



COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

## TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

### MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Nollaig / December  
2025



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# PEOPLE & CULTURE, CORPORATE SERVICES & GOVERNANCE, ICT & DIGITAL SERVICES

## CORPORATE SERVICES & GOVERNANCE

### Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 24th November 2025

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	135	158
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5	7
Appeals handled by Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	4	0
Data Access Requests - Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	13	9
Data Requests - Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0	1
Data Access Requests - Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	29	28

### Communications:

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

10 media releases were issued during November 2025, including:

- Bridges of Ross Trail Project Sees Major Investment
- Public Invited to Have Their Say in Shaping the Future of Kilrush
- Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Ennis following Major Public Realm Works

### Social Media

The Communications Office monitors and updates social media channels to maintain awareness of the work of the Council.

In the period of November 1-26, 2025, the Communications Office:

- Posted 43 times on Facebook, with total followers now 23,840.
- Posted 6 times on X, with total followers over 8.9k.
- Posted 44 times on Instagram, with total followers now 5,310.




*(Statistics accurate as of 26/11/2025)*

### Register of Electors

Project work on Register of Electors database continues in the Franchise Section, in advance of the migration to a national database. Correspondence is being issued to electors requesting their records are updated to include Eircode. This will ensure improved accuracy on the register database.

## PEOPLE & CULTURE

Work Area	Update
<b>Recruitment</b> 	<b>The following recruitment competitions were progressed during November:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eligibility Exercises &amp; Desktop Shortlisting</li><li>• Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer</li><li>• Creative Places Shannon Co-Ordinator (Grade V)</li><li>• Executive Technician</li><li>• Senior Executive Technician</li><li>• Winter Maintenance Truck Drivers (Salting Routes)</li><li>• Executive Technician</li><li>• Senior Executive Technician</li><li>• Plant Operator A - Ennis (Confined)</li><li>• Sporadic Cover School Warden - Ennis &amp; Shannon</li><li>• Permanent Lifeguard/Instructor (Ennis Leisure Complex)</li><li>• Digital Communications &amp; Communications Officer - (Analogous Grade V)</li></ul>

<b>Interviews</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Engineer</li> <li>• Finance Management System Support Manager Grade VII</li> <li>• Branch Librarian Interview Shortlisting</li> <li>• Temporary Community Climate Action Officer</li> <li>• Executive Technician</li> <li>• Senior Executive Technician</li> <li>• Permanent Lifeguard/Instructor (Ennis Leisure Complex)</li> <li>• Winter Maintenance Truck Drivers (Salting Routes)</li> </ul>
<b>The following competitions were advertised:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Senior Resident Engineer</li> <li>• Temporary Assistant Resident Engineer</li> <li>• Executive Facilities Manager</li> <li>• Acting Senior Executive Planner</li> </ul>
<b>Learning and Development</b>  	<p><b>Training programmes / Webinars / Conferences/ Information Sessions held in November include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-Day ISO 45001 Implementation Training</li> <li>• AIE Training</li> <li>• Basic IT Skills</li> <li>• Literacy Awareness Training</li> <li>• MS Intermediate Excel</li> <li>• MS Outlook Training</li> <li>• Pre-Retirement Course</li> </ul> <p><b>Essential Skillz on-line Courses:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety Induction</li> <li>• Slips, Trips &amp; Falls</li> </ul> <p><b>Health &amp; Safety:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-Day Line Manager Health &amp; Safety Training</li> <li>• 2-Day First Aid Refresher</li> <li>• 3-Day Signing, Lighting &amp; Guarding</li> <li>• Abrasive Wheels</li> <li>• Mini Digger Assessment</li> <li>• Mini Digger New Entrant</li> <li>• Site Dumper Experienced</li> <li>• Site Dumper New Entrant</li> </ul>
<b>Employee Wellbeing</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Health Screening Programme has begun to roll out to staff &amp; Councillors and will continue over the next few weeks.</li> <li>• A second yoga workshop commenced for staff.</li> <li>• The November Wellbeing Focus updates on the Clare County Council Wellbeing Hub were focused on Men's Health.</li> <li>• The Financial Wellbeing Programme featured a webinar about Savings &amp; Investments. One to one financial clinics are also available to all staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Unions</b>  	<p>The People &amp; Culture Department engages with Unions on various matters.</p>



## ICT & DIGITAL SERVICES

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### Microsoft Dream Space Pilot Launch in West Clare

#### Empowering Local Schools Through Early Access to Technology

The Microsoft Dream Space Pilot project was officially launched in West Clare on Tuesday, 18th November, representing a dynamic partnership between Microsoft Ireland, local schools, the library service, and Clare County Council ICT. The programme is designed to inspire technological skills and curiosity among young learners, supporting their growth in an increasingly digital world.



Hosted at Kilkee Library, the initiative demonstrates the library service's dedication to community development, digital literacy, and educational advancement. By welcoming the Microsoft Dream Space team to West Clare, the project highlights the ongoing commitment to providing innovative learning opportunities in the region.



Local schools participated with enthusiasm, reflecting the importance that educators and community leaders place on integrating technology into the curriculum. This proactive approach ensures that students are well-prepared for the demands of a digital future.

The core objective of the project is to offer students early access to technology, equipping them with the skills, confidence, and creative problem-solving abilities required to become future leaders in technology. The Microsoft Dream Space Pilot serves as a model for community-driven educational innovation, expanding opportunities for students and establishing a strong foundation for nurturing future tech talent in West Clare.

# PLANNING, ECONOMIC, RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## PLANNING PLACEMAKING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### FORWARD PLANNING CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

#### Historic Structures Fund (HSF)

The 2026 Historic Structures Fund was announced on 23rd October 2025 by James Browne TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Under the Historic Structures Fund 2026 scheme, grants of up to €200,000 will be available for projects with strong built heritage conservation objectives and clear public or community benefit. Over €3.5m in funding was allocated to 28 projects in 2025.

The core aims of the Historic Structures Fund are to:

- enable larger scale conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- encourage the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or culturally significant assets;
- support the investment of private capital in labour-intensive projects to conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use.
- support employment in the conservation and construction industries.
- build resilience in our heritage properties to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Historic Structures Fund provides capital funding for works to qualifying structures which include the following:

1. Protected Structures: Structures in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) of each Local Authority;
2. Structures eligible for or proposed for inclusion in the RPS but not yet formally approved for inclusion. Such structures must meet the criteria for inclusion in the RPS by the Local Authority, i.e. must be of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view;
3. Structures or works within Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), or within the amenity of a National Monument, where exceptional circumstances apply.

Further details are available at

<https://www.clarecoco.ie>

The closing date for receipt of applications for the Historic Structures Fund Scheme to the Council is Friday 16th January 2026.

#### 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	November 2025 up to & including 26/11/2025	Total (Valid) Year to date 2025
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	1	22

## HERITAGE

#### Minor Placenames Ireland Workshop

The Minor Placenames Workshop being led by DCU research team is taking place in the Training Room, Clare County Council, on 2nd of December from 12pm to 2pm. The workshop is for 2 hours and will be in person. The workshop is designed to highlight the variety and significance of minor placenames in Ireland. It will demonstrate how in adopting a 'citizen humanities' approach, placenames can be safeguarded through their recording on the existing Meitheal Logainm website.

#### A Community Monument Fund Workshop (CMF)

A Community Monument Fund Workshop (CMF) will take place in the Training Room of Clare County Council on 3rd of December to inform and assist communities and individuals to apply for the Community Monument Fund.

Book on Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-monument-fund-tickets-1974905707133?aff=oddtcreator> or email [clarecommunityarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:clarecommunityarchaeology@gmail.com)





### Reading the Local Landscape

Reading the Local Landscape course is progressing in Kilkee. The Cathaoirleach of Clare, Paul Murphy will present the students with their certificates at the Awards ceremony showcase night planned for the 16th of December. The students will present their heritage projects on the night; and the projects will be published on the Clare Heritage website [Clareheritage.org](http://Clareheritage.org).



*Some of the students from the Reading the Local Landscape course, following a presentation on and site visit to Johnnie Mac's Mud House in Querrin.*

### Inch school 'adopt' the local ringfort

Inch School featured on RTE News2day in November. Petula Martyn, RTE Mid-West Correspondent visited Inch school and ringfort on the 6th of November. The ringfort in Inch, has been adopted by the pupils in the neighbouring national school and Inch Tidy Towns, as part of the Heritage Council's Adopt a Monument scheme. The monument is an earthen ringfort which was once the homestead of farmers who lived there in the early Medieval period.

The ringfort has sparked great curiosity among pupils, who are exploring its historical significance within their local area. The school also plans to use the site as an outdoor classroom, and the children are eager and enthusiastic about the chance to step beyond the traditional classroom and bring their learning to life outdoors. The students said that "they're going to explore the history, how people lived back in the early medieval period, how they survived and what kind of activities took place in the ringfort". When this area would have been densely populated, and ringforts were the most common field monuments.



*Petula Martyn and cameraman Micheál, RTE Mid-West Correspondent team visited Inch school and interviewed the student.*



*The pupils from Inch National School have adopted the ringfort in Inch, Co Clare*

### Waterways Ireland Community Heritage & Biodiversity Grant Scheme 2026

Waterways Ireland Community Heritage & Biodiversity Grant Scheme 2026 is now open for applications. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 31st January 2026. All applications are to be emailed to [heritageplan@waterwaysireland.org](mailto:heritageplan@waterwaysireland.org)

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## STRATEGIC INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK PLAN (SIFP) - FOR THE SHANNON ESTUARY

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On Tuesday the 11th of November the Environmental Assessment Officer attended a webinar on developing a protocol for long-term monitoring of the bottlenose dolphins in the Shannon Estuary on behalf of the SIFP Environmental Sub-Group which Clare County Council chair. The Shannon Estuary is recognised as one of the most important habitats for bottlenose dolphins not only in Ireland, but within Europe.

The webinar was delivered by Drs Simon Berrow, Joanne O'Brien and Miguel Blazquez Hervas who prepared the report "Developing a Protocol for Long-Term Monitoring of the Bottlenose dolphins in the Shannon Estuary".

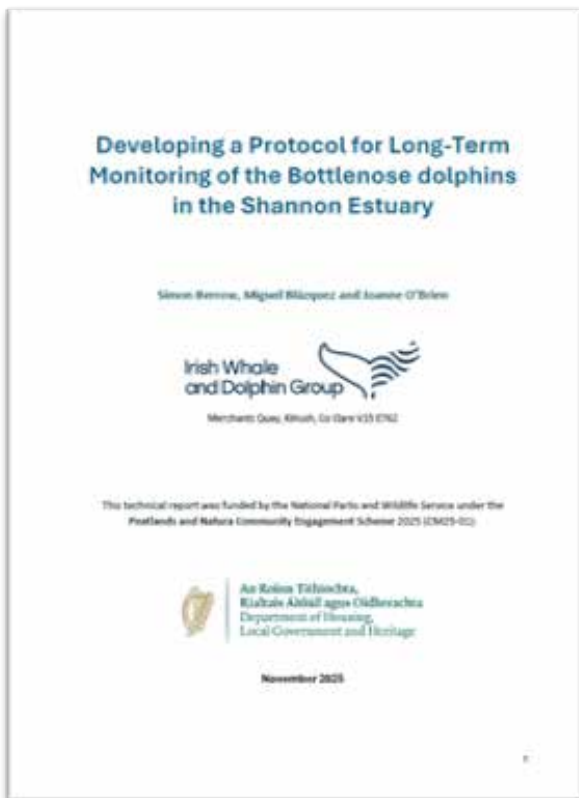


The work is part of the Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2025 funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ref: CM25-01) and links with the SIFP Environmental Sub-Groups work on creating a baseline noise map for the Shannon Estuary in order to inform future development within the estuary and in particular around the future development of the emerging Offshore Renewable Energy sector.

In order to inform the development of a Long-term Bottlenose Dolphin Monitoring Protocol (LTBDMP) the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group reviewed the current monitoring protocols used by the NPWS for their Article 17 reporting and compared to surveys carried out for environmental assessments including static acoustic monitoring, to explore the best approach for an all-estuary, resource efficient, monitoring strategy which would provide appropriate data for a range of reporting obligations. The study has demonstrated the importance of acoustics in monitoring bottlenose dolphin distribution in the Shannon Estuary. Dolphins are rarely observed upriver from Tarbert during boat-based visual surveys and therefore the importance of the inner estuary is severely undervalued using this boat-based survey method. The work has shown that boat based transects are not an effective method of monitoring dolphins upriver and recommends that static acoustic monitoring at key locations be used instead. The SIFP Environmental Sub-Group will continue to liaise with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group on the delivery of a baseline noise map for the estuary and how best these long-term monitoring methods together with our methods in monitoring noise can be used to inform future economic development.

- raise awareness
- support information sharing
- promote consistency and to
- support the protection of Ireland's Natura 2000 network and other protected habitats and species.

The group met for the first time on the 20th of November with the Environmental Assessment officer of Clare County Council nominated to the Forum by the Chief Executive. The Forum will meet formally twice per year, one in-person meeting, which will include field visits where possible to enhance understanding of habitats and development pressures in situ. The meetings will be convened and organized by the NPWS.

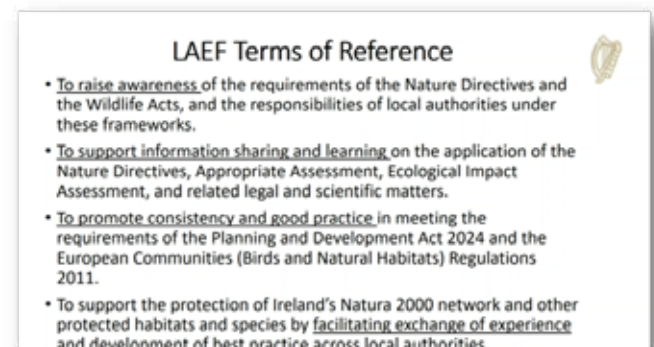


The first meeting focused on agreement with the Terms of Reference and content of future meetings together with detailed discussions on the provisions of Article 12 and the strict protection of Annex IV species. A particularly important topic in Clare is the granting of Derogation licences for disturbance to species therefore the presentation from NPWS on the publication of Guidance on Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species and updated Application Forms was welcomed with a lengthy discussion taking place around the application of this guidance. The National Parks and Wildlife Service has published new guidance for applicants who intend to apply for such derogations. Secondly, from Tuesday, 1 July 2025 an updated Derogation Application Form will be in use.

The new guidance and updated application form are available on the NPWS website here.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY ECOLOGY FORUM (LAEF)

The National parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage have established for the first time a dedicated Local Authority Ecology Forum to provide a dedicated space for Local Authority staff who work on ecology and nature conservation issues, particularly in relation to the planning system and the integration of nature protection into plans and planning applications. The core objectives of the Forum are to:





## BIODIVERSITY

### Funding Opportunity: Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2026

The Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2026 is now open for applications. Applications are welcomed across a diverse range of initiatives with community benefit ranging from events, education programmes, development of conservation management plans, maintenance measures that support conservation measures, monitoring or surveying work to inform of restoration/conservation projects, invasive species, anti-littering initiatives to local environmental improvements in the area of the designated sites and other peatland areas. Successful projects in Clare funded under the scheme include Sheedy's Bog Marsh Fritillary Project, Long-term Monitoring of the Bottlenose Dolphin and Sand Dune Conservation. Under the Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme, there are two categories of funding available:

- Category 1 - Natura 2000 sites (SAC / SPA)
- The maximum grant available is 80% of the costs of the project to a maximum of €40,000
- Category 2 - Non-Natura Peatland sites (incl. NHA and undesignated sites)

The maximum grant available is 80% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €20,000

Further details are available at the link: <https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-and-natura-community-engagement-scheme-2026>

Closing date for submission of applications is 9th January 2026



### Heritage Council Seminar

Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Heritage Officer attended the Local Authority Heritage Practice Seminar at the National Gallery of Ireland in late October. The seminar marked a significant first, bringing together professionals working across the spectrum of local authority heritage services—including archaeologists, architectural conservation officers, archivists, biodiversity officers, heritage officers, librarians, and museum curators. The seminar also promoted Ceangal, a new initiative designed to create a cohesive visual link between the work of local authorities in the heritage sector and the support provided by the Heritage Council through programmes such as the heritage and biodiversity officer programmes.



Clare County Council and the new Heritage Council Logo representing the ongoing partnership between the two organisations.



Panel Discussion: Heritage Council Seminar.

### LBAF Project 2025: Invasive Species Treatment of West Clare and Killaloe Municipal Districts

Treatment eradication measures targeted at scheduled invasive species were carried out along regional and local access roads in West Clare and Killaloe Municipal Districts in 2025 funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund. IAS that are listed in EU1143/2014, the Third Schedule (Part I) of SI 477/2024 and First Schedule of SI 374/2024 were surveyed, treated and had signs erected to demarcate the areas of infestation in early to mid-Autumn 2025. These included Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*), Bohemian knotweed (*Reynoutria x bohemica*), Himalayan knotweed (*Koenigia polystachya*) and Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). Success was measured by the application of best practice management guidelines to all species recorded within the roads network of the municipal districts.



