the Clare Echo and Raidió Corca Baiscinn.



Clare County Council was the first local authority to provide live streaming coverage of a local election count in 2019 and was again a trailblazer in this regard in 2024, allowing the public in Clare and further afield to see local democracy in action. The broadcast received 17,713 views over the course of the two days, with an average watch time of 20.5 minutes and a total watch time of 5,763 hours.

### Register of Electors

Due to the Local and European elections held on 7th June, there was a considerable increase in the number of applicants registering to vote. Following the processing of all applications received by the closing date of the 20th of May, there were over 98,000 people registered to vote.

### 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 and June 2024 included:

- Clare's biodiversity takes centre stage for National Biodiversity Week 2024
- Minister officially opens tourism projects in County Clare
- Scariff library renamed in honour of Edna O'Brien
- 13 Clare Locations Receive Blue Flag and Green Coast Awards

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection

Previous years and 2024 to date - statistics to 21st June, 2024:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	80
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	1
Appeals with Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	1
Data Access Requests – Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	10
Data Requests – Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0
Data Access Requests – Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	13



## RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040

Ár dToghchán  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



### Projects funded under National Funding Schemes: CLAR Projects

#### Miltown Malbay National School

Miltown Malbay National School has recently completed works on a CLAR-funded project at the school grounds. The CLAR funding (€50k) was used to establish a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) facility at the school. Centrally located in the town, the school and local community needed such a facility for year-round sporting activities. Previously, the school had concrete tarmacadam surfaces and a small playing field that was often waterlogged, making it unsuitable for sports. The project's goal was to upgrade recreational facilities at the local school with a multi-use sports area, benefiting the entire community by promoting and supporting physical activity.



#### Kilshanny National School

Kilshanny National School recognised the need to improve its play facilities for the benefit of its students. Previously, the school had a tarmac yard which was used for various activities but lacked the safety and versatility required for a range of physical activities. To address this need, Kilshanny National School sought and secured funding of €30k under the CLAR Scheme. The specific project involved resurfacing the existing tarmac yard with an astro-turf surface.

The newly installed astro-turf surface is designed to cater to a variety of uses, significantly enhancing the play and physical activity options available to the students. The transformation of the tarmac yard into an astro-turf surface at Kilshanny National School marks a significant improvement in the school's infrastructure. This project not only enhances the safety and well-being of the students but also broadens the range of activities that can be conducted, fostering a more engaging and supportive environment for physical and mental development.

### Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Projects

#### Ennistymon Looped Walk

ORIS funding of €15k has enabled the completion of a project in Ennistymon that involved the development of a signed 7km looped walk, known as the Red Route. The completion of this project marks the first stage of a broader 21km looped walking trail initiative spearheaded by the Ennistymon Town Team. The route begins at the Glen Trail, an existing walkway along the river, and extends through the town along a series of tertiary roads.

The project included several key installations to enhance the trail:

- Interpretive Display Units: Providing educational and informational content along the route.
- Waymarker Signs: Clearly marking the trail to ensure walkers remain on the correct path.
- Directional Signage: Guiding walkers at critical points to maintain the flow of the trail.
- Caution Walker Road Signs: Ensuring safety by alerting road users to the presence of walkers.
- Seating: Offering rest areas for walkers to enhance comfort and accessibility.

The Ennistymon Town Team managed and delivered the project, with the local Municipal District (MD) office assisting in the installation of signage. This collaborative effort ensured the successful implementation of the trail enhancements.

The new trail provides a valuable amenity for local residents and those in surrounding areas, promoting physical and mental health.

through outdoor activity. It also enhances the town's appeal to tourists seeking outdoor pursuits, thereby increasing footfall and positively impacting the local economy.



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### Town & Village Renewal Scheme Projects

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#### Quin Village Park

Quin Tidy Towns have recently completed works in the village park, funded by a €151,000 grant from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. This central park, located in the heart of Quin, overlooks the historic 14th Century Abbey, making it a significant focal point for the village.

The project aimed to transform this public communal space into a more accessible, modern, and attractive area that could cater to various purposes such as social, educational, and recreational activities. Key objectives included creating an environment where locals could gather for events, hold outdoor meetings, enjoy picnics, and engage in other community activities.

Since the project's completion, there has been a noticeable increase in the park's usage. More people are now utilising the space for social gatherings, community events, and leisure activities, reflecting the project's success in revitalising this essential community hub.



#### Rural & Community Development Officers

Following on from November's RCDO-led public meeting in Crusheen, and a series of subsequent smaller workshops with residents and community stakeholders, the formation of a new, overarching community group for Crusheen is now complete.

At a meeting on Tuesday, 28th May, which was organised and facilitated by RCDOs Darren Carroll and Niamh Wiley, the group structure was finalised and a Management Team elected (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc). The new group will be primarily focused on Crusheen but will also consider projects across the wider Inchicronan Parish area. On this basis, they have decided to name their new community group the '**Inchicronan Development Group**'. The group are considering a formal launch later this summer and are already pursuing several projects within the local area.



#### Development of a day care hub for people with down syndrome and their families

The photo shows committee members of Down Syndrome Ireland Clare Branch, Neal Quinn, Marge Crawford and her daughter Zoie, alongside Rural & Community Development Officer Niamh Wiley. The group has recently acquired a semi-detached house on the Gort Rd, Lifford, which will be converted into a permanent Day Care Centre for the county. The centre when complete, will offer therapy classes, one-on-one speech and language therapy sessions, and informal meetups for people with Down syndrome, their families, and friends. The centre is modelled after the successful Meitheal 21 hub in Thurles. Funding has been provided under the CLAGS 2024 Scheme for Project Development to cover technical expertise and design costs to advance the project to the planning stage.







### Revitalising Kilnaboy Church into A Multi-Use Community and Worship Space

St Joseph's Church in Kilnaboy is embarking on an exciting project to enhance its role within the community, thanks to funding under the CLAGS Scheme, Project Development category. While continuing to serve as a place of worship, the church hopes to undergo a thoughtful redesign to incorporate a variety of community services. The project aims to transform St Joseph's Church into a versatile space where spiritual growth and community engagement go hand in hand. The Rural and Community Development Officer will be working with the Kilnaboy Pastoral Group and local community through the initial design and community consultation stage.



*Photos include Fr Des Hillary, Parish Priest of Kilnaboy & Rath, Cllr Joe Killeen, Niamh Wiley RCDO, North Clare, at St Joseph's Church in Kilnaboy.*

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## Clare Age Friendly Programme

Ahead of the upcoming AGM on 9th July, the Clare Age Friendly Programme held an Older People's Council Information Workshop

in the Civic Room, Buttermarket Building, Drumbiggle, on 11th June. The workshop, facilitated by Ciara Farrell, Regional Age Friendly Programme Manager, provided an overview of the role and function of the Older People's Council and encouraged active participation from attendees, allowing them to ask questions, seek clarifications, and share their perspectives on key issues. The key issues discussed on the day included: community respect and safety, time and service, equality, accessibility, transport and health care services, which are reflective of the issues identified in the Clare Survey 2023 (commissioned by the LCDC) and the focus of collaborative actions in the recently adopted Local Economic and Community Plan for the county.



A delegation from the Clare Age Friendly Programme and the Clare Older People's Council attended the National Older People's Council Convention hosted by the Kilkenny Age Friendly Programme in Kilkenny on 9th and 10th May. The theme of the convention was Aging with Independence and there were several presentations on related topics from Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme, Acorn Technologies, Tunstall Emergency Response, Decision Support Service and the Department of Transport.



*Helen Moloney, Clare Age Friendly, Michael Cusack, Clare OPC, Monica, Clare OPC, Maurice Harvey, Chairperson Clare OPC, Kelly Slattery, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager.*

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## Clare Joint Policing Committee

The final meeting of the Clare Joint Policing Committee was held on Monday, 27th May, in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir. Joint Policing Committee members from Clare County Council, An Garda Síochána, Community Groups, Oireachtas, and elected members attended the meeting along with members of the media.

Chief Superintendent Magner presented a year-on-year comparison on crime statistics and provided an update on community engagement activities. In addition, a presentation was given to

the JPC members from Karen Fennessy, Age Friendly Ireland, in relation to the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. Detective Inspector David Finnerty gave a presentation on Domestic Violence entitled 'Breaking the Cycle of Abuse' and D/Superintendent James Tierney gave an insightful briefing on the local 'Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme'.

Cllr John Crowe closed the meeting by commending the Clare Joint Policing Committee for the good work that had been undertaken during its lifetime.



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### Local Community Safety Partnerships - Expressions of Interest

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The process for the selection of Chairpersons for new Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) across the country has been launched recently.

The LCSPs, which have been piloted in Waterford, Longford and Dublin's North Inner City, will bring together a range of service providers and the community to examine and deliver on actions that will improve community safety in their localities.

The establishment of LCSPs nationwide is a key element of the

Government's community safety policy, which recognises that different localities have different challenges and needs and therefore require bespoke approaches and interventions to help people be and feel more secure in their communities.

LCSPs will be rolled out in each local authority area later this year and will replace the current Joint Policing Committees (JPCs). They will be the primary structures through which the Government's new approach to Community Safety will be delivered at a local level.

Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, said: "Collaboration will be a crucial part of ensuring the Local Community Safety Partnerships deliver for their communities. The Chairperson in each LCSP will set expectations regarding culture, values, and behaviours at LCSP level, with the ultimate aim of creating and implementing a tailored community safety plan that addresses the specific safety concerns of the community."

"At the heart of the Government's community safety policy is the principle that every community has the right to be and feel safe to thrive and flourish, and needs different responses and supports to do so. To achieve that, we need people who understand their community and who are willing to use their knowledge and experience to lead the partnerships. I want to encourage anyone who believes they would have a positive contribution to make to consider putting their name forward."

The Partnerships will have a wider membership than the JPCs and will include residents, local councillors, community representatives, business and education representatives along with a range of public services including the HSE, Tusla, An Garda Síochána and the local authority.

The role of the Chairperson will be to lead the work of the Local Community Safety Partnership and find consensus among the members so that a tailored local community safety plan can be developed. They will also be responsible for driving forward the implementation of the community safety plan so that it delivers tangible benefits in the community.

The Expression of Interest process will be undertaken by each Local Authority to identify a suitable Chairperson. The Chairperson will be responsible for the leadership of the LCSP and ensuring its effectiveness on all aspects of its role.

Further information on the EOI can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/3fcef-lcsp-recruitment/>

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### Clare Cultural Companions

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The Clare Cultural Companions initiative held two events in May and June. An event was held in Glór where over fifty participants





attended a coffee morning followed by a movie.

Supported by staff from Rural Development, a social gathering trip to Inis Mór was held on 17th June, where almost sixty participants attended. The trip, which was enjoyed by all, included a guided bus tour of the island taking in cultural landmarks, lunch, and an optional walk to take in the spectacular views from Dún Aonghasa.

### Healthy Clare

#### Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo

The end of April saw a return of the Health and Wellbeing page in the *Clare Echo*. Returning initially for 11 weeks the features will look at promoting health initiatives in Co. Clare with a particular focus on highlighting national and local campaigns that key services in Clare are involved in.

Campaigns supported during May and June included:

- Week 1: Clare Garden Festival celebrating its 10-year anniversary & the importance of Healthy Eating.
- Week 2: Launch of the Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2024.
- Week 3: Cancer Awareness, Education and Prevention in line with the HSE Sun Smart Campaign.
- Week 4: Presenting Mental Health supports from Samaritans Mid West Connecting for Life as part of European Mental Health Week.
- Week 5: Reminder of the Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2024, including extension to application date, with input from a 2023 funded project.
- Week 6: Not Around Us Campaign as part of World No Tobacco Day. Active Ennis becomes a Tobacco Free Campus.
- Week 7: Cancer Survivors Week. Also featuring Age Friendly Clare.
- Week 8: Men's Health Awareness Week, featuring West Clare Mental Health and HSE Cancer Prevention (Men's Health).
- Week 9: Healthy Clare Showcase. 2023 Micro Funded project between Ennis Mens Shed and St Joseph's Hospital.
- Week 10: Mid West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum as part of World No Drugs Day 2024, The United Nations' (UN) International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

#### HSE Sun Smart Campaign

SunSmart is run by the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), in collaboration with Healthy Ireland, and works to support people to reduce their risk of skin cancer by protecting their



skin from the sun. Individuals are being advised to follow the SunSmart 5S rule: slip, slop, slap, seek and slide. This year has a particular focus on outdoor workers and will continue right through the summer months.

#### Visit to Co. Clare Men's Shed Groups



During the month of May, the Healthy Clare Coordinator visited Men's Shed groups around the county including: Ennis, Shannon, Parteen, Doonbeg and Clarecastle. The men discussed their work and the structure of their meetings, focusing on how the sheds allow space for men to come together to chat, side by side, supporting engaging in activities such as wood turning, horticulture, games and creative sharing.

#### Health Clare Micro Fund 2024



Clare's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) received 70 completed applications to the 2024 Healthy Clare Micro Fund. The purpose of the LCDC's Healthy Clare Micro Fund is to encourage and support community and voluntary groups to take an active part in improving and protecting health and wellbeing at all stages of life, reducing health inequalities, and creating an environment where everyone can play their part in a healthier Clare.

The Micro Fund supports projects under two outcomes.

1. Outcome 1: Promoting Healthy Weight
2. Outcome 2: Promoting Positive Mental Health Promotion.

## CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

### Clare County Library

Councillors and staff from Clare County Council visited the site of the new library and Art Gallery in Ennis in May. An event was also held to mark the renaming of Scariff library in honour of Edna O'Brien.




Clare Libraries received notification that it will receive funding, €202,500 for a new mobile library for Clare. A mobile library will provide library and other information services to communities in remote part of the county.

A number of staff from Clare libraries attended an event in Áras an Uachtaráin celebrate the importance of Libraries to the community this month.

**Online Resources usage as follows: keen demand for e-audio-books and Pressreader. Pressreader is an international news stand that allows access to over 7,000 of the world's leading newspapers and magazines from over 100 countries.**

1764 E-Books	3621 E-Audiobooks	1517 E-Magazines
Online Courses	2263 Pressreader	51 Transparent Languages

### Marketing & Social media

	Total Followers	Post Reach /Impressions	Post Likes	Engagement
	7741	39300	93	1100
	2167	3776	20	127
	2159	7300	242	766

### Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	237
Total audiences at in branch events	3090
Total number of outreach events	14
Total audiences at outreach events	518
Total number of deliveries	9
Total number of class novels issued	11

### Right to Read



*Summer Stars talk and Storytime for Senior Infants in De Valera Library.*

The Summer Stars Reading Programme began on the earlier date of Tuesday, 4th June, this year. Summer Stars is the national summer reading programme for children aged 5-12 years. All children are invited to sign up to the programme and commit to reading throughout the school holidays. This programme helps combat that summer 'reading dip' that children can experience if they don't keep reading and ensures they are at the same reading level when the return to school in September. Classes have been visiting libraries throughout June to hear about the programme and sign up.

The Little Library Book Bag programme was launched on Friday, 21st June. Every child that starts school in September was invited to visit their nearest library to collect their Little Library Book Bag which contains a free book and a special wallet to hold their library card. Children and families are encouraged to join the library when they visit. The Little Library Book Bag initiative has been effective in boosting library membership numbers and preparing children for starting school.

### Healthy Ireland

Colette Nagle, yoga instructor delivered yoga classes to 3 different groups of children in Scariff Library. 17 children from Leapfrog Creche, 25 children from Scariff Primary school and 8 children from Scariff Book Club attended the classes. Feedback from both parents and children was very positive, the children see the





*Members of Birds of a Feather project.*

library as a welcoming space, where they can not only read and relax, but also benefit from classes, which will benefit their health and wellbeing. Colette also delivered 2 parent/baby yoga classes in Scariff Library.

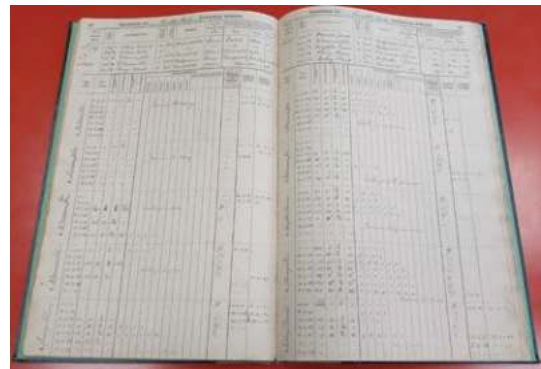
### Creative Ireland

In May, Creative Ireland announced over €700,000 funding for Creative Health and Wellbeing collaborative projects across Ireland. Creative Communities Engagement Officers & Healthy Ireland Coordinators across the HSE Mid-West region partnered together to submit a project that aligned with our strategic priorities. The project 'Helium Arts - Creativity Changing Lives in Clare, Limerick and Tipperary' was awarded €70,000 over 2 years. Helium Arts empowers children with lifelong health conditions through creativity and the arts, giving them an opportunity for connection, belonging, and imagination. With this funding, Helium Arts will expand their reach and make a tangible difference in the lives of these children. Eva Birdthistle, Creative Communities Engagement Officer, presented the project at the National Health & Wellbeing gathering, Grand Masons Lodge, Dublin, which included the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

In June members of the 'Birds of a Feather' Shared Island project met in Ballinasloe for their second in person gathering. Over 50 women from Belfast, Inishbofin, Ennis and Ballinasloe came together for creative and retail workshops, story sharing and relationship building. Link to Ballinasloe video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZ2MK2YwKJ4>

Cruinniú na nÓg, a national free day of creativity for Children and Young People up to 18 years, took place this year on June 15th. Over 2,000 children across County Clare took part in creative workshops and performances in person and online, with over 70 artists and creatives being employed to facilitate this work. The library network was invaluable in supporting the delivery of a large portion of the engagement.

### Local Studies



*19th century Cratloe NS logbook.*

The Local Studies Centre has added a number collections to the Clare Libraries and Archives collection. Six diaries, and several files of correspondence photographs and ephemera of the levers family of Mount levers in Sixmilebridge dating the second half of the nineteenth century, have been donated by Frances Durie, a relative of the family living in Graiguenamanagh, Kilkenny. The diaries provide a detailed record for events in Clare for the period, including the revolutionary years.

Also a roll book and log of the boy's primary school in Cratloe were added. This book provides a roll of students attending from the 1870's to the first decades of the twentieth century. It also includes information on the further education and positions that the children were later employed in.

An exhibition relating to the history of Cumann na mBan and the later lives of several of its members in Ennis was held this month in the Local Studies Centre and the De Valera Library.

The first tranche of entries from the 1821 census was published on the Clare Libraries website.

Clare Libraries will appoint an Historian in Residence for a period of three months in 2024, August-October. The post was advertised in May and the appointee will be responsible for the programming of History Week in October and a programme of historical commemorative lectures and events.

## Clare Archives

Ennis Corporation Book and Scariff Board of Guardians were uploaded to the Digital Repository of Ireland. The cataloguing of the Barrett Collection is ongoing, with approximately half the collection done to date.

There are ongoing general archival queries regarding private collections and local authority collections in our possession. The archivist is currently reviewing archive material in Local Studies in preparation for move to new library.

The Butlers and Ievers diary exhibition was on display at Sixmilebridge Library and a talk was given by the Archivist and Local Studies librarian regarding Clare Archives and diaries. A Cumann na mBan exhibition is being prepared for end of June and will be sent to printers.

## Clare Arts Office



Clare Mela event.

Over one thousand people attended the Clare Mela, organised by the Arts Office through our Creative Places Shannon Programme and in association with Shannon Tidy Towns. We appointed a researcher to the Creative Places Programme and the Arts Council's International Researchers visited Shannon to see the work to date.

The Artist in Schools Scheme was completed with residencies in Ennistymon Community College and Kilnamona NS. Singing programmes took place on the Embrace Arts and Disability programme in Ennis, Kilrush and Shannon. Arts Plan consultations took place on our Arts and Disability Levelling Access Programme

One thousand people attended the Fleadh Nua Riches of Clare Concerts, and four weekly concerts took place in glór.

Three exhibitions took place in Ennis, Scariff and Kilkee. A new artist joined the EASI studios. A research opportunity with TUS / Limerick School of Art and Design was established and awards were made to 7 artists through the Artists Development Scheme.

Two Arts in Clare slots happened on Clare FM.

The Arts Office assisted three TV productions shooting at Kilkee, Cree, Bridges of Ross, the Burren and Doolin. They also assisted with two further enquiries from Ireland and Los Angeles for potential future filming in Clare.

The Arts in the Community programme continued in St Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and in Raheen Hospital.

Clare Youth Theatre provided four workshops for Cruinniú nan Óg and Kilkee Youth Theatre performed in Culturlann Sweeney. Culturlann Sweeney also hosted two circus event and a concert.

