



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Meitheamh / June
2025



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RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



HEALTHY CLARE

Community Recognition Fund

Limerick and Clare Education & Training Board (LCETB) was awarded €23,800 under the Community Recognition Fund 2023, aimed at enhancing community infrastructure in appreciation of local efforts to support arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding facilitated the development of the allotment space at Hastings Cottage, Shannon. Investments included the installation of a polytunnel, garden shed, raised beds, and essential gardening tools. These improvements have supported the delivery of horticulture-related classes for local learners, covering areas such as winter gardening, potting, and plant recognition. Programmes offered on-site are certified at QQI Levels 1 to 3.

A key highlight was the Celebration of Learning event held in May at the Hastings Cottage allotment. The event marked the progress and engagement of learners and staff, drawing over 50 attendees including. Conor Leyden, Rural & Community Development Officer attended on behalf of the Rural & Community Development Department. The event showcased the positive impact of the facility and celebrated the inclusive educational environment fostered through this initiative.



Building Blocks Capital Funding

The Building Blocks Capital Funding to support Community Childcare facilities was announced on Monday 19th May 2025, with four successfully applicants being awarded in Clare, with the Rural & Community Department playing its part in helping strengthen their application's before they were submitted to the department.

The successful projects are as follows:

- **Lisdoonvarna Cois Ceim Childcare**, was awarded €500K (to generate 27 new places).
- **Obair New Market on Fergus**, were awarded €500K, (to generated 27 new places)
- **Little Rockers Boston**, awarded €428,894 (to generate 20 new places)
- **Loughgraney Kids Corner**, were awarded €189,989 (10 new places)

Launch of Not Around Us in Clare Co. Council Playgrounds



During the month of May, to recognise World No Tobacco Day, Healthy Clare and Clare County Council have come together to place 'Not Around Us' signs across all local authority playgrounds. 'Together, we're creating a safer, smoke-free spaces in sport, in playgrounds, in any place where children gather across the county.'

"Not Around Us", is an initiative supporting people and spaces to work towards a Tobacco and Vape Free Clare by promoting environments where it is easier for those who smoke to quit and stay quit and to help de-normalise smoking for the next generation. The campaign is in response to the government's national target for a less than 5% smoking prevalence in Ireland by 2025.

If your organisation is interested in participating in the campaign, please link with Samantha McCarthy, Healthy Clare Coordinator via email at healthyclare@clarecoco.ie.

Mental Health Ireland: Hello How Are You Campaign



On Monday, May 12th, the Ennis Peer Led Wellness Clinic held its first 'Hello, How Are You Campaign' in glor. This special meeting, opened up opportunities for new members and services to connect through shared conversations on the importance of saying 'Hello' and actively listening to the response. Healthy Clare, Mental Health Ireland and the HSE Mental Health Services were present on the day to encourage and support these conversations.

The day was also used to have a conversation about the use of the Healthy Clare Micro Fund which has been awarded to the Peer Led Wellness Café for wellbeing activities.

Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo



In May the Health and Wellbeing page featured:

- **Clare GAA Health and Wellbeing signs.** From the 2024 Healthy Clare Micro Fund, Clare GAA launched their Health and Wellbeing signs toward the end of April 2025. Information on the signs, which were designed by Clare County Council, has a strong focus on promoting mental health and addiction services to all GAA club members and the launch was highlighted in one of the May Health and Wellbeing pages.

- **Mental Health Ireland: Hello, How Are You Campaign.** The national Mental Health Ireland, 'Hello, How Are You' campaign was recognised on May 15th 2025 with events across Clare and was recognised through the Health and Wellbeing page.
- **HSE Quit Programme and World No Smoking Day.** World No Tobacco Day takes place on the 30th May. Healthy Clare and HSE Quit are coming together to share the importance of reducing/preventing the use of tobacco and vaping, especially around young people.

Recent feedback from The Clare Echo has suggested an increase in digital readership since November 2024.

- 15,000 + copies printed each week
 - 5,000 + distributed door to door in Ennis
 - 10,000 + distributed in bulk delivery all across Co.Clare and in Gort, South Galway
- Estimated weekly print readership of 37,500 people
- Digital edition approx. 3,000 readers per month

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

Clare Comhairle Na nÓg, launch Period Poverty short film to Clare audience



On 30th April, members of the Clare Comhairle Na nÓg committee, launched their short film, 'It Should Be Like Toilet Paper', to key service providers in Clare, highlighting the importance of period dignity and product availability for young people. This local launch hosted at the Clare Youth Service premises followed on from the national showcase of the short film hosted by the Department of Health during early March. Speaking at the local launch Bernadette Haugh SEO, acknowledged Clare Comhairle na nÓg's coordination of the short film on period dignity entitled 'It should be like toilet paper' noting that feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and it's clear that the key messaging and content of the production has resonated strongly with young people and the wider community. This project is a fantastic example of what can be achieved through strong collaboration between local agencies, youth voices, and the community. The short film can be viewed on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/1009350697?share=copy>

Since the inception of the Period Dignity in Clare, thousands of products have been distributed across communities. For more information on the initiative visit: https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/free-period-products?tool=survey_tool

CLARE AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

National Older People's Convention May 8th & May 9th hosted by South Dublin in Tallaght.

From May 7th to May 9th, 2025, four representatives from Clare Older People's Council had the incredible opportunity to attend the highly anticipated South Dublin Older People's Council Convention in Tallaght, Dublin. Supported by Clare County Council and the Clare Age Friendly Programme, their participation in this inspiring event reflected a shared commitment to celebrating wisdom, experience, and the invaluable contributions of older people in shaping society.

This year's theme, *"The Wisdom of Years – A Lifetime of Perspective,"* set the stage for two days of engaging discussions, thought-provoking insights, and powerful reflections. The convention opened with the charismatic Brendan Courtney serving as Master of Ceremonies. He captivated the audience by sharing heartfelt stories of his own family's experiences with positive aging and navigating challenges related to ill health.

A lineup of esteemed speakers brought their expertise and vision to the forefront, addressing key issues affecting older people today. Minister Kieran O'Donnell TD, Minister of State at the Department of Housing and Older People, emphasized the importance of enabling individuals to remain within their communities. He also highlighted ongoing efforts to develop a national rightsizing policy and a new, forward-thinking national housing strategy.

Health and well-being were central topics, with Prof. Ronan Collins—Consultant in Geriatric & Stroke Medicine and South Dublin's Age Friendly Ambassador—delivering an enlightening talk on Brain Health and Stroke Prevention. His insights underscored the significance of proactive measures in maintaining cognitive vitality and overall well-being. Additionally, Prof. Graham Hughes, clinical lead for NCPOP, shed light on his organization's mission. A collaborative effort between HSE Clinical Design and Innovation and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, NCPOP works diligently to enhance and standardize the quality of care for older individuals across Ireland.

The conversation extended beyond health and housing into financial security, as Moyah Murdock, CEO of Insurance Ireland, led a dynamic Q&A session. She addressed pressing concerns surrounding insurance policies for older people, offering valuable clarity and guidance.

Among the distinguished voices at the event, Clare's own Age Friendly Ambassador, Mike Hanrahan, inspired attendees with his personal journey of lifelong learning. As a Senior Atlantic Fellow at the Global Brain Health Initiative at Trinity College Dublin, he shared his passion for exploring meaningful avenues to support cognitive health and personal growth through continued education.

This enriching convention provided an invaluable platform for exchanging ideas, fostering connections, and championing policies that empower older people to lead fulfilling lives with dignity, security, and opportunity. The experience reaffirmed the collective commitment to ensuring that wisdom and age are celebrated as strengths that enrich the fabric of our communities.



Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Awards 2025 - 10th Anniversary

On Wednesday, May 21st, 2025, the prestigious 10th Anniversary of the Clare Older People's Volunteer Awards took centre stage at the elegant Woodstock Hotel, marking a decade of celebrating remarkable dedication and community spirit. Hosted by the Clare Older People's Council and proudly supported by Clare County Council and the Clare Age Friendly Programme, the event was a heartfelt tribute to the invaluable contributions of older volunteers who make an extraordinary impact on their communities. Several esteemed winners from the past decade graced the occasion, joining in the celebration to honour this remarkable 10-year milestone.

The ceremony featured inspiring words from distinguished speakers, including the Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council, Cllr. Alan O'Callaghan; Chairperson of Clare Older People's Council, Mary O'Callaghan; Director of Services for the Rural and Community Directorate of Clare County Council, Ann Reynolds; and Clare's esteemed Age Friendly Ambassador, Mike Hanrahan. Their speeches underscored the importance of recognizing and celebrating the unwavering commitment of volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to enriching the lives of others.