Targeted treatment of scheduled invasive species including Japanese Knotweed



## LBAF Project: Shannon Estuary Biodiversity Online Digital Story Map

The Shannon Estuary Biodiversity Story Map is an online interactive digital platform which aims to profile the different bird species of the Shannon Estuary and to showcase select sites along the estuary in counties Clare, Kerry and Limerick. The story map promotes how the public should value biodiversity within the estuary; learn about the local ecology and the ecosystem services the estuary provides; and to promote responsible behaviour towards the Estuary's conservation. The online resource aims to raise awareness to Clare communities and schools along the estuary. In doing so, it is hoped that community groups may participate in citizen science initiatives such as Irish Wetlands Birds Surveys (IWeBS) and take conservation actions to protect and promote the importance of the Shannon Estuary in their local area and Community Biodiversity Action Plans. The story map will be launched in 2026 and is funded by Clare County Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (NPWS).



*The Shannon Estuary Biodiversity Story Map will be launched in 2026*

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of November (to November 26th). Sixty nine percent of planning applications received in this month were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	November (to Nov 26th)	2025
No. of planning applications received	87	1098
No. of Planning Decisions made	91	949
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	3	43
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	14	211
No. of Section 5 applications	10	98
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	10	45
Submissions received regarding Compliance	42	293

## PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

November 2025 (19th October to 25 November inclusive)		2025 to date
New complaints received	12	241
New files opened	18	143
Files closed	6	77
Warning Letters issued	48	268
Enforcement Notice issued	5	66
Legal	0	19

## RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



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

Ár dTíorthaí  
Tuaite  
Our Rural  
Future

### CLÁR Programme - Community-Led Projects

With support from the CLÁR 2023 and 2024 funding schemes, three key community projects were successfully delivered across rural County Clare. These initiatives focused on improving local infrastructure, accessibility, safety, and overall community well-being.

#### 1. Clarisford Park - Accessible Car Park

**Funding Received:** €50,000

Works have been completed at Clarisford Park on a 300m<sup>2</sup> fully accessible parking area with seven dedicated bays. This upgrade

significantly improves access to park facilities for people with mobility difficulties and supports inclusive participation in community activities.



## 2. Doonbeg Playground

**Funding Received:** €50,000

Doonbeg Community Development Ltd have developed a new inclusive and sustainable playground offering multi-sensory play for children of all abilities. Its central location beside key community facilities ensures safe, convenient family access.



## 3. Kildysart GAA Walkway

**Funding Received:** €50,000

With the assistance of CLAR funding, Kildysart GAA have

constructed a 560m surfaced walking track with kerbing and solar lighting. The walkway provides a safe, all-weather space for walking and jogging, enhancing community wellbeing and evening-time accessibility.



Each of these projects demonstrates the impactful role of CLÁR funding in strengthening rural community infrastructure, enhancing public safety, promoting social inclusion, and fostering community well-being.

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## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION FUND 2024 - COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS

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Clare County Council was awarded **€2,608,408** under the Community Recognition Fund 2024. This fund is specifically targeted at projects that are located in towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants. A total of 20 projects were approved for funding under Window 1 of the scheme, totalling €1,702,000.

The following 3 projects have been successfully completed recently, enhancing local amenities and community facilities.

## 1. Halla Eoin, Kilbaha - Replacement of Roof

**Funding Received:** €60,000

At Halla Eoin, Kilbaha, a €60,000 grant enabled the full replacement of the hall roof, ensuring the building is now structurally sound, weatherproof, and visually improved. Persistent water ingress and mould have been eliminated, preserving previous internal renovations and allowing the hall to operate safely for ongoing community use.



## 2. Banner GAA, Ennis - Community Walkway

**Funding Received:** €50,000

Banner GAA utilised €50,000 in funding to develop a safe, accessible community walkway around the club grounds. This year-round, well-lit amenity now provides residents, club members, and families with a secure and scenic walking route within a natural setting, supporting the needs of the expanding club and local community.



## 3. Clarisford Park - Fencing Works

**Funding:** €80,000

At Clarisford Park, Ballina/Killaloe, an €80,000 investment funded the upgrade of fencing around the playing pitches. The new fencing enhances safety, durability, and the overall usability of the sports facilities for park users and local teams.



Collectively, these projects contribute to improved recreational and community spaces. They reflect the goals of the Community Recognition Fund 2024, which supports communities that play a key role in welcoming and integrating new arrivals from Ukraine and other countries, helping to strengthen local infrastructure and foster inclusive, vibrant environments.

## CLARE COMMUNITIES RECOGNISED AT 2025 IPB PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS



Clare communities were recognised for their exceptional contributions at the 2025 IPB Pride of Place Awards, held on 7th November at the Strand Hotel, Limerick. The event was hosted by Limerick City and County Council in association with Co-operation Ireland.

- **Obair, Newmarket-on-Fergus** received the Creative Community Award for its extensive range of services, including Meals on Wheels, youth support, childcare, and environmental initiatives.

A cornerstone of community development in County Clare, Obair's mission is to promote social inclusion, combat disadvantage, and enhance the lives of residents. Over the years, it has evolved into a multifaceted organisation dedicated to wellbeing and empowerment. Through its integrated approach - combining practical, emotional, and educational supports - Obair has strengthened community resilience and connection. Its legacy lies in the empowerment and solidarity it inspires.

- **Clare Comhairle na nÓg** were runners-up in the Community Youth Initiative category for their impactful project, the "Free Period Products Initiative", and accompanying short film, "It Should Be Like Toilet Paper."

Other Clare nominations included:

- **Feakle Community Council** (Population 0 - 300 Category) were recognised for nurturing a rich tradition of music, sport, and community spirit, the village offers a welcoming space where volunteering is central to daily life
- **Inagh Development** (Climate Action and Biodiversity Category) were commended for leading local climate action through a range of voluntary community projects.

These achievements reflect Clare's ongoing success in fostering community development, innovation, and collaboration through the Pride of Place initiative. Each project highlights the incredible spirit and commitment of Clare's residents to building thriving, inclusive, and sustainable communities.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### Information Clinics

Rural and Community Development Officers team of Conor Leyden, Áine Ní Dhochartaigh, Seamus Murrihy and Darren Carroll, in conjunction with the Climate Action Officer and Creative Communities Engagement Officer, hosted a series of community walk-in information clinics to support Community Groups with the development of projects and identification of funding opportunities. Events were held in nine venues across the county, Shannon, Ennis, Tulla, Scariff, Ennistymon, Clonlara, Corofin, Miltown Malbay and Kilrush.

Date	Venue	Time
Mon 24 Nov	Tulla Courthouse, Tulla, V95 V223	1.30PM-4.30PM
Tues 25 Nov	Shannon Springs Hotel, Ballycasey, Shannon, V14 A336	10.00AM-1PM
Wed 26 Nov	Killaloe MD Office, Scariff, V94 NY33	10.00AM-1PM
Thur 27 Nov	Clonlara Community Centre, Clonlara, V94 VXD4	10.00AM-1PM
Fri 28 Nov	Miltown Malbay Community Centre, Miltown Malbay, V95 W93R	10.00AM-1PM
Mon 1 Dec	Corofin Community Centre, Corofin, V95 RD88	1.30PM-4.30PM
Tues 2 Dec	Kilrush Town, Kilrush, V15 XK70	10.00AM-1PM
Wed 3 Dec	Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, V95 D2PC	10.00AM-1PM
Thur 4 Dec	Clare County Council (Chamber Annex), Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, V95 DXP2	9.30AM-12.30PM





*Tulla Information Clinic: Darren Carroll, Áine Ní Dhochartaigh RCDO's & Conor McDonagh Climate Action Team*



*Miltown Malbay Information Clinic: Seamus Murrihy RCDO with community member.*



*Shannon Information Clinic: Patricia O'Neill Shannon MD, Conor Leyden, Darren Carroll, Áine Ní Dhochartaigh RCDO's*



*Shannon Information Clinic: Conor Leyden, Áine Ní Dhochartaigh RCDO's with local group.*



*RCDO Darren Carroll facilitating Quin Community Meeting on 12/11/2025.*

## HEALTHY CLARE

### Healthy Clare/Creative Ireland Micro Fund 2025

The video for the Clare Garden Festival and Community Garden Collaborations was launched by Carmen Cronin in conjunction with Healthy Clare, at Clare Libraries on Saturday 22nd of November. The video reflected on the theme of 'Extending the Season' which was woven into festivals and workshops for the entire year.



*Healthy Clare Whitegate*

A number of Healthy Clare micro funded projects were completed during the month of November.

- **Whitegate GAA:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of Healthy Whitegate programme, which encourages local residents to engage in physical activity.
- **West Clare FRC:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of tiao chi classes and promotion of Meals on Wheels (West Clare).
- **Shannon FRC:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of chair yoga classes in Bridge Active and Shannon FRC for Older people.
- **West Clare Mental Health Association:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of an 8 week writing for wellbeing programme.
- **Clare Crusaders:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of mindfulness and sensory relaxation sessions.
- **GOSHH Ireland:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of 20 counselling sessions.
- **Streetwise Programme (Brothers of Charity):** Funding awarded toward the delivery of a 12 week yoga programme.
- **Shannon FRC:** Funding awarded toward the delivery of creative mindfulness classes for children.
- **Muintir Na Mara (Liscannor Development):** Funding awarded toward the delivery of Liscannor wellness project.

## EVENTS AND COLLABORATION

### Staffroom Steppers Challenge Launches for Clare Primary Schools

Clare Sports Partnership, Clare Education Centre, and Healthy Clare have announced the launch of the Staffroom Steppers Challenge, a free initiative aimed at promoting physical activity

and wellbeing among primary school staff across County Clare. The challenge runs from January 19 to February 13, 2026, inviting teachers, SNAs, secretaries, caretakers, and all school staff to walk as many kilometres as possible over four weeks. Every step, whether during lunch breaks or weekend walks, contributes to the school's total.



*Staffroom Steppers*

The initiative seeks to embed health and wellbeing within communities, encouraging teamwork and setting a positive example for children. It offers an opportunity to boost morale, foster connection, and energize staff at the start of the year. Progress will be tracked via the Strava app, with Clare Sports Partnership monitoring results. Schools will compete in three categories based on pupil numbers, and winners will receive a €100 sports equipment voucher.

This collaborative effort underscores the importance of investing in staff wellbeing to strengthen school communities. Registration closes on January 9, 2026, and details are available at [claresports.ie/staffroom-steppers](https://claresports.ie/staffroom-steppers).

### Comhairle na nOg Period Dignity

Members of the Comhairle na nOg committee and Clare Youth Service presented their video, 'It should be like toilet paper' to members of the council. Their presentation received really positive feedback and was followed up with a motion put forward by Cllr. Mary Howard, seeking to ensure that period products are made freely available in Dept. of Education Buildings.

### Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo

Recent features, highlighting services in the the Health and Wellbeing page include:

**Lung Cancer Month:** Featuring a piece from Bernadette Mullins, Senior Health Promotional Officer, Cancer Prevention, HSE. Lung Cancer is one of the most common causes of death in Ireland, so knowing the signs is vital.

**Breastfeeding Friendly Rooms Launched:** Following the re-launch of the We're Breastfeeding Booklet, with support from Healthy Clare, the HSE have opened two breastfeeding friendly rooms for staff and members of the public.

**International Mens Health Day:** Mick Collins, National Office of Suicide Prevention addressed supports around mens health and wellbeing as International Mens Health day was marked.



**Staff Room Steppers:** Launching the above walking challenge.

**World Diabetes Day and World COPD Day:** The two important days were marked with an article highlighting the importance of the services offered by the Chronic Management Team in the Primary Care hub on Station Road.

**Prostate Cancer Awareness:** Bernadette Mullins and T. Forde came together around International Mens Health Day to highlight the importance of spotting signs of Prostate Cancer.

If you would like to see a Health and Wellbeing initiative promoted in the Health and Wellbeing page, reach out to the Healthy Clare Coordinator, samccarthy@clarecoco.ie



Lung Cancer Awareness Month

## Age Friendly Abbey Probus Group

On November 4th, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager Shanelle Waring had the pleasure of presenting the Clare Age Friendly County Strategy 2024 - 2030 to members of the Abbey Probus Group.



Abbey Probus Presentation

## Age Friendly Killaloe Active Retirement

### Community Engagement Update

On Friday, November 7th, 2025, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager Shanelle Waring delivered a presentation to the Killaloe Active Retirement Group on Ageing in Place and the Clare Age Friendly County Strategy 2024 - 2030.

The session focused on how the strategy supports older people to remain living independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible, while promoting safety, accessibility, and inclusion.

This engagement is part of our ongoing commitment to share information and gather feedback from older people across Clare, ensuring their voices shape the implementation of the Age Friendly Strategy.



Killaloe Active Retirement Group

## Age Friendly AIB Fraud Event

On November 10th, 2025, Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager Shanelle Waring and members of the Clare Older People's Council attended the AIB "Managing and Keeping Your Money Safe" event at the Temple Gate Hotel.

This initiative aligns with the Clare Age Friendly County Strategy, which emphasises the importance of attending and sharing information to support older members of our communities.

The event featured expert speakers:

- Pauline McNamara - MABS
- Triona Lynch - LCETB
- Catriona Holohan - An Garda Síochána Crime Prevention Officer
- Pat Enright - AIB

Topics included financial safety, fraud prevention, budgeting advice, and crime prevention tips, ensuring older people have the knowledge and resources to protect themselves and their finances.





*Flagmount Community Event*



*AIB Managing & Keeping your money safe*

### Flagmount Community Event

Clare Age Friendly and East Clare Community Policing hosted a morning of refreshment and information at Flagmount Community Centre on the 25th November 2025. The event brought together neighbours and friends from adjoining parishes, creating an opportunity for social connection and community engagement. Light refreshments were served throughout the morning.

Attendees heard from guest speakers representing Clare Libraries, Nutritionist Dr Anne Griffin UL, Crime Prevention Officer Catriona Holohan, Ciara Flynn of Clare Suicide Bereavement Support, and Cahir & Co. LLP Solicitors. In addition, a variety of information stands were available, including HSE, Local Link, TASK, Clare Fire Service, Home Care Ennis, Clare Civil Defence, EMG Energy Consultants, Healthy Clare, Cultural Companions, ECTN Community Policing, Clare Older People's Council, and Clare County Council Housing Grants.

The event successfully combined education, networking, and support services, fostering awareness of local resources and promoting wellbeing within the community.

### Irish Countrywomen's Association

The Clare Age Friendly Programme Manager presented the Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2024–2030 at the November meeting of the Clare Federation of Irish Countrywomen's Association guild representatives. The meeting allowed representatives to share updates and bring information back to their own guilds.



*Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2024–2030 at the November meeting of the Clare Federation of the ICA*

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## UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

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Recent CSO figures show there were 1,500 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 52 granted per day. There are currently 3,102 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 97 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 905 people accommodated in 18 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 8 people compared to previous figures.

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 and other private arrangements. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 458 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration has introduced changes to their accommodation policy effective from 10th November 2025 for those newly arriving in the Country. Under the revised approach, anyone fleeing the war in Ukraine, who registers for temporary protection and is looking for State-provided accommodation in Ireland will be accommodated for a maximum of 30 days (previously 90 days). They will be provided with food, laundry and other services and supports in the Designated Accommodation Centres.

The revised approach to the accommodation offering has been adopted in order to respond to a recent large increase in the number of arrivals from Ukraine. This policy aims to ensure the State can continue to provide temporary accommodation to those most in need when they arrive.

This change will not affect people who have already commenced their stay under the 90-day Accommodation Policy, or those already availing of other State-supported accommodation.

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## LOCAL AUTHORITY INTEGRATION TEAM

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The Local Authority Integration Teams (LAITs) have been set up in all local authorities. Their purpose is to help coordinate the different kinds of support available for people who are applying for international protection, refugees, and others in similar situations.

The goal of LAITs is to help IP applicants and refugees become independent, settle into their new communities, and participate in Irish life. They do this by connecting people to important services that can help them integrate into the community.

### Who do LAITs support?

LAITs provide support for:

- Applicants for International Protection (IP)
- People who have been granted refugee status or other forms of protection, such as subsidiary protection or permission to remain
- Refugees who have been resettled in Ireland through a government programme
- Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs)

### How is the support provided?

LAITs operate under the principle of 'Integration from Day One'. This means that LAITs provide integration support to people who need it as soon as they arrive in Ireland.

### What services do LAITs provide?

The work of LAITs isn't meant to replace existing services. Instead, LAITs help connect people with the existing services that are most

suitable for their needs. This includes things like:

- Being a direct contact for new arrivals, helping them with any problems they might have when dealing with public services
- Connecting new arrivals with services like legal help, childcare and healthcare
- Connecting new arrivals with services that improve their ability to live independently, like job training, English classes, education, and apprenticeships
- Guiding new arrivals through the process of applying for financial support, medical help, child benefits, and other services they might need
- Holding meetings in local areas and using community development principles to help those who attend
- Supporting people if they face racism or other unfair treatment, helping them report it to the right authorities
- Helping vulnerable new arrivals get in touch with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other services if they need extra help

### How do I contact my Local Authority Integration Team?

You can contact LAIT's by email on [integration@clarecoco.ie](mailto:integration@clarecoco.ie)

### Collaboration and Clinics held across the County

The LAIT team collaborated with Doras in holding and organised focus groups with residents of IPAS Centres in Clare as part of a project funded by Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). The research is looking at what it is like to live in the IPAS emergency accommodation. Doras heard from people who are living in the centres or have recently moved into their own accommodation in the community. Their views and experiences are very important. What they share will help us understand what supports are working and what needs to change.