## Arts Social Media

Facebook 19/5/24-18/6/24					
	Post reach	Post engagement	New Page likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	10,476	990	5	15	3314
Cultúrlann Sweeney	1438	58	1	6	2051
EASI Studios	3	0	1	1	146
Tulla Stables Artist Studios	5	0	0	0	658
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	526	44	1	3	574
Riches of Clare	1845	255	6	9	2863
Clare culture night	54	9	0	1	1276
Embrace Arts Programme	93	2	0	0	57
Arts In Clare Group					3213
Clare trad Group					2604
Instagram 19/5/24-18/6/24					
Followers	Accounts reached	New followers			
787	1314	25			



### Clare Museum



*Cruinniú na nÓg Excavation Workshop in Clare Museum.*

The Curator & Education Officer attended the Irish Museums Association's 2-day conference hosted by Carlow County Museum in Carlow.

To coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Fleadh Nua, the Liverpool Céilí Band is sharing its history in the form of an exhibition at Clare Museum, containing photographs and anecdotes from the band's accomplished career and some of the musical instruments used by the band.

The exhibition was officially launched in Clare Museum by the Mayor of Ennis Municipal District, Councillor Pat Daly. Ray Rooney, author of *The Spirit of the Reels*, *The Story of the Liverpool Céilí Band* and Máire Rooney, eldest daughter of Seán McNamara, founding member of the Liverpool Céilí Band were in attendance, along with some of the band members, who entertained attendees with some tunes in the museum foyer.

The museum's Education Officer visited Killaloe Convent Primary School to participate in a collaborative project with the school, the LCETB and the Killaloe-Ballina Local History Society, called *Sharing Our Stories*. The pupils gathered with their teachers to see some objects from the past that were brought in by some of their grandparents and donated by the local community. Objects from the museum, relevant to the project's themes, were brought along & the stories behind them shared. This is an ongoing project with the LCETB and primary schools.

19 international students, along with 2 of their tutors from the Clare Language School, visited and explored the museum while completing an assignment based on their visit.

Clare Museum, supported by Creative Ireland Clare, celebrated Cruinniú na nÓg with an archaeology workshop for children aged 7-12. 17 children, along with some of their parents, joined members of TVAS (Ireland) Ltd., archaeological consultants from Crusheen, Co. Clare, and museum's Education Officer, for this 3-hour, hands-on archaeology workshop where they were given the opportunity to discover the history of times past using imitation excavation boxes and materials to simulate an archaeological excavation on site at Clare Museum. This workshop was open to the public for bookings and neurodivergent children were encouraged to participate, in line with the museum's overall policy of accessibility and inclusion. 2 of the 17 children that participated identified as being neurodiverse.

A volunteer has been enlisted to produce a brochure outlining the museum's education and outreach services. When finished, the brochure will be distributed to relevant organisations.

A public talk was held on the Derreen Hoard from Maeve Sikora of the National Museum of Ireland.

There were 20 social media posts on Facebook, and a new blog entry was posted on items relating to the West Clare Railway, on the website. The museum's education officer participated in a film and video for social media workshop during the month.

### Clare County Library Construction Project - July 2024 Update

Work on the new County Library including a new Art Gallery continues in readiness of an official opening later this year. This will prove to be a fantastic addition to the town and county and enhance the attractiveness of the town from a visitor perspective. Works ongoing currently include fit-out installation and commissioning works of various elements of the project. On the 31st of May last, Clare County Council marked the conclusion of the construction works and commencement of the fit-out element of works with a ceremony on site that involved a walk-through of the project, description of the works to all stakeholders that attended on the day. Coolsivna also presented the Mayor of Clare with the keys of the new project. This was a key milestone for this project and all were impressed with the project and excited for the official opening to follow.





## KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Scarriff Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

In May Killaloe MD received notification of the awarding of €8,765,000 to Clare County Council by the Department of Rural and Community Development for our Category 1 Scarriff RRDF project. Clare County Council will match fund this to bring the total project value to €10,956,000. This is a significant funding announcement for Scarriff and East Clare.

The project is located in the Market Square and comprises of 3 elements, all integrated.

- i) The renovation of an existing vacant derelict 2 story building and rear premises in Scarriff Town centre and their conversion to a Community & Enterprise Hub
- ii) The development of a greenfield site to the rear of the building to use as a carpark associated with the Community & Enterprise Hub and for car-parking use as part of wider enhancements to Scarriff Town Centre.
- iii) Enhancement of public realm of Market Square (town centre) of Scarriff

The work and level of information that went into the submission of the RRDF application and the resultant significant funding announcement (for the full amount of the application sought) reflects the dedication and priority the staff working together with our Elected Members of Killaloe MD have for Scarriff and the communities of East Clare. The application also in particular reflects the commitment shown by the community and all stakeholders to this project over the years.

Following due diligence with the Department and completion of required procurement, it is anticipated that works on the

Community & Enterprise Hub and associated car-park could commence as early as December and once completed, in line with the request from Community groups, the works to Market Square will subsequently commence in 2025.



### Tuamgraney Trail Head & Trail Linkage Project

In June Killaloe MD, following an Application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023 was approved funding of €192,000. The project will provide an outdoor recreation and amenity project enabling direct walkable access from the settlements of Scarriff/Tuamgraney to the existing 12km section of Killaloe/Lough Derg/Ogonelloe greenway and walking trail.





The successful receipt of the funding is testament to the long standing communications of engagements between Killaloe MD and local groups, in particular Tuamgraney Development Association, advocating for its completion.

It is envisaged that the project will be undertaken by the outdoor staff of Killaloe MD. IN advance of commencement, there will be a requirement to have regard to the location and timing of the anticipated Limerick-Scarriff-Lough Derg Greenway currently being prepared by Waterways Ireland and TII.

In addition to planning for the extension of the route, in May/June Killaloe MD undertook significant maintenance works of the existing route in particular hedgerow cutting and footpath repair.



### Ballycuggeran

Enhancement works continue in Ballycuggeran/Two Mile Gate funded by Killaloe MD and under ORIS continue with the installation of wheelchair accessible pathways and rest areas. June concluded with the installation and ground works to install children's play facility. The location of Ballycuggeran,

connecting East Clare - Killaloe - Limerick City and with the increasing focus on Lough Derg Blueway and the ever increasing popularity of outdoor pursuits, there are ever increasing numbers of visitors to the Ballycuggeran Area, increasing pressure on existing services and on particular demands for amenities, facilities and the visitor-experience.

### Official Opening of Edna O'Brien Library

In May, in recognition of her achievements, her brilliant consistency, literary skill, courage and impact of her work for over 60 years, Scarriff library was renamed in honour of Edna O'Brien. Killaloe MD and colleagues in Library services hosted the official opening which was an initiative of the Elected Members of Killaloe MD. The event and the range and number of attendees at the official opening reflected the significant support for the proposal to name the Library in Scarriff in honour of Edna O'Brien and in particular to honour her as one of the most celebrated writers in the English language and arguably Ireland's greatest living author.

### May/June Works/Projects Killaloe MD

During the months of May and June Killaloe MD staff were involved in the following Projects

**Completion of footpath repairs and enhancements and installation of bins in Quin**





**Footpath repairs in Dunaille, O'Callaghan's Mills**



**Footpath Works at Tulla**

This work was funded by Killaloe MD GMA budget allocation.



**Footpath Works at Quin Village**





# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## HOUSING

For 2024 the housing public counter will remain 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](mailto:hat@clarecoco.ie). Our Ukrainian support team can be contacted on 065 6846577 or by email: [communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie](mailto:communityresponseforum@clarecoco.ie). Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)

### Social Housing Demand

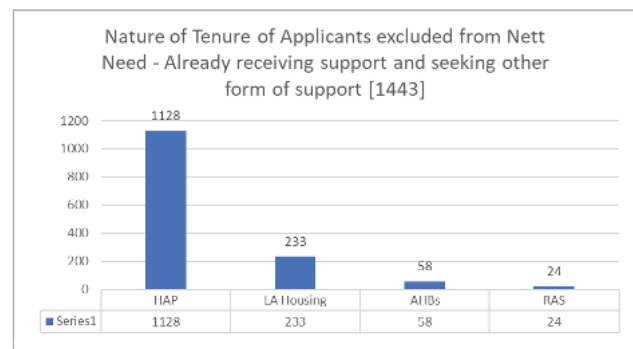
The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,183 applicant households (76%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Jason Murphy has been appointed Director of Social Development.



### Current Housing need as of 21/06/2024

Total Households on List	2,856	
Transfer Applicants (see below)		1,443
Nett Need	1,413	



There are 149 RAS, 223 total leased properties (96 Short-term, 127 Long-term). There are 1118 HAP properties.

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

Count of FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	BEDS APPROVED			
	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 beds	Total
ENNIS	942	197	79	1218
SHANNON	174	36	15	225
CLARECASTLE	146	26	10	182
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	119	26	6	151
KILRUSH	92	27	8	127
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	97	26	3	126
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	68	30	12	110
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	75	10	1	86
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	65	13	1	79
COROFIN/RUAN	59	17	1	77
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	52	20	4	76
KILLALOE	53	14	2	69
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	47	11	3	61
SIXMILEBRIDGE	40	10	6	56
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	34	10	5	49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	35	7	3	45
CLONLARA	24	7	2	33
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	3	3	27
QUIN	15	8	1	24
KILMIHIL	10	5	2	17
KILMALEY	9	2		11
KILFENORA	6	1		7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>2,856</b>

## Newly Qualified Applicants



## Housing Allocations

Clare County Council continues to work with the Approved Housing Bodies in relation to the provision of social housing. In this regard the allocation process in relation to the 16 new houses located at Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen is completed. These properties were delivered by Circle Voluntary Housing Association. This is the first social housing development that this AHB have delivered in Clare and Clare County Council looks forward to working with this AHB regarding further delivery of additional social housing in the County.

A new social housing development (CALF turnkey) delivered by Co-Operative Housing Ireland (CHI) located in Quin was recently advertised on our CBL website. This development (phase 1) comprises 2,3 and 4 bedroomed houses attracted a high number of expressions of interest which the Allocations Team are currently assessing.



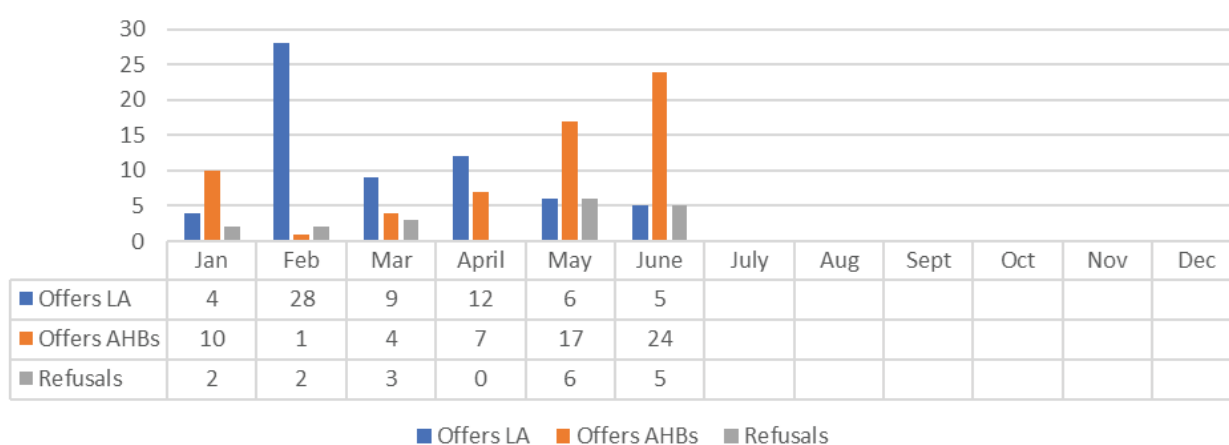


## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

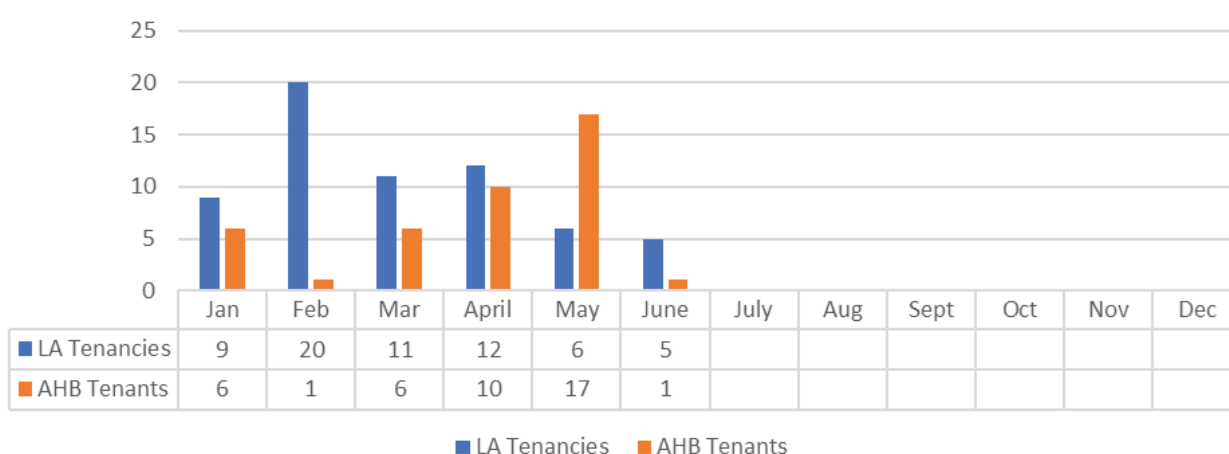
During May and up to 21st June 2024 a total of 28 new tenancies were created. Our Social Housing Allocation Scheme sets out the priorities and procedures for allocating properties to approved applicants on our housing list. Included within the 28 new tenancies were households :

At risk of homelessness/Homeless	8
Succession Tenancies	1
Medical	8
Involuntary Sharing	3
Social housing transfer (Downsizing)	1
Social housing transfer (Overcrowding)	1
Financial	5
Succession	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>

### Offers & Refusals 2024 Total offers 127. Refusal rate 14%



### New Tenancies 2024 Total 104



#### Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 19 open cases at various stages of the process of which up to 9 may finalise sales in 2024. The sale of one property under the tenant purchase scheme was completed in June 2024.

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.

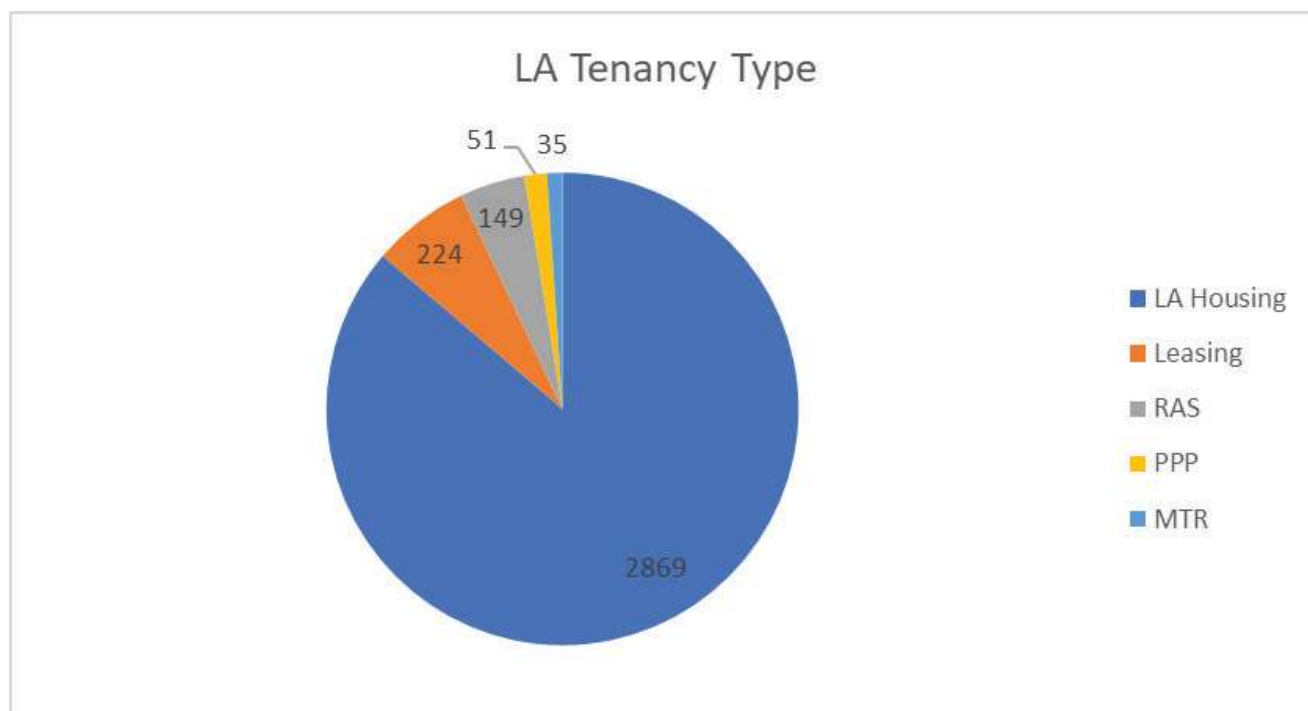
## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department issued a Circular in December 2023 advising of small changes to the scheme including a reduction in minimum income eligibility and adding further income sources as eligible, including certain state pensions and disability payments.

### Housing Tenancies:

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

21st June 2024			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	1	1,287	1,288
Killaloe MD	0	359	359
Shannon MD	1	738	739
West Clare MD	4	951	955
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>3,341</b>



Approved Housing bodies are providing approximately 820 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.	3	7	1	0	11
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	4	7	1	2	14
Casual Vacancies	14	11	6	3	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>59</b>

### 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.

The team were successful in securing a Repossession order in court earlier this year, in a case where there was an illegal occupation of a council owned property, and a number of further Repossession Applications will be going through the Courts in

the coming months.

The team have been extremely active in carrying out housing inspections for the period up to end of June with 298 inspections being carried out in May and a total of 1,054 inspections being carried out year to date.

Any matters that need to be brought to the attention of the Estate Management unit can be done so by emailing [asb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:asb@clarecoco.ie). Listed hereunder shows details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

	Total year to date	27th April to 21st June
ASB Complaints recd	449	215
Housing Inspections	1,054	298
Referrals to TSS (including Tusla)	37	8
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	38	11
Abandonment Notices issued	11	1
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	23	8
Repossession Orders	1	0
Daily Patrols	1,613	541

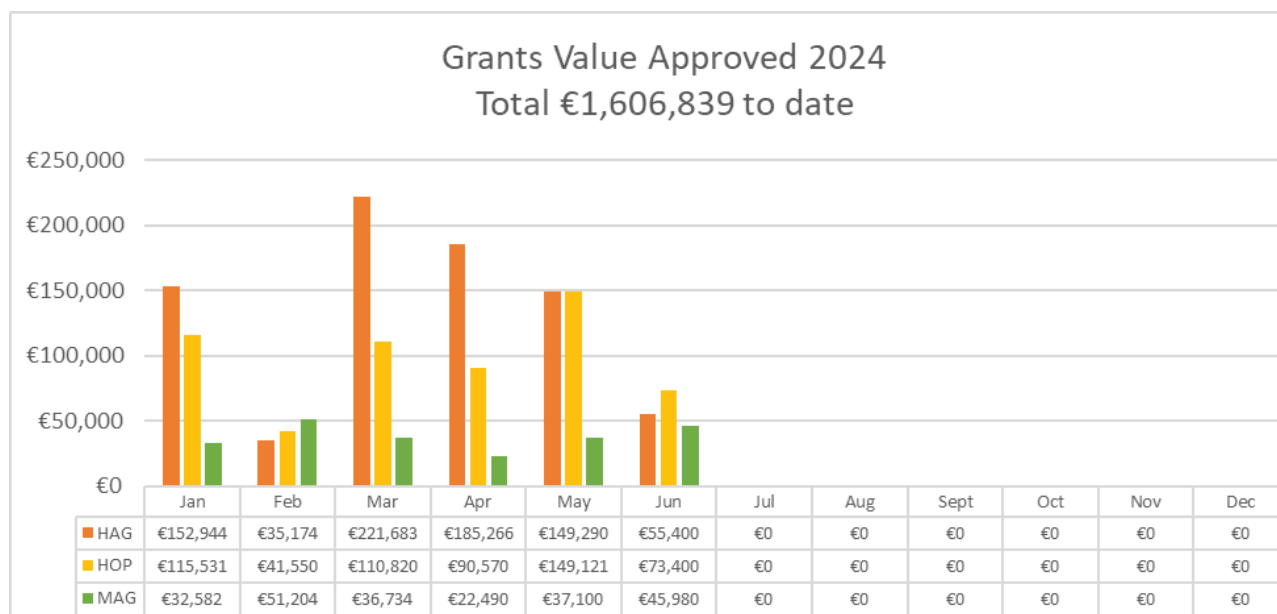
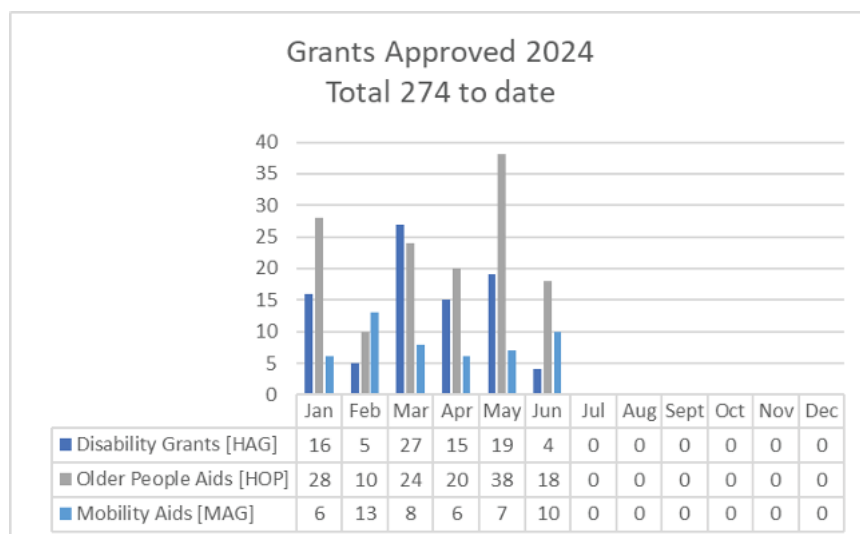
The team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and Traveller sites and have a very visible presence to manage and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour. The team also engage proactively with tenants to help prevent anti-social behaviour, facilitate the daily patrol of local authority sites, arrange specific meetings with tenants as well as engaging with local communities. 1,022 patrols were carried out for the period in question. The working hours of the team are flexible to meet required need, involving working after hours and weekends as the need dictates. The team can be contacted out of office hours, should the need arise, by contacting the Council Emergency Phone no. (087) 2599568

### Private Rented inspections

463 inspections have been carried out up June 2024. 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 to date this year:



## Local Authority Home Loan

Full details on the Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator and Information Booklet can be found on [www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie](http://www.localauthorityhomeloan.ie)

There are currently 62 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:



## Traveller Accommodation

Clare County Council continue to progress our Traveller Accommodation Programme [TAP] 2019 – 2024.