The spotlight shone brightly on the twelve exceptional nominees honoured during the ceremony: Christina O'Connor, Bernadette Mee, Dermot Hayes, Frances Bailey, Brian McMahon, James Lafferty, John Logan, Maureen Hand, Maureen Mortell, James Pierce, Eilis ó Nualláin, and Gemma Dowling. Each nominee embodied the spirit of volunteerism, demonstrating the power of kindness, generosity, and community service.

Among the award recipients, John Logan was named Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year 2025, a well-deserved recognition of

his outstanding dedication. Additionally, in celebration of the event's milestone anniversary, Dermot Hayes was honoured with the special 10th Anniversary prize, further cementing his legacy as a beacon of volunteerism.

These awards stand as a testament to the profound impact of older volunteers, whose selfless contributions help shape stronger, more connected communities. Their unwavering support, compassion, and commitment continue to uplift and inspire, proving that the spirit of giving knows no age.



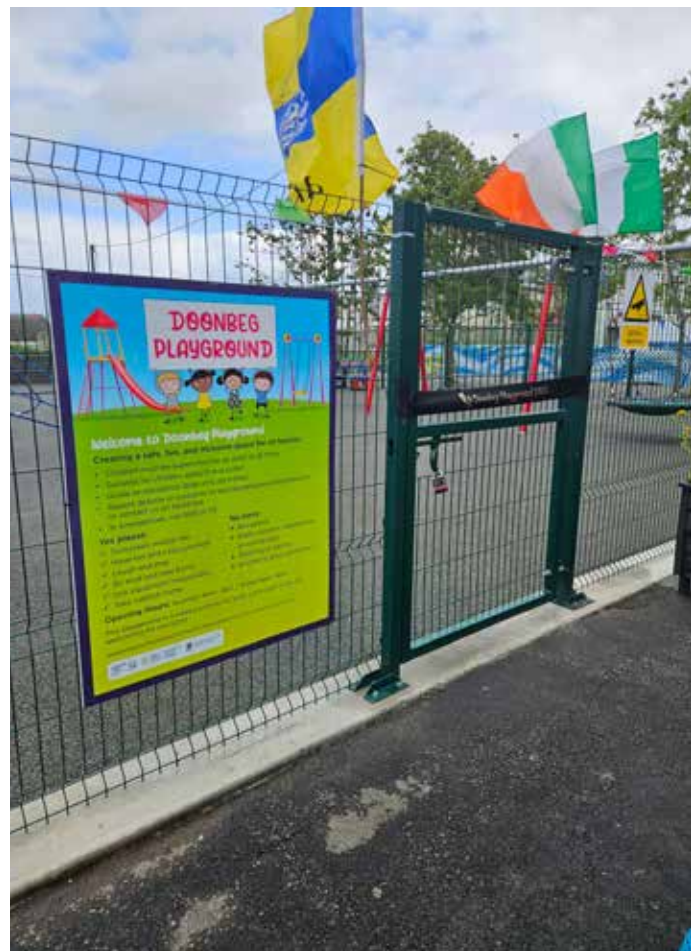
Playgrounds

Opening of Doonbeg Playground

On Sunday, May 25th, 2025, the long-awaited official opening of Doonbeg Playground was met with a wave of excitement and celebration. The festive occasion was filled with cheerful music, laughter, and the delightful presence of beloved children's cartoon characters, creating an atmosphere of pure joy and magic for local families.

The momentous ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by Cllr Rita McNerney and esteemed local businessman John Tubridy, was met with eager anticipation as children, beaming with happiness, rushed into the vibrant new playground. Their excitement echoed throughout the space, marking the beginning of countless cherished memories to be made in this wonderful community hub.

A heartfelt tribute was paid to all those who worked tirelessly to turn this dream into reality. Special appreciation was extended to The Doonbeg Playground Committee and local businesses whose unwavering dedication and countless hours of fundraising made this extraordinary project possible with the support for Clare County Council. Their collective effort has gifted the community with a safe, fun, and inspiring space where children can play, explore, and grow for years to come.



CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

Previous years and 2025 to date - statistics to 23rd May 2025.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	135	61
Freedom of Information Internal Review Applications	6	13	8	4	5	0
Appeals handled by Information Commissioner	1	4	2	4	4	0
Data Access Requests - Subject Access Request	5	6	10	10	13	4
Data Requests - Erasure Request	0	1	1	2	0	0
Data Access Requests - Third Party Access Requests e.g. Gardaí	20	27	27	29	29	12

Communications

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

13 media releases were issued during May 2025, including:

Minister O'Brien opens transformative Killaloe Bypass road project to boost heritage towns and local economy in Shannon region.

Clare's Wildlife Steps into the Spotlight for National Biodiversity Week 2025.

Clare County Council Leads the Way in Engineering Excellence.

Social Media

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

In the period 1-23 May 2025, the Communications Office:

Posted 57 times on Facebook, with total followers now 22,707.

Posted 43 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers over 8.8K.

57 Posts on Instagram followers are now 4,624.

(Statistics accurate as of 23/5/2025)

Register of Electors

Work is continuing by the project team within the Franchise Section on reviewing the accurateness of the existing data on the Register of Electors, including duplicate date of birth/PPSN/addresses. Dublin City Council are the lead authority for this project. Work will be paused in September 2025, due to the impending Presidential Election.

Business Innovation

The Innovation team continue to progress projects that will improve efficiency in the services provided.

A number of projects have been prioritised for 2025 action plan. Updates will be given as these projects progress.

The development of an ArcGis showing the location of water/gas networks is now complete. A Housing Dashboard is also being developed to manage the inspection of Housing stock.

Civic Reception for Clare Foster Carers

Clare County Council hosted a Civic Reception in Arás Contae an Chláir on Friday 16th May 2025, to recognise the significant contribution that foster carers make within their communities.

Thirty carers were in attendance along with representatives from Tusla. Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan presented certificates to the foster carers. He noted the incredible work of our foster carers, and thanked them for their kindness, dedication and the life changing impact they have on so many children.





Clare Foster Carers

Meeting with Chief Superintendent

CPG, Chairpersons of the Municipal Districts as well as the Management Team of Clare Co Council recently met with Chief Superintendent Aileen Magner and members of her Senior Team. A no of topics were discussed including the Local Community Safety Partnership, Illegal Encampments, Anti Social Behaviour, Community CCTV, Road Safety, Community Resilience & Garda Cover. It was agreed that the meeting was beneficial to all and that the group would try & meet quarterly.



Visit of Slovenian Ambassador

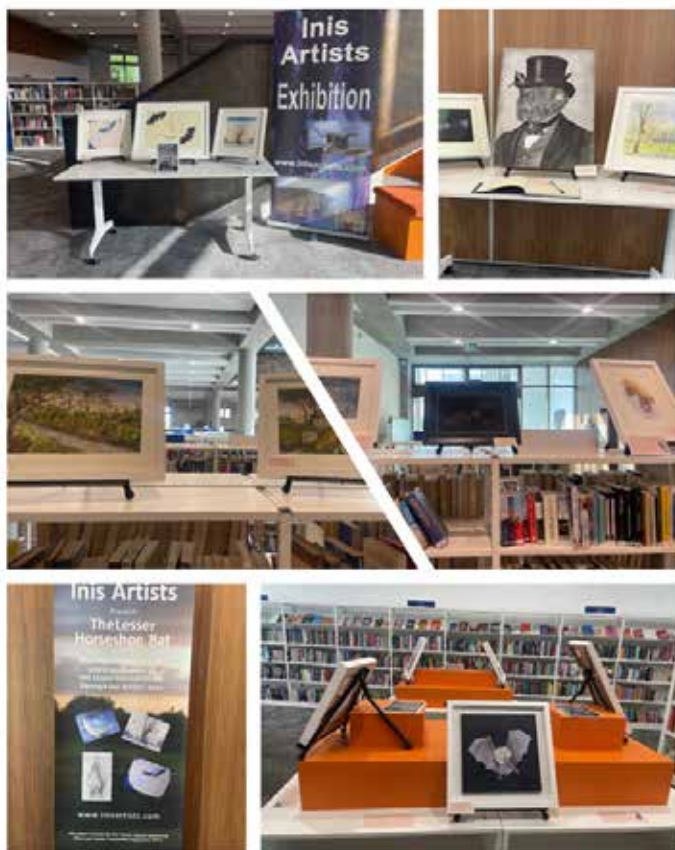
H.E. Stanislav Vidovič, his wife Ljiljana & Mr. Liam Moloney, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Slovenia visited Aras Contae an Chlair on 9th May last where they were met with by Cathaoirleach Alan O Callaghan and Deputy Chief Executive Jason Murphy as well as by members of the Oireachtas. Discussions took place on ways in which further co-operation could be enhanced between business and tourism interests in Co Clare and Slovenia. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the courtesy & hospitality shown to him on the day .