The LAIT team continue to deliver information and signposting sessions and Integration Support Clinics in International Protection centres and centres accommodating Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary protection across the county. These sessions help residents access essential services and provide new community members with the information they need to support their integration into local communities.

To date in 2025, the LAIT team has delivered 112 Information Sessions and Integration Support Clinics in IPAS and BOTP accommodation centres, providing assistance to 673 attendees.

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## CLARE SHORTLISTED FOR EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERING CAPITAL 2027

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County Clare could soon become an internationally recognised centre for excellence in policies and programmes supporting volunteers and volunteering.



Representatives of Clare Volunteer Centre and Clare County Council will travel to Barcelona for the announcement on December 1st as a shortlisted candidate for the official announcement for the prestigious European Volunteering Capital 2027 title.

Previous European Volunteering Capitals include Barcelona, Lisbon, London, Berlin, and Gdansk. In 2017, Sligo became the first and only Irish location to be awarded the title.

The European Volunteering Capital Competition, launched in 2013 during the European Year of Citizens, is hosted by the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV). The European network comprises 60 organisations dedicated to the promotion of, and support for, volunteers and volunteering at European, national, and regional levels.



- **West Clare Municipal District Office**, Town Hall, Kilrush, Co. Clare, V15 XK70
- **Kilrush Library**, O’Gorman Street, Kilrush

Submissions/observations can be made up to **18th December 2025 at 16:00hrs.**

Kilrush Town Team will also have copies available during the late night Kilrush Christmas Shopping evenings on December 4 and 11.

### **Lisdoonvarna Project Development Measure.**

Clare County Council, Grafton Architects, Lisdoonvarna Town Team and other stakeholders are progressing towards the provision of a detailed Public Realm Design for the Town Square. Surveys have been completed and further public consultation building on Tapping The Well is planned for January 2026. Part VIII Planning Application will be submitted by summer 2026. The project will produce a high-quality architecturally designed public realm space for the Town Square in Lisdoonvarna. Funding to construct the project has yet to be secured.



### **Tulla Town Team**

A Walkability Audit for Tulla was undertaken in June 2025 and a draft report has now been completed. Shanelle Waring, Age Friendly Development Officer presented the draft findings of the Walkability Audit report during a review meeting in October 2025 with members of the Tulla Town Team and representatives from Clare County Council, including Declan Flanagan, Senior Engineer (Acting); and Joan Tarmey, Town Regeneration Officer (Acting).



This report will be finalised and will serve as a key foundation for enhancing the accessibility of Tulla and will support efforts to secure future funding for improvement projects.

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## **TOWN CENTRE FIRST**

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### **Draft Kilrush Town Centre First Plan**

Kilrush Town Team, supported by Clare County Council’s Town Centre First Department, West Clare elected members, and Council staff, has prepared a Draft Town Centre First (TCF) Plan. The draft Plan aims to provide the town with a path to regeneration. It sets out a shared vision for a thriving, vibrant, and sustainable Kilrush, informed by the voices of residents, community groups, and businesses. The plan is built around six themes: Inclusion, Climate & Biodiversity, Vibrancy, Heritage, Culture, and Wellbeing.

The draft Plan is available via the official online portal at <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/kilrush-town-centre-first-plan>. A Drop-in public consultation event will be held on **4th December at Kilrush Town Hall.**



Hard copies of the Draft Plan are available for inspection during normal opening hours at:



## ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Deep Clean of Ennis Town Centre Streets and Paving

Ennis MD procured the services of a specialist Contractor to undertake a deep clean of the paving and streetscape along Parnell St, Abbey St, High St and associated laneways. These works were carried out over the last number of weeks outside of normal business hours to minimise disruption to traffic and to businesses in the town in advance of the Christmas period. Ennis MD crews separately undertook power washing works to footways along Abbey St Carpark and Chapel Lane in Ennis.



### Ennis Flood Relief Upgrade Works – Pump Stations

Ennis MD, in conjunction with the OPW, carried out upgrades to the pumps servicing the Island Car Park, Ennis. This pump station facilitates the surface water management for the catchment that includes Circular Rd, Cusack Rd and the housing estates adjacent to this area including Hermitage, Cloughleigh etc. This was the third and final pump that undertook a full maintenance overhaul at this permanent pump station in 2025, ensuring the pumps are in full working order approaching the winter season.

Other pump replacement works were also carried out at the Maid of Eireann pump station. Works here involved electrical cabling and transformer replacements.

There were also a full assessment and upgrade works to the foul pumping station at the Friars Walk Bus Park. This is a critical piece of infrastructure in accommodating visitor and regional bus operators into Ennis, allowing them to undertake essential washing and sanitary maintenance associated with their service.



### Pine Grove – Traffic Calming Measures

Traffic calming measures and roundabout reconfiguration works were carried out in Pine Grove this month. These works were scheduled following a number of meetings with the Pine Grove Residents Committee. Works were carried out to improve safety measures while maintaining safe vehicular usage for people living and visiting the estate.



### Co-Creating Works & Footpath Improvement Works

Ennis MD crews continued to work on the Co-Creating project throughout November. This project involves the tightening of junctions and the installation of raised pedestrian crossings throughout key locations in the town to improve accessibility and pedestrian safety. To date, over 30 junctions in Ennis have been upgraded under this scheme. The latest improvements were carried out during November include College Rd, Kilrush Rd, Dalcassian Drive and McNamara Park.

Other footpath improvement works carried out this month include an approach road to Clarecastle village along the R458 where new surfacing was constructed along the public footway while also improving vehicular accessibility to a number of homes along the route.



### Autumn and Winter Maintenance Works

The Ennis MD crew continued their Autumn and Winter maintenance this month which also involved a number of out of hours emergency responses.

Ennis MD road sweeping crews were busy undertaking autumn maintenance which included leaf management, drainage gully maintenance and tree strimming. These works will continue over the coming winter season which is a key preventative measure in tackling localised and spot flooding.

Other drainage works included new soak pit construction at Ballaghboy in Doora. These surface water works were installed to prevent water ingress to a number of homes in the area.



### Clancy Park - Greenspace Enhancement Work's.

Works have largely been completed on site in Clancy Park. The aim being to enhance the appearance of the green space and areas within the estate. All trees have been removed as per Arborist report as well as pruning and general tidy up of the remainder. The concrete Kelly blocks have been removed and a clay bund has been installed. This is to be reseeded, as well as the green space. The roundabout has been cleared of all vegetation, with a weed barrier to be installed and covered in bark mulch, which will allow for future controlled planting of flowers and shrubs. The funding for this work has been received from development contributions. There has been extensive community engagement, and they have been updated on the progress and are very happy with the completed works.



### Barefield Low-cost Safety Scheme.

Works has continued on the Low-cost safety scheme in Barefield village. The retaining wall has been completed with the new stone facing. The new kerbing and crossings have been installed. Junctions have been tightened, with additional lighting columns added at the junction. Works are likely to be completed in the next week.

The project extends the existing footpath on the Ruan Road to the junction of the R458. The scheme also includes traffic calming, pedestrian crossings, and additional street lighting at the junction with the R458 Ennis to Gort Road resulting in the increased safety of all road users in the area.



### Tree Maintenance.

Ennis MD have addressed numerous CRM's in relation to the maintenance of trees within the municipal district. Whether it is the removal of dangerous trees on health and safety grounds or the trimming back of trees that are overhanging and hitting the sides and roofs of properties. Some of the works carried out included the following. At Castlewood Estate a tree had been damaged in previous storms, where limbs had broken off. This tree was deemed dangerous and as a result had to be taken

down. The trees on Dalcassian Drive were trimmed back. Also in Avondale tress were trimmed back trees along pedestrian entrance. The tress along the boundary walls of Lenabeg Estate were cut back preventing the trees from hitting off the homes within the estate.



### Ennis Town Bus Service

The NTA Town Bus team working with the Ennis MD and Transport Section of Clare County Council are advancing the provision of the Ennis Town Bus Service.

- The NTA Board has approved the appointment of the Operational Contract for the Ennis Town Bus Service. We expect that the NTA will formally announce the successful tenderer soon.
- The detailed design of the bus stops has been forwarded to the NTA Procurement Section and it is anticipated that work will commence on the termini and larger bus stops in January '26.
- Clare County Council commenced a Section 38 process on a number of bus stop locations during November.
- The installation of the key bus stops will determine the commencement date of the Ennis Town Bus Service, and it is anticipated that this will be towards the end of Q1 2026.

### Ennis Local Transport Plan

In excess of 2,200 submissions were received on the Ennis Local Transport Plan (LTP). Systra and Ennis MD have read, reviewed and categorised all consultation submissions to facilitate additional analysis and interpretation. All feedback was considered, categorised and used as an input into the preparation of the public consultation report and Final Local Transport Plan.

The summary of the public consultation in the Ennis LTP Public Consultation Report was issued to the Ennis MD Councillors at a briefing prior to the October Ennis MD meeting and workshops were held with the Ennis MD Councillors on Tuesday October 21st and Wednesday October 22nd with SYSTRA, Ennis MD Office, Forward Planning, Climate Change and Transport Section of Clare County Council present. The Clare County Council's responses to the public consultation submissions were discussed and actions agreed.

Ennis MD expects that the public consultation report will be available by the end of November and final version of the Local Transport Plan will be available by early December.

# HOUSING DELIVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION & LAND ACTIVATION

## HOUSING

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).

### Clare County Council Housing Grants online application

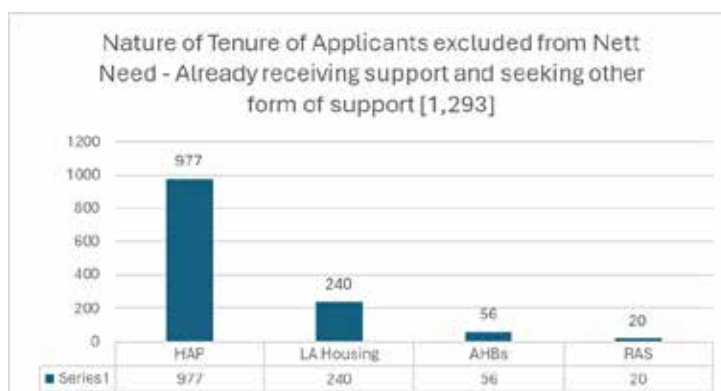
Our Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People are now available online through our website. This is part of our ongoing efforts to reduce paperwork, improve the speed of grant processing, and allow applicants to see the progress of their grant throughout our approval process.

### Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,128 applicant households (79%) who have a requirement for this property type.

#### Current Housing need as of 21/10/2025

Total Households on List	2,699
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,293
Net Need	1,406



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

Count of	BEDS APPROVED			
FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Total
ENNIS	949	168	67	1,184
SHANNON	170	36	14	220
CLARECASTLE	164	29	6	199
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	109	19	7	135
KILRUSH	91	15	7	113
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	79	20	1	100
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	61	25	11	97
COROFIN/RUAN	67	15	1	83
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	67	9	2	78
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	52	12	2	66
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	51	12	0	63
KILLALOE	45	15	2	58
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	40	9	2	51
SIXMILEBRIDGE	35	12	3	50
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	36	8	6	50
CLONLARA	26	10	1	37
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	25	7	0	32



KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	20	5	3	28
QUIN	19	3	2	24
KILMIHIL	9	3	2	14
KILMALEY	11	1	0	12
KILFENORA	4	1	0	5
<b>Gand Total</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>2,699</b>

## Newly Qualified Applicants



## Housing Health and Safety Award

The new social housing development located at An Moinear, Gort Road Ennis was recently advertised on the CBL website and. This development comprises 20 units - 2 no 2 storey 4 bedroomed houses , 4 no 3 bedroomed 2 storey houses, 12 no 2 bedroomed 2 storey houses and 2 no 1 bedroomed bungalows. This development attracted a huge level of interest, and 593 valid expressions of interest were received. The Assessment process in relation to this development is completed and offers of accommodation have issued to the prospective tenants.



In addition, 20 units located at Parnell Street, Ennis were recently advertised on the CBL website. These units comprise 2 bedroomed town houses and 1 and 2 bedroomed apartments. These units are in the heart of Ennis town, adjacent to the pedestrianized section of Parnell Street and are in close proximity to shops, gyms, swimming pool and many other recreational facilities. This development is a fantastic opportunity for single applicant households and couples who are on our housing list to avail of a permanent home in the heart of a thriving town.



### Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 21 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Nine properties have been sold to date in 2025. It is expected that more sales will be completed before year end.

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 will be reviewed early in 2026. We have also agreed that 1-bedroom properties and specially adapted units will not be available under the scheme.

### Traveller Accommodation

#### National LTACC conference

Clr Tony O'Brien, Chairperson Clare County Council's Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) and committee members Bridgie Casey, Project Coordinator, Clare Traveller CDP, along with Gerry Murphy Traveller Liaison Officer attended the national LTACC Conference held in Dublin on 13-11-25.

Topics covered at the conference included:

- NTACC Work Progress
- Programme Board Progress
- Design Guidelines
- LTACC Local Governance Paper
- National Governance Paper
- National Homeless Action Committee (NHAC) Work in Progress of relevance to Travellers

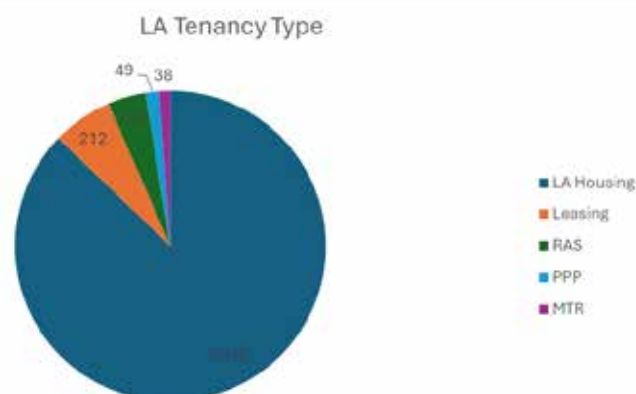
Clare County Council continue to progress our Traveller Accommodation Program [TAP] 2025 - 2029. We held our fourth and final LTACC meeting of 2025 on 27th November, 2025. Training for the LTACC members was completed in for November 2025 and items arising from same incorporated into the committees terms of reference.

### Housing Tenancies:

\*Breakdown of tenancies by municipal district, (including RAS; long- and short-term leasing; PPP; Traveller accommodation &

Mortgage to Rent. Excludes AHBs):

21st November, 2025			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	19	1,285	1,304
Killaloe MD	0	368	368
Shannon MD	2	753	755
West Clare MD	2	972	974
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3,378</b>	<b>3,401</b>



There are 133 RAS tenancies and 212 lease tenancies (126 long-term and 86 short-term leases). There are 977 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing Bodies are providing approximately 1,010 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties, except where they provide a portion of the capital funding from their own resources. 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.

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accommodation	5	7	1	0	13
Projects	4	4	1	2	11
Casual vacancies	32	15	5	13	65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>89</b>



## Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continues to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, to deal with queries as well as inspecting properties and providing the necessary advice and support. The team is extremely active in carrying out tenancy visits. It should be noted that the no. of visits carried out is testament to the more proactive approach being taken by the team in engaging with tenants.

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

	Total year to date
Queries rec'd in relation to potential breaches of Tenancy	517
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	33
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	35
Abandonment Notices issued	7
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	48
Repossession Orders	0

The team carry out continued patrols of Local Authority housing estates and traveller accommodation sites and have a very visible presence to manage any issues arising. Proactive engagement with tenants also takes place to help prevent anti-social behaviour, to facilitate the inspection of local authority sites, to arrange specific meetings with tenants, as well as general engagement with local communities.

## Private Rented inspections:

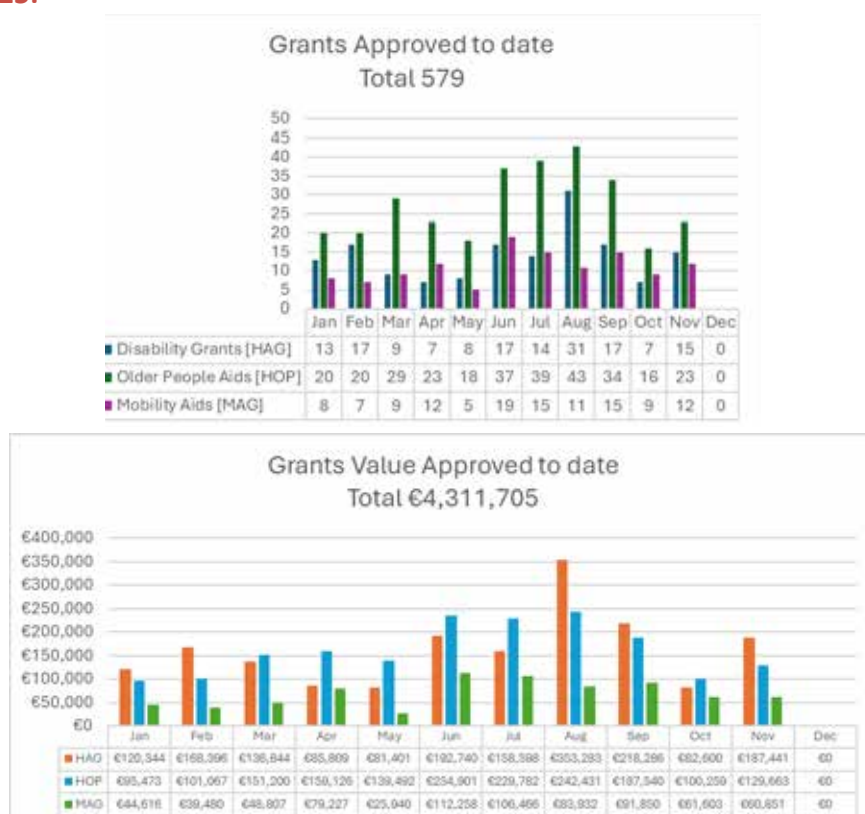
Inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 736 properties to date this year.