We have also commenced preparation of the next 5-year Traveller Accommodation Programmes (TAPs) for adoption by 31 December 2024. Preparation of the new plan will require housing authorities to consult with adjoining housing authorities, the HSE, approved housing bodies, the Local Traveller Consultative Committee, other local Traveller representative groups, community and interest groups and the public in general. Housing authorities, following consultation, must make an estimate of the current and projected accommodation needs of Traveller families arising over the five-year programme. We are currently working with the Traveller Community Development Program in preparing a detailed traveller led needs analysis in preparation of same. It is expected that draft plan will be available for public consultation in Q3 2024.

## Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

The number of complex case presentations to the Homeless Action Team continues to increase along with the increase of households seeking emergency accommodation.

This is evident through the increased levels of support, advice and advocacy, being requested from households around areas such as Homeless Services, Housing Requirements, Outside Support referrals and the need for Emergency Accommodation within this region. Within this period there has been an increase in presentations of households who have been assessed as Non HRC Compliant. While such households are not eligible for services in the area, the amount of work and interactions each staff has had with such households has increased and placed considerable pressure on all team members.

In conjunction with this there has been a significant rise in the number of presentations of individuals and households experiencing difficulties and concerns around family/relationship

breakdown, Hospital discharges both medical discharges and discharges from the APU, addiction or mental health concerns, dual diagnosis, and a further increase in the number of households presenting from the Travelling Community.

During this period there has been an increase in challenging behaviour being faced by staff in the HAT team.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports which in turn prevented the need for Emergency Accommodation and avoiding entering a homeless situation. 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, several individuals remain overstaying with friends or family until a vacancy presents within Emergency Accommodation.

The Homeless Action Team continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options. This continues to prove challenging due to demand for accommodation. The Council has completed the purchase of an additional property for emergency accommodation. This will be available for homeless women and children. A service provider is being procured through tender process to manage the accommodation and provide the necessary supports.

### Emergency Accommodation Status as of 14/6/2024:

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	12	0	1
Laurel Lodge Weather Initiative	0	1	0	0
Cusack Lodge	5	6	14	1
Westbrook	0	17	0	1
Westbrook Weather Initiative	0	0	0	0
Ashford Court	9	16	10	1
PEA Families	6	10	9	8
PEA Individuals		10		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>

### Exits/Discharges from EA 19/04/24 to 14/06/24

- 4 – Discharged to Transitional Accommodation
- 5 – Long Term Tenancies AHB Housing
- 4 - Discharged: Breach of conditions / Non-use of bed space
- 1 – Self Discharge



### Notices to Quit

We continue to support circa. 70 clients with valid Notice to Quits in existing private rental agreements. Our staff are actively engaging with these clients to assist them in accessing other housing solutions and to avoid the need for entering homeless services. Since the eviction ban was removed, we have supported a further 95 households through various solutions including allocations of LA properties, AHB properties, purchase through tenant in Situ Scheme, new HAP properties, etc. In addition, a small number of clients are being supported through the transboundary scheme where they are renting in border areas outside of Clare boundary, and a number of households have been referred to the Housing Agency as they may be able to avail of the Cost Rental Tenant in Situ program through the Agency.

### Affordable Housing Schemes for County Clare

CCC continues to run Expression of Interest (EOI) Campaigns seeking proposals on options to deliver affordable homes in County Clare.

CCC have been successful in securing 2 further approvals for Affordable Housing Schemes in County Clare under the new Affordable Funding Scheme. These approvals are both in Ennis and consist of 21 units in total, split between 10 units on the Tulla Road and 11 units on the Lahinch Road. Approval was previously received for 10 properties in Oakwood View in Shannon and the first of these properties were advertised in early March.

There is currently one submission under consideration by the DHLGH for inclusion on the scheme, with two other submissions under review with CCC currently, in advance of submission to DHLGH in the coming weeks.

A new online information portal went live recently at <https://affordablehomes.ie/> providing general information to the public.

### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

The Defective Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks [DCB] Scheme went live in mid-July 2023, for private dwellings, with the finalised Act, regulations, updated YQA's (Your Questions Answered) & Ministerial Guidelines published.

Applications to the scheme can be submitted on-line through our website. The website includes supporting information to further assist homeowners regarding the application process. CCC DCB Team have also included a video on CCC's website recently on "how to make an application" to further assist homeowners in the application process. In addition, our team are available to assist with any queries homeowners may have. This Team can be contacted by email at [dcb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:dcb@clarecoco.ie) or alternatively by phone at 065-6846385, 065-6846468 & 065-6846309.

CCC continue to review applications since the commencement of the scheme through the online portal and continue to validate applications prior to sending them to the Housing

Agency for their review and assessment. Housing Agency have carried out coring and testing on a number of properties and remediation options for the first batch of applications have commenced. CCC have received the first ROGs (Remediation Option Grants) from the Housing Agency, and have referred these options to the relevant homeowner.

CCC DCB Team continue to hold workshops in each electoral area to further assist homeowners on how to make an application to the Scheme via the online portal. These workshops are targeted for people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application. So far in 2024, Walk in clinics have been held in Kilrush, Ennistymon, Scarriff, Shannon and Ennis.

CCC continue to engage with the DHLGH to ensure social houses affected by DCB are included in a similar scheme.

### Update on capital programme

Our Capital team Housing Delivery target for 2024 is 153 units and the team is working hard to ensure this is achieved and indeed exceeded. Schemes under construction in Scarriff and Sixmilebridge are continuing to progress well. Design work is underway on a number of other social housing projects, which are at various stages of development.



Progress on Sixmilebridge project.



Progress on Scarriff housing development.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Approved Housing Bodies

Circle Housing Association has delivered a further 8 units at Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen this month and a total of 16 no. newly constructed units have now been provided in this estate. The Sector is expecting a number of projects to be delivered in the next few months as outlined below. In addition to these projects, there are a number of other proposals at the initial stages. The Housing Department continue to support the voluntary sector and meets regularly with all these bodies to ensure projects are delivered in line with targets set out in our Housing Delivery Action Plan.

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Scarriff	18	Under Construction	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
Sixmilebridge	15	Under Construction.	Q1 2023	Q3 2024
111 Dún na hInse	1	Under Construction	Q4 2023	Q2 2024
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Under Construction	Q1 2024	Q3 2024
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Contractor Appointed	Q2 2024	Q4 2024
St. Senan's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Construction	Q3 2023	Q2 2024
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Turnkey – Under Construction	Q3 2023	Q4 2024 (10) Q1 2025 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Turnkey – Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q4 2024
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	28	Turnkey – Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Drumcliff Rd. Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Judicial Review Proceedings have been initiated in relation to S179A.	-	-
Ennistymon	30	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Project on hold.	-	-
Doonbeg Road, Kilkee	25	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH. Project on hold.	-	-
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Stage 2 approved. Permission granted by An Bord Pleanála. Tender for construction contract currently being assessed.	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Currently in Part 8 process.	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Stage 2 submitted to the department for approval	Q1 2025	Q3 2026
Doonbeg Lands	8	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. Approval granted by An Bord Pleanála in May 2024. Stage 3 application with DHLGH for their consideration.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Stage 1 & 2 approval. Currently in Part 8 process.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>234</b>			
Approved Housing Body Projects	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Quin, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey)	36	Under construction: 20 units in Phase 1 16 units in Phase 2	Q1 2023 Q3 2023	Q3 2024 Q3 2024
Cluain na Laoi, Kilkishen (Circle Housing Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	16	Completed on 15/04/2024 8 units in Phase 1  Completed on 6/6/2024 8 units in Phase 2	Q1 2023  Q1 2023	Q2 2024  Q3 2024
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	21	Under construction 11 units in Phase 2 10 units in Phase 3	Q3 2023 Q1 2024	Q3 2024 Q4 2024



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q4 2024
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Construction	1	At procurement stage	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	48	Under construction: 16 units in Phase 1 32 units in Phase 2	Q1 2024 Q1 2024	Q4 2024 Q1 2025
Crusheen (Cluid Housing Association) CALF Turnkey (Part V)	3	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q2 2024
Clonroad, Ennis, St. Vincent de Paul CAS Turnkey	12	Under construction	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction	22	Planning application ongoing - at further information stage.	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shannon (Cluid Housing Assoc.)	5	Under construction	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>178</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>			

## UKRAINIAN SERVICES

The CSO figures show there were 169 Temporary Protections granted nationally last week, the number of arrivals remains consistent compared to the weekly figures outlined in the previous Monthly Management Report. There are currently 5,545 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 36 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 2,505 people accommodated in 35 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County. The remaining people are accommodated in residential settings in formal hosted arrangements through the Irish Red Cross and Clare County Council's 'Offer-A-Home' scheme. We currently have 222 homes offered

under this scheme, with an average of one home being offered each week. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 443 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

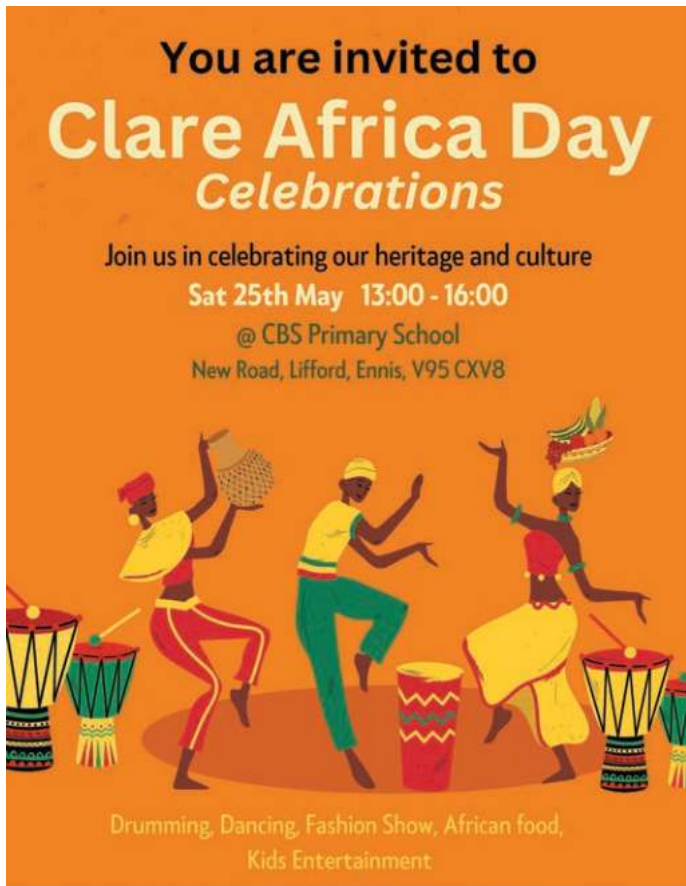
Homeowners providing accommodation through hosting arrangements in their own homes or in unoccupied homes are entitled to claim a monthly Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) of €800 tax free. The ARP was due to expire in March 2024 however the payment has now been extended until March 2025 to reflect the extension of the temporary protection order by the European Commission.

## INTEGRATION TEAM

Clare County Council Integration Support Workers Padraig McMahon and Fiona Cahill held one to one support clinics throughout the county in accommodation centres with BOTP's and International Protection Applicants. During May they also carried out several voter registration clinics with the Ukrainian and International Protection Applicant community.



Clare County Council Integration Team was delighted to collaborate with Clare Local Development Company and Clare Immigrant Support Centre in celebrating Africa Day on Saturday, 25 May, which was a fantastic day of colourful fashion, music, traditional food and African Culture.



Clare County Council Integration Team was delighted to collaborate with the Limerick Clare Education and Training Board, Clare Local Development Company, Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare Sports Partnership, INTREO, Citizens Information, Clare Immigrant Support Centre, Local Link, Employability Clare, and the East Clare Community Co-op for a community information clinic at Derg Active Alliance Hall Scariff. The event provided an opportunity for both the local and migrant community in the area to access services such as Education and Training, Employment opportunities, English classes, Sport and physical activity, Immigration issues, Volunteering and Transport.





Clare Refugee week Intercultural event CBS June 22nd. Clare County Council Integration Team collaborated with Clare Immigration Support Centre and Clare Local Development Company in Organising an Intercultural event at CBS Ennis on Saturday the 22nd June which included world music, drumming, kids entertainment and food with and an optional walk/run with Sanctuary Runners.



## SPORTS & RECREATION

### Active Ennis Leisure Complex Gym & Pool Report

#### Art & Craft Classes

In May we started a new block of kid's art classes held in our versatile meeting room. These classes are designed for young artists of all skill levels and offer a fun, creative outlet for children to explore their artistic talents. The meeting room provides a comfortable and inspiring environment perfect for encouraging a child's artistic talents.

**NEW CLASSES**  
Now Taking Bookings  
Starts May 16th

**ARTS & CRAFTS CLASSES**

**Arts & Crafts**  
Learn new creative crafting skills every week ranging from all kinds of media including:

- Paper Crafts
- Decopatch
- Holiday Decorations
- Gift Making
- Jewellery Making
- Card Making
- Clay Modelling
- Charcoal / Chalks / Pastels
- Painting (variety)
- Drawing
- Recycled art
- Experimental Art

**Sophie - The Tutor**  
Graphic Designer, Crafter and Art Tutor with a passion for Arts and Crafts sharing her creativity with all ages with particular experience with primary school children along with teens and adults with additional needs with the Brother's of Charity.

**Contact Sophie for bookings 086 391 3073**  
For more information on future classes and Art Birthday Parties  
Active Ennis Party Room, Sandfield Park, Lifford, Ennis

**Active Ennis Thursdays @ 5pm**  
Suitable for kids age 7 - 12 years  
Limited Spaces - Pre-booking essential for 4 week workshops starting May 16th - June 6th



#### Intensive Swim Week 1

May also saw the start of Preschool Swimming Lessons for Toddlers aged 3 to 5 years of age. These lessons provide a safe, fun, and engaging environment where young children can develop basic swimming skills and water confidence. This fosters a positive relationship with water from an early age. This intensive week ran from the 27th to the 31st of May.

**Preschool swimming lessons**

Intensive swim week  
**Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May**  
Classes each day @1pm

**For more information and bookings:**  
contact 086-3421042

**Limited spaces available**

Suitable for ages **3-5**

### Membership Specials 1

In May we launched a special membership offer with access to our Gym and Pool for 3 months. This promotion is designed to provide an affordable option for individuals seeking to improve their fitness levels, maintain their current regimen or simply enjoy our leisure services. It is expected this offer will increase our membership numbers as well as enhance the sense of community within our Leisure Complex. We also plan on launching a Family Membership in July to encourage families to engage in physical activities together promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.



### Footfall Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Total Footfall for the Active Ennis Leisure Complex in April was 20,947 with an average Footfall of 690 people per day. The Lowest recorded Footfall 203 and the highest recorded Footfall was 1,089.

The highest total recorded footfall was on Saturday 13th of April (1,089) this may have been due to booking being taken for the new block of swim lessons. The lowest recorded Footfall was on the 1st of April (203) which was on a Sunday, this was 21% higher than the lowest recorded footfall in March (161).

### Intensive Swim Week 2

In June we announced that we would be holding summer intensive swimming weeks starting in the first week of July

and running weekly through until the third week in August. Lessons are held Monday to Friday and tailored to different levels: Beginner (Kiddie Pool), Improver 1 (shallow end of big pool), Improver 2 (deep end, half lengths) and is available for Children aged 4+.

With the weekday and weekend lessons ending for the summer it is a brilliant opportunity for children to maintain and improve their swimming and water confidence.

### Membership Specials 2

In June we continued our special membership offer with access to our Gym and Pool for 3 months. In July we plan to bring a family summer special membership designed to bring families together in a fun filled, healthy summer experience with the offer running until the 31st of August. The membership will provide use of our state-of-the-art facilities at an affordable price for families.



### Tim Smythe Park Relay for Life

Relay for Life Ennis hosted their yearly event inviting all cancer survivors and those in treatment to attend the Cancer Survivors' Reception and the Survivors Lap of Honor.

The survivors' lap is an inspirational start to the event where cancer survivors of all ages are invited to begin the Relay event by walking the first lap of the course, cheered on by their family, friends and carers plus teams from the community. Relay for Life Ennis was held on 18th June in Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park.





## Teen Gym

Teen Gym hours have changed with the school year coming to a close. We have increased the hours available for teens to use the facilities in the morning and afternoon from 11am to 1pm on weekdays. Teen Gym remains very popular for young gym users and helps them get used to a gym environment.



## Football Report Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Total Football for May was 20,823, down slightly compared to April which was 20,947. The Average Football for May was 672, again down slightly compared to April which was 690. The highest total recorded football was on Wednesday 1st of May which was 866.

The lowest recorded Football was on the 5th of May and was 181, this was on a Sunday and was a bank holiday weekend. The slight decreases in football may be explained by longer evenings and less events such as Galas being held in the complex as the summer season begins, exams begin and schools close.

## Lee's Road

In April Lees Road hosted various events including Local Community Games qualifying finals. The Rugby and Adult Soccer seasons came to a close at month's end with many games being hosted over the last couple of months along with 2 Inter County Soccer Blitzes held on the astro turf facility.

[www.activeennis.ie](http://www.activeennis.ie) [www.activekilrush.ie](http://www.activekilrush.ie)

Any defects or operational issues can be reported by email to [info@activeennis.ie](mailto:info@activeennis.ie)



## General Updates

- Two new Sports Development Officers have been offered positions in Clare Sports Partnership.
- Catherine and Lizzy attended a brilliant #HelloHowAreYou workshop delivered by Clare Local Development Company in the Old Ground Hotel on May 15th.

## Schools & Youth

- Borrowing of playground markings and sportshall athletics packs by primary schools continues.
- Our 6-week sportshall athletics programme is ongoing in Ennis Community College and is due to finish the week of May 13th.
- Get Going Get Rowing launched in Colaiste Mhuire Ennis last month. They are the first Ennis school to complete this programme.
- Delivery of activities and games are ongoing in both post-primary schools and primary schools as part of Active School's week.

## Education & Training

- Safeguarding Courses continue to be delivered. The full list of safeguarding courses is available on our website.
- Sports First Aid courses have been delivered in Lisdoonvarna and Shannon over the previous few weeks.

## Sports Inclusion

- Inclusive gymnastics with Ennis Gymnastics Club is ongoing on Monday and Tuesday evenings. There are 50 children who attend these sessions.
- School inclusive gymnastics takes place every Monday in Ennis Gymnastics during the school term with 19 different schools and over 100 children participating in this programme.
- We have commenced inclusive gymnastics training for teachers and SNAs from the school's participating in our inclusive gymnastics programme.
- The brand new integrated physical education programme with TY students and students from the ASD hub in St. Caimin's Secondary school in Shannon has now concluded. There is a programme review taking place at the moment. The hope is that the programme will be rolled out to more schools in September 2024 with the help of Clare County Council.
- Eire Og / Corofin GAA and Wolfe Tones GAA All-stars Inclusive Clubs are now running outdoor sessions for over 40 children with a disability.
- A new 6-week All-stars pilot programme has commenced in Wolfstones GAA club in Shannon.
- Clare Comets Basketball all-stars continue to run their indoor sessions on Saturdays in Ennis National School.
- Both Derg AC (Saturday mornings) and Tulla AC (Thursday evenings) continue to run sessions for over 40 children with a disability.