Visit of Slovenian Ambassador

CULTURAL SERVICES – LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

Clare Libraries



De Valera Library In association with Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Creative Communities Officer hosted an exhibition by Inis Artists this month. The focus of the exhibition was on the Lesser Horseshoe Bat which is currently confined to 6 counties (including Clare) in Ireland.



Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	286
Total audiences at in branch events	3,977
Total number of outreach events	17
Total audiences at outreach events	228
Total number of deliveries	10
Total number of class novels issued	25

IT classes and services

IT classes took place in De Valera, Kilkee and Tulla libraries. Library staff assisted the public on a range of IT services.

Other IT services

IT classes (type of class and attendees)	37
Surfbox	228
General Printing	257
Helping with PCRes log in	134
Accessing Wi-Fi	170
Helping with users' own devices	107
Clare Libraries website queries	103
Helping users with OPAC	189
Find My Past	33
Irish Newspaper Archives	41
Transparent Languages	26
Universal Class	28
Clare Libraries App	120
Borrowbox	407
Lapsafe	66
Hublet	110
Cubbie	92
Multi-Purpose Room - AV equipment	50

Online Resources sage

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

1,883 E-Books	4,101 E-Audiobooks	166 Online Courses
11,675 ePress (magazines & newspapers)	63 Transparent Languages	

Marketing & Social Media
Media releases

There were 2 media releases in relation to Cruinniú na nÓg and the Little Library Bags initiative.

Website

The following articles were added to Clare libraries website:

- Update on Cruinniú na nÓg activities in libraries
- DeValera Library and Súil gallery award nominations and prizes
- Updated opening times for Kilkee library
- All branch Social Stories (a tool for neurodivergent users) were added or updated

Information on library services was also added to the Visit Clare website.

Printed materials



Brochures in English & Irish for Local studies were designed & printed Brochure for Shannon Library was designed and printed.

Outreach

Library staff hosted an information stand at the Clare Older People's Awards in Woodstock Hotel.

Marketing staff provided a Bealtaine event in Ennistymon library for the Lisdoonvarna Active retirement group.

Library Social Media activity

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
	8,549	38	104,000	2,104
	2,699	42	8,996	318

Children's Services

The Little Library Bag initiative 2025 was launched by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and Local Government Ireland on 9 May.

Little Library Bags are now available to collect from libraries across Clare. All children who are due to start primary school this year are entitled to a free book bag, with books in English or 'as Gaeilge.'

Clare Libraries Children's Services participated in Coláiste Muire's 'Coláiste Fest'; a week of non-curricular activities. Clare Libraries provided supplies for a STEM sculpture workshop and the Children's librarian made a presentation on reading for pleasure.

Healthy Ireland

Three Healthy Ireland at your Library events took place this month.

Tutors from Mid-West Aries facilitated a **Creativity for Wellbeing** workshop in De Valera Library, Ennis, 11 people attended. A second workshop also took place in Scariff Library.



Kilrush Library hosted a Connect Café in partnership with West Clare Family Resource Centre and Mental Health Ireland. 24 people attended and gained much insight into 'The Benefits of Walking' a talk by Pius Murray, together with mindfulness and meditation which was led by Breda Latham & Pauline Burke.

Creative Ireland

The national launch of Cruinniú na nÓg took place on Friday 9 May at King John's Castle in Limerick with Minister Patrick O'Donovan. This year it is being celebrated on Saturday, 7 June with over 1,000 free creative activities and events taking place across the island of Ireland. 35 workshops are taking place across 22 locations in County Clare. The full Clare programme is on <https://cruinniu.gov.ie/events/location/clare/> Distribution of 1000 programmes and posters has taken place across the county.

The Creative Ireland programme is also delivered collaboratively by the Culture & Creativity Team with representatives from the Libraries, Arts, Heritage, Climate Action, Biodiversity, Healthy Clare, Museum, Local Enterprise Office and Age Friendly sections of Clare County Council.



A recent project delivered by Climate Action, funded by Creative Ireland is the Rubbish Film Festival. Transition year students from 5 local Secondary Schools took part in the intensive 2-day workshop to create a 1 minute short on climate action. The regional winner, Coláiste Muire, went on to be placed second in the national awards.

Creative Ireland Recently Funded Projects:

- Ennis Library Comic Fest – a series of workshops in animation, comic illustration, gaming and mask making took place in De Valera Library.
- Words for Mother E-ART-H - Poetry and Pottery workshops in Mountshannon to inspire creativity through Nature Writing and Ceramics. The participants in these workshops will go on to exhibit at Mountshannon Arts Festival

Clare Arts Office

There were eight support and strategic meetings with artists and arts organisations.

Two films, one concert and an improvisation workshop took place in Cultúrlann Sweeney, Kilkee.

Two Arts in Clare slots were broadcast on Clare FM.

The Arts in the Community programme continued in Raheen Hospital and in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis where a visit from the National Museum of Country Life took place. Bealtaine was celebrated with a performance by Mike Hanarahan and four local choirs to an audience of three hundred people on the steps of the Ennis Courthouse. We launched an initiative with Music Network and glór to encourage older people to take up playing music again.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

In preparation for the Clare Mela in Shannon, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company worked with 160 students from schools in Shannon, Cratloe and Clarecastle.

Clare Youth Theatre had performances from their senior group and one from their junior group in Súil gallery. Both groups continue to meet weekly. Over one hundred people attended.

Our Embrace Hooley took place on April 29th with nearly two hundred people in attendance. Cllr. Mary Howard launched the event with performances from participants from Dulick centre and Down Syndrome Clare. The Embrace art exhibition ran in glór until 31 May featuring work from the Dulick Centre, Brothers of Charity, Acquired Brain Injury Clare and Ennis Voices for Autism.

Three exhibitions took place in Clare Museum, Scariff Gallery and Cultúrlann Sweeney.

Súil welcomed over three hundred visitors during this period.

In Tandem, an exhibition by three local artists, finished in Súil and was followed by an exhibition JOURNEYS – Everything begins somewhere. JOURNEYS is in partnership with Helium Arts, the national children's art and health charity. Helium Arts brings artists to children and young people living with lifelong physical health conditions. Artists work at bedside in hospitals as well as in the community. A stakeholder gathering with Helium also took place in the gallery.

Súil continues to host weekly staff yoga sessions on every Monday.

Five Riches of Clare concerts took place in St. Columba's Church as part of the Fleadh Nua with an audience in excess of 1000 people during the wee

Social Media

Facebook 22/04/25-19/5/25

	Views	Post reach	Page Likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	22,533	13,693	2.9k	32	3,541
Cultúrlann Sweeney	3,647	1,294	1.8k	1	2,126
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	849	464	550	2	592
Riches of Clare	2,465	910	2.8k	6	2,850
Clare Culture Night	502	207	1.3k	0	1,310
Arts In Clare Group					3,611
Clare Trad Group					2,787

Instagram 20/04/25-19/5/25

Account	Views	Followers	Reach
Clare Arts Office	337	1,025	211
Culture Night	195	228	75
Súil	2,175	207	1,085

Clare Museum



The Festival of Polish Culture took place. This was the Museum's Creative Ireland project. It was a 10-day festival of exhibitions, films, public talks, music and food tasting. It was opened by the Mayor of Ennis Clare Collieran Molloy and the Polish Honorary Consul was also in attendance. The recital by the Polish choir in the cathedral and the food tasting event had 150 people attending both.

The curator and the education officer were involved in promotion of museum activities during the month including press releases and 25 social media posts and an interview on Clare FM.

A total of 342 children from seven schools visited the Museum. This included primary and secondary school children and students from the language school.

The uploading of the museum's Axiell database to the cloud was completed during the month.

Photographs of 37 objects and one blog entry were uploaded to the museum website during the month.

The education officer brought butter making equipment to an active retirement group in Shannon Library.

The final monthly lecture of the current series took place during the month.