## Housing Grants:

A big demand continues to exist for the Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. There are 579 grants approved to date this year and we are approaching our current annual budget allocation. This may result in further approvals being delayed until 2026. Details of these grants are available on Clare County Council's website. We encourage applicants to apply online through the following link:

[Housing grants | Housing | Services | Clare County Council](#)

## Grants Approved 2025:



### 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 74 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:



### Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan

The Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan was introduced on the 22 July 2024. This is a government backed mortgage and loan for the purchase and renovation of derelict and non-habitable homes. The property must be eligible for the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, whether derelict, non-habitable or simply vacant.

Full details on the Local Authority Purchase and Renovation Loan (LAPR) and eligibility criteria including the Loan Calculator can be found on <https://purchaseandrenovationloan.ie/> 3 LAPR Applications have been received to date.

### The Homeless Action Team

The number of presentations to the Homeless Action Team including complex cases continue to rise. This continues to place immense pressure on the Homeless Action Team on a monthly basis.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and family household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports, which in turn averted the need for emergency accommodation and avoided entering homeless services. HAP services have increased this quarter with a small increase in those accessing and availing of HAP supports. Other individuals and families were supported in accessing emergency accommodation either within our services or through private establishments.

The Homeless Action Team continues to pursue additional emergency accommodation options at a time when accommodation is in high demand generally.

### Homeless Services [Homeless Action Team HAT]

Clare Homeless Action team continues to engage with all necessary stakeholders, service providers and local supports to adopt a collaborative approach to the tackling of Homelessness. The team, along with Limerick City & County Council, are currently preparing their new Mid West Region Homeless Action Plan for 2026 to 2028, which will be brought to the Housing SPC, and the elected members for review and adoption.

### Emergency Accommodation Status as at 2 November 2025

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge (apts)	0	5	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	7	12	1
Westbrook	0	18	0	1
Ashford Court	15	22	20	1
Clann Nua	0	12	0	1
EA Families	9	16	29	8
EA Individuals	0	24	0	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>25</b>

### Exits from Homeless Services:

Clare Homeless Action Team continues to focus on exits from homeless services.

During the period 4 October to 2 November 2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing	0
Moved to Private Rented Housing	1
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	1
Admitted to hospital	0
Excluded	1
Residential Treatment	0
Tenancy LA	0
Returned to family/friends	0
Prevention Tenancies	0
Other	4

In addition to the above numbers many other households engage with our homeless services on a daily basis.

### 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 are also engaged with developers with potential for Part V affordable delivery.

To date, CCC have received approvals for access to the Affordable Housing Fund for the following developments:

- **Tulla Rd Ennis** - 10 units (with Developer).
- **Lahinch Rd Ennis** - 6 units (units allocated and at acquisition stage).
- **Shannon** - 10 units (All units allocated and at acquisition stage).

CCC are currently engaged with other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme. CCC are currently awaiting receipt of stage 2 applications from 3 no potential developments in Tulla, Shannon and Ennis.



There is an online information portal at <https://affordablehomes.ie/> providing general information to the public with regards to affordable housing.

### Serviced Sites for New Homes – Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund

The Government's current "Housing For All" plan provides for Local Authorities to make serviced sites available for sale to eligible purchasers through the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund. The sites in towns and villages across the country will be made available at discounted rates for qualified individual purchasers who wish to build their own home.

It is CCC's intent to provide for Croí Cónaithe sites in Lisdoonvarna and Feakle with progress to date being as follows:

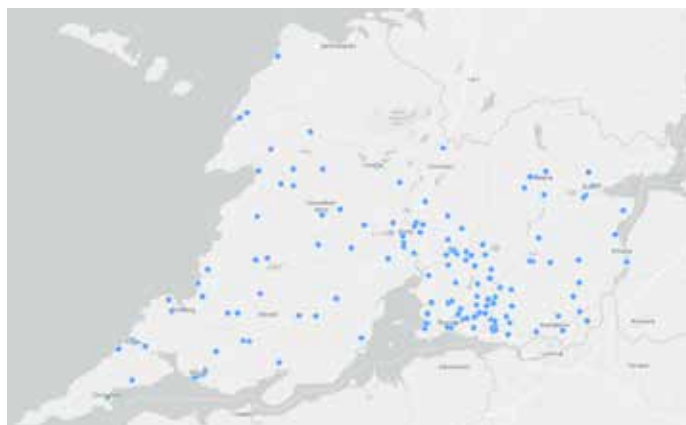
- **Lisdoonvarna** - Design team appointed. Surveys complete, design complete & planning application being developed. Engagement with adjacent landowners ongoing.
- **Feakle** - Needs assessment complete. Surveys complete & design team procured.

### Defective Concrete Blocks Grant Scheme

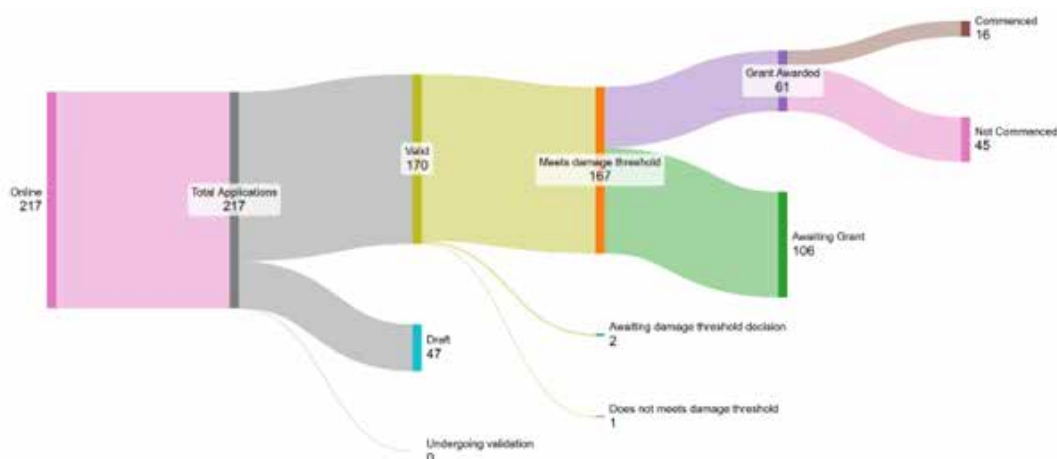
The Enhanced Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme went live in mid-July 2023, for private dwellings, with the finalised Act, regulations, updated YQA's (Your Questions Answered) & Ministerial Guidelines published.

On the 7th of November 2024, The Minister approved an increase in the grant cap from €420,000 to €462,000.

### DCB Application Map



### DCB Application Flow Chart



Homeowners can submit applications to the Defective Concrete Block (DCB) Scheme online via the Clare County Council (CCC) website. The site provides comprehensive guidance and resources to assist applicants throughout the process. A step-by-step instructional video titled "How to Make an Application" is also available to further support homeowners.

For additional assistance, CCC's DCB Team is available to respond to queries. Homeowners can contact the team via email at [dcb@clarecoco.ie](mailto:dcb@clarecoco.ie) or by phone at **065-6846385**, **065-6846468**, or **065-6846309**.

CCC administer and validate applications received through the online portal. CCC continue to engage with both the Housing Agency and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), fulfilling all associated responsibilities.

To date, CCC have issued 64 Remedial Option Grants, with a total value of €20.7 million approx. An additional 106 applications are currently being processed by the Housing Agency, with remedial option grant amounts to follow. There are a further 49 applications at draft stage on the online portal.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is conducting a review of the current I.S.465 standard concerning deleterious materials, on behalf of the DHLGH. The public consultation period has concluded, and the NSAI are now reviewing the submissions received.

The first two properties affected by deleterious materials were completed in October 2025. Both applicants had their final grant payments issued on completion of the remediation works. This is an important milestone for the administration of the scheme since its commencement in July 2023.

CCC are hosting a walk-in clinic on 28th November 2025, in Clare County Council HQ, to target people with limited digital resources and/or capabilities, to assist them further in making an application and other elements of the DCB application process.

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

### Update on capital programme:

Clare County Council is progressing well with its direct build programme. Developments that are currently under construction include the Back Road development in Kilrush, the Doonbeg development, the Gort Road, Ennis development, the Shallee Drive/Cloughleigh Road development in Ennis and the Moore Street, Kilrush development. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design.



Progress on Back Road housing development



Progress on Gort Road housing development



Progress on Doonbeg housing development



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development

### Approved Housing Bodies

As we approach the close of 2025, the AHBs are liaising closely with the Housing Department to ensure that the maximum no. of units is delivered this year. A property was completed by Banner Housing this month in Ennis for disability needs under the Capital Assistance Scheme, which is very welcome having regard to our Housing Strategy for People with a Disability. Departmental approval was also received for 4 units at Church Road Clonlara. This project is being delivered through Part V of the Planning Acts and is expected to be completed before the end of 2025.

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Completed - 10 Houses Construction Stage - 3 Houses	Q3 2023	Q1 2025 (10) Q1 2026 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Completed - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Completed - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	18	Construction Stage - T. Key . 8 Completed and allocated	Q2 2024	Q3 2025 (8) Q4 2025 (10)
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Construction Stage	Q1 2024	Q4 2025
Circular Road Ennistymon	4	Construction Stage - T. Key	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Review	Q3 2025	2026
76 & 78 Parnell Street, Ennis	20	Completed Turnkey	Q1 2025	Q4 2025
1b The Maples, Ennis	1	Completed Turnkey	Q1 2025	Q3 2025
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Construction Stage	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Doonbeg Lands	8	Construction Stage	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Construction Stage	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Construction Stage	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Construction Stage	Q3 2025	Q1 2027
Drumcliff Rd, Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH.	-	-
R2 Lands Lisdoonvarna	25	Stage 1 approved by DHLGH	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>200</b>			



## HOUSING DELIVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION & LAND ACTIVATION

Approved Housing Body Projects	No. of units approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Acha Bhile, Lahinch Rd., Ennis (Cluid Hsg.Assoc) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 3)	Completed	Q1 2024	Q1 2025
Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey	13 (Phase 2)	Completed	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Millbank, Roslevan, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	10 (Phase 2)	Completed	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	34	Completed: Phase 2 - 18 units Completed: Phase 3 - 16 units	Q2 2024 Q3 2024	Q2 2025 Q3 2025
Ballyminogue, Scarriff (Inis Housing) CALF Turnkey	5	Completed	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Abbeyville, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Ltd.) (CAS Turnkey)	1	Completed  (Delivered on 19/11/2025)	Q4/2024	Q4/2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	At construction stage	Q3 2023	Q1 2026
Acha Bhile, Ennis (Banner Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	4	At procurement stage for appointment of consultants	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	3	At procurement stage for appointment of consultants	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
5/6 Ashfield Close, Ennis (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	6	Updated costs with the Dept. for approval.	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Bruachlan,Westbury (Co-operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Const.	22	Contractor appointed	Q4 2025	Q4 2026
Radharc Doire, Shannon (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	5	At construction stage	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Radharc an Dun, Crusheen (Cluid Hsg. Assoc.) CALF Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
Church Road, Clonlara (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q4 2024	Q4/2025
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>139</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>			

### Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme

The Clare Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 sets out overall targets for Clare County Council:

- 51% reduction in Clare County Council's own emissions
- 50% energy efficiency increase by 2030

A key requirement of the Plan was the identification of a Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) and the Kilkee/Loop Head Peninsula has been designated as the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Clare County Council.

A key objective of the Plan is the retrofitting of the Social Housing Stock across the DZ, which currently number 136 units. The Housing Section are currently identifying properties for inclusion under this programme and will submit a proposal to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to seek funding under a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan for the retrofitting of these houses.

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## CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY (PMO & GDO)

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### PMO

<b>Doolin Pier</b>	Cross-directorate group has completed review of key priorities in November 2025. This will inform future submissions to the department in respect of strategic development of facilities at Doolin pier. PMO have already engaged with the department earlier this year to review project progress, next steps and future funding requirements. The MD is progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, for which works are scheduled for resumption in coming months. Once complete, this will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well-trafficked route.
<b>Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)</b>	<p>Works activity has intensified at O'Connell Square and Bank Place over recent weeks, as completion approaches. In Bank Place, the newly paved and tree-lined footpaths have been unveiled, and the roadway has been surfaced and line marked in anticipation of restoration of through traffic.</p> <p>The works at O'Connell Square are now largely completed, which has been transformed under the scheme. It is notable that the water feature close to the O'Connell monument is now undergoing final commissioning and we look forward to seeing this new innovation at the town centre, as the new look for Ennis is launched. The street planters delineate the new central plaza area within the square and showcase the clean geometrical lines of the street fountain.</p> <p>With the switch-on of the Christmas lights, the project has achieved the significant milestone of completion of the project works, and the re-opening of the remodelled O'Connell Square. Through traffic has been restored to High Street and Abbey Street, and the Shared surface pavement of O'Connell Street will remain for the exclusive use of pedestrians over the Christmas period, as the Council undertakes a survey of trader and public views concerning its future use.</p> <p>There is now a continuous stretch of Shared Space Public Realm Streetscape fully open for the use and enjoyment by our traders and general public.</p> <p>Consultation with impacted traders and stakeholders has continued throughout the works. The contractor continues to issue weekly newsletters to inform of upcoming works. (Subscribe to <a href="mailto:ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie">ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie</a>). The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff have worked hard to assist traders and the public with any concerns and to mitigate impacts from the works wherever possible. While there will be the need to complete some snagging works in early 2026, the Council is delighted to announce that the contract works are now coming to conclusion. We would like to thank our citizens and traders for their forbearance throughout the construction period. Projects of this scale are challenging, but in the long term, the associated disruption is far outweighed by the transformative impact of the newly created shared spaces and remodelled squares. We look forward to experiencing the benefits immediately, and long into the future. Thus, our appreciation is noted and extended to Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, without whom this investment would not have been possible.</p>
<b>Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)</b>	<p>Once the judicial review process is fully concluded, Clare County Council will proceed to the next stages of the project which include detailed design, conclusion of the land acquisition process and planning for the construction phase. The next stages of the project will include detailed design development, conclusion of the land acquisition and planning for the construction phase.</p> <p>The inner relief road will deliver significant safety benefits to the local area and is designed to address long-standing traffic congestion at Blake's Corner, a key junction in the town. The scheme includes the construction of a new bridge upstream of the historic Michael Conway Bridge, pedestrianisation of the existing bridge, and significant public realm improvements.</p>



<b>Killaloe Bridge, Bypass &amp; R494 Upgrade</b>	<p>The date of Substantial Completion for the Project was 28th March 2025.</p> <p>The Project is now in the 12 Months Defects Liability Period.</p> <p>Some minor Accommodation Works are outstanding but should commence imminently.</p> <p>Project Snagging/De-slagging continues.</p> <p>Open NCRs (Non-Conformance Reports) steadily being closed out.</p> <p>Site compound de-mobilisation in progress.</p> <p>As-Built records are collated.</p> <p>Project Safety File is almost ready for sharing.</p> <p>Landscape maintenance ongoing.</p> <p>Final Account talks are ongoing.</p> <p><a href="https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/">https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/</a></p>
<b>Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme</b>	<p>Confirmation was received from An Coimisiún Pleanála that no judicial review proceedings have been lodged in relation to the grant of planning approval for the Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme. Third-party survey specifications for Site Investigations, Topographical, CCTV, manhole and Ground Penetration Radar surveys have been issued to the steering group for review. Liaison between the Project Team and key utility providers has moved into the next phase following the grant of planning approval. Clare County Council continue to meet with landowners regarding the necessary temporary and permanent land acquisitions required.</p>
<b>Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)</b>	<p>Positive discussions continue with regard the final land acquisition necessary for the delivery of the road infrastructure project. Approval to award the contract has been received from the Department of Housing, Local Government &amp; Heritage subject to all lands being available. Final coordination of utility diversions is progressing. A State Body Agreement is being finalised with Uisce Éireann who will fund the Water &amp; Wastewater infrastructure element of the scheme. A recruitment competition for the Site Supervisory team (Senior Resident Engineer &amp; Assistant Resident Engineer) has commenced.</p>
<b>N19 Shannon Airport Access Road</b>	<p>The target remains that we will be submitting this project for Statutory Consent later in 2025/ early Q1 2026, subject to TII approval. Our consultants Fehily Timoney &amp; Co. and their Specialists are closing out the remaining comments raised following the legal review of the EIAR (Environmental Impact Assessment Report) and NIS (Natura Impact Statement) documentation for the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme. This process will conclude shortly culminating in a briefing to MD councillors. 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. 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>
<b>Remediation of sites containing ACM</b>	<p>Planning Application documents have been prepared in respect of the remediation of the subject sites. All sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.</p>
<b>Shannon Town &amp; Environs Flood Relief Scheme</b>	<p>Scheme consultant RPS continue to work through the agreed tasks as part of the Value Engineering exercise. The initial findings will be presented to Clare County Council and OPW before the Christmas break.</p> <p>MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority) have confirmed that a Marine Usage License (MUL) is required for the proposed Site Investigation works below the High Water Mark. Preparation of the license application will commence in the new year.</p> <p>A Request for Further Information has been issued by MARA in relation to the MAC (Maritime Area Consent) application. RPS are currently preparing a response to that request.</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment screening for the additional Site Investigation works is complete and will be issued to CCC shortly.</p>
<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kiltrush to Kilkee)</b>	<p>Clare County Council is advancing the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Work is also ongoing to finalise the general arrangement and land acquisition drawings. Landowners impacted by the project will be invited to meet with the Project Liaison Team at the end of November to review the final alignment and proposed accommodation works.</p>
<b>West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)</b>	<p>Work continues on the 'Options Selection Report for Section 2' of the West Clare Railway Greenway.</p>