- Dates confirmed for this year's inclusive summer camps:
  - o Derg Athletics club – week of July 15th
  - o Clare Comets Basketball – week of July 29th
  - o ASD Cúl Camp – August 6th – 8th
  - o FAI Down Syndrome camp – August 20th – 22nd

### Older Adults

- This block of banner balance programme has now concluded with 16 participants.
- We continue to support our tutors in delivering weekly classes to over 300 older adults in County Clare.
- An activator pole walking programme in Killaloe with 12 participants is ongoing.
- Go for Life Games County Finals will take place on May 22nd in preparation for the All-Ireland finals in Dublin on June 8th. We hope to send a team of 18 to compete on the day. **Active Communities**
- Full list of Clare cycling events up on [www.claresports.ie](http://www.claresports.ie)
- Our first “Her Moves” teenage girls programme in Kilrush, is reaching it conclusion with 18 teenage girls taking part over six weeks.
- Kilkee Outdoor adventure hub have started their assistant swim teacher training in April and finishing in May. Moreover, they have launched their first sessions of try a snorkel programme taking place at the end of May.
- Support provided to Kilrush LGFA to get 20 coaches on their coaching education journey.
- Working with FAI and Clare County Council to assist in soccer participation in the Kilkee area for new communities.
- Healthy DOJO in conjunction with the HSE, began in Shannon Leisure Centre on Monday April 29th. There are 25 participants registered for this 8-week programme. Exercise classes take place on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons in Shannon Leisure Centre.

### ESF+ Sport4Empowerment Programme

- Traveller Handball competition to culminate with ‘Traveller Pride’ Day will be run this weekend and into next week, we will continue to engage with Marguerite Gore GAA Handball GDA to work with the group and intend to run a coaching course for them.
- The development of a ‘Haven Club’ concept for children in residential care for families utilising domestic services, is continuing to progress. TUSLA Foster Care and Early Family Intervention teams are on board and very anxious to support the development. A Steering group of stakeholders will be created to further pursue concept. TUSLA will be part of this and will advise on safeguarding.
- In conjunction with Clare PPN, Clare Volunteer Centre, CLDC and others I partook in a voter registration drive leading up to the Local elections/European Elections – the target were underrepresented groups, IPA's, Travellers, Roma, people with disabilities numerous engagements took place. Civic participation is a core tenet of the ESF programme. UL Engage are going to run community workshops to explain the electoral system and party policies to

these groups.

- Participated with UL Engage with the UL Citizens Assembly in Limerick on the successful funding collaboration with a website called 'Which Candidate' which will be utilised by our newly registered voting groupings.
- In conjunction with Weightlifting Ireland we have organised a pilot project in Lisdoonvarna targeting Ukrainian Refugees. Starting Friday 24th May. Will run for 8 weeks, with a further one for Ennis on the cards.
- Have held further one to one discussions with International Protection Applicants in Ennis, and Roma community Leaders about potential initiatives.

### Outdoor Recreation

- The County Outdoor Recreation Committee has been recruited and the first meeting is scheduled for May 20th in Clare Education Centre. The terms of reference have been drawn up to include the guidelines from the department.
- A Tender Document has been written for the County Outdoor Recreation Plan to provide a comprehensive outline of the project's scope, requirements, and objectives. This document will serve as a vital guide for potential contractors bidding on the project, ensuring that their proposals are in alignment with our needs.
- The first draft of stakeholder mapping has been completed in relation to the project.
- In order to begin a needs analysis of the county meetings have taken place with different agencies to map out current and upcoming outdoor infrastructure within the county.
- We had a productive meeting with Wicklow LSP and the Strategic Outdoor Officer to discuss their experience of writing and implementing three outdoor recreation plans for their county and managing the County Outdoor Recreation Committee. By learning from their experiences, we can identify potential pitfalls to avoid and leverage successful strategies to create a robust and effective plan tailored to the needs of our county.

## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - NORTH CLARE LEA

**Beach Operatives**, Raymond Toomey and Brian McNulty on duty and in the new Staff Canteen, Lahinch. Beach Operatives are on duty at all Blue Flag beach locations in North Clare as well as Doolin Pier for the summer.



**Fanore Beach Temporary Car Park** leased by Clare Co Council during the summer season to facilitate traffic management at Fanore beach.



**Doolin Pier Temporary Car Park** leased by Clare Co Council during the summer season to facilitate additional parking at Doolin Pier during the busy tourist season.





**Ferry Service in operation at Doolin** 31, 541 passengers departed Doolin Pier during the month of May.

### Noth Clare Integrated Transport & Traffic Plan

Signing and lining undertaken at a number of locations during May and June to effective traffic management. Beach Ambassadors being appointed to advise tourists on appropriate routes to be taken by giving advice at identified problem locations. All sub groups are active in addressing traffic issues to improve traffic in North Clare.



### Refurbished Public Toilets, Ennistymon

Refurbished toilets opened from May Bank Holiday weekend.



New handrail on Churchill, Ennistymon.





# TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

## Minister Heather Humphreys official opening of Tourism Projects



**VANDELEUR**  
**FESTIVAL KILRUSH 2024**  
27-30 JUNE, 2024  
VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE

**THURSDAY**

**12.00pm** : Celebration of 30th Anniversary of the CE scheme  
Music by P.J. Murrilhy Band

**2.00pm** : Launch of the Biodiversity Garden

**5.30pm** : 100-year Anniversary Celebration of Kilrush R.F.C.

**7.00pm** : Milesians Concert Charity event  
(proceeds to West Clare Cancer Centre & CLG Cuair an Chláir)

**FRIDAY**

**All Day** : Art Exhibition by Delaney Davis

**12.00pm** : Fionnuala Walsh,  
Cappa to California: Swimming the waters of the world (marquee)

**7.30pm** : Cherish The Ladies Concert (marquee)

**8.30pm** : Rattle & Hum, U2 tribute band (Frances St. Kilrush)

**SATURDAY**

**All Day** : Art Exhibition by Alisha Malone (overhead cafe)

**9.30am** : Vandeleur parkrun Kilrush

**12.00pm** : Teresa Carrig,  
Launching her new single, 'Dancing Solo' (pergola)

**11.00am & 1.30pm** : The Magical Wizard Children's Show  
(2 showings at the marquee)

**7.30pm** : Kilfenora Céili Band Concert (marquee)

**SUNDAY**


**All Day** : Art Exhibition by Hazel Murray (overhead cafe)

**1.00pm** : Morgan Roughan (pergola)

**12.00pm & 2.00pm** : Ceol Connected: SongTales sa Spéir  
(2 showings at the marquee)

**7.30pm** : Robert Mizzell (concert/dance)

**BOOK ONLINE AND SEE FULL SCHEDULE:**  
VANDELEURWALLEDGARDEN.IE



On the 13th May, Minister Heather Humphreys officially opened Vandeleur Walled Gardens and Visitor Centre and Loop Head Lighthouse Visitor Experience. Both of these projects were in receipt of Rural Regeneration Development Funding and the Minister's official opening marked the successful conclusion of each project.

In addition, the Bistro conversion works within the stable block at Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre are progressing on time to conclude in July 2024. Separately, the team at Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre were delighted to announce the full line up for the Vandeleur Festival Kilrush 2024 with something for everyone. The festival was a great success for music lovers, art enthusiasts or family fun days out.

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## Loop Head Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage self-catering accommodation

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Preparations are underway to open the newly refurbished Loop Head Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage self-catering accommodation. This 3-bedroom cottage which sleeps 6 was the transient base for Lighthouse Attendants homes throughout the history of lighthouse keeping at Loop Head. With the provision of both RRDF and CCC funding, this house has been renovated and fully fitted out this year.

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## 50th Anniversary of Craggaunowen

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On Sunday June 9th, Craggaunowen celebrated a momentous occasion, as this idyllic woodland wonderland which charts how our Bronze and Iron Age ancestors, lived, farmed and fought, celebrated 50 years in business.

To mark the occasion, Shannon Heritage, in collaboration with the Hunt Museums Trust, hosted a celebratory afternoon at the attraction, welcoming past staff, individuals involved in

its development and reconstruction, members of the local community and invited guests, including the Hunt family. Craggaunowen's journey began in the 1960s when John Hunt meticulously restored the castle and envisioned an open-air museum alongside it. John Hunt's vision transformed a few fields in County Clare into a magical place where visitors can explore a 16th-century castle and delve into Celtic history.

The official opening in June 1974 was a grand affair, marked by speeches from John Hunt, Brendan O'Regan and others. Over 1,000 visitors flocked to Craggaunowen on that day, and the attraction has never looked back since.

A public event, celebrating this milestone anniversary will take place later this Summer.

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## Virgin Media One News at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park

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Bunratty Castle and Folk Park were delighted to welcome Virgin Media Ireland and Maxine Bramley to the park this month as we showcased some of our newest offerings and experiences to a national audience.

Marking the official start of the Summer 2024 season, this publicity provided the attraction with a fantastic platform to highlight the hardwork and investment which has gone into the attraction over the Winter/ Spring period including the addition of the castle's medieval quarter, new jaunting car rides, trumpeter, increased animation, animal stock and more.

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## The Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience at the Rectory

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The Inis Cealtra Visitor Experience at the Rectory - Work is continuing with utilities to put in place the necessary infrastructure to support the Rectory – opening Q1 2025. Tender documents are being finalised for the fit out of the visitor interpretation centre and will be published during Q2 2024.

The Project Delivery Team met on site during May and with team members from Killaloe Municipal District also went on a site visit to Inis Cealtra (Holy Island).

Meanwhile in relation to the An Bord Pleanála Application, the



underwater surveys determine the key infrastructure required which is a crucial element of the part 10 An Bord Pleanála Application. The findings of which also identify key archeological and environmental considerations to inform the EIAR which the team are progressing at present. The submission date is October 2024.

The Tourism Directorate provided an update on the progress made at the Clare Tourism East Sites of Bunratty Castle & Folk Park, Craggaunowen, Knappogue Castle and the Inis Cealtra Holy Island Project at the meeting of the Killaloe Municipal District on the 15th May last. The high-level plans for Knappogue Castle and preparation of the part 10 An Bord Pleanála application for Holy Island were discussed. The members were complimentary of the progress made and welcomed the update.



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### Bunratty Castle and Folk Park wins Best Tourism Business in Clare Award

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Bunratty Castle and Folk Park were thrilled to be crowned Best Tourist Business in Clare at the recent Clare FM Best of Clare Awards.

Voted for by the people of County Clare, makes this recognition even more special for Bunratty Castle and Folk Park and it acknowledges the important role we play within the local community and the significance the attraction holds for the people of Clare.

From the welcoming front-of-house staff and hardworking operations teams to our engaging characters and dedicated administration teams, this award acknowledges the vital role each staff member plays in creating memorable experience for our visitors.







## Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre

Vandeleur Walled Garden & Visitor Centre have been busy working on a new Biodiversity Garden. Developed in collaboration with Kilrush Credit Union and our local Youthreach group, the new garden aims to encourage healthy, diverse ecosystems in private gardens, school yards, farms, housing estates, and public parks. Our goal is to help the local wildlife thrive!

Within the garden are a selection of different habitats designed to provide food and shelter for wildlife. We also planted a wide selection of pollinator-friendly native and ornamental perennials, shrubs, and trees.

## Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

### GEOfood Slow Food Festival 2024

The UNESCO Global Geopark was a proud supporter and promoter of the Slow Food Festival on Sunday 19th May in Lisdoonvarna. It was a hugely successful day, drawing locals and visitors from all over North Clare. The GEOfood programme <https://www.burrengeopark.ie/geofood/> was highly visible in the branding of the GEOfood producers present and we had our own GEOfood promotional stall as well which attracted a number of food producers interested in joining the programme. This year the health benefits of local food was emphasised, and a yoga demonstration was also available on the grounds of the Pavilion.

### Geopark Academy



The 2nd Geopark Academy took place over the weekend of May 25th/26th at the Burren College of Art. Ten speakers presented on a broad range of recent research in the area including Geology, Archaeology, DNA analysis, Tourism, Art and marine seafloor mapping on Saturday, and we had a guided tour of the history of Kilfenora, Lemenagh Castle, Kilnaboy, Corrofin and Dysert Castle lead by Edel Barry, Frank O'Grady and Dick Cronin on Sunday. Over 50 people took part, and the event was a great success with presenters representing Trinity College Dublin, University of Galway, ATU, Burren College of Art and of course the Geopark. There was great feedback with many of the participants asking if we would be doing it again next year, which we hope to, as it showcases the region as a place of research and interest for educational tourism.

### Burren Businesses honoured for commitment to Geopark Code of Practice

60 businesses from across north Clare and south Galway have been given official recognition for their participation in an environmental initiative that is transforming the development of sustainable tourism across the Burren region.

Developed with EU LIFE funding and launched by the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark Code of Practice

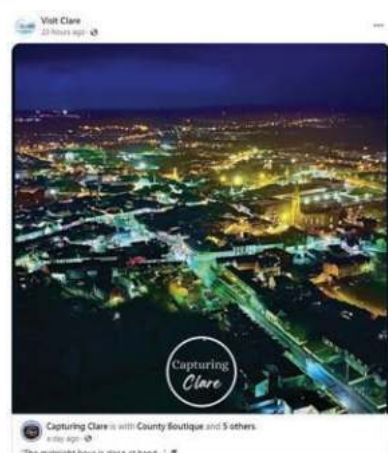


in 2016, the Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism is the only sustainable initiative of its kind in Ireland and in the network of 169 Geoparks spread across 44 countries.

From a hotel harnessing all its electricity needs through hydropower to an artisan food producer embracing sustainable practices, the Code involves members of the Burren Ecotourism Network measuring and making reductions in environmental output as well as promoting local produce, conservation and taking part in community outreach and advocacy initiatives, networking events and green purchasing.



## Spotlight on Ennis, our Capital Town



The weekly dedicated promotion campaign continues to showcase Ennis, our Capital town, with a paid video marketing campaign of Ennis along with local business cross-promotion, to

highlight all a visit to Ennis has to offer.

## Clare Lucky Breaks: Inviting Guests to 'Come Back Soon'

A weekly promotional campaign spotlighting each of the participating Hotels has commenced with The Temple Gate Hotel being spotlighted and includes marketing support to these Hotels. For details [VisitClare.ie/luckybreaks](https://visitclare.ie/luckybreaks).

This stay in Clare campaign is successful in that there is a chance to stay at any of the 12 participating Clare 'Lucky Break' hotels between now and October 31, 2024, for a chance to win a complimentary return visit to the hotel.

## Funday Sundays Offers & Prizes

Each Monday, a select number of curated offers for the following Sunday are unveiled to the Visit Clare website and platforms, providing unique opportunities to explore the county's diverse attractions. These offers range from discounted admissions and two-for-one deals, to special packages, and includes monthly prizes. These weekly Offers and monthly prizes feature weekly <https://visitclare.ie/Sundays/>

## Local, National & International Promotional Campaigns

Tailored to specific market audiences across each of the Visit Clare Campaigns, editorials, adverts and press releases are prepared for the international and national markets, and across local radio and local newspapers, including our neighbouring Counties.

### Classic Hits: Regional & multi-city:

There are 5 adverts currently running across Classic Hits Radio,

from April to August, regionally and multi-city included, to promote a visit to Clare, across our various attractions and campaigns.



followers is observed across these platforms. Promotional videos are currently in development to further promote a visit to County Clare.

A repeat of the Experience Ennis video is successfully running as a paid video marketing campaign, and will continue through the summer.

## Twinning



Cllr Tony O'Brien, Chair of the Clare Twinning Committee, presented Cllr Pat McMahon with a framed painting in recognition of his dedication and unwavering commitment to the Twinning Committee and partnerships throughout his public service, in seeking and sustaining international relationships.

## Traffic to the VisitClare.ie Website & Google Analytics and Social Media Platforms



The Visit Clare website sees strong Ireland interest with almost 52% of users from Ireland, while international traffic from the US (21%) and UK (15%) is also significant. Mobile devices dominate access at 67%, highlighting the need for continued mobile optimisation. Organic Search drives the majority of traffic (69%), indicating effective SEO. High engagement on event-related pages, particularly the "Be a Tourist" / "WOW" page, suggests strong interest in local events and attractions.

Due to the targeted social media campaign across all platforms, X, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook, a steady increase in

## Certification of Clare as an International Sustainable Tourism Destination



County Clare has been listed as a key destination in the newly launched Atlantic Sustainable Tourism Observatory Ireland, which is part of a major international initiative aimed at encouraging the tourism sector to commit to sustainable practices.

As Ireland's and northern Europe's first member of the UN Tourism International Network of Sustainable Tourism



Observatories (INSTO), the INSTO Observatory at Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo will work with the Clare tourism sector and other industry partners to monitor and measure over 40 indicators rooted in international best practices. By collecting indicators concerning the impacts of tourism on the Clare economy, communities and the environment, the Observatory's objective is to empower the local tourism sector to advance toward more sustainable practices.

The launch of the Observatory comes as the Tourism Department of Clare County Council and the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum, working in conjunction with ATU, through the County Clare Destination Green Team, collaborate to secure Ireland's first Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Destination certification.

During June, ITN Transformational Travel host Ken Murray interviewed and documented this process, which will be broadcast as part of this international travel series, in September 2024.



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## Ireland's National Circus Rolls into Bunratty

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Bunratty Castle and Folk Park were delighted to welcome the award-winning, Fossett's Circus on Saturday 15th and Sunday

16th of June. Featuring the very best of international circus acts, including jugglers, aerial acrobats and dare devils, the spectacle attracted visitors from near and far in addition to hundreds of local schoolchildren as Ireland's National Circus took up residency in the grounds of this woodland wonderland. During her residency, Marion Fossett, the ringmaster of Fossett's Circus commented "All of our performers and crew have very fond memories of our previous Bunratty visits and this year, we were delighted to put on an even bigger and better show than ever for the people of Clare and surrounding areas".

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## Traditional Victorian Carousel takes up Residency in Bunratty

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This June, the sound of joyful music and a vista of vibrant colours, await at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, as the attraction welcomes a traditional Victorian Carousel for visitors to experience and enjoy.

Operational from June 15th until Sunday, September 15th, embark on a magical journey with friends or family on this stunning Victorian carousel. Constructed in 1902, it has been meticulously reconstructed and maintained giving visitors to the park a wonderful old world carnival experience.

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## Discover the Western Loop

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***Come and see what West Clare has to offer.***

Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey through the enchanting landscapes of the Western Loop in West Clare. This picturesque route, dotted with charming towns like Lahinch, Kilkee, Kilbaha, and Kilrush, offers a delightful mix of natural beauty, historical landmarks, and local culture that promises to captivate your senses and leave you with lasting memories. Start your adventure at the newly renovated Loop Head Lighthouse Accommodation. Here, you can wake up to breathtaking views of the wild Atlantic waves. After a hearty breakfast, take a leisurely stroll around the tranquil surroundings

before heading to your next destination, Kilrush. From Kilrush Marina, set sail to Scattery Island, one of West Clare's hidden gems. A short ferry ride across glistening waters takes you to this mystical isle, where historical ruins and stunning vistas await. Guided tours offer rich insights into the island's past, making it a must-visit for history buffs and nature lovers alike. Back in Kilrush, the Vandeleur Walled Garden provides a perfect spot for lunch. This serene garden, nestled in Kilrush Wood, offers a botanical haven where you can enjoy a delicious meal amidst blooming flowers. A guided tour of the garden will introduce you to its rich history and diverse flora and fauna.



In the late afternoon, make your way to Kilkee. Start with a walk along the 1.5km International Blue Flag beach, or opt for the Kilkee Cliff Walk for dramatic coastal views. The rugged cliff paths provide panoramic vistas that are truly mesmerising. As evening approaches, head to the traditional fishing village of Carrigaholt for dinner at The Long Dock. This award-winning restaurant is renowned for its fresh local fare, sourced directly from the nearby bay. The rustic charm and culinary craftsmanship here have earned The Long Dock numerous accolades, making it a dining experience not to be missed. Return to Loop Head Lighthouse Accommodation to unwind. Share stories of your day's adventures over a cup of tea or a glass of wine. A leisurely evening stroll around the lighthouse offers a splendid view of the sunset, painting the sky in hues of crimson and gold.

Begin the next day with a complimentary tour of the iconic Loop Head Lighthouse. After soaking in the views, drive to Spanish Point for a refreshing dip in the Atlantic. Warm up at the Armada Hotel, which prides itself on locally sourced, sustainable produce. Enjoy a meal that showcases the best of North Clare's meats, vegetables from their own farm, and the famous Burren smoked salmon. Next, explore the charming town of Ennistymon. Visit the Foust Gallery, browse local shops, and immerse yourself in the vibrant arts scene. A historic town walk to the Cascades will enrich your understanding of Ennistymon past.