Local Studies



The Local Studies Centre has received drawings and images from

Clare County Council. This collection includes drawings and images relating to the Tidal Barrage at Clarecastle. This structure continues to be pivotal to the prevention of flooding in Ennis. The Local Studies librarian hosted the launch of Patrick MacNamara's memoir in Killaloe Library. Patrick had previously donated his collection of GAA-related papers to the County Archives. An exhibition of books and ephemera from the library collection relating to Irish Traditional Music was held in the Local Studies area during the Consairtín festival in Ennis.

Clare Archives

Digitisation of Daniel O'Connell material was completed in association with Clare Museum. The digitisation of a GAA club's minutes dating from 1947-1980 also took place.

Work is nearing completion on the Barrett Collection. The archivist also answered a number of archival queries from the public.

KILLALOE MD

Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025

Below is an example of some of the works the Killaloe MD crews were involved in as part of the Roads Works programme;



Eager CCC Roads Crew, getting ready to start paving the L-81182 Annaghneal Road



Killaloe MD road crews carrying out road repairs at Clooloum, O'Callaghan Mills in advance of paving works.



Laying of Secugrid on the L-8056 Golf Course road in Bodyke in advance of paving works



Paving and Roiling of CI 806 on the L-7202 to Clooney-Quin GAA Club



Restoration Improvement Works on the L-3174 at Rathlaheed South, Newmarket on Fergus



Road Paver on the L-7202 to Clooney-Quin GAA Club

Informative discussion on opportunities and rewards for all in Fostering



Killaloe MD welcomed Jeanette Seymore, Tusla Mid-West Fostering coordinator to our Killaloe MD May meeting. Ms Seymore provided the members with an overview of fostering in the Mid-West and the severe need for foster carers in the region. Foster Care Ireland are currently looking for a diverse pool of parents, there is no typical foster family, single people (over 25 yrs) are also eligible to apply and there are different types of foster care from Emergency, Short-term, Respite to supported lodging.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

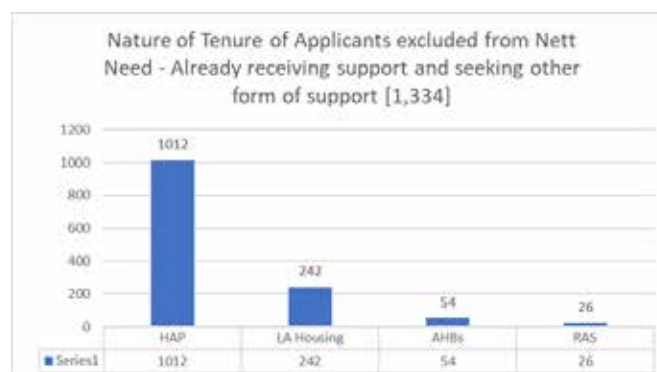
The housing public counter will remain open to the public, without appointment, from 9am until 1pm and by appointment after 1pm. Customers who require appointments in the afternoon can call 065 6846334 to schedule same. The Clare Homeless Action Team (HAT) office is open by appointment during office hours and can be contacted on 065 684 6291 or by email: hat@clarecoco.ie. Our Ukrainian support team can be contacted on 065 6846577 or by email: offerahome@clarecoco.ie. Our Local Authority Integration Team can be reached at integration@clarecoco.ie

Clare County Council Housing Grants online application

The Council has launched a new online portal for our Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. The availability of the grant application online portal will greatly 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

Total Households on List	2,800
Transfer Applicants (see below)	1,334
Net Need	1,466



Housing need by Area of choice and number of beds approved

Count of FIRST AREA OF CHOICE	BEDS APPROVED			
	1 and 2 beds	3 beds	4 and 5 beds	Total
ENNIS	984	180	69	1233
SHANNON	173	35	13	221
CLARECASTLE	152	28	7	187
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	120	22	7	149
KILRUSH	88	21	7	116
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	78	23	3	104
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	66	24	11	101
COROFIN/RUAN	67	16	1	84
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	69	10	1	80
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	56	15	2	73
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	53	13	2	68
KILLALOE	48	15	2	65
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	43	10	3	56
SIXMILEBRIDGE	35	13	4	52
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	37	9	5	51
CLONLARA	29	8	3	40
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	30	8	1	39
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	21	5	3	29
QUIN	16	4	1	21
KILMIHIL	9	4	2	15
KILMALEY	10	1		11
KILFENORA	4	1		5
Grand Total	2,188	465	147	2,800

Newly Qualified Applicants



Housing Allocations



Kher Denge & Sara Harith Ramadhan – No. 5 Cnoc an Chláir – 'very happy'.



Virginia Farrow, No. 13 Cnoc an Chláir – 'delighted'.



The Allocation process in relation to the new social housing development comprising 10 units at Cnoc an Chláir, Clarehill, Clarecastle is completed. Pre tenancy meetings were held with the new tenants on 28th May last and on that day the new tenants received the keys to their new homes. This development comprises 10 units made up 7 no 3 bedroomed houses, 2 no 2 bedroomed bungalows and 1 no 4 bedroomed house.

The new social housing development located at Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore West, Kilrush was recently advertised on the CBL website. This development comprises 8 no 2 storey 3 bedroomed houses and 6 no 2 bedroomed bungalows and almost 200 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.



Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

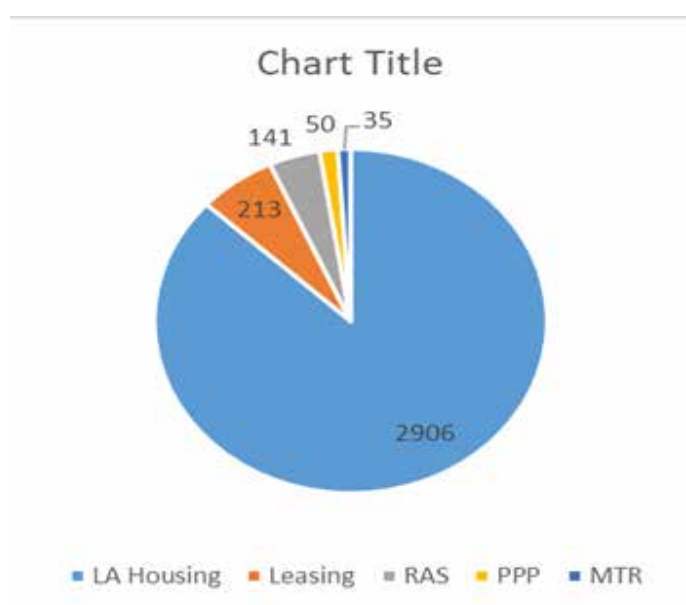
There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 27 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Two properties have been sold in February 2025. It is expected that more sales will complete in June 2025.

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

Housing Tenancies

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

26th May, 2025			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	1	1,273	1,274
Killaloe MD	0	372	372
Shannon MD	0	747	747
West Clare MD	16	953	969
Grand Total	17	3,345	3,362



There are 141 RAS tenancies and 213 leases (123 long-term and 90 short-term leases). There are 1,012 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing Bodies are providing approximately 1,038 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties and these properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System. Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

Vacancies

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accom.	5	7	1	0	13
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	6	5	1	2	14
Casual Vacancies	30	15	10	10	65
TOTAL	39	26	12	12	92

Estate Management

The Estate Management Team continue to undertake regular routine and response calls to tenants, dealing with complaints re breaches of Tenancy and ASB as well as inspecting Local Authority tenancies and providing the necessary supports to tenants. The team were successful in securing 3 Repossession Orders in court in 2024. A number of further Repossession Applications will be going through the Courts in the coming months.

The team continue to be extremely active in carrying out tenancy visits. It should be noted that the follow up on complaints received and the no. of visits carried out do not correlate with an increase in instances of anti-social behaviour or tenancy breaches but rather that a more proactive approach is being taken with 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. Listed hereunder shows details of work being undertaken by the Estate Management team this year to date.

	Total year to date
Complaints rec'd in relation to breaches of Tenancy	245
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	12
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	19
Abandonment Notices issued	3
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	24
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 and mitigate against complaints of antisocial behaviour. The team also engage proactively with

tenants to help prevent anti-social behaviour, facilitate the daily patrol of local authority sites, arrange specific meetings with tenants as well as engaging with local communities.

The team recently led the establishment of Gauras Residents Group, with support from the Rural and Community Development Officer. The group will serve residents from three social housing estates, providing a shared platform to raise concerns, exchange ideas and work together to build a strong, more connected, and sustainable community. Residents are encouraged to get involved, contribute their perspectives and help shape a positive future.