## General Design Office

<b>Scarriff RRP Phase 1 Buildings &amp; Car Park</b>	<p>Construction works are progressing well, with the rebuilding of the Digital Hub (former Supermacs) building 70% complete. Car park overhead cables have been removed by ESB Networks and the project is 62% complete</p>
	
<b>Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk – ORIS Works</b>	<p>Currently out for tender with submissions due in by the 25th Nov. This project consists of the resurfacing of 3.9km of existing walking trail</p>
<b>Clare County Council EV Charging Points</b>	<p>Detailed Design drawings and Pricing Document being prepared</p>
<b>Newmarket-on-Fergus Town &amp; Village Renewal Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary Design agreed with Shannon MD</li> <li>• Detailed design drawings being prepared</li> <li>• Part 8 application anticipated in Q1 2026</li> </ul>
<b>Sixmilebridge Public Realm</b>	<p>Preliminary design stage in progress</p>
<b>Lees Road, Lighting Upgrade</b>	<p>Lighting installation works on site are complete, with contractor commissioning now completed.</p>
<b>Lees Road, Toilet Upgrade</b>	<p>Contractor has commenced on-site. Demolition works and first-fix mechanical and electrical works also complete. New windows installed. New doors and integrated plumbing systems to be installed.</p>
	
<b>Bellevue House</b>	<p>All works substantially complete. Snag list issued and completed by Contractor. Commissioning to be commenced 17/11/2025 and handover thereafter.</p>
	

**Tim Smythe Park**

Project under construction includes relaying of running track, kerbing, drainage and installation of new access steps. Works also include provision of 2 new Pétanque courts. Contractor due to complete works by late November.



**Lahinch Playground**

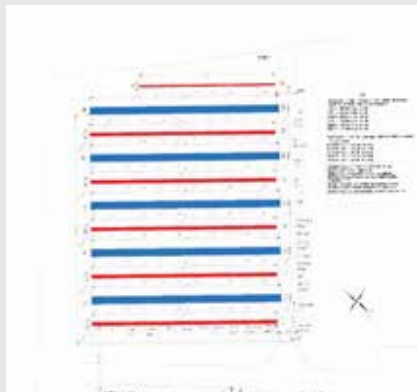
Works have commenced with project duration 6-8 weeks.

**Dressing Room Refurbishment @ Active Kilrush**

Preparation of tender drawings & documents ongoing.

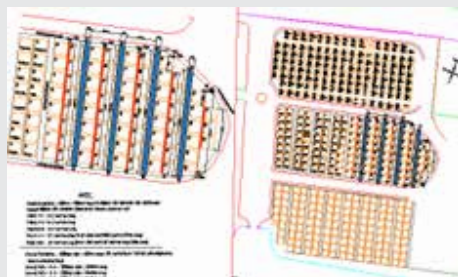
**Lissycasey Burial ground**

Contractor appointed and due to start. Upgrade works include concrete plinths for headstones and gravel paths for access/ mini digger giving a clear layout for future graves. 4-6weeks program.



**Ennistymon Burial ground**

Contractor appointed and due to start. Upgrade works include concrete plinths for headstones and gravel paths for access/ mini digger giving a clear layout for future graves. 4-6weeks program.





## LAND ACTIVATION, DERELICT SITES & PROPERTY

This unit operates within the Housing Delivery, Infrastructure Provision and Land Activation Directorate and the key objective across all the elements of the unit is to bring together our resources with a strong ambition for delivery of increased activity on lands and vacant / derelict property.

Working collaboratively across the other units in the Directorate with pooled resources and knowledge, it is intended to increase levels of activity and engagement to activate more properties for delivery of housing, both public and private.

Work towards ending dereliction and vacancy is a priority in the National Housing Plan 2025, with the re-use and regeneration of vacant and derelict properties in cities, towns and villages providing much needed housing and transforming and revitalizing communities, as summarised hereunder.



## DERELICT SITES

A significant effort to transform the many derelict properties across the County is underway with **301 derelict properties** being dealt with under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 as of the end of November 2025. A further 25 properties have been identified for action in the last month. The team maintains very high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their legal/technical representatives. This initial engagement 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, the Derelict Sites Team engages promptly with the new owners to brief them on their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

To bolster the momentum, the Council is advising property owners on accessing the vacant property refurbishment grant. The Team is also seeing a consistent number of planning applications for property refurbishment/extensions, and it is clear from driving around the county the level of work ongoing on individual properties. The Derelict Sites Team believe that by working in partnership with owners and financial institutions, there are real opportunities for the positive revitalisation and re-development of many properties.



The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in November 2025, figures for the year 2025 to date, with comparative figures for the full year 2024. There are 118 properties included in the Derelict Sites Register at 24th November 2025.

Derelict Sites	November 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	17	68	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	14	69	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	11	43	43
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	1	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	4	45	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	0	15	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	0	6	5

## Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

Key to property activation is the use of the Compulsory acquisition powers in the Derelict Sites Act 1990, where owners are not willing or unable to progress the refurbishment of a property. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has specifically referenced this in his speech for Budget 2026.

Clare County Council's Team is now quite active in the compulsory acquisition of derelict properties and this will continue in the year ahead to increase housing provision by bringing properties back into use or encouraging owners to bring them to market. The Table below sets out the status of CPOs commenced by the Derelict Sites Team in Clare County Council since 2022 to the current year. It is important to note that the CPO process can be lengthy and complex. The following Table gives a summary of the status of the various CPO's commenced in recent years.

CPO Activation Programme		
Year	CPO processes commenced	CPO's completed
2022	7	3 Refurbished or re-developed as Social housing units 1 Property sold and is being refurbished 3 Paused / Ceased for various reasons
2023	10	2 To be Refurbished as Social housing units 2 Still awaiting Title 2 Property sold and owner to re-furbish / re-develop 2 Paused / Ceased for various reasons 1 Due to go on the market shortly 1 Options being assessed
2024	7	1 May be refurbished as social housing unit 3 Due to go on the market shortly 1 Options being assessed 2 Refused by An Bord Pleanála on appeal by owner
2025	15	8 Still awaiting Title 6 Objections to CPO received and appealed 1 Recently commenced CPO process
	39	



In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund has provided a revolving fund for the compulsory acquisition of derelict properties in the town of Ennis with the objective being that they would then be sold on the open market. We work closely with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the particular emphasis is on properties that have potential for residential use. Two such CPOs are with the PRA for registration and a further one is at the vesting stage. Actions taken on properties in the town of Ennis have resulted in a number of properties coming to market or where re-development has commenced.

## Derelict Sites Levy Update

It is the Government's intention that the Revenue Commissioners will assume responsibility for collecting the Derelict Sites Levy from 2027 onwards, and we await further guidance from the Department in this regard. In the meantime, the Council continues to:

- Value properties on the Derelict Sites Register.
- Issue notices of assessment of valuation.
- Bill the Derelict Sites Levy.

**Levy Details:** The levy is charged annually while a property remains on the Register and is calculated at 7% of the property's value per year. Assessment of valuations and billing will continue, with the goal of valuing all properties on the Register for levy purposes.

Proceeds from the levy will fund billing and collection activities and support the derelict sites function, including potential Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs). Interest calculations on outstanding levies are currently underway, and bills for interest will issue in early January 2026.

Valuation and Appeals Determination of valuations for properties on the Register is also ongoing. Notices of valuation have been issued as detailed in the attached table. Four owners appealed their valuations to the Valuation Tribunal, resulting in:

- One appeal rejected.
- One withdrawn.
- One settled.
- One outstanding.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as at 21st November 2025. All other properties on the Derelict sites register are being valued for the purposes of the Derelict sites levy.

Derelict Sites Levy	21st November	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy was billed	4	29	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	16,100	€349,510	€124,110
Amount collected	0	€44,859	€14,300
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	2	54	26
Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	4	39	18
Number of properties where the notice of valuation was appealed by the owner	0	0	4

Derelict Sites Levy			
Year	Activity	Amount billed	Amount Collected
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valuations commenced</li> <li>Amount billed and collected in year</li> </ul>	Nil	Nil
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional staff member to work on Levy, valuations, appeals, bills etc</li> <li>More valuations completed</li> <li>Amount billed and collected in year</li> <li>All areas of the County now liable for the levy</li> </ul>	€124,110	Nil
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount billed and collected in year</li> </ul>	€338,310	€44,859
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticipated amount to be billed in 2026 based on current Derelict sites Register</li> </ul>	€436,065	

### Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant- For Derelict And Vacant Properties



It is planned that the Housing Activation measures in Budget 2026 and the new housing plan published by Government will include further measures for activation of vacant properties with a particular focus on “over-the-shop” properties. Details on the enhancements or changes to the current Vacant Property Refurbishment Scheme are awaited.

As of 18th November 2025, the value of grants approved by Clare County Council under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme is €28 million (469 grant applications approved or 68% of all applications), with further approvals issuing each week.

This is a very significant investment in housing in County Clare and the work ongoing around the county on renovations and extensions is very visible. The Vacant Homes Team continues to advise applicants by phone and in person on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals (by appointment) to take them through the process.

During November, the Team gave briefings at each of the Municipal District Meetings to provide information on the work being done, funding schemes and the new Housing Plan to the elected members. Members of the Vacant Homes Team also attended an open day at Derg Credit union and provided a walk in clinic for the public to get information on the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grants scheme.



The Grant is making a real difference in boosting 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.

The breakdown of Grant approvals by Municipal District is shown in the Table below.

Amount approved by Local Electoral Area (including those with grant funding paid out)			
Local Electoral Area	Number approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants approved
Kilrush LEA	168	€10.1 million	36%
Ennistymon LEA	93	€5.7 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	85	€5 million	18%
Ennis LEA	73	€4.1 million	15%
Shannon LEA	50	€2.9 million	11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>€26.75 million</b>	<b>100%</b>

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total number of applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 is 690, with 193 received in 2025 to date. 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 HAVE PAID OUT €11 MILLION TO 188 PROPERTY OWNERS IN COUNTY CLARE WHO HAVE COMPLETED WORKS TO RETURN VACANT PROPERTIES TO USE - THAT MEANS THAT 40% OF ALL GRANTS APPROVED HAVE BEEN PAID OUT TO DATE.

Many owners are in the process of submitting their claims for payment. Once the final site inspections take place, all the financial and legal elements of the grant are completed. The level of claims for payment is increasing every day and the Team work closely with owners on this process.



#### Other Points of Information

1. The breakdown of applications between urban and rural areas has remained consistent - 57% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 43% for properties in towns and villages.
2. To date, 70% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (456 properties) and the balance of 30% are for long-term rental.

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 [vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie](mailto:vacanthomes@clarecoco.ie).

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## LAND ACTIVATION AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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#### Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to mid November, year to date and the corresponding figures for 2024.

The property market in the County continues to be quite active, albeit that there is a shortage of supply, particularly in the residential sector. The Property Management unit continues to assist many solicitors acting for their clients on issues associated with title, boundaries, old leasehold folios etc. We are also processing a number of applications for first registration of Council property to ensure they are properly registered with Tailte Éireann.

Under the new structures, all property transactions will now

be co-ordinated by the Property Management Unit, which will include acquisitions, disposal, leases and licences.

Transaction type	October 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	1	3	6
Licence to use property / building	0	7	14
Grazing Agreement for Lands	0	29	22
Deed of Transfer signed	2	15	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	1	2	1
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	2	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	1	4
Allotment Agreements signed	0	40	40

### Property Capital Projects

- Bellevue House, Harmony Row, Ennis**

Works are completed on upgrading of this property, which is a protected structure. The works included an upgrade of Mechanical and Electrical services, which had not been done in 30 years. This project will also provide energy efficient measures, meeting room space, canteen and improved office space. Fit out will now be completed to have it ready for occupation in January 2026.

## HOUSING ACTIVATION

A revised structure of the organisation came into effect on 6 October 2025. A key driver for the revised structure is a reaffirmed focus on the Council's top strategic priority - accelerating housing delivering, and increasing investment in infrastructure, across the county.

The revised structure includes a newly established Housing Delivery, Infrastructure Provision and Land Activation Directorate which itself includes a dedicated Housing Activation Unit (HAU). A dedicated Senior Executive Officer is now in post.

Working in partnership with the elected members, the new HAU will mirror the approach at a national level and focus on:

- Identifying and addressing barriers to public infrastructure projects necessary for housing development;
- Engaging, and collaborating with, key stakeholders to ensure coordinated efforts in overcoming obstacles to housing supply and activation; and
- Finding solutions to issues that hinder the construction of new homes across the county.

One of the first deliverables of the Housing Activation Unit is the establishment of a cross-directorate Housing Activation Oversight Group, comprising key staff from across the organisation, and associated Working Groups. A Terms of Reference is being finalised, with the first meeting due to take place on 15 December next.

The HAU will produce a programme of future work to be agreed by the Oversight Group.

# TRANSPORTATION, CLIMATE ACTION, SPORTS & RECREATION, ENVIRONMENT & FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL

## TRANSPORTATION

### Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Roadworks Programme is completed in all 4 Municipal Districts.

### Strategic Transportation

<b>Active Travel</b>	<p>The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel Office:</p> <p><b><u>Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme:</u></b></p> <p>The construction tender for the Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme has been awarded to Neville Civil Works. The 18 month construction programme has commenced on a phased basis along the route starting at Hillcrest. Works will include the construction of segregated cycle lanes, footpath widening, raised pedestrian crossings, bus stops, junction tightening and a raised tabletop junction at Ballymacahill Cross.</p> <p><b><u>Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle Scheme:</u></b></p> <p>The NTA have given approval to move to the Statutory Phase of this Scheme. A Public Information session will be held as part of this process prior to Christmas, where members of the Public and other stakeholders will have a chance to meet with the Design Team and give feedback. A non-statutory consultation period will commence on the 8th December and run until the 16th January 2026 and will be facilitated through the “Have Your Say” portal on Clare County Councils Website. There will be public information sessions held on the 11th December 2025 in the West County Hotel in two sessions - 1.00pm to 3.00pm and 5.00pm to 7.00pm.</p> <p><b><u>Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:</u></b></p> <p>The appointed consultant is finalising the Option Selection Report following comments and feedback from the National Transport Authority. Approval will be required from the NTA prior to moving to the Preliminary Design Phase.</p> <p><b><u>Safe Routes to School program:</u></b></p> <p><b>Gaelscoil Ennis:</b></p> <p>Consultants commenced the preparation of the options report for linking Corrovorrin and Fioruisce residential areas.</p> <p>Works are underway with junction tightening and raised pedestrian crossings between the school and the Gort Rd as part of the Safer Routes to School Scheme.</p> <p><b>Barefield National School</b></p> <p>Works are underway which will provide safer connectivity between Barefield Village and Barefield National School.</p> <p><b>343 Bus Route Upgrade</b></p> <p>A section 38 is being advertised for the construction of the following bus stops along the 343 bus route in Shannon, Sixmilebridge, &amp; Newmarket on Fergus.</p> <p>Sixmilebridge Station NB</p> <p>Lufthansa Technik EB</p> <p>Lufthansa Technik WB</p> <p>Ministers Cross SB</p> <p>Shannon Town Hall</p> <p>Cronan Gardens EB</p> <p>Ballinoosky NB</p> <p>Ballinoosky SB</p> <p>Urlan More NB</p> <p>Urlan More SB</p> <p>Ministers Cross (NMF) NB</p>
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	<p>Ministers Cross (NMF) SB</p> <p>Cappagh WB</p> <p>Cappagh EB</p> <p>Mount levers NB</p> <p>Mount levers SB</p> <p>Plans and Particulars of the development are available for inspection on Clare County Councils website <a href="http://www.clarecoco.ie">www.clarecoco.ie</a> and at Shannon Municipal District Office, Town Hall, Bóthar Linne, Tullyglass, Shannon Co. Clare.</p> <p>Submissions or observations in relation to the proposals may be made before 4pm on Tuesday 30th December 2025.</p> <p><b><u>The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:</u></b></p> <p>The NTA has established a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for Local Authorities which will provide an allocation of €500,000 to each Local Authority to facilitate the enhancement / upgrade of existing bus stops to meet the Transport for Ireland minimum requirements for customer experience. Clare County Council are engaging with the NTA in relation to the upgrading of bus stops throughout the county.</p>
<b>Public Lighting</b>	<p>Clare County Council is to extend its Public Lighting Maintenance Contract with Electric Skyline and continues to engage with them to progress repairs on the public lighting network throughout the county. All works undertaken on public lighting networks are required to meet the ESNB's 'Minimum Requirements for Works on Public Lighting'. Where necessary upgrade works such as cabling works and / or additional civils works are required to bring a light or lights back into service, and to meet the ESNB's Minimum Requirements this may necessitate the attendance of the ESNB and subsequently shall result in extended repair times. Clare County Council continues to liaise with ESNB and Electric Skyline to expedite all repairs.</p> <p>Following on from a safety breach in Kerry whilst undertaking maintenance works, all works on lighting on ESB Network columns were suspended for a period from October into mid November. This suspension has now been lifted and repairs on lights on ESNB columns in Clare is again permitted.</p> <p>For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported 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>).</p> <p>Under the PLEEP Project (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) retrofitting of existing public lighting continues in Clare with 2,521 Luminaires retrofitted to date to the 12th November. This represents 93% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project. All unbundling of assets through the installation of cut-outs has been completed in Clare with the exception of 38no units in the Killaloe MD.</p> <p>Clare County Council are working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.</p>

## Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
<b>Bridge Rehabilitation Programme</b>	<p>Works have been completed at the following bridges:</p> <p>Glendree - Killaloe MD</p> <p>Raheen - Killaloe MD</p> <p>Beakelly - Killaloe MD</p> <p>Castlebank Ardnacrusha - Shannon MD</p> <p>Gaurrus Bridge - Ennis MD</p> <p>Aughavaddy Bridge - Ennis MD</p> <p>Broadford Bridge - Killaloe MD</p> <p>Knockdonagh Bridge - Killaloe MD</p> <p>Leaghort Bridge - Killaloe MD</p> <p>Instream works at Knockdonagh Bridge - Killaloe MD are postponed until 2026 as there are seasonal instream works restrictions on environmental grounds.</p> <p>An engineering inspection of Kilrush Bridge has been completed which included an underwater assessment using sonar technology.</p>

<b>Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads</b>	<p><b>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025:</b></p> <p>The 2025 Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads grant application has been approved, the funding for this year Totals: €640,000. The projects are</p> <p>L2016/L6044 Johnny Mac's Cross - Completed</p> <p>L-3300, L-3301&amp; L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon - Works underway.</p> <p>R352 Bodyke Tuamgraney - Works completed by MD</p> <p>L-4174 &amp; L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction - Works are underway.</p> <p>L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon - Works completed</p> <p>L-3110 Phayers Rd, Meelick - Completed</p> <p>L-4158 Barefield Village - Works are underway</p> <p>L-1041 East of Bealaclogga - Works to be completed by MD</p> <p>R485 North of M18 Junction 9 @ Cullen - Works are underway.</p> <p>R-463-125 Ardcloney Bridge, Killaloe - Works Completed</p> <p>R473 Kildysart National School - Works Underway</p> <p><b><u>Specific Improvement Ogonnelloe</u></b></p> <p>Construction work is underway on a safety improvement project in Ogonnelloe. The proposed permanent 50kph speed limit will be advertised for public consultation in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act.</p>
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## TII Safety Improvement

<b>HD17 &amp; other Safety Projects</b>	<p><b>N85 Clareabbey Roundabout</b></p> <p>A non-statutory public consultation will be facilitated through the “Have Your Say” portal in conjunction with the Limerick Road Cycle Scheme for one month starting in December.</p> <p><b>N68 Darragh</b></p> <p>The Road Design Office is in discussions with TII in relation to a road safety improvement scheme.</p> <p><b>N67 Clohanes Junction Safety Improvement</b></p> <p>A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit will be completed in December.</p> <p><b>N67 Caherfeenick Junction Safety Improvement</b></p> <p>A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit will be completed in December.</p> <p><b>N67 Doonbeg</b></p> <p>A Stage 1 Road Safety Re-Audit has been completed on the proposed junction improvements, bus stops and pedestrian crossing. The findings of the audit will be addressed.</p> <p><b>N67 Ballyvaughan</b></p> <p>A Pedestrian count will be completed in December.</p>
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## Cycling Infrastructure / Smarter Travel

<b>Doolin Cycle Hub</b>	<p>Sport Ireland have completed an Inspection of the four Doolin Cycle Loops in accordance with the new ‘Recreational Cycle Trail Criteria for Ireland.’ The report recommendations have been reviewed by the Road Design Office and required works advised to Municipal District.</p> <p>Sport Ireland have recommended that these cycling loops should have signage in one direction only. A plan is now being progressed to identify signage works required.</p>
<b>EuroVelo</b>	<p>Further to the inspection by Sport Ireland, 80% of snags on the route have now been rectified. Future works will also include the updating of existing information mapboards on the route.</p>

## Noise Action Plan

<b>R5 Noise Action Plan Mapping</b>	<p>Work has commenced with respect to planning the R5 Strategic Noise Mapping for the next action plan. Proposed R5 mapping extents are under review by Clare County Council.</p> <p>TII will no longer carry out Noise Mapping for Non National Roads. It is currently under discussion at CCMA level as to how this mapping will be delivered.</p>
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## Health and Safety

The Health and Safety team is actively delivering its annual work programme, which includes the ongoing review and update of

ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, staff briefings and training, internal audits etc.

Following last year's successful ISO 45001:2018 certification for the Physical Directorate, Housing, and Fire & Rescue Services, an external surveillance audit is scheduled for December.

## CLIMATE ACTION

### Community Climate Action Programme Update

Projects funded under Phase One of the Community Climate Action Programme are now entering the final three months of their 18-month lifecycle. This stage has brought exciting momentum, with several community groups making significant progress on a variety of climate-focused initiatives.

Highlights from this month include:

- Smith O'Briens GAA Club - Installed a water refill station in their clubhouse and added new bike parking facilities.
- Ruan Tidy Towns - Introduced bird and owl boxes throughout their community to support local biodiversity.
- Corofin Tidy Towns - Installed a water refill station as part of their sustainability project.
- Doonbeg Tidy Towns - Completed their project by adding climate action decals to their e-cargo trike, promoting sustainable transport.
- Clooney Spancilhill Community Development Group - Installed new bike parking facilities to support sustainable travel in their area.



### Walktober Step Challenge

Clare County Council participated in Walktober, a fun and engaging team step challenge held annually in October and coordinated by the National Transport Authority. Congratulations to the members of 'Highly Rated', who topped the Clare County Council leaderboard.



### Toy Library - Circular Christmas Event

On November 23rd, the Climate and Environment team in Clare County Council organised a Toy Library – Circular Christmas event in Ennis with 'The Toy Library' a not-for-profit social enterprise. This Christmas-themed circular economy initiative aimed to teach children the value of caring for their toys, passing them on when no longer needed. Volunteers from Ennis Tidy Towns helped facilitate this event.







## ISO 50001 (Energy Management System) Recertification

Clare County Council has successfully achieved ISO 50001 (Energy Management) recertification following a three-day audit conducted between November 3rd–5th. The audit process involved a thorough review of our Energy Management System, including documentation checks, site inspections, and Significant Energy User (SEU) audits. Staff engagement and operational practices were also assessed to ensure that energy management is fully embedded across our service delivery.



## SPORTS & RECREATION



### Active Ennis Sports & Leisure Facilities

#### Active Ennis Tim Smythe Park Works

The Tim Smythe Park upgrade project has been completed, featuring the full resurfacing of the running track to provide a smoother, safer experience for walkers, joggers, and families. Accessibility improvements included the installation of access steps and 12 soak pits to enhance drainage. Additional amenities were added, including two pétanque courts with seating and two Teqball tables, offering new recreational options for visitors. These works reflect Clare County Council's commitment to delivering high-quality, inclusive public spaces for the community.





### Active Ennis John O'Sullivan Park - Lees Road

An LED floodlight retrofit has been completed at the Lees Road track, delivering improved illumination and enhanced safety for athletes and the community. The upgrade enables extended evening use, supporting sports, fitness, and casual exercise throughout the year. This project reinforces Clare County Council's commitment to maintaining high-quality, accessible public amenities.



[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

The October Club Development Newsletter was issued to all clubs, highlighting the Women in Sports Leadership Programme and inviting nominations of outstanding young female athletes for a documentary series planned for the new year. Clubs were also informed about upcoming Safeguarding Courses, Season of Respect workshops, and the LGBTQI+ Advocates Programme. Staff members participated in the Coaching Teenage Girls Tutor Education Course, which we aim to offer to clubs in the coming months.

### CSP Monthly Walk

Our latest monthly walk took place at Lough Avalla, featuring a scenic 6km loop through farmland and limestone landscapes. Eight participants attended.



### 123 Move with Me Initiative

Following discussions with Limerick Sports Partnership, we are preparing to launch the "123 Move with Me" programme in January 2026. Fifty complete equipment packs are ready for distribution.

### Women in Sport

The Women in Sports Leadership Programme launched in late October and will run for five months. It includes workshops on Sport Psychology, Teamwork & Leadership, Strength & Conditioning, Nutrition, and Coach Development, along with team-building days and networking events. The programme is open to female coaches across all sports.

### Men on the Move

Two new Men on the Move programmes have started in Whitegate and Sixmilebridge, with over 20 participants. A Women on the Move programme in Sixmilebridge is at full capacity, delivered in partnership with Morey Movement Gym. Feedback has been very positive.





- 1 Small Soccer Ball
- 3 bean bags
- 3 Large Chalk
- 6 Boccia Discs
- 4 Plastic Rings
- 4 Sequence Disc Floor Marker
- 1 Bag
- 1 Set of Cards
- 1 Card Holder
- 1 Trainers Manual



waste. As part of the presentations, guidance available on [mywaste.ie](http://mywaste.ie), Ireland's official waste information resource, was promoted to support best practice in waste management.

### Water quality and catchment management

Our Environmental Awareness Officer and Executive Scientist recently attended and engaged with participants at the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) community information meetings in Feakle and Miltown Malbay. These events focused on protecting and restoring water quality in the East Clare and West Clare areas.



## ENVIRONMENT

### Environmental Awareness

#### Clean Air

The Department of the Climate, Energy and Environment *Clean Air* campaign and *Clean Air Week* were promoted on social media along with the #SheCycles Green School active travel campaign. A Greener Clare social media post was boosted to increase visibility and the Clean Air reel achieved strong engagement with 5,000 views.

In addition to the above National Campaign, Clare County Council recently presented at the Local Authority Air Quality Network biannual meeting on the Ennis Town Air Project.



### Community engagement

Our Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) met with Tradaree ICA in Newmarket on Fergus and with students at Kilkee Community College to discuss the importance of the circular economy and effective waste separation to general waste, recycling and food

### Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme 2025

As part of our Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme 2025, 29 voluntary community groups, including schools, received funding totalling €30,000 to support circular economy initiatives in Clare. Completion reports were submitted during November, confirming that projects were successfully delivered. The initiatives focused on reducing single-use items, improving waste separation, recycling food waste and promoting sustainable fashion

### Farm hazardous waste collection day

A Farm Hazardous Waste Collection Day took place on Wednesday, 12th November 2025 at Ennis Mart. This initiative is led by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in collaboration with the Department of the Climate, Energy and Environment and ENVA. It provided farmers with the opportunity to dispose of hazardous waste safely, responsibly and in full compliance with environmental regulations. This event was promoted in advance across our social media channels

### Water Enforcement and Laboratory Monitoring Scientific Services

The table below summarises the work of the scientific teams to date in 2025:

Water Monitoring & Enforcement Scientific Team	November 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	0	212
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	27	95
Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	27	95



Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	2	56
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	3	78
Planning applications (Agriculture)	8	82
Planning applications (Domestic)	50	342
Planning applications Commercial	1	24
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	8	136
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	5	78
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	23	230
Rivers	50	252
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	48	139

## Waste Enforcement

### Air Pollution Act (1987)

The Ennis Town Air Project continued in November, with air quality data being gathered and analysed, to get a more accurate representation of the air quality across the town. This project will continue to gather data into Q2 of 2026 to assist in determining the sources of pollution and will guide future actions to combat air pollution.

### Air Pollution Act (1987) (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022: Retailer Inspections

Under the Air Pollution Act (1987) (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022, three inspections of Solid Fuel Retailers were conducted to check that they were selling approved fuel. The three were found to be compliant with the regulations at the time of the inspections.

### Inspections of Permitted and Unpermitted Sites under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations S.I No. 821 of 2007, as amended

Routine inspections of permitted sites were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in November. Inspections of unauthorised facilities were also carried out in response to complaints. Follow-up enforcement action is ongoing in the case of unpermitted sites.

One joint inspection took place with An Garda Síochána in response to a waste complaint.

### Abandoned Vehicles

An abandoned vehicle was seized with the assistance of An Garda Síochána, following failure on the part of the owner to respond to notices and correspondence to remove the vehicle from the public place where it was causing a nuisance. It is hoped that this will set an example, as the particular area has a high rate of abandoned vehicles.

## Bike Recycling Scheme

The intake of bikes for recycling has stopped at the Central Waste Management Facility, Inagh. Bikes received have been repaired to a roadworthy standard by a local mechanic for distribution to people in Clare, in need of transport support. The first delivery is being carried out on 28th November to recipients who have successfully demonstrated the positive impact this will have on their daily lives. This positive initiative is carried out in conjunction with Clare County Council's Integration team and Clare Sport's Partnership.

## Waste Enforcement Complaints Investigation

The tables below summarise the work of the Waste Enforcement team in November 2025, in response to complaints:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	November 2025
Litter	7
Dog Fouling	3
Waste Presentation	1
Dumping	39
Waste complaints (total)	81

Waste Enforcement Inspections	November 2025
Cert of Registration	1
Waste Facility Permits	1
Unauthorised Sites	2

## Waste Management

Below is a table indicating waste materials collected at all our Civic Amenity Sites for October, which is the most recent dataset available.

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	October 2025 (latest Data)
Bulky items	52,165
Cardboard	13,300
Dry Recyclable	520
Paper	8,655
Green Waste	75,200
Mattresses	2,900
Municipal Waste	136,950
Plastic Packaging	1,125
Timber	128,200

## FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL

### National Long Service and QQI Awards for the Fire Service

Congratulations to the Fire Service personnel from Clare County Council that were in receipt of a number of awards earlier this month at the national Long Service Awards for the Fire Service event, held in Knightsbrook Hotel & Spa, Trim, Co. Meath.

The awards are made to Fire Services Personnel that have reached twenty, thirty and forty years of service. The ceremony recognises the service of Fire Personnel up to and including 2024.

Presentations were also be made this year to recipients of the Certificate of Achievement in recognition of the successful completion of the Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Firefighting Operations.

Attending the event with the recipients were the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council Councillor Paul Murphy and Clare's Chief Fire Officer Adrian Kelly.

The full list of recipients, with detail of their specific award are below in the table.

Fire Station	Full Name	Rank	40 Years Service	30 Years Service	20 Years Service	QQI Level 6 Award
Shannon	Lee Bridges	FF				1
Kilrush	John Culligan	FF				1
Ennis	Mitchel Nevin	FF				1
Ennis	Thomas Page	FF				1
Ennis	Juri Ptitsin	FF				1
HQ	Gearóid Blake	SACFO		1		
Ennis	Brian Rudd	SSO		1		
HQ	Cormac Falvey	SACFO			1	
Scarriff	John Harrington	SSO			1	
Ennistymon	Brian McMahon	DM			1	
HQ	Michael O'Brien	ACFO			1	
Ennis	Barry Walsh	DM			1	



*In the attached photograph, are the following: Back Row: Chief Fire Officer Adrian Kelly; Firefighter Mitch Nevin; Firefighter Lee Bridges; Firefighter John Culligan; Firefighter Juri Ptitsin. Front Row: Minister for State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity Christopher O'Sullivan; Driver Mechanic Barry Walshe; Clare County Council Cathaoirleach Councillor Paul Murphy*

## External Validation of Clare County Fire & Rescue Service

On the 5th December an external validation team from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management attended at Clare County Council to conduct a fieldwork programme across various aspects of the Service including Operations, Major Emergency Management, Health & Safety, Fire Safety, Training, Communications and General Strategy. During the visit, the validation team met with personnel from all roles within the service, following up with a validation debrief with the Chief Executive. The team were very positive on their engagement across all areas that they reviewed and complimented everyone involved for the approach being taken in delivering this vital service to the public.

## Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during November including the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management Senior Fire Officers Seminar focusing on leadership, operational strategy and best practices within the Fire Service.

Fire Service Personnel from across the County participated in Emergency Service Driving Standard Training & Theory Tests.

Breathing Apparatus Refresher Training for personnel across the county has been taking place at Sligo Fire Training Centre.

Three number Officers attended Incident Management - Managing Fire Service Incidents.

Two number Officers attended a Leadership Course - Effective Decision Making.



Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	4	2	<b>63</b>
Number of Commencement Notices Received	46	24	<b>368</b>
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	<b>5</b>

*(Note: In the Nov. Monthly Report, the Oct. figures related to 1st to 22nd Oct. due to timing of report)*

## Major Emergency Management

Representatives from Clare County Council participated in several key Emergency Management events, including the National MEM Conference (October 25), the Limerick Tunnel Tabletop Exercise (October 25), the "Strengthening Severe Weather and Flood Plans" Workshop (November 25), the Met Éireann Annual Meeting (November 25), as well as meetings of the MEM Regional Working Group and MEM Regional Steering Group (November 25).