No visit to County Clare is complete without experiencing the Cliffs of Moher Experience. Evening visits are ideal, offering the best light for panoramic views and a serene atmosphere. The visitor centre provides insights into the delicate ecosystem surrounding these majestic cliffs. Enjoy the new 4D Ledge Experience, the first of its kind in Ireland. Download the app and audio guide for fascinating stories about this iconic site. Engage with local guides who are eager to share their knowledge and passion for the area. As the sun sets, reflect on your journey through the Western Loop. This trip offers just a glimpse of what County Clare has to offer.

Each moment, each destination, leaves you with a deeper appreciation for the region's beauty and charm. The Western Loop is more than a route; it's an invitation to explore, experience, and fall in love with County Clare. If you want to be in with a chance to win a Western Loop Trip, scan the QR code and enter your details to be in with a chance to win this Western Loop Giveaway.

If you would like to book accommodation at Loop Head Lighthouse, please email [info@loopheadighthouse.com](mailto:info@loopheadighthouse.com)

To book the Cliffs of Moher and save 70%, please visit [cliffsofmoher.ie](http://cliffsofmoher.ie)

To book Vandeleur Walled Garden, visit [www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie](http://www.vandeleurwalledgarden.ie)

**ENTER TO  
WIN A TRIP  
AROUND THE  
WESTERN  
LOOP!**

CLIFFSOFMOHER.IE/WESTERN-  
LOOP-COMPETITION



SCAN ME



**ONE LUCKY  
WINNER  
WILL GET:**

- A two night stay in the newly renovated Loop Head Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage.
- A boat trip for 2 people to Scattery Island.
- Admission and lunch at Vandeleur Walled Garden and Visitor Centre in Kilrush.
- Evening Admission for 2 to the Cliffs of Moher Experience.
- Dinner for 2 at The Long Dock in Carrigaholt.
- Brunch for 2 at The Armada Hotel in Spanish Point.

**ENTER NOW!**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY  
SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY





## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH LEA

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024

Road making equipment is with Kilrush LEA & road recycling and resurfacing (*tar, spray & chippings*) is ongoing.



Location: **Kiltumper wind farm**



Location: **Lack West**



Location: **Islandavanna**



Location: **Drominoor**

### Line Marking

Line marking contractors have been appointed and refreshing of road lines throughout the LEA is ongoing.



Line Marking 1 - **Doonbeg White Strand - Blue Flag beach**



Line Marking 2 - **Place de Plouzané - Kilrush**



Line Marking 3 - **Place de Plouzané - Kilrush**

# FINANCE & SUPPORT SERVICES

## HUMAN RESOURCES



### Recruitment Competitions



The following **recruitment competitions** were progressed during May and June

#### Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Library Staff Officer
- Executive Architect
- P/T Receptionist - Active Ennis
- Craftsman
- Plant Operator A
- Assistant Chief Fire Officer
- Facilities Management Attendant
- Senior Facilities Attendant

- Burial Grounds/Playgrounds Co-ordinator
- Assistant Chief Fire Officer
- Library Facilities Attendant (Part-time)
- Senior Facilities Attendant
- Communications Officer

#### Interviews

- Community Warden (Confined)
- P/T Receptionist - Active Ennis
- Theatre Attendant - Culturlann Sweeney
- Library Staff Officer
- Box Office Attendant - Culturlann Sweeney
- Plant Operator A
- Facilities Management Attendant

#### The following competitions were advertised:

- Apprentice Heavy Vehicle Mechanic (4 Year Programme)
- Communications Officer (Grade VII)
- Retained Fire-Fighter Panels (Part-time) - Shannon, Killaloe, Kilrush & Kilkee
- IS Project Leader (Cyber Security) (Grade VII)
- IS Analyst Cyber Security (Grade VI)
- Visual Arts Coordinator (Grade V)
- Beach Operative - Ballycuggeran Killaloe





### Learning and Development

Training programmes / Webinars / Conferences/ Information Sessions held in May & June include:

- Grade 5 & Analogous Competency Based Interview Training
- Intercultural Awareness training.

- Wellbeing & Remote Working
- What is Unconscious Bias

### Health & Safety

- Chainsaw New Entrant
- Life jacket & Water Safety Training
- Manual Handling
- Bridge Inspection & Maintenance
- Pole Saw Training
- Safe Pass

### Employee Wellbeing



### Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Being an Active Listener
- Giving Useful Feedback
- Having Difficult Conversations
- Health & Safety Induction
- Implementing Reasonable Adjustments
- Managing Change
- Managing Performance Effectively
- Manual Handling
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Providing Great Customer Service
- Resilience
- Sleep
- Slips, Trips & Falls
- Stress Awareness
- Unconscious Bias



In May the Wellbeing Hub was focused on Physical Activity. In addition, the SunSmart campaign was promoted as a result of the fine weather.

PTSB and the Climate Action Team hosted a tea break information session for staff to promote Green Loans and Energy Upgrade Grants.

The Mental Health Ireland 'Hello How are You' Campaign was also promoted this month with information about local Clare events.

Safe Talk, delivered by the HSE, providing training on Suicide

Awareness took place with 17 staff attending in May.

- 'Think Smart - Cyber Awareness Mindset Safe Talk for Parents of Primary and Senior Children' was delivered by Noone Cyber Services in Council Chamber on 18th June.
- VHI Virtual Wellbeing Events were held June 2024 on the following topics:
  - o 5th June - How Buying Local Empowers Global Change
  - o 13th June - Introduction to all things LGBTQ
  - o 26th June - Diversity & Inclusion: Embracing Difference

In June the 'Employee Financial Wellbeing' Programme was launched. Approx. 100 staff attended over 4 webinars.

### Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### Appointment of Permanent Head of Information Systems



Alfie Jones (pictured above) will be appointed Head of Information Systems, Clare County Council.

## FINANCE

### Procurement

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 28th May to 19th June inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Safer Routes to School Scheme Holy Family National School Phase 1 Bothar na Trócaire Friars Walk	3794618	02/07/2024 12:00	Simplified
Public Lighting Maintenance Contract in Co Limerick and Co Clare 2024	3782826	17/07/2024 12:00	Open
Refurbishment Works to Fire Damaged House at No. 4 Bridge View, Roslevan, Ennis, Co. Clare	3692886	27/06/2024 16:00	Open
Scarriff Rural Regeneration Project Building and Car Park	3682457	09/07/2024 13:00	Open





# PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Town Centre First

The Town Centre First Policy seeks to create Town Centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit.



The Town Centre First Department has begun a process of seeking expressions of interest to be involved in new Town Teams in Tulla, Lisdoonvarna and Kilrush.



Joan Tarmey, Town Regeneration Officer (Acting) discusses Town Teams with community in Tulla Courthouse.

Meetings have also commenced with the community in Clarecastle. The response from the communities has been very positive, and in each of the towns, there is considerable demand to have a representative voice for the whole town. Submissions will be reviewed during the summer and gaps identified with a view to setting up Town Teams.

### Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

Kilrush Town will benefit from funding to produce a Town Centre First Masterplan. Preparatory work is underway with cross-directorate consultation and engagement with the existing Kilrush Town Team. It was agreed to set up a new Kilrush Town Team so that it aligns fully with the Town Centre First Framework, and expressions

of interest are inviting people to participate right across the town.



Documentation is being prepared to invite consultants to tender for the preparation of a Town Centre First Plan for Kilrush in close consultation with a new Town Team and the wider community. The new Town Centre First Plan will set out a path so that Kilrush can become a more

vibrant, viable and attractive town to live, work, visit and invest in.

Decisions are awaited from the Minister of Rural & Community Development confirming beneficiaries of the Project Development Measures under the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024.



Town Centre First Department staff meeting various groups in Kilrush Town to promote formation of a New Town Team.



## FORWARD PLANNING

### Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The Residential Zoned Land Tax Annual Draft Maps were published on 1st February 2024. A public notice was issued in both national and local papers advising submissions on the Annual Draft Map could be made up until the 1st April 2024 for the inclusion/exclusion of specific sites, and 31st May 2024 for rezoning requests on lands identified on the annual draft map.

The consultation period for making submissions on the inclusion/exclusion of specific sites for the RZLT closed on the 1st April 2024. 15 submissions were received and these have been published on the Council's website. The process of assessing and making determinations on all submissions has now completed as the Council is required to notify those who made submissions requesting their lands to be removed from the scope of the RZLT, of its decision, by 1st July 2024. Following this, if submitters wish to do so, they can appeal the Council's decision to An Bord Pleanála. The closing date for appeals is 1st August 2024.

As part of the RZLT process submissions could also be made to request a zoning change regarding land identified on the RZLT Annual Draft map and 5 submissions were received by the deadline of 31st May. These submissions have been published on the Council's website and following the consideration of the rezoning requests, notification of the decision on whether it is the Local Authorities intention to proceed with the statutory consideration of an amendment to rezone will be issued by the required date of

31st July. There is no appeal process in relation to the decisions made on rezoning requests.

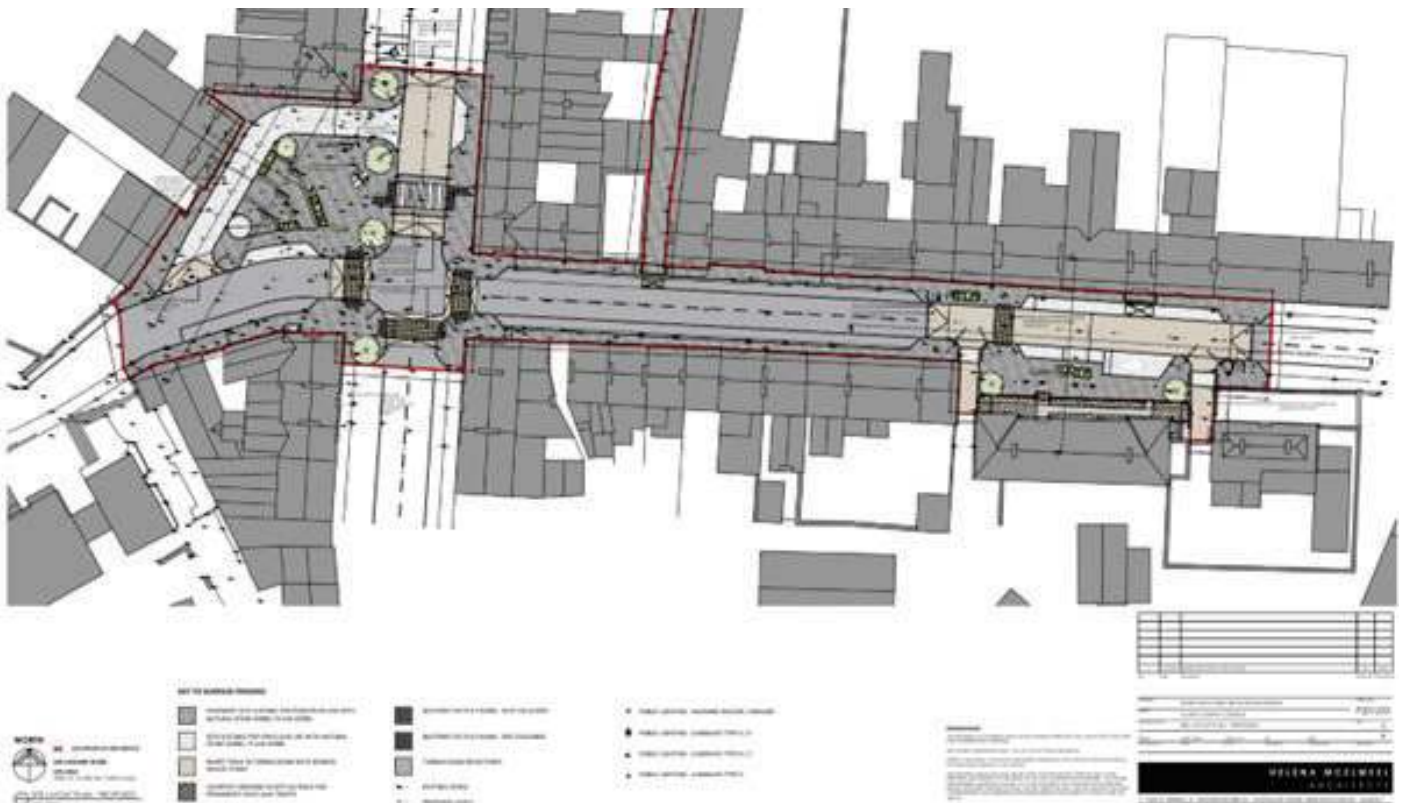
### One Shannon Hub

In June, the project team met with the URDF officials from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to discuss the current concept design project progression. It now appears more likely that a future URDF funding call will be towards the end of 2024 and the One Shannon Hub project will progress to meet that deadline.

### Ennistymon Public Realm Improvement works - Part VIII

The Part VIII planning consent application for the proposed Enhancement works at Ennistymon was submitted on the 7th June.

The proposed development is one of the key projects set out in the Ennistymon Enhancement Strategy which was completed in 2023 and which was subject to extensive public consultation. The proposed public realm enhancement works includes upgrades to footpaths, provision of a pedestrian friendly raised table area with controlled crossing, provision of a pedestrian friendly raised table with new courtesy crossing, raised courtesy crossings, revisions to on-street car parking layouts, new paved surfaces, and relocation of existing and provision of new street lighting and street furniture.





A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, may be made in writing to the Planning Department, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road Ennis Co.

Clare V95 DXP2 or by e-mail to [planoff@clarecoco.ie](mailto:planoff@clarecoco.ie) no later than 4.00pm on 19th July 2024 and should be clearly marked 'Ennistymon Public Realm Improvement Works'.



### Kilrush Maritime Training Centre

Work is continuing on the preparation of a funding application under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund – Smart Innovation Scheme for Kilrush Maritime Training Centre. The application is being made under Stream one of the Scheme where €145 million is being made available to infrastructure projects which provide innovative capabilities to the region in line with the strategic and regional objectives of both the Mid-West Enterprise Plan 2024 and Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy.

### Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary

A key Action arising from the publication of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce Report was to re-establish the SIFP



Steering Group which published the Plan for the Shannon Estuary in 2013.

Work is continuing on the preparation of a funding application under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund – Smart Innovation Scheme for Kilrush Maritime Training Centre. The application is being made under Stream one of the Scheme where €145 million euro is being made available to infrastructure projects which provide innovative capabilities to the region in line with the strategic and regional objectives of both the Mid-West Enterprise Plan 2024 and Ireland's Smart Specialisation Strategy.

#### Re-establishment of Shannon Estuary Integrated Framework Planning Working Group

- Re-establishment and resourcing of the Shannon Estuary Strategic Integrated Framework Plan Steering Committee to recommence preparatory planning and environmental activities for current and potential new SDLs, with adequate support and centrally resourced.

SIFP Lead  
Partners,  
DHLGH

Q3, 2023

## CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

### Wonder Wander Walking Trails: Ennis and Ennistymon Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs)

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage has partnered with Clare County Council to create Wonder Wander Walking Trails. The walking trails will raise awareness of and an appreciation for the rich built heritage in two Architectural Conservation Areas: one in the medieval core of Ennis Town and the other in Ennistymon.

The *Wonder Wander Walking Trails* will be developed in collaboration with the local communities. In addition to well-known public buildings, each trail will shine a light on some of the lesser-known architectural details and the stories that are associated with these unique places.



### Section 57 Applications

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

Section 57 Declarations	June 2024 up to & including 25/06/2024	Total (Valid) Year to date 2024
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	5	18

## BIODIVERSITY

### National Biodiversity Week 2024

National Biodiversity Week ran from the 17th to the 26th of May 2024 and is organised on an annual basis by the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), with support from the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Events are run by IEN member groups, as well as by Biodiversity Officers, Heritage Officers and other local groups. Clare County Council coordinated 12 events to celebrate and promote biodiversity in County Clare. 10 events were organised and coordinated through the Council's Biodiversity Officer while 2 events were organised by Scarriff Library. Events catered for mixed age groups and there was significant interest among the public to learn more about biodiversity in their local area. Clare County Council teamed up with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), BirdWatch Ireland, Coastwatch, Irish Seed Savers, Clare Libraries, National Biodiversity Data Centre, Tidy Towns groups, Diocese of Killaloe, An Taisce's Green Schools and local experts, hosted biodiversity themed events to mark the occasion. Events aimed to engage the public about measures they could do to record and help biodiversity in their local area and topics covered included community biodiversity action plans, invasive species, biodiversity recording, citizen science projects, pollinators, birds, bats, marine habitats and much more. The programme of events was well attended and there was significant interaction on the 'Greener Clare' social media platforms which promoted events online in addition to local print media coverage on the *Clare Echo*, *Clare Champion*, Clare Herald and the radio programme 'Ours to Protect' on Clare FM. National Biodiversity

Week will be an important action in the next Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2030 to raise awareness and the profile of biodiversity to the general public. A special thank you to all our speakers and those who attended. The following events were organised by Clare County Council:

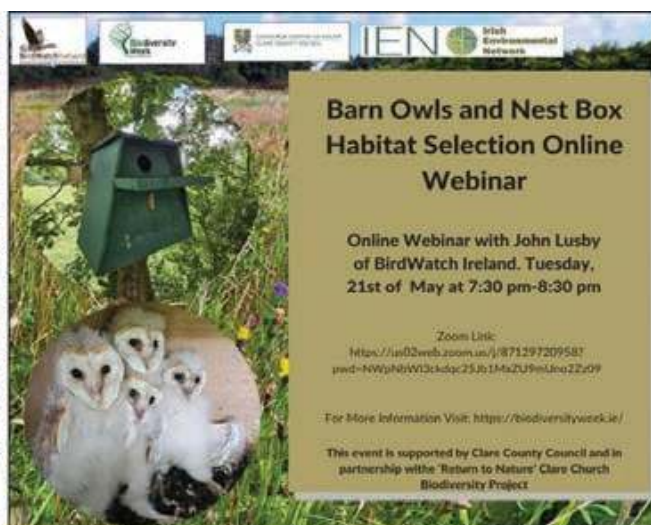
- Biodiversity Talk with Connolly Tidy Towns (Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer)
- Biodiversity Talk and Walk at Ballybeg Woods (Donncha O'Cathain)
- Planting A Traditional Orchard with Irish Seed Savers (Clarecastle) (Irish Seed Savers)
- Barn Owls and Nest Box Habitat Selection Online Webinar (John Lusby, Birdwatch Ireland)
- Invasive Species Online Talk for Tidy Towns with Colette O'Flynn (National Biodiversity Data Centre)
- Biodiversity Workshop at Parteen National School (Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer, Clare Green Schools Travel Officer and Parteen Town Team).
- Return To Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project with Minister Malcolm Noonan (Clare County Council and Inagh Tidy Towns)
- Nature Art Workshop and Seed Planting (Clare Libraries – Scarriff)
- Planting A Traditional Orchard with Irish Seed Savers (Inagh) (Irish Seed Savers)
- Ecology of Rock Pools and Seagrass with Jane Kelleher (Coastwatch)



- Become a Citizen Scientist (Clare Libraries - Scarriff) and Wildlife Service).
- Birds of Craggaunowen with Jamie Durrant (National Parks



**Biodiversity Week 1** A biodiversity talk was given to various tidy towns groups in Connolly while a bird talk was given by NPWS ranger Jamie Durrant at Craggaunowen.





### Biodiversity Week 2

Events included a woodland walk and talk at Ballybeg Woods by Donncha O’Cathain; a barn owl talk by BirdWatch Ireland’s John Lusby; two events by Seed Savers at Clarecastle and Inagh organised by Clare County Council in conjunction with Clarecastle Tidy Towns and Inagh Tidy Towns.



### Biodiversity Week 3

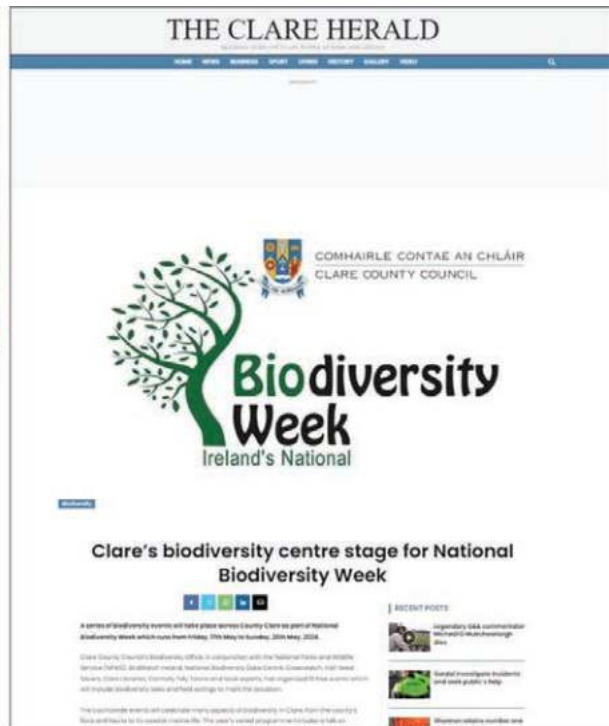
A talk was given by Coastwatch on the ecology of rock pools and seagrass in Quilty while Clare County Council’s Biodiversity Officer, Clare Green Schools Travel Officer and Parteen Town Team visited Parteen National School to engage in a biodiversity workshop with 4th class students.