Private Rented inspections

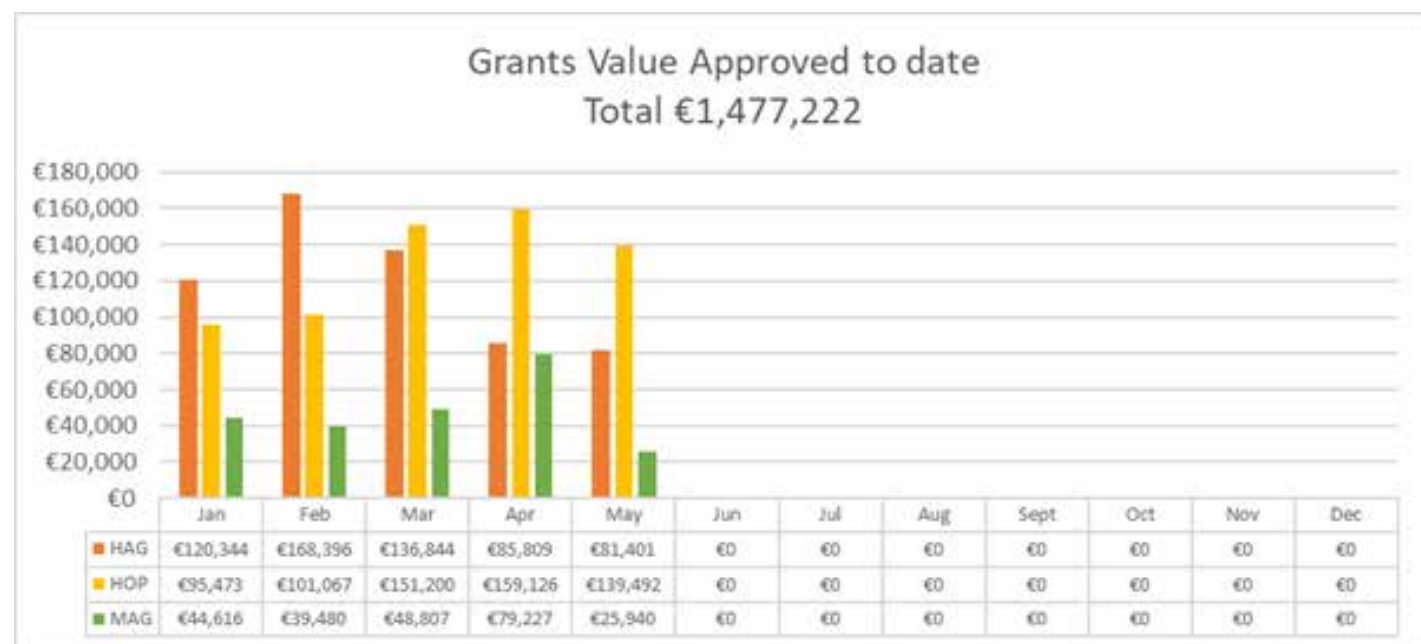
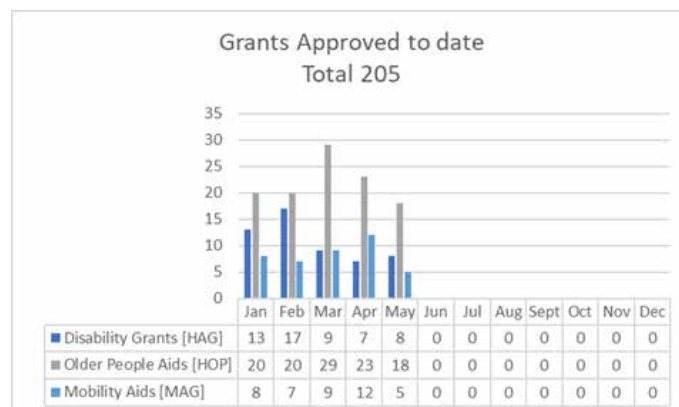
Inspections have commenced for 2025. These inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 434 properties up to the end of April.

Housing Grants

The revised application form for Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People is available on Clare County Council's website.

The online facility is also available at 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. There are currently 72 Local Authority Home Loans Approved in Principle. Updated figures are outlined as follows:

11 Application
received to date
in 2025

40 Applications
received in 2024

72 Local Authority
Loans Approved

5 Local Authority Loans
Drawn Down in 2022,
11 Drawn Down in 2023
and 11 Drawn Down in
2024 & 3 in 2025

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/>
2 LAPR Applications have been received to date.

The Homeless Action Team

The level of complex cases presenting to the Homeless Action Team in Clare has continued to increase. Additional demands are being placed on the Homeless Action Team to provide Emergency Accommodation in a safe and appropriate manner. The levels of support, advice and advocacy, being requested from households around areas such as Homeless Services, Housing Requirements, Health supports, Outside Support referrals and the need for Emergency Accommodation within this region is increasing.

There has been a notable rise in the number of presentations of individuals and households experiencing difficulties and concerns around Hospital discharges, Prison releases, Family or relationship breakdown, addiction or mental health concerns, dual diagnosis, and a further increase in the number of households presenting from the Travelling Community.

The level of aggression being experienced by the Homeless Action Team staff and supporting agencies staff which increased in 2024 needs to be monitored and addressed in 2025.

Prevention and support remain a key factor in the workings of the Homeless Action Team. Several single and household presentations worked with staff around prevention options and supports which in turn prevented the need for Emergency Accommodation and avoiding entering Homeless services. 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.

Emergency Accommodation Status as of 3rd May 2025

	Families	Adults	Dependents	Providers
Laurel Lodge	0	13	0	1
Laurel Lodge (apts)	0	4	0	1
Cusack Lodge	5	6	14	1

Westbrook	0	18	0	1
Ashford Court	12	16	14	1
Clann Nua	0	12	0	1
EA Families	14	19	26	8
EA Individuals	0	32	0	9
TOTAL	31	120	54	24

Exits from Homeless Services

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

During the period 05/04/2025 to 03/05/2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing	1
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	0
Admitted to hospital	0
Excluded	5
Residential Treatment	1
Tenancy LA	0
Returned to family/friends	0
Prevention Tenancies	0
Other	0

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 continue 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.
- Lahinch Rd Ennis – 11 units (8 units allocated to successful applicants)
- Shannon – 10 units (All units allocated to successful applicants)

The successful applicants nominated for the homes on the Lahinch Road, Ennis are liaising directly with the developer and their agents to finalise the sales.

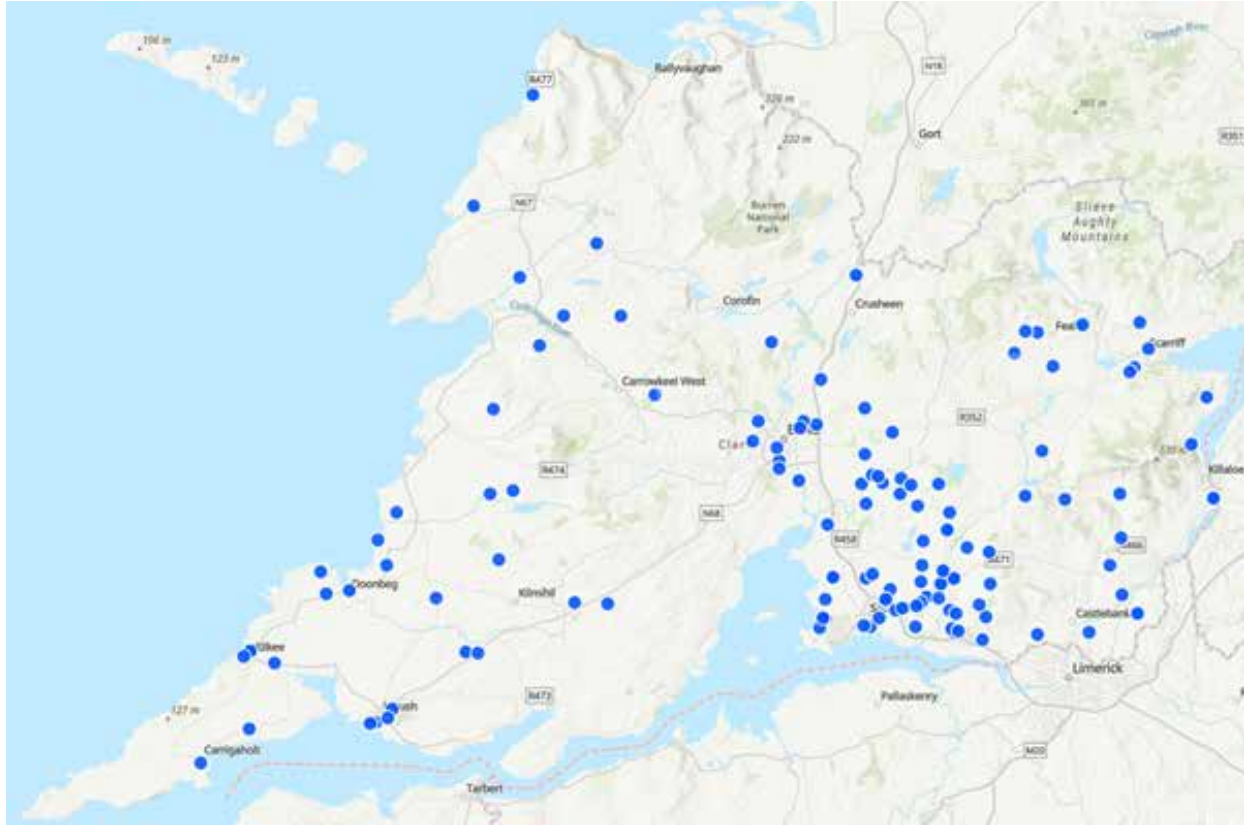
CCC are currently engaged with other developers, that have expressed interest in affordable housing, for potential inclusion on the scheme. There is an online information portal at <https://affordablehomes.ie/> providing general information to the public with regards to affordable housing.