## Interagency SEVESO Exercise at Shannon Fuel Farm

On November 6th, an Interagency Seveso Exercise was conducted at Shannon Airport's Fuel Terminal to test the External Emergency Plan and in particular the emergency preparedness and coordination among Principal Response Agencies. The live exercise involved participants working together under the National Framework for Major Emergency Management from Shannon Airport Group, Clare County Council (Fire & Rescue Service), An Garda Síochána, the National Ambulance Service, and Shannon Foynes Port Company, focusing on a high-risk scenario under Seveso Directive requirements. The successful exercise provided an invaluable opportunity for all participants to practice joint response strategies, enhance communication, and ensure readiness for potential incidents.



Fire & Building Control Section Main Activities	Oct 2025	Nov 2025 (Up to 24/11/25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	144	89	<b>1261</b>
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	18	2	<b>98</b>
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	10	4	<b>98</b>
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	1	0	<b>2</b>
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	5	4	<b>65</b>



## Shannon Airport Exercise

On November 26th, an interagency live exercise was conducted at Shannon Airport to primarily test and evaluate the Shannon Airports emergency procedures but also included a coordinated response to a Major Emergency Incident. The exercise involved multiple agencies, focusing on operational readiness, communication, and resource deployment. Participating agencies included An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive (HSE), Clare County Council (Fire & Rescue Service), Shannon Airport Group, the Irish Coast Guard, and Shannon Foynes Port Company. A key component of the exercise was the simulation of media coordination, ensuring accurate and timely information flow during a high-pressure scenario. The exercise provided valuable insights into interagency collaboration and highlighted areas for continuous improvement in emergency preparedness.

## CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

### Operational Duties

Clare Civil Defence Volunteers provided medical support at the following events including Munster Club Intermediate Hurling - Cusack Park, Munster Club Senior Football Quarter-Final - Cusack Park, Munster Club Intermediate Football Quarter-Final - Cusack Park, Rivet Ride Charity Cycle, Patient Transfer, Rugby Match, Munster Intermediate Hurling Final - Corofin, Senior Ladies Camogie Final - Cusack Park

### Member Training and Professional Development

- Year Two volunteers continued their First Aid Responder (FAR) training.
- Year One volunteers completed Vehicle Familiarisation, Drone Familiarisation, and Foot Drill training.
- A number of our boat crew participated in Personal Safety Techniques & Casualty Handling Course, this was a National course that was held here in Clare

Training sessions continue weekly for all volunteers. On average, up to 50 volunteers attend and receive instruction from Volunteer Instructors, the Assistant Civil Defence Officer, and the Civil Defence Officer.

Two Clare-based Search and Rescue Instructors delivered Day Two of the Search Responder Course to 16 Limerick Civil Defence volunteers. This course was hosted in County Clare.

### Health and Safety

The newly appointed Health and Safety Team conducted an internal audit of Clare Civil Defence operations.

### Missing Person Search Operations

Clare Civil Defence volunteers are currently assisting An Garda Síochána with two ongoing missing person search operations along the coast.

### CDOA Conference 2025

Nine volunteers attended the Annual Civil Defence Officers

Association (CDOA) Conference in Galway, which included a trade show and presentations on:

- Civil Defence Boating Operations
- Emergency Medicine: Performing Under Pressure
- Being a County Coroner
- The Importance of Platelet Donation
- Safety on Our Roads
- The Work of the National Poisons Unit



## RURAL WATER SCHEMES

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

Following the Departments update this Summer in relation to the Ministers decision on group water scheme applications for funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP) 2024-2026 our office is continuing to actively engage with each scheme. This ongoing collaboration reflects our commitment to providing consistent guidance and support throughout all funding MARWP 2024-2026 measures. Many GWS are progressing with these projects, with some having completed the procurement process for the appointment of a Consultant Engineer to act on the schemes behalf to advance the works, namely Measure A4 - Improvement of Infrastructure including Water Conservation and Measure A6 - Taking in Charge.

Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Programme Office. We currently have one GWS taken in charge application submitted to Uisce Eireann for their take over consideration and we await their decision and will update the scheme on receipt of same.

The Clare Rural Water Programme Office completed a data survey of Killone, Kilnaboy, Lissycasey, Toonagh-Dysart and Kilmaley-Inagh group water schemes for submission to the Department as requested. We would like to thank all scheme committees and managers for their input, time and information provided.

The Clare Rural Water Programme Office has been working closely with Group Water Schemes to evaluate the need for emergency works and to apply to the Department for exceptional urgent capital funding.

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.

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 Programme Office, 72 applications have been received to date in 2025. Post works final inspections for 2024 works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

Applications under the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme continue to be processed by the Clare Rural Water Programme Office. The Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme helps households with the costs of replacing lead piping or related fittings located within the internal distribution system connected to a domestic water supply that serves a house. We are processing applications as we receive them.

## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - ENNISTYMON ELECTORAL AREA

### Lahinch Playground

The redevelopment of Lahinch Playground, jointly funded by the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) and Clare County Council, has officially commenced and is progressing as planned. This initiative represents a significant investment in enhancing community amenities and improving recreational facilities for residents and visitors alike. The project aims to deliver a modern, inclusive, and safe play environment that meets the highest standards of design and accessibility.



### Doolin Footpaths

Construction has commenced on the development of new footpaths and boundary walls in Doolin, extending from Fisher's Cross to the pier. This project is a key component of Clare County Council's ongoing commitment to improving pedestrian safety, accessibility, and the overall visitor experience in one of the county's most popular tourist destinations.



### Safety Enhancement: Pedestrian Crossing Upgrade at Cliffs of Moher

The upgrade of the pedestrian crossing at the Cliffs of Moher has been completed, improving visitor safety and traffic flow at this high-footfall location.



### Emergency Road Repairs: Ballynacaragh, Kilfenora

Following significant damage caused by recent flooding, emergency road repairs have been completed at Ballynacaragh, Kilfenora.



### Footpath Works: Liscannor Village

Footpath improvement works are underway in Liscannor Village, enhancing pedestrian safety and accessibility for residents and visitors. These upgrades will contribute to a more connected and welcoming streetscape in the area.





### Post-Season Clean-Up: Doolin

A comprehensive clean-up operation has been carried out in Doolin following the end of the ferry season.



### Dune Protection: New Fencing at Fanore Beach

New protective fencing has been installed at Fanore Beach as part of a dune conservation initiative, funded through Participation National Biodiversity funding. This measure aims to safeguard fragile dune ecosystems and promote long-term environmental sustainability in this sensitive coastal area.



## WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT - KILRUSH ELECTORAL AREA

### Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025

We have completed the "roadworks" section of 2025 Road Works Programme. We are carrying out drainage works. In recent weeks we have been working at drainage and footpath repair.



*Drainage works on the R-483 at Alva, near Cree.*



*Footpath replacement works, Kilkee.*

### Coastal Protection Works, near Doonbeg

West Clare MD repaired some defects to the Sea Wall adjacent to the L-2028 / Doonbeg Bay / Rhynagonnaught Strand.



*Drainage works on the R-483 at Alva, near Cree.*



*Repairs to Sea Wall defect.*



### Erection of pedestrian gates on trail to Lissycasey GeoPark.

As a road and traffic safety measure, West Clare MD recently erected 2 sets of pedestrian gates along the trail leading to the Geopark at Lissycasey.



*One (of 2) set of pedestrian gates.*

### Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme 2025 (LAMIS)

West Clare MD continued works to piers and slipways as part of LAMIS, which is funded by the Department of Agriculture and the Marine



*LAMIS 2025 - Knock Pier.*

### Verge reinstatement following the overturning of a truck on the N68.

West Clare MD recently carried out verge repairs along the N68 following the overturning of a delivery lorry.



*Verge reinstatement along N68 at Crown, Lissycasey.*

# TOURISM, FESTIVALS, LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL SERVICES

## Irish Self-Catering Federation Conference, 10th - 11th November, Armada Hotel



County Clare was proud to host the Irish Self-Catering Federation Conference & Awards 2025, opened by Councillor Michael Shannon, Leas Cathaoirleach of the West Clare Municipal District. Fiona McKenna, Sustainable Destination Development Officer, with the Clare Tourism Development DAC, shared Clare's county-wide sustainability approach, the vital role of self-catering within a balanced mix of accommodation and how businesses are supported in Clare.

Key discussions focused on the expected legislative changes associated with the Short-Term Letting (STL) and Tourism Bill and their potential effects on the industry with insights from the Department of Tourism, Fáilte Ireland and the Department of Housing, moderated by Eoghan Corry.

Valuable insights were provided from Fiona MacConnacher (Booking.com) on the importance of sustainability certification, Aidan Power (Director of Marketing Tourism Ireland) on the unrushed slow tourism campaign, Máire Ní Mhurchú (CEO, Irish Self-Catering Federation) on policy and advocacy for the sector and Niall Heenan (Fuchsia Lane) on practical steps to reduce energy.

A special thank you goes to the Armada Hotel for hosting the event, a fantastic Clare business that maintains a B Corp certification.

## Clare's Sustainable Destination Certificate recognition of contribution



Clare's Sustainable Destination Certification process, acknowledges tourism businesses across the county that are contributing to Clare's collective sustainability goals.

Over 70 local businesses in Clare were recognised for demonstrating **measurable sustainable practices** - verified either through a **recognised certification** or through participation in the **Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism**.

These businesses are acknowledged as Recognised Contributors to our county's wider, third-party verified sustainable destination certification. This recognition reflects their verified or active engagement in sustainability initiatives that collectively support Clare's journey towards global sustainable destination standards, aligned with the principles of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

Please note that this recognition does not imply third-party certification by Clare County Council. Rather, it highlights each business's contribution to the destination's overall sustainability performance and the county's ongoing effort to integrate environmental, sociocultural and economic sustainability across the tourism sector.

## Christmas Sparkles in Clare: A Guide to Christmas and New Year's Eve Events in Clare for 2025





The Tourism team collaborated with over 40 local businesses countywide to complete a guide to the Christmas season in County Clare, which is always filled with sparkle, music, and family fun!

It features everything from Santa visits, Santa stayovers, light displays, and Christmas markets to shows, concerts workshops, and more. A digital guide can be viewed, or PDF downloaded to plan festive days and nights on [www.VisitClare.ie/christmas](http://www.VisitClare.ie/christmas).

In line with the extension of this season from November through to the New year, this guide will be promoted earlier to local press and across the Visit Clare social media channels.

## County Clare Food trail - a collaboration with Failte Ireland

The Tourism team is currently collaborating with Failte Ireland and local food producers, including dining experiences to create a Food Trail for the County.

With the emergence of more businesses in Clare using local produce; food related visitor experiences; Geofood and a significant number of dining options available (both during the day and evening), it is timely to have a holistic offering to the visitor, from dining; visiting an experience; or simply purchasing local produce when visiting.

Working with Failte Ireland and a Food Photographer, 35 local businesses have been given the opportunity to have their produce professionally photographed. Following which, businesses will be promoted on the new County Clare Food trail.

This is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the flavour, creativity, and hospitality that define our county's food scene.

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

### Clare Libraries

De Valera Library celebrated its first birthday on 15th November



De Valera Library celebrated its first birthday on 15th November and the visit of its 200,000th customer who was visiting with her family was celebrated with the presentation of a bunch of flowers and a small hamper. There was also music and refreshments for members of the public visiting on the day. Clare Libraries played hosted to the "Public Libraries Conference" from 19th - 21st

November. In excess of 130 delegates travelled from all parts of the country to participate. Topics covered included - the public library in the age of AI, changing lives through reading and "my life in books". A highlight of the conference was a visit to the new library in Ennis.

The total number of events in libraries this month are listed below.

### Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	350
Total audiences at in branch events	5,103
Total number of outreach events	8
Total audiences at outreach events	129
Total number of deliveries to homes	9
Total number of class novels issued	9

### IT classes and services

Over 80 people attended smart phone classes in De Valera and Sixmilebridge Libraries and one to one digital support sessions in branches this month. There were 1,370 IT queries in library branches. Over 300 queries requesting support in using the library and Borrowbox apps for accessing a range of online resources including e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines and e-newspapers were received and actioned.

Online Resources usage - the reading of e-magazines and e-newspapers continues to be one of the most used online resources in Clare Libraries

2,159 E-Books	4,711 E-Audiobooks	19,798 ePress (magazines & newspapers)
165 Online Courses	75 Transparent Languages	

### Marketing & Social Media

The social media team created a Halloween video that went viral and had a successful reach. The library website was updated with Skills for Life information. A wider library social media team was created to help make content more engaging across platforms and support regional content creation. A meeting was held Age Action to plan a digital literacy partnership to offer 1-to-1 Digital Literacy Sessions for 2026 with a focus on older adults and those with limited technical skills.

### Events and Outreach

Several events were held for Climate Action Week in partnership with the Climate Action Dept, 5 talks were held in Kilrush, Ennis, Scariff, Ennistymon and Shannon on Sustainable Gardening and the documentary Birdsong was shown in Ennis.





## Community Engagement

### Age Friendly Events



Two Age Friendly events were held this month. A Library tour and information session was provided to retired teachers in De Valera Library as part of the Age Friendly programme. Library staff had a stand at the Health and Wellbeing Expo in the West County. Branded promotional materials, including bags and pens, were purchased to strengthen brand visibility and support marketing initiatives.

### Library Social Media activity

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes/ Reactions
	8,790	59	141,200	2,400
	2,998	53	15,741	523

## Children's Services and Right to Read

### Children's Mask Workshop in Shannon Library



The Little Library Bag programme continued during November with a series of mindfulness workshops with Sona Mindfulness. Junior Infant pupils from schools in Kilkee, Shannon, Ennis and Ennistymon took part in a mindfulness session to help them cope with the transition into primary school. Each child received a Little Library Bag containing picture books about making friends, a fidget toy, and information for parents about reading to your child. Science Week took place from 9th to 16th November. Five Primary school class groups in Ennistymon and Ennis took part

in a coding session with Corrib Kids Coding where they learned to code a video game. Halloween events took place in all branch libraries.

### Skills for Life

There were 100 Skills for Life events in Clare libraries this month covering the themes of the programme - digital literacy, financial literacy, media literacy, health awareness and sustainable living and environmental awareness. Over 10 people attended the AI in everyday life in De Valera Library during the month.

### Healthy Ireland

Health and wellbeing activities took place across several branch libraries during November. Two Active Yoga storytime classes were held in Kilrush Library for classes from the Gaelscoil with facilitator Colette Nagle, 28 children participated and thoroughly enjoyed the event. Colette also facilitated an outreach yoga event in Scoil Mhichíl, where 22 children participated. A "Breast Cancer Awareness talk" was organised by the HSE in Kilrush Library on 25th November. Nichola McNamara, Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Breast Care delivered the talk. Chair Yoga sessions took place in Sixmilebridge Library on the 25th November and in Newmarket-on-Fergus Library on the 26th November.

### Local Studies and Archives

#### Bunting's 'Music of Ireland'



Clare Local Studies and Archives have received a donation of books from the collection of Mícheál Ó Catháin of Doonbeg and Eoin Shanahan. These include a copy of Bunting's 'Music of Ireland', and other works relating to the history of Clare. The listing of the Holohan Collection (Auctioneers and Estate agents based in Feakle through the late 19th and 20th Centuries) has been completed. The listing of the Vandeleur and Shannon Airport (McGrath-Egan) Collections is ongoing. The Shannon Airport Collection has been scanned. The Shannon Development Photographic Archive was on display in De Valera Library for three weeks following its display in Shannon Library with over 400 people visiting to view it.

## Clare Museum

### Transition Years from Kildysart visit Clare Museum



The Museum is working with Clare FM recording curator stories about artefacts which will be broadcast over Christmas. Twenty artefact stories have been recorded to date. An 'Artefact of the Week' piece on Clare FM is planned for 2026. A Virtual Reality project relating to John Philip Holland's first submarine is in the planning stage and will help revitalise the current collection. QR codes were added to displays to link to the websites of Clare Museum, Clare Libraries and Clare Arts Office. QR codes also link to Clare tourist destinations and archaeological sites in Clare, eg Bunratty, Cragganowen, the Burren Geopark, Corcomroe Abbey, Poul nabrone and Cahercommaun. The Museum Foyer was reorganised as the Tourist Office season has ended. The reception desk was moved and showcases were added to display additional museum holdings. One blog post was added to the museum website and ten social media posts. A press release seeking the donation or loan of vintage Christmas cards for an exhibition in December was published on RTE.ie. An exhibition of cards from Clare, and cards from other parts of Ireland will feature in an online exhibition. A public talk on the Ennis painter William Mulready by Marie Bourke was held in November. An outreach visit took place to Shannon Comprehensive School to introduce the ARTiculation competition to the Transition Year students and Transition Years from Kildysart visited the Museum.

## Creative Ireland Programme

### Shared Island Conference - Croke Park Hotel



The Shared Island Conference was held this month at the Croke Park Conference Centre. Hosted by Dearbhail McDonald, the event featured keynote addresses by An Taoiseach Micheál

Martin TD and Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD. The programme included performances and exhibitions from Creative Ireland Shared Island projects, as well as panel discussions exploring themes, experiences, and insights from the Shared Island initiative. Among the featured projects was *Birds of a Feather*, presented by Clare's Creative Communities Engagement Officer, Eva Birdthistle.