## Biodiversity Week 4

Local print media coverage promoting Clare County Council's National Biodiversity Week events.



## 'No Mow May'

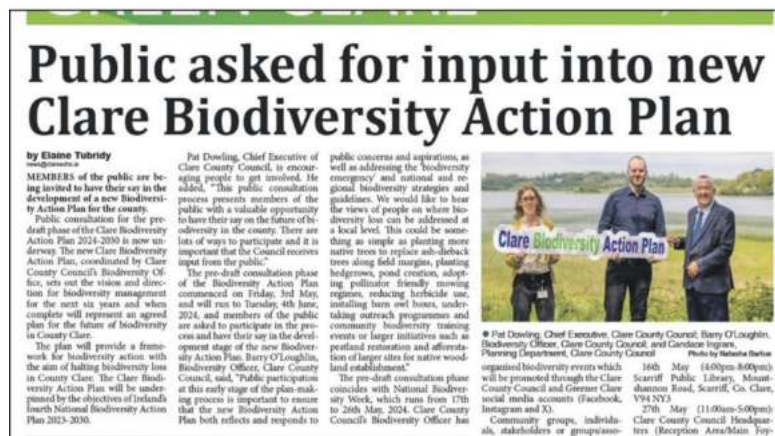
Clare County Council has been managing the Council grounds on New Road, Ennis for 'No Mow May'. The Council has participated in 'No Mow May' over the last few years and in that time we have seen a seed bank develop with an increase in wildflowers providing a pollen and nectar source. This year we have recorded cuckoo flower, hawksbeard, self-heal, red clover, white clover, mouse-ear, dandelion all of which are providing a nectar and pollen source to declining pollinators. Clare County Council commissioned and designed new signs and a special thank you to our

gardening section in Clare County Council for attaching posts on signs and for installing the signs. Clare County Council signed up as a council partner of the 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan' in February 2020. 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%. 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.



### Pre-Draft Consultation Phase Clare Biodiversity Action Plan

The pre-draft consultation phase for the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan ran from the 3rd of May to the 4th of June. Members of the public, organisations (statutory and non-statutory), council staff and local interest groups were invited to have their say in the development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan for the county. The plan will provide a framework for biodiversity action with the aim of halting biodiversity loss in County Clare. The Clare Biodiversity Action Plan will be underpinned by the objectives of Ireland's fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030.



There was significant interest from members of the public who came to the public consultation days and made submissions online putting forward ideas and comments of what should be included in the next plan. In-person public walk-in events with Clare County Council staff were held in Ennistymon, Kilrush, Scarriff, Ennis and Shannon. Engagement was also promoted during National Biodiversity Week. The next stage will consolidate and review submissions received to inform the preparation of the draft plan.



Pre-Draft Public Consultation for the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2030 ran from the 3rd of May to the 4th of June.

### Minister Malcolm Noonan Visits 'Return To Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project'

An event was organised by Clare County Council, Inagh Tidy Towns and Senator Roisin Garvey to celebrate the Local Biodiversity Action Funded (LBAF) project 'Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project' on the 16th of May 2024. Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcom Noonan visited Inagh church to observe the biodiversity actions that have been carried out to date. This includes installation of bat roost boxes, planting pollinator friendly trees, installing nest boxes for red-listed birds of conservation concern including swift and barn owl, installing bird tables, bird feeders, planting pollinator friendly bulbs and managing a large section of the church grounds for pollinators where the local community and parish priest have adopted a six week short-cut flowering meadow with pollinator signs. Inagh is one of 12 churches in Clare participating in the project. The church yard supports the rare adders tongue fern. The event marked International Day for Biological Diversity. This project is coordinated by Clare County Council.



Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcom Noonan visits Inagh Church grounds one of 12 participating churches carrying out biodiversity actions as part of the 'Return to Nature Clare Church Biodiversity Project'.

### All Ireland Pollinator Plan Conference

Local Authority/Council staff across the country were invited to the 2024 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan conference, focusing on meadow management and pesticide alternatives. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer was present. The Ennis roundabouts and pollinator friendly mowing regimes have been widely

documented by the project team coordinating the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Clare County Council is a Council partner of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan since February 2020 and has a duty to report pollinator friendly activities adopted at the end of each year.



## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of June (to 26/06/2024), together with the year to date figures. Fifty one per cent of planning applications received in June to date were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	June (to 26/06/24)	Year to date 2024
No. of planning applications received	65	499
No. of Planning Decisions made	56	432
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	8	33
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	14	121
No. of Section 5 applications	7	52
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	1	19
Submissions received regarding Compliance	15	134

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

### May Statistics

New complaints received	31
New files opened	5
Files closed	2
Warning Letters issued	8
Enforcement Notice issued	6
Legal	2

### June (up to and including 21st June 2024)

New complaints received	16
New files opened	7
Files closed	1
Warning Letters issued	9
Enforcement Notice issued	0
Legal	0

## LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Training:** LEO Clare training programmes were in high demand throughout May & June with a total over 170 clients signing up to courses throughout the two months. These courses included training in Chat GPT, Customs, Intellectual Property, Start Your Own Business & Bookkeeping. LEO Clare also held a Green Energy Efficient Workshop for which over 38 businesses signed up.
- **Mentoring:** In June, LEO Clare completed "one-to-one mentoring clinics" which catered for up to 21 businesses. Mentoring was offered in the areas of Finance & Business Start Up; Marketing & Sales; & Social Media, Website & Digital. Additionally, to date, 103 mentoring applications have been assigned in 2024.

### May Evaluation Committee Meeting

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their third evaluation meeting of 2024 in May. Two businesses were granted funding for Business Expansion and one Priming Grant project was also approved.

### National Enterprise Awards Final

Atlantic Clinical Packaging Ltd. t/a One-Use Harm Reduction Products represented Clare at the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House in Dublin on 23rd May. Michael Considine competed against the country's best small businesses & was a worthy finalist. The National Enterprise Awards also celebrated 10 years since the inception of the Local Enterprise Offices in 2014 with several former winners attending on the evening.



L to R: Deirdre Keating & Padraic McElwee, LEO Clare; Christina O'Reilly, Eoin McMahon, Deirdre Considine, Michael Considine, Atlantic Clinical Packaging, Brian Dobson MC, Cllr. Joe Cooney, Sinead Dixon Slattery, LEO Clare & Carmel Kirby, DOS Economic Development

## Student Enterprise Programme National Final

Students from Ennistymon Community School, St Annes Community College and St John Bosco Community College, Kildysart, took part in this years Student Enterprise Programme National Final, which took place in the Mullingar Park Hotel on the 9th May. With the 2023/24 Student Enterprise Programme now wrapped up, work has commenced on recruiting schools for the upcoming 2024/25 Programme which will start in September.

## Showcase 2025

In June, LEO Clare sought Expressions of Interest from Clare craft businesses to attend Showcase in January 2025 in the RDS, Dublin. The annual show attracts buyers & press from Ireland & around the world looking for unique, design-led products in fashion, knitwear, jewellery, crafts, gifts, home accessories & wellbeing. The closing date for applications is 26th June 2024.

# PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

## Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 25th June and the numbers to date in 2024 and the corresponding figures for 2023.

As the property market in the county continues to be quite active, we continue to assist many solicitors acting for their clients on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc. We are also doing a number of applications for first registration of Council property and assessing the various properties we own for correct title.

Transaction type	May and June 2024	Year to date 2024	Full year 2023
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	1	2	7
Licence to use property / building	2	9	7
Grazing Agreement for Lands	1	19	17
Deed of Transfer signed	0	4	15
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	0	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	5	2
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	1	2	4
Allotment Agreements signed	40	40	39

## Casual Trading

The granting of Cfor Summer events is ongoing and licences

have been granted Willie Clancy Week in Miltown Malbay, the Horse Fairs in Kilrush, the Shannon Mela Event in Shannon Town Park and Kilkee.

# DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 260 properties that are considered derelict. We continue to increase levels of activity and to date in 2024, we have identified and commenced engagement on 17 additional properties which we consider to be derelict and further derelict properties are being identified on a weekly basis. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to gain an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, we commence engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

We are also seeing the number of planning applications for refurbishment works and extensions increasing and works commencing on individual properties. We are advising property owners of the vacant property refurbishment grant if the property is suitable for residential use. With time and effort, working with owners, financial institutions and other departments, there are definite options for positive re-development and revitalisation of many such derelict sites.

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in May and June (up to 25th June) and the comparative figures for the full year 2023.

Derelict Sites	May and June 2024	Year to date 2024	Full Year 2023
No. of new files opened	5	17	58
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued – Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	19	24	41
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued – Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	9	19	24
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	6	16	15
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	1	3	10
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	0	9



## Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

In 2023, the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government has launched a CPO activation programme for local authorities and has set targets for CPOs for each local authority. We commenced this programme in 2022 and the Table below sets out the status of those CPO's commenced in 2022, 2023 and to date in 2024.

Year	No of CPOs commenced	Current Status
2022	6	3 – CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works (see photos below where works are currently underway)
		1 – CPO completed, title got and sale has been approved by Council in March 2024
		2 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	7 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - completed recently and is intended to be put on open market for sale in coming months
		1 - Objection received and has been referred to An Bord Pleanála
		1 - Works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2024	3	1 – At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - CPO process commenced
		1 - Objection received and has been referred to An Bord Pleanála for decision

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide funding for CPO's on a rolling basis in the town of Ennis with the objective being that these properties would then be sold on the open market. A particular emphasis will be on properties that have potential for residential use. One such CPO is with the PRA for registration and works have recently been completed in order to safeguard the property in the interim. A particular focus on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market.

## Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on the derelict sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register commenced in 2023 and notices have been issued to a number of property owners to date. Three of these the owners have appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and decisions are awaited. The levy is an annual levy

while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. This works is being further progressed during 2024 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. Clare County Council will be billing the levy as per the budget adopted for 2024. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function.

At the end of June 2024, the derelict sites levy was billed on eight property owners in the total sum of €125,860.

## Survey of Vacant and Derelict Properties

The Team has recently completed the first round of surveys of vacant and derelict properties in towns and villages around the County. Based on the Geo-directory data on vacancy and dereliction, the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government has asked the Council to validate the data that they hold. A total of 1,900 individual surveys have been completed (with the data being uploaded digitally). The next stages are the assessment of the priority areas for further action, work on getting information on ownership and making contact with owners. The data collected will be the basis for future policy direction and will guide the work programme of the Derelict Sites Team and the Vacant Homes Team. The data collected will also support the work being done by Town Teams under Town Centres First policy.

## VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT - FOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

The level of approvals of the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant by Clare County Council now amounts to €13.5 million as at 25th June 2024 (225 grant applications), with further approvals due to issue next week. This is a very significant investment in housing in County Clare and the work ongoing around the county in renovations and extensions is very visible. The Vacant Homes Team continues to advise applicants on all elements of the scheme

and is available to meet with individuals to take them through the process.

The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District shows the level of potential investment in West Clare Municipal District in particular, which accounts for 59% of all Grants approved to date.

### Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (incl those with grant funding paid out)

Local Electoral Area	No of applications approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	86	€5.3 million	40%
Ennistymon LEA	44	€2.6 million	19%
Ennis LEA	37	€2.2 million	16%
Killaloe LEA	31	€1.7 million	13%
Shannon LEA	27	€1.6 million	12%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>€13.5 million</b>	<b>100%</b>

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant. At time of writing, we have received 403 applications for the grant and we are in the top seven local authorities in the Country in relation to application numbers. Our response time for initial assessment of new applications is generally three to four weeks. We are now following up with applications where a request for additional information issued to them to assist them in completing their application.

To date, we have processed fifteen grant payments (€1 million paid to date) and there are a number of claims for payments on hands. The level of claims is increasing and reflects completion of works on properties for which the grant was approved in 2022 and 2023.

The table below sets out the status of applications as at 25th June 2024.

### Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Applications (Note analysis is by date application was received)

Application Status	Current Status	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total	%
Application in Progress	In Progress			7	7	2%
	Further Information Requested	1	15	54	70	17%
	Awaiting Technical Inspection		9	21	30	7%
<b>Application in Progress Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>27%</b>
Application Finalised	Approved	13	161	35	209	52%
	Grant Funding Paid Out	6	10		16	4%
	Grant Funding Withdrawn	2			2	0%
	Withdrawn	10	27	2	39	10%
	Refused	1	29		30	7%
<b>Application Finalised Total</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>100%</b>



### Points of Information

1. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 56% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 44% for properties in towns and villages.
2. To date, 71% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (288 properties) and the balance of 29% are for rent. Note – The option to apply for the grant for rental purposes was introduced in May 2023.
3. A review of the Grants Scheme is being undertaken by the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government. We have fed into this review and have brought the concerns and suggestions of the elected members to their attention. The outcome of this review is awaited.

This measure will boost the supply of rental properties and properties for permanent residence and will deliver on a key

priority 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.

Full details of the scheme and eligibility criteria are published on the Council's website. The contact email address for further information and guidance on the grants scheme is [vacant-homes@clarecoco.ie](mailto:vacant-homes@clarecoco.ie). We continue to meet individual owners to guide them through the process and to ensure they have all the documentation when submitting their application. We will consider holding further one-to-one clinics around the County during 2024.

[gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - Vacant homes

## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Since the last Council Meeting in May, Ennis MD staff have progressed a range of issues and initiatives during the months of May and June. We had a busy and exciting time leading up to the Local Elections in June with a lot of issues and queries being put to the Councillors on the Door which in turn were passed on to our staff for action and result. Some of the key developments over the period are included below.

On the topic of the Local Election, the Ennis MD staff would

like to congratulate all successful candidates on their election. We welcome back the 5 returning Councillors who had sought re-election and we thank our recently retired Members, Cllr Ann Norton and Cllr Johnny Flynn, for their many years of committed public service. We especially welcome our two new Ennis MD Members, Cllr Antoinette Baker Bashua and Cllr Tommy Guilfoyle. We look forward to working with all seven Ennis MD Members over the next five years for the betterment of the Town, its Environs and the communities that we serve.



### Roadworks Programme 2024

Ennis MD roads crews have been busy throughout May and June preparing roads for the commencement of road marking and resurfacing as part of the 2024 Roadworks Programme. The preparatory work involved includes the following activities.

- Installing drainage pipelines, new gullies and soakaways.
- Opening drainage inlets and opening back drains along roadways.
- Removal of any overhanging branches and trees that cause an obstruction from a road safety and minimum road width aspect
- Accommodation works to property entrances.
- Verge cleaning and trimming.



### Additional Carparking at Gort Road Business Park

Due to the need for additional car parking for an expanding workforce at the Gort Road Business Park, an additional row of parking, totalling 60 No. spaces, is in the detailed design stage. It is considered that this additional capacity will ease the increasing pressure experienced at present. Subject to timely consents, it is hoped that this work can be completed by year end.

### Low Cost Traffic Safety Projects

The junction between Summerhill and the Market roundabout has been designed and completed by staff of the Ennis Municipal District. Traffic and pedestrian controls were put in place during construction works. The reduction in the width of the carriageway reinforces the one-way street to Summerhill with soft landscaping introduced resulting in a safer and more accessible crossing point. The feedback since the works were completed has been extremely positive.



### Traffic Calming Measures

Ennis MD recently installed traffic calming measures at the following locations,

- R 458, Skehanagh, Clarecastle.
- R 469, Quin Road.
- L 4114, Doora.
- L 4180, Lees Road.

These traffic calming measures involved the installation of rumble strips and enhanced SLOW markings at these locations. These works were carried out under a low-cost safety scheme and received Section 38 approval at the March Ennis MD meeting. The Gaurus Road, L4118 is outstanding, and works will be carried out once the resurfacing of this road is completed.



## Grass and Weed Maintenance

Following the No Mow May, Grass cutting continues around Ennis, Clarecastle and Environs. Strimming, Cutting and Zero-grazing has resulted in the Green areas and Roundabouts in-volved, looking extremely well indeed. Weed Control has had one spray completed, with the next one due in mid to late July, weather permitting.

## Purple Flag Assessment & Award

Ennis is seeking to renew its 'Purple Flag' accreditation in 2024. This is awarded to towns and cities who achieve excellence in the evening and night-time economy. A self-assessment was carried out in Ennis by the Purple Flag committee on June 14th with the full assessment due to be carried out by the external Purple Flag assessors on Saturday, August 10th.

## Relay for Life – Ennis

Ennis MD were happy to assist with this year's 24 hours Relay for Life event run by local communities each year to celebrate cancer survivors and raise awareness. Ennis MD staff helped out with the stage, crowd barriers, cones and street cleaning during the 2 day event held on June 15/16th.



## Tim Smythe Park – New Furniture fitted

Ennis MD completed the installation of new park furniture in Tim Smythe Park. Necessary works involved excavation for new foundations along with the actual installation of the furniture itself. The public are encouraged to enjoy the facilities but also to respect them.



## Upcoming Tidy Towns Adjudication process

As always, Ennis MD continues to give assistance to the Ennis Tidy Towns Committee and Volunteers in preparation for the assessment and judging period. Additional street cleaning has been completed, the first round of weed maintenance has been carried out and additional efforts have been made to deal with areas where substantial dead weeds were present.

Moreover, as promised, a dedicated crew has also commenced work at Ballyalla Lake Amenity Park, edging pathways, hedge cutting and completing a general tidy up of the general areas there.



## Safer Routes to Schools

In collaboration with Ennis National School, our Ennis MD staff installed additional safety measures on pedestrian access routes to the school from the Kilrush Road and the existing School Warden managed crossing point. Measures included new chicane barriers to raise awareness of the public road adjacent to the walkway. Other measures at this location included the upgrade of existing warning lighting at the crossing point and relocation of variable message signs (VMS) to warn and inform vehicle users of the school crossing itself.



### Cleaning of Chapel Lane

Works were undertaken in recent weeks involving a deep clean of the paving in Chapel Lane. Works involved application of an environmentally sensitive paving solution followed by a powerwash of the laneway resulting in a much brighter and cleaner pavement for all to enjoy.



### Pothole Repairs

Ennis MD continues to monitor and repair road defects where necessary. Pothole repairs have been carried out this month in areas including Pound Lane, Westfields, Greendale, Riverside, The Green, Clare Road and Tulla Road. Members and the Driving Public are reminded that in general, potholes are created due to impacts of bad weather in combination with heavy traffic volumes. Damage to tyres and wheels are an unfortunate byproduct of driving and we encourage the public to report potholing in the areas at the earliest juncture possible so that repairs can be carried out and risk of damage or accident can be minimised.



### Expert Opinion and Stakeholder Group consultation

Ennis MD is fortunate to have many partners with the knowledge, expertise and competence to assist us with the various projects and studies that we are involved in. These include various State Agencies, Consultants, Academics, Local Interest Groups and Representatives Bodies. Some of the Projects and Initiatives that we have collaborated on over the past month include the Ennis Town Bus Service, the Area Based Transport Assessment, Placemaking and Sustainable Transport. This knowledge sharing and lessons learned will assist us in Project Approvals and Funding Applications into the future.

### Other Key Strategic works

In addition to the aforementioned, Ennis MD staff continue to work on a cross directorate basis with our colleagues and the appropriate Government Departments in advancing the Ennis Public Realm works, the LIHAF Access Road project, the Tulla Road and Clare Road Active Travel Projects. We also work closely with our DAC colleagues in developing the ambitious plans outlined in the Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy. The 4 main proposals currently being progressed under the Strategy are as follows:

### Francis Street S179A Affordable Housing Proposal

Enabling works completed. Judicial review lodged with High Court. Awaiting decision which will inform our next course of action.

### Abbey Street (Riverside proposal)

Following the recent 3 nights of Public Consultation event, the report on the findings from same is being prepared.

### Harvey's Quay

Concept Design being completed. Discussion continuing with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

### Post Office Field Masterplan

Presentations were made to various groups including the Ennis MD Elected Members and other representative stakeholders during the month. In addition, two well attended public consultation evenings in respect of proposed development took place in the Civic Room in late April. Conceptual Drawings of the proposal were also displayed in the Council HQ Foyer with hard copy and online forms available for the public to have their say. Further details are on the Council's website.



# PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2024 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Annual Roadworks Programme) has been adopted by the municipal districts in April. The annual roadworks programme has now commenced in all 4 Municipal Districts.

In accordance with Circular RW 09/2024 Clare County Council received additional funding of €1.296m towards the Restoration Improvement (RI) grant which has increased the overall RI funding to €14.389m. The additional funding is to facilitate repairs to the road network caused by the prolonged period of persistent rainfall.

### Strategic Transportation

#### Active Travel

The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel office:

Tulla Road Cycle scheme:

- Detailed design for this project is ongoing. First iteration of the detailed design was issued to CCC and NTA for review and comment in June 2024, a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit was also conducted with resulting issues addressed.

• Ennis LTP:

Systra Consulting Engineers are working with relevant stakeholders and progressing the Local Transport Plan for Ennis.

Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle scheme:

- The Feasibility and Option selection report and cost estimates have been submitted to the NTA for approval.

Connecting & Co-creating Ennis:

- This project will continue through 2024 with a number of junction-tightening and raised crossings planned.

‘Safe Routes To School’ program:

- Clonmoney National School: The project delivering traffic calming and enhanced pedestrian/cycling facilities has been completed. It is hoped to have an official launch of the scheme in the coming months.



- Holy Family National School: Phase 1 of this scheme is currently at the tender phase with contract set to be awarded by the 5th July. It is envisaged that the majority of these works will be completed during the summer months.
- Gaelscoil Mhíicil Chíosóg; It has been agreed with the NTA to pursue the preferred option i.e. Permeability Improvement by the refurbishment and repurpose of the old railway bridge crossing the River Fergus Minor, linking the Tulla Rd to the Gaelscoil on the Gort Rd. An engineering consultancy has carried out an assessment of the existing abutments and detailed the works required to implement the bridge. Clare County Council has engaged an environmental consultant for ecological services and are negotiating with a private landowner in relation to this scheme.

Clare Bridges – Pedestrian & Cycling Connectivity

- Barry Transportation are currently developing the preliminary design for 11 Bridges throughout the county, the Road Safety Audits on the preliminary design have been carried out and issues raised have been agreed and addressed.

<b>Public Lighting</b>	As part of the PLEEP (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme) preliminary survey works are now complete and Direct Feed Surveys have commenced. Reconciliation Surveys are also progressing with the input of Clare County Council as necessary.
	For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported online at <a href="https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland">https://enerveo.com/report-a-fault/republic-of-ireland</a> , by Phone (0818-372772) or via Local Authority Identification ( <a href="https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight">https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight</a> ).
	Clare County Council continues to liaise and engage with its maintenance contractor, Enerveo and ESB Networks in its efforts to reduce outage times on the public lighting network. ESNB's Minimum Requirements for Public Lighting Networks necessitates additional civils and interface works and this has resulted in a more prolonged repair time and work load on some repairs. CCC continues to liaise with and engage with ESNB and Enerveo in seeking additional resources to expedite outage periods. As part of its maintenance works, in conjunction with its maintenance contractor upgrade works continue with the installation of LED lighting where failures present.

## Road Design Office

### TII Road Safety Projects:

Project	Progress Update
<b>HD17</b>	<p><b>N85 Lahinch Road Ennis Pedestrian Crossing</b> A Preliminary Design Report has been completed and will be submitted to the TII portal as phase 1 of safety improvement works on the N85 Lahinch Road, Ennis.</p> <p><b>N85 Lahinch Road Shanaway Junction</b> A Stage 1/2 Road Safety Audit (RSA) has been completed on a mini roundabout and pedestrian crossing design as part of phase 2 of safety improvement works on the N85 Lahinch Road, Ennis.</p> <p><b>N85 Clareabbey Roundabout</b> A Stage 1 RSA has been completed on safety improvement works at Clareabbey Roundabout.</p> <p><b>Mountcharles Terrace Kilkee.</b> A Stage 1/2 RSA has been completed on junction safety improvement works at Mount Charles Terrace.</p> <p><b>Minster Place, Kilkee</b> A landscape design has been completed as part of the junction safety improvement works at Minster Place.</p>
<b>Noise Action Plans</b>	<p>Strategic Noise Mapping &amp; Noise Action Plans Agglomerations Technical Working Group meetings and workshops are ongoing.</p> <p>The draft County Clare Noise Action Plan went to public consultation for the period between Friday 10th May and Friday 21st June 2024.</p> <p>Submissions received on the Draft Limerick Agglomeration Action Plan and the Draft County Clare Noise Action Plan are being reviewed.</p>
<b>Fence Retrofitting Programme</b>	Tender documents are being prepared for 6 sites on the N68.



### Other Projects 2024:

Project	Progress Update
<b>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</b>	AA screenings are commencing on bridges in the 2024 Bridge Rehabilitation Pro-gramme. Tender packs for rehabilitation works are being prepared.
<b>Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b>	<p><b>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2024:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R471 Bothar Mor, Shannon €90,000, Section 38 public consultation has concluded</li> <li>• L-4608 Rosslevan, Ennis €40,000, Section 38 public consultation has concluded</li> <li>• R352 Bodyke €50,000, Section 38 public consultation underway, closing date for submissions 8th July.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Improvement Grant Ogonolloe €100k:</b> Design work is underway.</p>
<b>Liaison with NTA re- garding bus shelters</b>	Engagement is ongoing with the NTA regarding new bus shelter locations in County Clare.

## Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Team are continuing with their schedule of Annual Safety Statement and Risk Assessment Reviews. The top level H&S objectives approved by the Safety Management Committee in March 2024 have commenced implementation with an ISO 45001 Steering Group established in order to oversee the extension of ISO 45001 Accreditation in Clare County Fire and Rescue Service across the Physical Directorate and Housing Department during 2024.

Each Municipal District is continuing to engage with the Pro Works App in order to complete Site Specific Safe System of Work Plans and Temporary Traffic Management Plans for Roadworks and will be completing additional training in the use of the software.

The Health and Safety Team has commenced their schedule of Safety Inspections using the Pro Works App in order to inspect, monitor and advise on the implementation of the Clare County Council Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

## CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

<b>Doolin Pier Visitor Services Building</b>	Following meeting between Clare County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development, the council are reviewing the proposal and the options for delivery including resources required.
<b>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</b>	<p>Construction is significantly advanced throughout the town centre in line with the agreed phasing plan, and the appointed contractor is making very satisfactory progress across 5 work areas. Some 30,000 hours have been worked, and there are 30 personnel working on site daily. Already, the benefits are clear to be seen and experienced, as newly paved sections of shared surface streetscapes are opened for public use.</p> <p>The foul sewer works on O'Connell Street and High Street were completed in May, marking an important milestone in the project.</p> <p>This welcome investment by Uisce Eireann (Irish Water) ensures that that legacy infrastructure is upgraded and future-proofs the sewer system and associated service delivery.</p> <p>An additional significant milestone was also reached, with the installation of the medium voltage ESB cable on O'Connell Street, and the decommissioning of existing legacy cabling. This is a key enabler to works proceeding along the extent of O'Connell Street, and to the early completion of associated work phases.</p> <p><b>Phase 2A (High Street)</b></p> <p>Extensive paving has been completed along central section of this street, following conclusion of evening works in May. The remaining sections and detailing are in progress, and this street is scheduled for completion and will be opened up to the public in coming weeks.</p> <p><b>Phase 2B (Middle O'Connell Street)</b></p> <p>Significant progress has been made on paving and finishing central carriageway. Sections outside the Old Ground Hotel are complete and street furniture/planter arrangement were installed in June. The footpaths on the western side are now being broken out and concrete slabs laid ahead of paving works.</p> <p><b>Phase 3 (O'Connell Square)</b></p> <p>Significant section (Phase 3A) is now paved outside Hidden Hearing on the southern side of the square. The remaining sections are due to be completed on a phased basis, commencing July 2024.</p> <p><b>Phase 5 (Upper O'Connell Street)</b></p> <p>Two of the three sections of central carriageway have been brought to formation level and concrete pours completed in recent weeks. Paving is now well progressed.</p> <p><b>Phase 6</b></p> <p>Advance sewer works was completed on this section in April 2024.</p> <p>Road Closures are now in place for O'Connell Street, and High Street, and there will be a need for limited further road closures in the town centre in 2024 to facilitate certain aspects of the works.</p> <p>The works requirement within the contract obliges Shareridge to have a Public Liaison Officer (PLO) as part of their Team who is based in their Project Office in Ennis Town Centre. The PLO is engaging extensively with affected parties as the works progress and, in advance of commencement of every work phase. The public and traders are encouraged to take every opportunity to meet with the project team to ensure that their needs are communicated, and disruption is minimised wherever possible. The contractor and design team are also convening fortnightly drop-in meetings, as well as issuing weekly progress update bulletins. Affected/interested parties are invited to email <a href="mailto:ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie">ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie</a> if they wish to be added to mailing list.</p> <p>It is unavoidable that there will be disruption with a major civil and infrastructural works of this nature, but every effort is being made to keep this to a minimum while allowing the necessary access to allow timely completion. It is expected that the longer-term benefits in terms of user amenity and accessibility will far outweigh the shorter-term inconvenience. The cooperation and understanding of all stakeholders in this regard is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>With the sectional completion of paving of the street, it has been possible to remove higher heras fencing, in favour of lower and more aesthetic pedestrian fencing. This is an important step in re-opening the streets and brings us closer to eventual hand-over of the remodelled streetscapes for the use and enjoyment by our stakeholders and general public.</p>
<b>Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)</b>	The Judicial Review process is ongoing.



### Killaloe Bridge, ByPass & R494 Upgrade

The recent dry weather has seen a marked improvement in progress. Major milestones achieved in recent weeks include: completion of structural steel installation to bridge, commencement of deck pours to bridge, re-opening of R494 to through-traffic and removal of traffic from old road at Kincora onto new road.

Upcoming milestones include: completion of bridge deck pours early July, removal of Traffic Management from Shantraud Roundabout in early July and completion of wearing course paving to the Bypass late July.

#### Killaloe Bypass Section

Kincora: Off-line drainage and utilities being installed.

Main Cut to Hill Road: Finishing works in progress.

Hill Road to Creeveroe Road: Geometric remedials commenced.

Creeveroe Road to Shantraud: Finishing works in progress.

Shantraud Roundabout: Works to attenuation pond and CPO 124 Accom. Wks. in progress.



#### Shannon Bridge Crossing Link

Shantraud to Clarisford Junction: Kerbing and road preps in progress.

Clarisford to West Embankment: Construction of walls to embankment in progress.

#### Shannon Bridge

Substructure: 100% complete.

Superstructure: Deck pours 70% complete



#### R494 Upgrade

Section 7 (South of Rail Bridge): Both new lanes open. Finishing works off-line nearing completion.

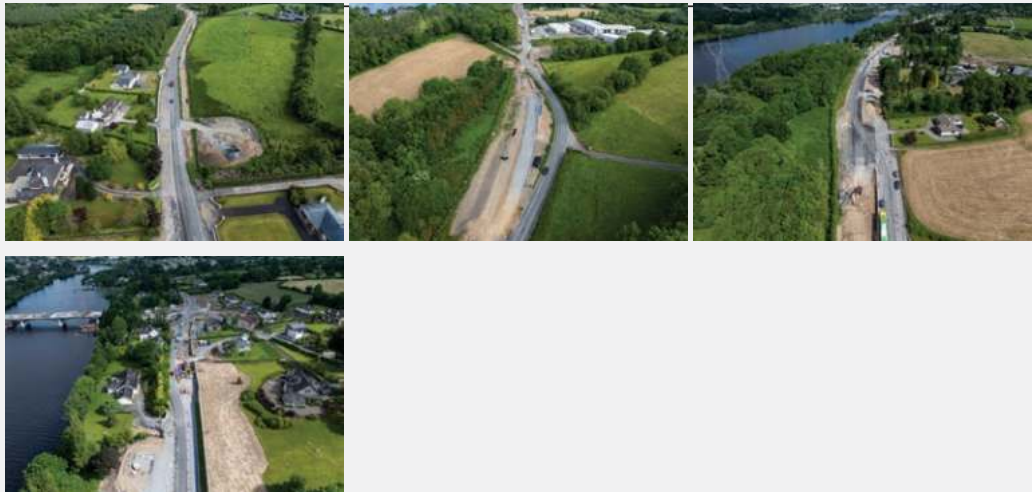
Section 7 (North of Rail Bridge): Both new lanes open. Finishing works off-line nearing completion.

Kerbing to Shannonside Business Park Access Ramp in progress.

Section 6: Both new lanes open. Finishing works off-line in progress.



Section 5 (Chainage 1350-1750): Traffic continues to use old road. Accom. Wks. nearing completion. Off-line utility installation in progress.  
Section 4 (chainage 950-1350): Traffic continues to use old road. Kerbing commenced. Earthworks and capping near completion. Pond formed.  
Sections 2&3: Under Temporary Traffic Mgmt. Traffic using new lane. Road construction activities on southbound lane progressing well. Kerbs now installed. Accom. Works in progress.  
Section 1: Works to Pumping Station in progress. Accommodation works in progress.



**Kilmastulla Bridge**

Open to traffic. Finishing works in progress.

**Rail Bridge**

Open to traffic.

**RW03** (Shannonside Business Park): Finishing works to retaining wall complete.



Additional project specific information including monthly drone footage, traffic management plans etc. is available on: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/>


**Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme**

A final review of all planning documents and drawings is currently underway in anticipation for a summer planning application submission to An Bord Pleanála.  
 Clare County Council and our scheme consultant JBA continue to meet with affected landowners through site visits and online meetings.

**Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)**

Due to time constraints associated with the infrastructure delivery, acquisition of the land required for the scheme will continue by agreement.  
 Currently over half of the landbanks required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered. There is positive engagement with all remaining landowners, and we are hopeful of reaching terms by agreement in the near future.  
 Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Housing and to that regard, the LIHAF Management Committee of the Department intend to issue a revised Grant Agreement which will enable us to move forward with the Infrastructure & Housing delivery.



<p><b>N19 Shannon Airport Access Road</b></p>	<p>The Project Team and scheme consultants FTC &amp; Co are currently engaging with the various project stakeholders such as TII Project Services departments, The Shannon Airport Group, Shannon Commercial Properties, Future Mobility Campus Ireland, etc., in preparation of submitting this project for Statutory Consent in Q3 2024.</p> <p>The scheme proposes 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>Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) stage is currently ongoing with Phase 4 (Statutory Consent) stage progressing thereafter.</p> <p>The EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) has now been completed and submitted to TII for review and comment. The Design is now being finalised following the Peer Review Process and a final design update will be published on the project website in the near future. It is proposed to brief the Shannon MD Councillors prior to publication of this design update.</p> <p>Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) &amp; Phase 6 (Construction) will progress thereafter which are subject to timely consents, no legal challenge, funding, etc. The construction contract is estimated to be in the region of 18 months in duration.</p> <p>Discussions continue regarding the necessary Land Transfer Agreements between The Minister for Transport, The Shannon Group and Clare County Council and as always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website <a href="http://www.shannonaccess.ie">www.shannonaccess.ie</a></p>
<p><b>Quin Remedial Flood Scheme</b></p>	<p>Clare County Council are delighted to report that works on the scheme are substantially complete. The completed scheme comprises approximately 90m of earthen embankment and 130m of Reinforced Concrete wall that will offer flood protection from the adjacent River Rine. The scheme, which was constructed by OPW direct labour staff, will protect three properties in Knocknagoug, Quin. A joint snagging walkover was carried out between Clare County Council, the Office of Public Works and scheme consultant Malachy Walsh &amp; Partners in late May. The OPW site team are continuing to work through the outstanding accommodation works and minor snags prior to their demobilisation from site.</p> <div data-bbox="507 1061 1366 1359">  </div>
<p><b>Remediation of sites containing ACM</b></p>	<p>The PMO staff will be meeting with design team in coming weeks to establish the next steps and schedule for issuing of Planning Application in respect of the sites identified.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Shannon Town &amp; Environs Flood Relief Scheme</b></p>	<p>Clare County Council recently held an internal collaborative workshop to provide a scheme update to the relevant departments and to share information on planned and ongoing works within the CCC. RPS have commenced drafting chapters 1 &amp; 3 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The location of a proposed embankment north of the airport is currently being assessed by RPS ecologists. Following this assessment, the remaining EIAR chapters will be progressed. RPS are currently carrying out their summer suite of environmental surveys such as Bat Roost Surveys at numerous locations on the scheme. Scoping for the additional topographical surveys required will be completed soon and issued for pricing.</p>
<p><b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)</b></p>	<p>Landowner consultations have been ongoing with a view to refining the preferred route. Feedback from the Public Consultation event is now being reviewed and information will feed into the finalisation of the 'Preferred Route Corridor'. A peer review has been undertaken by TII on the draft Option Selection Report, and the comments raised have been addressed and returned to TII. Formal engagement with landowners in respect of the Voluntary Land Acquisition Agreement process is about to commence, and Clare County Council has worked closely with TII to develop a template letter for this engagement.</p>

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)</b>	Work continues on the 'Option Selection Report', and it is due to be completed in Q2, 2024. In particular, studies of groundwater flooding and bird surveys of the most sensitive areas have progressed, and work is ongoing to identify a preferred route corridor in advance of the third public consultation.
<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 &amp; 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)</b>	A report on the feedback to the first public consultation has been drafted. Environmental specialists are mapping the constraints in the Study Area to inform the development of possible route options.
<b>Other Greenway Proposals</b>	No update this month.

## General Design Office

<b>Ennistymon Library Public WC &amp; Plaza Refurbishment</b>	<p>Works are completed on the Ennistymon Library Plaza and Public Toilets. The existing sub-basement toilets have been completely refurbished with the introduction of an external platform lift which ensures the toilets are accessible to all. The plaza space fronting the library has been enhanced and provides a more aesthetically pleasing entrance to the library building.</p> <div data-bbox="501 739 1356 1039" data-label="Image"> </div>
<b>Vandeleur Gardens Lower Carpark Improvement &amp; Landscaping Works</b>	The drawings are currently being progressed for the development.
<b>Vandeleur Gardeners Yard Wall and Storage</b>	Preliminary pricing drawings are currently being progressed. A number of meetings have been held with the planning section to discuss various aspects relating to design and process. The scheme is progressing well.
<b>Town and Village Renewal Scheme</b>	<p><b>Clonlara</b> - Construction works on site is completed. Snagging and the final account has also been completed and the site has been officially handed over by the contractor. A date for the official unveiling/opening must be confirmed.</p> <p><b>Parteen</b> - The contractor due to commence works on site in June/ early July 2024</p>

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

### Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during May and June, including Emergency Services Driving Standard (ESDS) Training and Testing in both B and C class licences; Emergency Traffic Management Training (various locations) and Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training (BA) in Clonmel Fire Station

### 2 Bay Storage Facility, Kilrush Fire Station

A new 2 Bay Storage Facility has been completed at Kilrush Fire Station along with general upgrade works of the existing Fire Station. The works included the installation of PV panels and rain harvesting tanks.

### Replacement Programme – 2 No. Vans

As part of the replacement programme for Fire Service ve-

hicles, approval was granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management for the procurement and fit out of 2 No. vans. The vans have been delivered and went operational at Killaloe & Kilrush Fire Stations.





## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024 (Up to 21.06.24)	Year to Date 2024
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	88	86	60	558
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	14	15	0	53
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	11	9	3	44
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	1	0	3
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	7	4	0	26
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	7	7	0	24
Number of Commencement Notices Received	103	35	13	302
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	5	0	14

(Note: In the May Monthly Report, the April figures related to 1st- 24th April due to timing of report)

## CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

### Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at a number of events in May and June including 24 Hour Relay for Life (Ennis); Clarecastle Regatta (Clarecastle); Scoil Christ Ri Regatta (River Fergus, Ennis); Munster Senior Football Final Clare vs Kerry (Cusack Park); Munster Senior Hurling Clare vs Waterford (Cusack Park); Under 20 Hurling Clare vs Tipperary (Cusack Park); Munster vs Connacht Under 20s Rugby (Ennis Rugby Club); Vandeleur Gardens Festival (Kilrush); Crotty Cup Cycling Competition 2024 (West Clare); Darkness into Light (Newmarket On Fergus); Africa Day (CBS Ennis); Up the Creek Cycling Event (Kilkee); Tour of the Burren Cycling Event (Ballyvaughan) and West Clare Cycle M&M Classic (Shannon).
- Clare Civil Defence assisted their colleagues in Galway Civil Defence with a missing person search in Gort.
- Clare Civil Defence volunteers were tasked by An Garda Síochána to assist with a missing person search in the Corofin area. Volunteers located the individual safe and well after a short search.



(Pictured: Chief Fire Officer Adrian Kelly, Assistant Civil Defence Officer Aileen McMahon, Civil Defence Officer Steven Hayes, Cathaoirelach Joe Cooney, Director of Services Alan Farrell, Principal Officer Department of Defence Cep Carty, An Garda Síochána Superintendent John Ryan)

### Members Training & Professional Development

- Members participated in weekly training set out by Civil Defence instructors - this training included boat training, vehicle training, search training and use of drones.
- 6 volunteers successfully completed First Aid Responder Course.
- Manual Handling Instructors completed Refresher Training.
- 37 volunteers participated in a large search exercise at White Strand, Miltown Malbay.



(Civil Defence Volunteers and staff attending their Awards Night)

### Awards Night

Clare Civil Defence was delighted to host an Awards Night at the Civil Defence Headquarters to acknowledge the work, dedication and commitment of the volunteers during Covid-19, Ukrainian crisis, training and operations. 19 volunteers received Long Service Awards totalling an incredible 330 years combined service.

## ENVIRONMENT

### IBAL Survey

Ennis: 5th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.