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



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

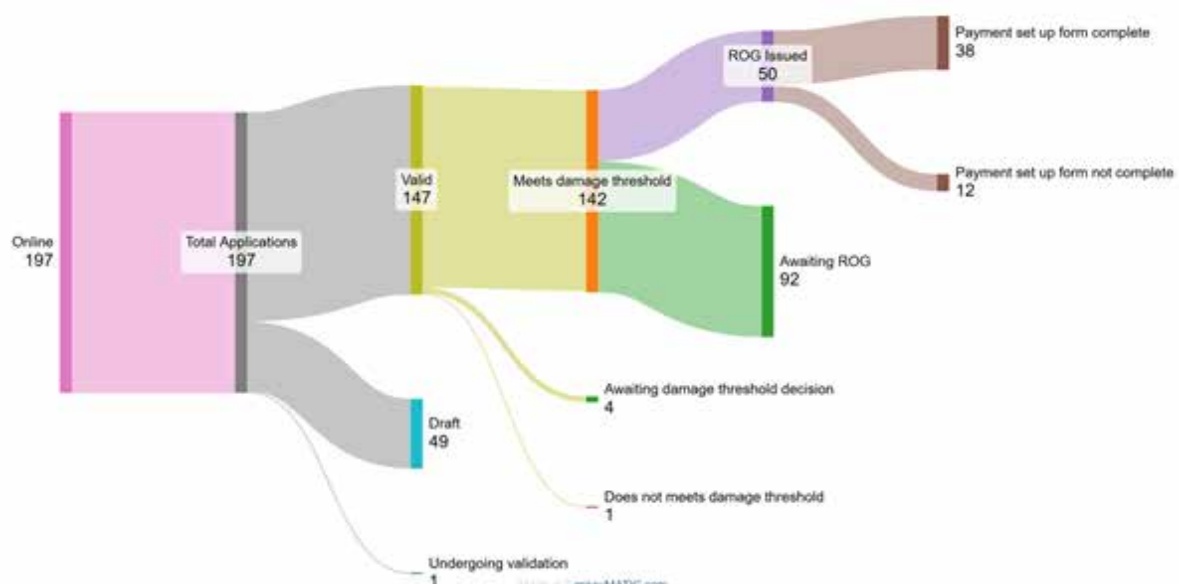
Clare County Council continue to administer and validate applications since the commencement of the scheme via the

online portal. Clare County Council are engaging with the Housing Agency and the DHLGH and continue to carry out all associated duties.

To date, Clare County Council have issued 50 Remedial Option Grants, with the total value of €15.12m awarded and are awaiting input from the Housing Agency to further process 92 applications with grant amounts to follow.

NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland), are carrying out a review of the current I.S.465 standard of deleterious materials on behalf of the DHLGH, which is out for public consultation currently until the 28th May.

DCB Application Flow Chart



CCC carried out recent information evening's on 31st March last in Shannon and 6th May in Ennis. The main focus of these evening's was orientated towards applicants who have received their grant option. These events were attended to capacity with positive feedback from attendees.

CCC intend to hold further information evenings in various locations in 2025, 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.



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development

Update on capital programme:

Direct build projects currently under construction include the Back Road project in Kilrush, the Doonbeg project, the Gort Road project and the Shallee Drive/Cloughleigh Road project. These projects are all progressing well. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design and construction across the county.



Progress on Back Road, Kilrush housing development



Progress on Gort Road, Ennis housing development



Progress on Doonbeg housing development

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies have an ambitious housing programme this year. A total of 41 no units over 3 projects have been completed to date in 2025. During May Phase 2 at Loughville, Ennis was delivered by Tuath Housing Association. This Phase of the development consists of 18 units – 2 no. 2-bed bungalows, 14 no. 3-bed semi-detached houses and 2 no. 4-bed semi-detached houses. We continue to support All AHBs through regular meetings with individual bodies that are involved in delivery, and through quarterly meetings of the AHB Forum.



Completed 18 units at Loughville, Lahinch Road, Ennis by Tuath Housing Association May 2025

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SHIP Capital	No. approved	Current stage	Start Date	Completion Date
Main Street Clarecastle	1	Under Construction	Q1 2024	Q3 2025
Clarehill Clarecastle	13	Turnkey - Under Construction First 10 Complete March 2025	Q3 2023	Q1 2025 (10) Q2 2025 (3)
Garrán Cathaigh, Leadmore Kilrush	14	Turnkey – Under Construction April 2025	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Turnkey – Complete Jan 2025	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Béal an Inbhir, Kilrush	28	Turnkey – Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025 (8) Q3 2025 (10)
Circular Road Ennistymon	4	Turnkey – Under Construction	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
38 St Patrick's Terrace, Kilrush	1	Under Review	Q2 2025	Q4 2025
Gort Rd. Ennis	20	Under Construction	Q3 2024	Q4 2025
Doonbeg Lands	8	Under Construction	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Shallee Drive / Cloughleigh Rd	5	Construction Contract signed and construction work to commence Q1 2025	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Back Road, Kilrush	12	Await Stage 4 approval by DHLGH.	Q1 2025	Q2 2026
Moore Street, Kilrush	16	Stage 4 approval granted contracts to be signed June 2025	Q2 2025	Q4 2026
Drumcliff Rd, Ennis	26	Stage 2 approved by DHLGH. S179A under judicial review	-	-
Subtotal	155			

Approved Housing Body Projects	No. 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)	Under construction	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Loughville, Ennis (Tuath Housing) CALF Turnkey	34	Completed: Phase 2 - 18 units (Sale closed on 22/5/2025) Under construction: Phase 3 - 12 units	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q3 2025
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Bruachlan, Westbury (Cooperative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Construction	22	At procurement stage for contractor	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Acha Bhile, Ennis Banner Housing Assoc CAS Turnkey	4	At construction stage	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
Ballyminogue, Scarriff Inis Housing	5	Under construction	Q2 2024	Q3 2025
Subtotal	114			
Total	269			

UKRAINIAN SERVICES TEAM

As of 14th May, CSO figures show there were 451 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 16 granted per day. There are currently 5,048 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) living in County Clare, representing a decrease of 13 people in the County compared to figures released previously. There are 1,211 people accommodated in 25 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 13 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. To date our Matching & Relationship Manager has facilitated the accommodation of 485 people that were originally living in hotel and multi-occupancy facilities.

The Government recently announced its decision on the Accommodation Recognition Payment (ARP) and has decided to reduce the payment from €800 to €600 from June 2025 onwards. As the payment is payable monthly in arrears, the first payment at the reduced rate will be received by hosts on 8th July 2025.