The *Birds of a Feather* project celebrated diversity and inclusion, engaging participants from a wide range of backgrounds, including Catholic and Protestant communities, Nationalist and Loyalist traditions, ethnic minorities, Travellers, Islanders, inner-city communities, the Deaf community, and individuals with physical disabilities and mild dementia.

### Presentation to the Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee

Earlier this month, the County Librarian and the Community Engagement Officer delivered a presentation to the Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee, providing an overview of Creative Ireland's impact on County Clare since 2018. Key highlights included:

- **€1,922,557** invested in Clare since 2018, engaging over **461,500 people**.
- Implementation of the **Clare Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 and 2023-2027**.
- Geographic reach across the county.
- Examples of projects funded under Culture Team, Project Awards, Shared Island, and Festivals.
- A focus for 2026 on **collaboration and seldom-heard voices**.

### Creative Ireland Financial Returns

The Creative Ireland financial returns for 2025 were completed, reflecting an investment of **€371,447** in projects administered through the Creative Communities Engagement Officer. This figure includes core funding, additional funding opportunities, and Shared Island funding.

## Clare Arts Office

Big Maggie sold out for four consecutive nights in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee and the "Devil in the Dancehall" in Mullagh, sold out also. There were 2 Arts in Focus sessions on Clare FM. The Arts Officer met with one community organisation, two artists, and two national organisations, Bealtaine and the Irish Design Institute. Four applications for funding was supported and an online bursary clinic was held online and attended by 16 people. The Creative Places Shannon Co-ordinator was advertised.

The Arts Officer worked closely with the Arts Council to create a film piece to mark the 40th anniversary of the appointment of the first local authority Arts Officer, in County Clare. There was a reception held with Arts Officers throughout the country attended by Minister for Arts Patrick O'Donovan in Limerick to mark this milestone.

## Súil

Súil opened its final exhibition of 2025, the inaugural Annual Open, in November. A total of 151 submissions were received

across a wide range of media from painting to textiles, and from emerging and established artists. Works were received from artists in Clare, Galway, Tipperary and Limerick as well as artists across Ireland, including Kildare and Cork. The launch was attended by 120 people and over 300 more have visited in November. Over 25,000 people engaged on Instagram. The artwork, "Man's Best Friend", By Gabrielle Murphy, depicting President Micheal D. Higgins and his dog Misneach, was selected for purchase by the Council and will be added to the Clare County Council Art Collection. A drawing workshop was hosted by artist Aidan Courtney for children with autism spectrum disorder, attended by 20 children and their parents. Súil also hosted a delegation from TUS and Tipperary County Council to discuss the learnings from the MA Students placements.

**'Man's Best Friend' by Gabrielle Murphy from Súil Annual Open Exhibition.**



There were 3 exhibitions held in the Foyer of the Museum, in Cultúrlann Sweeney Kilkee and in the Gallery at the Scariff library.

#### Artist in schools

A total of 14 schools countywide were awarded programmes for the 2025/2026 scheme. These are: Broadford & Kilbane N.S; Connolly N.S; Ennistymon Community School; Furglan NS; Gaelscoil Iosef Naofa; Kilnamona N.S; Liscannor N.S; Miltown Malbay N.S; Ogonnelloe N.S; Rockmount N.S; Stonehall N.S; St. Anne's.

#### Embrace Arts and Disabilities

The Arts Office is delighted to pilot a new programme where Brothers of Charity groups (countywide) and the Dulick Centre come together for a shared singing/music session led by Sing Ireland.

#### Clare Youth Theatre.

Several members of the senior Clare Youth theatre group visited Limerick Youth Theatre to attend a climate action training session with Clare Artist Maeve Stone. Maeve is a director / writer for film and theatre whose work responds to issues of climate breakdown. This opportunity was funded by Youth Theatre Ireland. The weekly workshops with 72 young people continued in Ennis and Kilkee.

#### Socials 18 October 2025 - 17 November 2025

Facebook				
	Views	Post reach	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	25,379	12,481	29	3,623
Cultúrlann Sweeney	10,476	3,201	21	2,226
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	325	79	3	603
Arts In Clare Group				3,803
Clare Trad Group				2,983

Instagram			
Account	views	Followers	reach
Clare Arts Office	4,740	1,139	826
Súil	25,926	513	1388



## KILLALOE LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA - KILLALOE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### Christmas Tree on the Killaloe-Ballina Bridge



Killaloe MD is delighted to be part of the very first Christmas tree Lighting Ceremony on the newly pedestrianised historic Killaloe - Ballina Bridge.

In partnership with Tipperary County Council, our crews have erected and secured a magnificent 20-foot Christmas Tree at the centre of the bridge for the Christmas Lighting event which took place on the 28th of November.

Clare CoCo and Lough Derg Tourism have an array of festive entertainment arranged, including carol singing, face painting, visits from Santa and his elves, appearance by Minnie & Micky, as well as some festive treats.

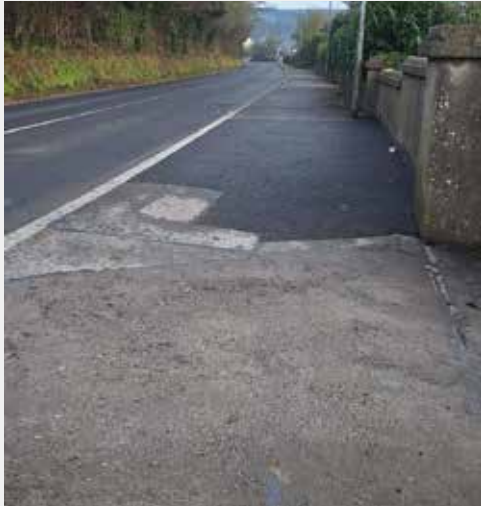
### Footpath Improvement works



Upgrading footpath infrastructure in Millstream, Killaloe, involving the breaking out the existing footpaths, laying of kerbs and the construction of 400 sq metres of new concrete footpaths

### Tree Removal





Works continue removing trees with Ash dieback which threaten road safety, below is an example of a large tree being removed from footpath in Shauntraud, Killaloe. Following the removal of the tree, the footpath was resurfaced.

#### Tree felling on the R462



Killaloe roads crew provided Traffic Management and call out support to Coillte during tree felling on the R462.

#### Arclooney Bridge LIS



An LIS (Local Improvement Scheme) at Arclooney Bridge on the R463, included replacement of signage, Solar powered pole mounted Vehicle Activated Signs installed North and South of the bridge, pole mounted 3 Bar Barrier Boards also installed roadside North & South of the bridge and Road marking.



### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare has had a substantial demand for one-to-one mentoring support. To date, 330 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 20 of those assigned during the month of November.
- **Training:** Approx. 110 participants took part in a range of training programmes over the month of November, in the areas of Start Your Own Business, Bookkeeping, Email Marketing, AI training & Recruitment & Retention of staff training. Talent Acquisition and Retention Programme, a new initiative in responses to market conditions in the labor force to assist SME's in building teams for scale and growth. 11 M1 clients attended and will continue with a work program to grow their business into 2026.
- **Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in November, LEO Clare have processed applications for 34 Digital for Business, 33 Green for Business and 18 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 22 Energy Efficiency Grants and 11 Grow Digital Vouchers.

### Student Enterprise Programme 2025/26

On 24th November, LEO Clare organised a dynamic Sales & Marketing workshop at Glór, bringing together over 400 students from 11 Secondary Schools across Co. Clare for their Student Enterprise Programme 2025/26. The event introduced students to key concepts in sales & marketing through engaging sessions, including insights from WhizzKids Training on valuing different sales channels, RML Marketing on the art of selling, Ollies Tours on customer engagement & repeat business, & The Marketing Eye on online sales techniques. The workshop offered a valuable opportunity for young people to gain practical knowledge & inspiration from industry experts, helping to spark entrepreneurial thinking for their Student Enterprise mini-businesses. Student Enterprise is a Programme which supports all schools reaching all corners of the County and raising awareness of Enterprise as a future option.



SEP LEO Team: Helen Pilkington, Garry Lowe, WhizzKids, Theresa Mulvihill Killeen & Marie Thornton



Full house at Glór for SEP Sales & Marketing Event

### LEO Clare Client Networking Event

LEO Clare hosted a Christmas Business Networking Morning at FMCI on Friday, 28th November - bringing together a full house of entrepreneurs, startups & small business leaders for a half-day of insight, innovation & connection. With keynote speaker Mark Kelly of AI Ireland sharing how AI can revitalise enterprises, Conor Smith offering expert guidance on auto enrolment for small businesses & Michael Queally providing a sharp outlook on the economic trends ahead, attendees gained practical strategies to future-proof their ventures. The event wrapped up with a lively panel discussion, Q&A, and networking over a light lunch - the perfect way to kick off the festive season while building valuable business connections across Clare.



Bernadette Haugh, Theresa Mulvihill Killeen, Helen Pilkington & Marie Thornton of LEO Clare



Theresa Mulvihill Killeen with guest speakers Michael Queally, Mark Kelly & Conor Smith



## Mid-West Lean Conference 2025

The Mid-West Lean Network Annual Conference took place at Dromoland Castle, with the theme “Lean Thinking Across the Organisation - Empowering Every Level.” Since its formation in 2016, the Network has grown to over 130 member companies. The Conference, sponsored in part by LEO Clare, featured panel discussions & case studies from leading companies including PPG Ireland Ltd, Lufthansa Technik, CSG, Entellexi, Zimmer Biomet, Penn Engineering, Ballygowan Britvic Ireland, Shannon Precision Engineering, J&J Vision Care, Edwards Lifesciences & Ei Electronics. The event highlighted how Lean principles can be embedded across all levels of an organisation to foster continuous improvement, efficiency, & innovation.



*Helen Pilkington, LEO Clare with other event sponsors from Berka Solutions, Ei Electronics, LBS Partners, Enterprise Ireland & Shannon Chamber*

## ISCF Conference 2025

At the Irish Self-Catering Federation Conference held on 11th November at the Armada Hotel, Finbar Tuohy, Business Advisor with LEO Clare, delivered a presentation on LEO supports. Finbar shared insights into grants and supports available to short-term rental property business owners.



*Finbar Tuohy, LEO Clare speaking at the ISCF Conference 2025*

## Moving Toward Aerospace

Moving Toward Aerospace is a Interreg project which enables us to identify barriers and opportunities for Small business in the County Clare to diversify into new market presented by the growing Global Aerospace Market. The European partner meeting took place in Prague between November 11th and 12th. This was

an interregional exchange to share best practices and present on supports, and funding opportunities for traditional business to move transition and move toward Aerospace markets. Partners from Czechia, Spain, Romania, Italy, The Netherlands, Ukraine, Serbia and Spain were in attendance. Presentations were received from Aerospace companies and site visits where best practices for diversification from traditional markets to Aerospace, ESA Bic, building and Aerospace ecosystem, building a culture of innovation, R&D and funding models were shared. Key regional Partners also attended our stakeholder meeting on November 5th.



*Theresa Mulvihill Killeen, LEO Clare presenting the policy improvements to enable & inform the transition of traditional manufacturing, engineering, med-tech & agriculture into Aerospace.*

## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

### DigiHubs

### Connected Hubs Summit 2025

On Thursday, 13th November, the Connected Hubs Summit took place at the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, bringing together hub managers, enterprise leaders, and policy makers to shape the future of Ireland's hub network. The event was led by MC Liam Horan, Hub Community Development Executive with Connected Hubs. It featured an impressive lineup of speakers including Allan Mulrooney, Chief Executive Officer at Western Development Commission, who highlighted their commitment to sustaining local communities, attracting talent, and strengthening regional economies through remote working opportunities. A very entertaining talk was given by Kinsley Aitkins, CEO and founder of The Networking Institute, who shared practical techniques for growing hub networks, emphasizing that networking is about giving, not getting, and the importance of collaboration in community development.

A major announcement came from Minister Dara Calleary, Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, who confirmed that the 400th hub has been onboarded to ConnectedHubs.ie, marking a significant milestone under the Government's Our Rural Future strategy. In his address and fireside chat with Liam Horan, Minister Calleary emphasized the role of hubs in revitalizing rural towns, reducing commuting, and improving quality of life. He highlighted that remote working is central to sustaining rural communities and attracting talent back to regional areas.

The summit featured panel discussions with hub managers around the country who shared insights on hub management challenges, business growth strategies and community engagement. The summit also attracted international attention, showcasing Ireland's leadership in remote working and hub development. Delegates from the South Ostrobothnia region of Finland attended as part of the CODIL European project, which is piloting the Irish Connected Hubs model in Finland. Scottish stakeholders participated in discussions on rural coworking strategies, exploring how Ireland's national hub network could inspire similar initiatives in Scotland.

Clare County Council was represented by Bernadette Haugh, Head of Enterprise and Investment, and Jackie Dermody, Digital Transformation Department. Their participation reflects Clare's commitment to fostering innovation and supporting the national hub network.

As part of the summit's pre-event program, Jackie Dermody attended a session titled "The Engagement Lab: From Insight to Impact" at the Shearwater Hotel on Wednesday, 12th November. This interactive workshop focused on applying behavioural science to hub operations, exploring strategies to attract, engage, and retain hub users using insights from real customer journeys and coworking personas. The session was facilitated by Padraig Walsh, Behavioural Psychologist with Changeable (changeable.ie), and provided practical tools for creating more impactful user experiences.



Facilitator Padraig Walsh



Bernadette Haugh, Minister for Rural & Community Development & the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary & Jackie Dermody

## FINANCE

### Procurement

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 27th October to 25th November inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Establishment of Multi-Party Framework Agreement for the Provision of Asbestos Surveys for Clare County Council	7037753	04/12/2025 16:00	Open
Establishment of Multi-Party Framework Agreement for Building Energy Rating (BER) Assessments for Clare County Council	7036757	04/12/2025 16:00	Open
Weed Spraying Contract 2026 and 2027	7035114	19/12/2025 00:00	Open
Request for Tender to Participate in LEO Mentoring Panel	6845899	21/11/2025 00:00	Open



## SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

### The Green Flag Awards

The Green Flag Award recognises Ireland's best managed public parks and green spaces. On the 12th of November Shannon Town Park was awarded a Green Flag at Maynooth University Campus. Clare County Council's Cathaoirleach Paul Murphy and Senior Executive Officer Suzie Clifford accepted the award on behalf of Clare County Council. The international Green Flag Award was awarded to 128 Irish parks, gardens, greenways and wildlife sanctuaries around the country.



*Cathaoirleach Paul Murphy and Suzie Clifford at the Green Flag Awards*



*Municipal District Councillors with the Green Flag at Shannon Town Park*

### Councillor Visit to Mungret Dog Park

Shannon Municipal District Members and the executive visited Mungret Park on the 7th of November. Senior Executive Engineer Carmel Lynch from Limerick City and County Council gave the group a tour of the Dog Park. After the tour Carmel performed a question-and-answer session which was very informative to all.



*Councillors, Carmel Lynch & members of the executive at Mungret Park*

### Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance works throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- Works to storm water pumps in Pump House 3 Drumgeely, Shannon, continued, with the overhaul of the electrical panels.
- Installation of new road markings and refreshment of existing markings at various locations in the Municipal District (Shannon Town, Newmarket on Fergus, Sixmilebridge).
- Verge / hedge maintenance works recommenced, with a focus in the Cratloe and Meelick area.
- Grass maintenance works for the Shannon Municipal District is completed for 2025.
- Low Cost Safety Scheme in Drumline is substantially complete.
- Works started on the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Cronan Junction on Bother na Luachra in Shannon.
- Tree maintenance works focused on Newmarket on Fergus, Shannon and Westbury.
- Local Improvement Works Scheme in Portdrine Cratloe is completed.
- Overlay works completed in Bealach Bri Shannon, Shannon Road Estate Sixmilebridge, Riverside Park Shannon Banks.
- Storm water management in Springfield commenced in mid-November due to the additional water being released at Parteen weir.



*Installation of additional gully at Sixmilebridge*



*Pruning of low hanging branches by maintenance crew in Sixmilebridge*





*Improvement works commenced at Cronan Junction*



*Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) road works at Portdrine, Cratloe*



*Waste from bonfire removed from Foyle Park, Shannon*



*Road overlay work at Shannon Road Estate, Sixmilebridge*



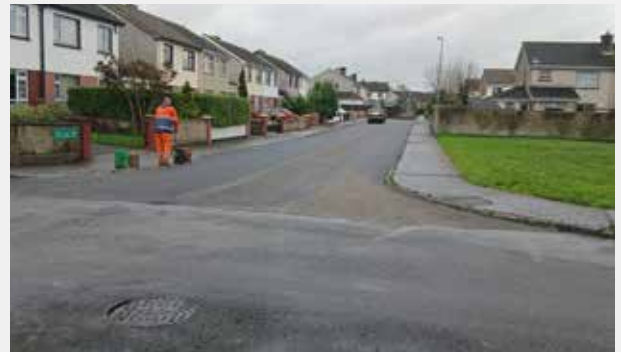
*Works commenced on new pedestrian crossing at Aidan Park bus stop*



*Storm water management at Springfield, Clonlara*



*Road overlay works at Bealach Bri, Shannon*



*Road overlay works at Riverside Park, Shannon Banks, Corbally*