*Extract from IBAL report.*

A former IBAL winner, Ennis has regularly been a very high-ranking town over the last number of years – things were no different this time around, with no heavily littered sites. It would seem that there is great attention to detail in general presentation and cleaning regimes throughout Ennis. Among so many top-ranking sites, a few deserve a special mention e.g. the residential area of The Hawthorns was a template for a Grade A site, while Clare Museum & Surrounds was in very good order. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down / boarded up property along Parnell Street.

### Environmental Awareness

#### National Spring Clean 2024

National Spring Clean 2024 saw 114 groups register for the National Spring Clean in Clare. Groups were advised that they can avail of free passes to our Waste Transfer facilities. Since January 2024, 79 free passes to our Waste Transfer stations have been issued to community groups.

#### Green Schools

During May, 25 Clare schools that were awarded a Green-Schools Green Flag at the Clayton Hotel in Galway for their work on Litter and Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Travel and Global Citizenship themes. A media release was issued to acknowledge and promote school participation in the Green Schools programme. Coverage was received across all media including the Clare Echo, Clare Champion and Clare FM as well as social media.

Our Environmental Awareness Officer also presented to the 1st years 2nd years and Transition Year students at St. Annes Community College (Killaloe). Topics included Sustainable Development Goals and how to support a circular economy at school and at home.



### Clare Garden Festival

Our Environmental Awareness Officer attended this year's Clare Garden Festival in collaboration with the Climate Team and Healthy Clare. Sustainability, Climate Action including circular living were all promoted as part of the information stand.



### Blue Flag and Water Safety Awareness Sessions

During June, 12 Blue Flag Beach awareness sessions were delivered to over 300 children from 8 schools. Sessions were delivered by Karen Foley, Environmental Awareness Officer and Clare McGrath, Water Safety Development Officer as part of the Clare Blue Flag Beach programme. These sessions were supported by Environment Section community wardens. Blue flag beach sessions took place at Ballycuggeran, Whitestrand (Miltown Malbay), Whitestrand (Doonbeg), Lahinch and Fanore. Awareness sessions were also delivered at two schools.

At the awareness sessions students learnt about what it means to have a blue flag beach. They also learned about water safety, bathing water quality, as well the importance of planning ahead and leaving no trace when visiting Clare's Blue Flag and Green Coast Beaches.





## Gum Litter Taskforce Clare roadshow

The Gum Litter Taskforce was in Clare on June 13th as a part of its summer roadshow. The Waste Enforcement team liaised with the Environmental Awareness Officer on this initiative. This interactive roadshow works with Local Authorities and communities across the country to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives that demonstrate the proper means of gum disposal. Now in its 17th year, the campaign is a collaboration between Food Drink Ireland, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, the chewing gum industry, and Local Authorities. This year the event was held in the Shannon MD, having been held in the Kilaloe and Ennis MD's for the previous two years.



## AIE Requests update

Our Environmental Awareness Officer is the designated Information Officer (AIE Officer) under the Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Regulations for Clare County Council. To date, in 2024, 11 AIE requests have been received. Of these 5 of the requests have been granted, 2 part granted, 1 withdrawn, 1 refused and 2 are currently awaiting decision. To date, in 2024, 7 submissions have been made to the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information (OCEI) on the foot of 3 appeals to the OCEI from AIE requests previously received.

## Gardening

The Gardening Team are extremely busy ensuring that all floral displays around Ennis are being maintained to the highest standard. The widespread use of pollinator friendly perennial planting at various locations across the town in the last number of years are becoming well established. The recent introduction of the hanging baskets throughout the town adds an additional splash of colour.



In conjunction with Ennis MD staff the Gardening Team also commenced work on the Market Square roundabout to establish a floral and lighting display of the cow and farmer sculptures. This will compliment the recent works carried out by Ennis MD on the periphery of the roundabout where additional planting has been introduced.



Water Enforcement Scientific Team	June 2024	Total YTD 2024
Bathing Water Monitoring	76	76
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	6 first inspections: 5 re-inspections.	45
Public queries processed with regard to DWWTS grants	2	28
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	7	38
Planning applications (Agriculture)	1	26
Planning applications (Domestic)	14	120
Planning applications (Large Developments)	0	17
Planning applications (Forestry)	22	39
Pollution complaints received	16	66
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	1	22
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	1	108
Rivers	60	131
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned)	7	20

## Waste Enforcement

### Waste Facility Permit (WFP) / Certificate of Registration (COR) Inspections

Inspections of 2 permitted (1 COR and 1 WFP) and 3 unauthorised facilities were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in June. Follow-up enforcement action was taken in the case of the 2 unpermitted sites. The permitted sites were inspected to monitor compliance with their permit conditions, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The table below summarises the work of the Waste Enforcement team to date in 2024:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	June 2024	Total YTD 2024
Litter	5	54
Dog Fouling	2	36
Waste Presentation	0	16
Dumping	44	377
CRM	118	920

Waste Enforcement Inspections	June 2024	Total YTD 2024
Cert of Registration	1	14
Waste Facility Permits	1	4
Unauthorised Sites	3	14

### Annual Return Validations and Inspections of WFP/ COR Sites

Validations of Annual Returns submitted by permit holders for 2023 have commenced and are ongoing. This work involves site visits and liaison with site operators as well as desktop validation of data received.

### Beach Bye-Laws

The Beach Bye-Law patrols for 2024 have commenced. The waste Enforcement team carry out beach patrols at weekends, to monitor compliance with the Clare County Council Beach Bye-Laws, 2021. The main issues on the ground were found to be dog control including fouling and litter. The Waste Enforcement team liaise with the Dog Warden on these issues. An additional Dog Warden has been appointed for the summer months to focus on Dog Control at beaches. Issues regarding dogs are addressed by the wardens on their patrols and an informative approach is taken to remind the public of their responsibilities.



## Beaches

### Lifeguards

Lifeguards were on duty for the weekend of 18th/19th May and again on the weekend of 25th/26th May at Kilkee, Fanore, Lahinch and Spanish Point.

Lifeguards were on duty full time (Mon -Sun 11am-7pm) at Kil-

kee, Fanore, Lahinch and Spanish Point throughout the month of June. There was also weekend lifeguard service at Whitesstrand Miltown Malbay, Whitestrand Doonbeg, Cappa, Ballyalla, Mountshannon and Ballycuggeran.

Clare County Council lifeguards at Lahinch took delivery of a new "Lifeguard Services" Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV). This vehicle will greatly enhance the lifeguard service in Lahinch. Full time lifeguard service will begin at all locations on July 1st.



### Blue Flag / Green Coast

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. In order to qualify for this prestigious award, a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety-related



## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

and access-related criteria must be met and maintained. 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.

Clare County Council received 8 Blue Flag and 5 Green Coast flags at an awards ceremony in Galway on the 20th May 2024. Beaches that achieved flags are identified below.



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

### 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 26th September 2024 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](mailto:enviroff@clarecoco.ie).

### Bathing Water Quality Report

The EPA report on bathing water quality in Ireland in 2023 was published in this month. In Total 13 of County Clare's monitored beaches received excellent water quality status and Cappa Pier was designated as "Good".

Bathing Water Quality Status for 2023	
Location	Status
Bishops Quarter	Excellent
Fanore	Excellent
Lahinch	Excellent

Whitestrand Miltown	Excellent
Spanish Point	Excellent
Seafield	Excellent
Seafield, Quilty	Excellent
Whitestrand Doonbeg	Excellent
Kilkee	Excellent
Carrigaholt Beach	Excellent
Cappa Pier	Good
Ballyallia Lake	Excellent
Mountshannon	Excellent
Ballycuggeran	Excellent

### Bathing Water Monitoring

The Environmental Laboratory team began Bathing Water monitoring in mid-May and this monitoring will continue through to mid-September.

The results of routine monitoring at Lahinch Bathing Area on the 4th of June indicated elevated levels of E.Coli. Based on published guidance action levels a follow-up sample was taken on the 5th June. Following review of these results and having consulted with the HSE a Bathing Prohibition was put in place at Lahinch on the 6th June. Investigative monitoring continued. On the 8th of June following review of monitoring results and consultation with the HSE the Bathing Prohibition was lifted at Lahinch.

In accordance with the requirements of the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No 79 of 2008, public health notices were placed at the following locations on the 12th June due to predicted heavy rainfall on the 13th June.

- Lahinch
- White Strand Doonbeg
- Kilkee
- White Strand Miltown Malbay
- Cappagh, Kilrush
- Spanish Point

Prior Warning Notices are used to advise bathers that bacterial levels may increase in the bathing water as a result of heavy rainfall due to run-off from the catchment into rivers/streams and the bathing areas. Results of monitoring carried out on the 17th June indicated that no impact was observed and the Prior Warning Notices were taken down once the results were fully confirmed.

### Dog Shelter

The Environment Section signed a contract with Midland Animal Care on the 9th May for Provision of a Dog Warden service and for the operation of Clare County Councils Dog Shelter.



## CLIMATE ACTION

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### Energy

Clare County Council, like all public bodies, is obliged to report on energy usage annually. Final energy usage data for the year end 2023 was recently reported to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) ahead of the July deadline.

While thermal energy (used for heating) is up by 16%, energy usage in transportation and electricity are both down 5% for the year end 2023. Overall, Clare County Council has reduced its energy usage from 2022 to 2023 by 2%.

It will be necessary to continue to implement energy efficiency measures throughout the organisation coupled with the implementation of larger decarbonisation projects to ensure that Clare County Council meets its legally binding obligations of 51% reduction in emissions and 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

Clare County Councils Energy Management Team met on May 21st as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining ISO50001 Accreditation.

### Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme is awaiting approval of funded projects from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. This is due to be received by July 5th. Twenty-three projects under Strand 1: 'Building Low Carbon Communities' were submitted. The value of these projects is €572,000. Three projects were submitted under Strand 1a: 'Shared Island Community Climate Action.' The value of these projects is €300,000.

The approved projects will then enter into the contracting phase of the programme. Over the past two months the Climate Department have answered queries related to the chosen portfolio of projects relating to eligibility and other elements of the projects. We have also focused on preparing grant agreements and guidance information for successful groups.

Projects were evaluated by the Climate Action Team and approval by Councillors at the Rural Working Group Forum. Please contact the Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever on [ddever@clarecoco.ie](mailto:ddever@clarecoco.ie) / [communityclimate@clarecoco.ie](mailto:communityclimate@clarecoco.ie) for further information.

### Engagement & Awareness

Dara Dever, Community Climate Action Officer joined Karen Foley, Environmental Awareness Officer and Samantha McCarthy Healthy Clare Coordinator at the Clare Garden Festival 2024 on April 28th. This provided the Climate Team an excellent opportunity to engage with the communities about Climate Action and the Circular Economy.

The Climate Department also facilitated an information session in the Training Room in the Áras on May 16th for Clare County Council Staff. This provided staff with the opportunity to find out more about the grants available from the SEAI for Home

### Energy Upgrades.

On May 21st, Climate Action Officer Chris Dixon O'Mara presented to the PROBUS group of retirees on Clare County Councils recently adopted Climate Action Plan. Opportunities and challenges ahead were discussed by the attendees



### Climate Action Workshop, Ennis

The Climate Action team developed a Climate Action workshop ½ day on May 30th. With the Climate Action Plan fully adopted by council in February 2024, we now enter an Implementation phase as a council. This workshop marked the beginning of the Implementation phase bringing together Senior staff within the local authority to discuss the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Attendees heard presentations from Clare County Council speakers and external speakers. Amongst the areas covered were Climate Action Plan overview, Biodiversity, Energy and Housing. Council speakers focused on the positive work that is already being carried out in Clare County Council in the Climate Action area. We were delighted to hear from Dr Maria Kirrane, Head of Sustainability and Climate Action in UCC in relation to their sustainability journey and regarding the parallels that both public bodies have in the area of Climate Action.



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## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

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Clare is a leader in sustainable tourism and we heard from Dr James Hanrahan (Sligo ATU) on the positive work Clare is doing in this area along with the trends we could face in the future due to changing global circumstances.

A facilitated workshop rounded out the morning with positive discussion around the various areas where Clare County Council can excel in the area of Climate Action going forward along with focusing on the need for successful cross directorate working.



### Climate Newsletter

Clare County Councils Climate section launched a Clare Climate Action Newsletter in recent months. The newsletter provides updates on Climate action in the county, information on upcoming climate events and guidance to support residents, communities and businesses. The Clare Climate Action Newsletter is available to view and download on Climate Engagement Page on the YourSay Platform.

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## WATER

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### Rural Water

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

The long-awaited Multi-annual Rural Water (MARWP) 2024-2026 framework document was formally published earlier this year and all applications for funding are now submitted by this office to the Department. We now await funding approval from the Department, upon receipt of same we will inform all successful group water schemes. Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Team.

The Rural Water Team is working with Group Water Schemes in assessing the need to carry out emergency works and applying to the Department for exceptional urgent capital works for once off funding as they arise.

Ballycar  
GWS

New booster pumps recently installed are now up and running.

Dysart Toonagh  
PriGWS

Overall, Winner of the 'community engagement' category in the GWS Excellence Award 2023

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use continues to be processed by this office, 24 applications have been received for 2024.

All applications under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme continue to be processed by the Rural Water Team, 20 applications have been received to date in 2024. Post works final inspections for 2023 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Special Recognition Awards May 2024

Shannon Municipal District was privileged to host a Special Recognition Award Ceremony on 9/5/2024. The event honoured and celebrated some outstanding contributions to communities by people who demonstrated leadership, commitment, determination, and hard work at local level. A formal Recognition Scroll was presented to the 12 recipients along with a commemorative plaque by Cathaoirleach Donna McGettigan.

The recipients were:

Joe Buckley, Damian O Rourke – nominated by Cathaoirleach Donna McGettigan,  
Jimmy Begley, Margaret Grace – nominated by Cllr John Crowe,  
Lauren McElligott, Tom Golden – nominated by Cllr PJ Ryan,  
Siobhan O Driscoll, Grainne Hayes – nominated by Cllr Pat McMahon,  
Noel Madden, Enda Griffin – nominated by Cllr Michael Begley,  
Mary Deegan/Cratloe Community Council, Susan Madigan – nominated by Cllr Pat O Gorman.



### International Bike Day event held in Shannon MD on 5th June 2024

To mark World Bicycle Day, a luncheon cycle event was organised on Wednesday 5th June 2024. The short, fun cycle took place from Shannon Free Zone to Shannon Town Centre.

Employees from Shannon companies took to their bicycles last week to celebrate World Bicycle Day, marking Shannon's inaugural participation in this annual global celebration of the humble two-wheeler. This unique lunchtime event was organised by Shannon MD, Shannon Chamber and Fine Grain Properties with the support of Shannon Town Centre, HSE, CoMotion, and The Bike Doc, Ballycasey. One of the main aims was to create greater synergies and connections between the industrial zone and Shannon Town itself. Thanks to the generosity of CoMotion, operators of the shared bicycle scheme in Shannon, the majority of cyclists availed of the offer to use CoMotion's electric bikes free of charge, resulting in a sea of colour emblazoning the bikes as they wove their way from Shannon Free Zone, across the pedestrian overpass on the N19, onto Drumgeely Road and into Shannon Town Centre. Shannon Municipal District staff took up warden positions along the route to ensure cyclist safety. The cyclists stopped off at the Town Centre for a light lunch, free health checks provided by HSE staff, bike repair advice from Ballycasey-based The Bike Doc, and ice cream cones compliments of Fine Grain Property. Councillor Donna McGettigan, welcomed the cyclists to Shannon and said that World Bicycle Day was an ideal opportunity to promote cycling as a reliable, sustainable, affordable and accessible means of transport for all. The Council is working to respond to the needs and expectations of the community by providing safe cycling infrastructure through its Active Travel Programme and optimising existing infrastructure more efficiently. Greenway projects are being advanced throughout the County with one from Shannon to Bunratty currently being progressed.







### Mela Festival held in Shannon Town Park

A wonderful free family day was held in Shannon Town Park on Saturday 8th June 2024. Shannon MD ensured that the Park was looking its absolute best for the Festival which was attended by hundreds of people. Fidget Feet and Clare County Council teamed up with Creative Places Shannon and Shannon Tidy Towns to bring an impressive lineup of music, dance, children's entertainment and much more to the Town Park. Clare Mela performances were all amazing and it was wonderful to see the young dancers from Shannon perform their dance so professionally and confidently. Clare Mela, is a free award-winning arts event to celebrate cultural diversity.



### Memorial plaque unveiled in Drumgeely

A memorial plaque was unveiled by Cllr Donna McGettigan on 14th June 2024 on a bench in Drumgeely. The commemorative plaque honours Mick O'Neill RIP who was one of the original shopkeepers in Drumgeely. Mick O'Neill gave so much towards the community in Drumgeely and is fondly remembered by the residents. The Memorial Committee of the Council approved the putting in place of the plaque and Shannon MD facilitated the unveiling at which members of Mr O'Neill's family were present. They were deeply moved and appreciative of the event.





### Annual General Meeting held 25th June 2024

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 25/6/2024 at 9.45am. The outgoing Cathaoirleach Donna McGettigan spoke of the partnership approach between the MD Members and Communities, businesses, other Government Departments and Agencies which has resulted in considerable achievements in this MD. These achievements included the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure projects in Ballycasey and Newmarket on Fergus and Town & Village Renewal Schemes in Clonlara, Bunratty and Drumgeely. She said that it was great to see the completion of the flood relief works at Springfield and the advancement of the Shannon Flood Relief Scheme as these are key infrastructural projects in the MD. Donna McGettigan noted that a key part of her role as Cathaoirleach was the promotion and advancement of the MD and this included the Shannon Loop Walk project being shortlisted for the Local Government in Excellence Awards. Infrastructural improvements which included road and footpath works throughout the MD and low cost safety schemes at Barry's Cross and Rossmangher. Significant improvements in amenity services such as Sli na Slainte route and outdoor exercise equipment in Shannon town and a public consultation event on the concept design for the One Shannon Hub was held. She referenced the very successful Women's Irish Open event being held in Dromoland along with the hugely successful Newmarket on Fergus community festival. Cllr Donna McGettigan stated that she was particularly honoured to host the Cathaoirleach's Special Recognition Awards Ceremony which saw due recognition given to individuals in our communities.

Nominations were sought and Councillor Pat O Gorman was elected Cathaoirleach of Shannon MD for the next 12 months. He was proposed by Cllr. David Griffin and seconded by Cllr Tony Mulcahy. Cathaoirleach Pat O Gorman spoke of the huge honour it was for him and that he was committed to serving the people of Shannon Municipal District. Cathaoirleach Pat O Gorman firstly thanked everyone for voting for him and stated that his main priorities include the progression of the One Shannon Hub Project, N19 upgrade and Shannon Flood Relief Scheme. Other priorities included the securing of funding for our towns and villages to enhance amenities for these communities, the provision of public amenities such as the Shannon to Bunratty Greenway project and onto Sixmilebridge, the continuing improvements of our roads and infrastructure, supporting our community groups through our Community Grants Scheme, promotion of the work achieved in the MD,

building on the success of Shannon Airport through a close working relationship with Shannon Group and the upgrading of N19 into airport. The continued expansion and upgrade of Bunratty Castle and Folk Park facilities was also a priority for Cllr O Gorman. He said that he looks forward to building on the positive working relationship with the Executive of the Municipal District.

Donna McGettigan was elected Leas Cathaoirleach and she was nominated by Cllr Michael Begley and seconded by Cllr John Crowe. Tributes were paid to PJ Ryan, Pat McMahon & Gerry Flynn. Their valuable and honourable service to the Municipal District was acknowledged and appreciated by all.

On behalf of the Executive, Director of Services Alan Farrell congratulated both Cathaoirleach Pat O Gorman and Leas Cathaoirleach Donna McGettigan and looked forward to working together for the betterment of the Municipal District Area.





### Pride of Place Competition

Judging took place in Newmarket on Fergus and Bunratty on 25th June 2024 for the Pride of Place national competition. Great effort was put in by both communities in showcasing the works carried out in these areas and the strong community spirit that abounds. The valuable work undertaken to make these communities the success that they are was evident for the judges to see. The judging process involved presentations and a tour of the villages. The results will be announced at an Awards Ceremony in Monaghan on 2nd November 2024. Well done to both for the excellent entries.



### Other Works

- Funding sought under Participation Nation outdoor funding.
- New basketball hoops and goals installed in Shannon Town Park



- Gum litter Taskforce collaboration with Shannon Tidy Towns



- Ballycasey Avenue, Shannon - Removal of overgrown weeds & vegetation, new top soil and seed.
- Newmarket on Fergus - Re alignment of junction and improvement of sight lines at Lough Gash & Ennis Road junction.
- Footpath Refurbishment Contract included works at Inis Ri, Shannon, Cronan Estate, Shannon.
- Tradaree/Cluain Airne Traffic Calming works – installation of speed cushions, raised pedestrian crossing, tightening of junctions from estates.
- Sixmilebridge – new footpath outside the soccer pitch and garda station.
- Cratloe – footpath upgrade from Setrights cross to railway bridge (insert photo of footpath in Cratloe).