The following is an outline of some of the main options homeowners might be considering in light of the forthcoming changes:

1. **Continue staying under the Offer a Home Scheme, regardless of changes to the payment.**
2. **Continue staying under the Offer a Home Scheme, but seek an additional financial contribution from the guest to 'top-up' the ARP when the current rate of ARP is reduced.** The legislation on ARP states that an additional financial contribution from the guest, beyond utilities, may be considered a rental agreement, regardless of whether this was intentional or not on the part of the host. Simply, it's illegal to top up the ARP payment if it's not the payment for the utilities. It's also illegal to have a rental agreement and claim the Accommodation Recognition Payment. Further information on the ARP can be accessed at: gov.ie - Accommodation Recognition Payment Scheme: Your questions answered
3. **Continue in the existing living arrangements but transition into a rental agreement.**
 - The property will have to be withdrawn from the Offer a Home Scheme;
4. **The property must be registered with the RTB (contact the RTB for advice on the specific arrangement).**
5. Check with Revenue and/or Intreo to determine whether there are tax implications or impacts to any social welfare entitlements (income will be taxed). Rental income is taxable but expenses might get some relief (e.g. [RPIRO](#) Income relief).
 - Any agreement is discussed openly with everyone involved, is put in writing and has a clear end date (the sample of the Residential tenancy agreement can be found at the following link: [Residential Tenancy Agreement Template |](#)

[Residential Tenancies Board](#)

- Consider what is a fair amount of money - this will vary based on the individual situation and guests' circumstances.
- 6. The tenant (formerly guest) may be able to apply for [Rent Supplement or Renters Tax Credit](#) to help with the cost of rent.
- Ukrainians in Ireland are currently not eligible for social housing schemes like Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) as they do not have 'a legal right to remain in the state on a long-term basis'.
- 4. **End the current hosting agreement, and give your guests notice to find alternative accommodation.** If the time has come to end the household participation in the Offer a Home Scheme, that is absolutely understandable. The Offer a Home team will assist and provide as much help as we can. For any additional questions regarding the Offer a Home Scheme, please contact the team on our email address at: offerahome@clarecoco.ie

Local Authority Integration Team



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

1st April: Fiona Cahill & Pdraig McMahon attended a regional LAIT information sharing meeting with Galway City, Galway County, Mayo & Roscommon LAITs in Galway County Council Tuam Office.

16th April: Fiona Cahill attended a Youth Event in the Temple gate Hotel on developing an integration strategy for County Clare, a collaboration between Clare County Council, National Youth Council, CYPSCC, Tusla & Clare Local Development Company.

Lait team are collaborating with Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare youth Service, LCETB, PPN and other volunteer groups in applying for Clare to be the European Volunteering Capital in 2027

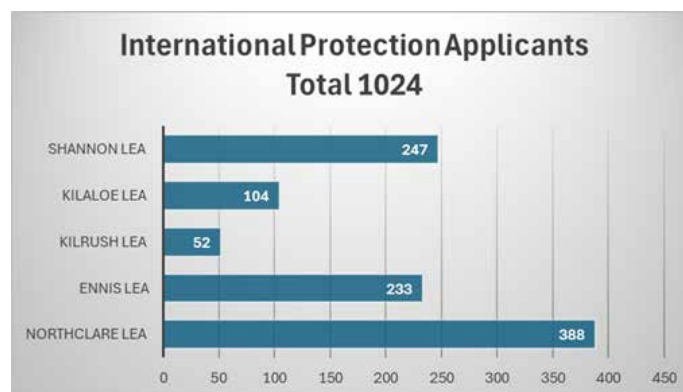
Lait team collaborated with Clare Local Development Company and Clare Immigrant Support Centre in hosting Africa Day 2025

in the CBS Ennis on the 24th May. The event was attended by 250 members of the African community

Fiona Cahill and Pdraig McMahon participated in A Junior Achievement in the Council Chamber on the 15th May where students from the Holy family School were given an opportunity to learn about Clare County Council and Sustainability.



There are currently 1024 International Protection Applicants accommodated in 12 Centres across County Clare.



NORTH CLARE LEA

TD Visit, Community Engagement and Collaboration

The senior team from the Ennistymon LEA conducted a productive on-site visit with Deputy Joe Cooney and Patrick O'Donoghue, Chairman of The Ballyvaughan Community Group. This engagement provided an invaluable opportunity for all parties to openly communicate their concerns, enabling the team to effectively prioritise workloads in alignment with available resources.

Seasonal Staff

During the summer season, 12 seasonal staff are deployed to beaches across North Clare, including Lahinch, Fanore, Doolin, Whitestrand, Miltown Malbay, and Spanish Point. The Beach Operatives are responsible for maintaining cleanliness by ensuring the beaches and public amenities remain litter-free amongst multiple other priorities.



Cara McInerney and Jack Cotter at Lahinch.

Roads Programme

Throughout the reporting period, the Roads Programme progressed efficiently, supported by exceptional warm weather conditions. Extensive works were carried out across the Local Electoral Area, including roadworks in Liscannor, resurfacing in Noughaval Kilfenora, Dough Milltown, and Doolin, as well as trench repair works in Lisdoonvarna. These improvements enhance road safety, accessibility, and overall infrastructure, benefiting residents, businesses, and visitors alike.



Road Works Liscannor



Road Resurfacing Noughaval Kilfenora



Trench Repair works Lisdoonvarna



Road resurfacing Dough Milltown



Road Resurfacing Doolin

Water Stations

New water stations have been installed at Lahinch Beach and Spanish Point, enhancing accessibility to clean drinking water for visitors. These installations support sustainability efforts by reducing single-use plastic waste and promoting environmentally conscious practices in the community.



Water Station Spanish Point



Water Station Lahinch Beach

Line Marking

Road line marking was carried out at Luogh South to deter illegal parking within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This measure aims to protect the delicate ecosystem by reducing foot traffic that could potentially harm the region's flora and fauna, ensuring the preservation of its natural beauty for future generations.



Illegal Parking Luogh South



Line marking to deter illegal parking Luogh South

Storm Eowyn Response Completed

Boundary fence repairs at Fanore Beach marked the successful completion of all storm-related restoration works within the Municipal District. This milestone ensures the area's resilience against future adverse weather conditions, contributing to the ongoing maintenance and preservation of the local environment.



Boundary Fence repairs at Fanore Beach

Flexible Outdoor Structure Project in Kilfenora:

During the reporting period, numerous flexible outdoor structures were installed throughout the Municipal District as part of an initiative led by A/Sen Architect Tomás Prendeville. Pictured here are members of one of the Ennistymon crews, led by GSS Brian Smith, installing a structure in Kilfenora. Strategically located, this installation aims to enhance opportunities for artistic performances within the village, fostering cultural engagement and community interaction.



Flexible Outdoor Structure in Kilfenora.

SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Footfalls for Active Ennis Leisure Complex & Lees Road April 2025

Footfalls for April in the Active Ennis Leisure Complex was lower compared to the previous April, this may be due to weather conditions, April 2025 saw unseasonable warm weather compared to the previous year which had a lot of wet weather. Lee's Road had a busy period during April with this good weather and saw an increase in Cars entering the Facility compared to the previous year.

	Total April 2025	Previous year (April 2024)	Average per day April 2025	Average per day April 2025
Leisure Complex	12,686	20,947 (↓40%)	423	698 (↓40%)
Lees Road	24554	20532 (↑17%)	792	662 (↑17%)

SunSmart campaign

We recently displayed information posters around reducing the risk of skin cancer. The posters display tips and information around protection from the sun and use of sunscreen.



Healthy Clare Newsletter

We issued a blog post and an infographic to the Healthy Clare Newsletter for May, the blog post was "Tips for starting strength training" and the infographic was "Recovery from Sports & Exercise".

Lee's Road Multipurpose unit

In May we installed a multi-purpose unit with a seating area and a stage in Lee's Road. This unit is a great place for people to interact and socialise. It also offers additional seating facilities to the park and an area for spectators to watch events taking place in the park.



St Flannan's Event

Active Ennis were invited to St Flannan's college to hold an information stand on the 30th of April. We got some great engagement with the students and displayed services including our Teen gym which runs Monday, Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays.



www.activeennis.ie www.activekilrush.ie

Any defects or operational issues can be reported by email to: info@activeennis.ie

SPORTS & RECREATION



General Update

- The pilot project in Lisdoonvarna targeting Ukrainian Refugees in conjunction with Weightlifting Ireland has expanded - Currently an iteration with a group of cancer survivors who formed a 'Dragon Boat Club' with Clare Sports Partnership assistance has now commenced with 18 participants.
- A formal referral system to the ESF+ role from SICAP, Local Area Employment Service, Employability, Traveller CPD, Focus Ireland, and Probation Service has been initiated. This is for individuals who present to these services, have had training, are interested in training, or need support getting active/sport again. 14 clients have been referred and met so far. This will be expanded to include the Links Worker client base and internally referred
- As part of Bike Week CSP have started 3 'Learn to Cycle' programmes with Ennis Voices for Autism, Down Syndrome Clare, and Derg AC with 44 children taking part in the programme.



- **Bike Week**
Significant preparation has taken place throughout April ahead of Bike Week. A total of 26 events have been confirmed across Clare. These events have been submitted to Transport for Ireland for online promotion and have also been prepared on the backend of the CSP website for launch in the first week of May.
- **Walking Initiatives – The Banner Marathon:**
The Banner Marathon ran from April 1st to April 30th, offering participants the flexibility to walk, jog, or run a half marathon, full marathon, or up to three marathons. A total of 36 participants registered, achieving a combined distance of 1,698.35 KM by the end of the month.

- The first Season of Respect LGBTQ+ Advocate training workshop took place on April 30th. All clubs were invited to take part in the new initiative which aims to drive inclusivity and education among coaches and members of clubs to the LGBTQ+ community by having a trained club advocate available to them. The advocate will receive education and awareness about inclusivity and how they can help along with ongoing support from Clare Sports Partnership.

LGBTQ+ Advocates Training Programme for Sports Clubs

Creating Inclusive and Safe Spaces in Sports

What is an LGBTQ+ Advocate?

An LGBTQ+ Advocate is any club member who takes active steps to promote inclusion, challenge discrimination, and support LGBTQ+ teammates and members. You don't need to be an expert - just someone who cares and is willing to learn.

What You'll Do:

- As an advocate, you might:
 - Speak up when you hear discriminatory language
 - Be a point of contact for LGBTQ+ members
 - Support someone who's coming out
 - Encourage inclusive policies and practices

What You'll Get:

- Free training (in person or online)
- Ongoing support and check-ins
- Resources and posters
- Connection with other advocates across Clare

When and how long is the FREE training?

- In person training will take place at the Clare Sports Partnership office in Ennis on Wednesday April 30th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm
- A separate online training session will be delivered on Wednesday May 7th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm for those who cannot attend the in person session.

How do I sign up?

To register, please go to www.claresports.ie/advocates

Or You can Scan the QR to Register

Clare Sports Partnership CLG, c/o Clare Education Centre
Government Buildings, Kilrush Road,
Ennis, Co Clare, V95 F8B2

Be in with a chance to win a €250 cash prize for your club - All clubs that take part will be entered into a draw.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Burren & Cliffs Explorer Shuttle Bus Launch



A new hop-on, hop-off shuttle bus service connecting towns, villages, and top visitor attractions across North and West Clare has been officially launched. The free Burren and Cliffs Explorer is a joint initiative of Clare County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), supported by Fáilte Ireland, and is now available for online bookings. Running as a pilot project from May 1st to August 31st, - with the possibility of an extension into September – the service links destinations including Ballyvaughan, Corofin, Carran, Kilfenora, Doolin, Liscannor, and Lahinch. It also has stops at key hubs like Lisdoonvarna and Miltown Malbay where free parking is available.

The Clare Collection

Sense of Ireland Canada Trip

Leiona Lyons, Bookings & Marketing Administrator, Clare Tourism West, had the opportunity to represent The Clare Collection at Tourism Ireland Sense of Ireland trip to Canada. The trip included visits to Victoria, Kelowna, Edmonton, and finished up in the capital Ottawa. At each location, Leiona showcased the fantastic tourism offering from The Clare Collection to approximately 180 local travel agents and trade as well as showcasing to the general public who are hoping to visit Ireland in the near future. It is always great to make new connections but also very important to reconnect with our existing trade partners such as CIE Tours, Royal Irish Tours, The Travel Corporation and Moloney and Kelly.



Leiona Lyons, Bookings & Marketing Administrator, Clare Tourism West at Tourism Ireland's Sense of Ireland Trip in Canada.

Biodiversity Week at the Cliffs of Moher Experience

National Biodiversity Week 2025 in Ireland took place from Friday, 16 May to Sunday, 25 May 2025. To celebrate National Biodiversity Week, the Cliffs of Moher Experience and Clare County Council, invited the public to a special screening and exhibit of Life on the Edge — a new exhibit series spotlighting the tenacious beauty of wild plants growing along the iconic Cliffs of Moher. Visitors enjoyed Life on the Edge film screenings inside the Visitor Centre. The event offered a unique opportunity to learn more about the native flora and fauna of the Cliffs. On Saturday, 17 May, Sunday, 18 May, Thursday, 22 May, and Friday, 23 May, visitors could try out Virtual Reality headsets to explore the cliffs' rich biodiversity in a fully immersive experience. Life on the Edge explored the incredible lives of cliff-dwelling plants like Sea Pinks, Yarrow, and Campion—species that persist against the odds in one of Ireland's most extreme natural environments. These plants are more than beautiful: they are essential, resilient, and vital to the health of the ecosystem.



Maeve Stone, Cracking Light Productions, Oonagh O'Dwyer, Local Horticulturist, Alex Gill, Cracking Light Productions, Geraldine O'Rourke, General Manager Clare Tourism West, Siobhán McNulty, Director of Tourism Development, Clare County Council and Melanie Lennon, Sales & Marketing Manager, Clare Tourism West and Northwest at the Biodiversity Week launch at the Cliffs of Moher Experience.

Cliffs Community Charity Fun Day 2025

Milford Care Centre was chosen as the beneficiary of this year's Cliffs of Moher Community Charity Fun Day, which featured a host of family entertainment including live music, dancing, singing facepainting and spot prizes. Funds were raised for Milford Care Centre in Limerick, a very worthy cause, during a community charity event at the Cliffs of Moher Experience on Saturday, 24th of May. This year, visitors were encouraged to leave their cars in one of the many villages and towns served by the Burren and Cliffs Explorer free hop-on, hop-off shuttle service, including Miltown Malbay, Lahinch, Liscannor, Doolin, Ballyvaughan, Lisdoonvarna, Kilfenora, and Corofin.



Cliffs Community Charity Fun Day 2025 Launch at the Cliffs of Moher Experience.

Updated Summer Opening Hours

We are delighted to announce that we will now be open from 08am to 09pm daily for the months of May, June, July and August. Early morning and late evening visits are extra special at the Cliffs of Moher Experience with the opportunity to witness magical sunrise and sunsets!



Sunset at the Cliffs of Moher Experience

The Viking Invasion at Craggaunowen

The Vikings returned to Craggaunowen over the May Bank Holiday Weekend as fearsome warriors took over the site and transformed it into a bustling Viking village. Thrilling battle reenactments took place on the castle green, young visitors tried their hands at shield drills, and crafters demonstrated a wide range of traditional skills including pottery, leatherworking, armoury and fibre crafts. There were also live demonstrations of meals being cooked over open flames, a moneyer showed how coins were made and there were even Viking games such as Knubb and Hnefatafl. Almost a thousand visitors of all ages came to enjoy the two-day event.



The Battle for Bunratty



Teams of highly skilled knights from all four provinces descended on Bunratty Castle and Folk Park on Sunday 18th May at the Battle for Bunratty Castle. The valiant Knights of Munster, the fierce Dublin fighters of Fragarach and the ferocious Black and Back 1316 team of Athenry were clad in steel armour and wielded blunted swords to recreate the spectacle of a medieval foot tournament. In the medieval encampment, visitors had the chance to meet the knights, learn about their lifestyles and get a close-up look at the armour and weapons.

A FAM Trip to the East

The Sales and Marketing team at CTD East were delighted to welcome a group from the West/North West on a FAM trip of Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Craggaunowen and Knappogue. Reservations and Sales and Marketing staff from CTD West enjoyed a day familiarising themselves and being shown around the beautiful sites within the portfolio in the East of County Clare. From a castle tour, butter churning demonstration and bodhrán lessons in Bunratty to the Crannóg, Brendan Boat

Exhibition and enchanting Folklore Trail of Craggaunowen before taking in the beautiful castle and gardens of Knappogue. Insert pic – Fam Trip May 2025 Bunratty

This month, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park had the pleasure of hosting several Fam trips, including those supported by Tourism Ireland and organised by Wallace Travel and Abbey Tours. These trips brought high-end and MICE agents from the UK, France, and the US, giving them a firsthand experience of the site.

All groups were welcomed by the charming Irish Wolfhounds and then immersed themselves in the history of the castle. They also witnessed butter churning and baking demonstrations at the Golden Vale Farmhouse before strolling down Village Street to Mac's Pub, where everyone enjoyed entertaining bodhrán lessons.



Bunratty at 600 – An Article from Tourism Ireland

Bunratty Castle and Folk Park were delighted to collaborate with local travel writer Vic O'Sullivan and Tourism Ireland marking the 600th Anniversary of this iconic castle. Titled Bunratty at 600: Ireland's Storybook Castle Through the Ages, the article details the remarkable history of the castle including information on its renovation, the castle in present-day, and the famous medieval banquets while also touching on the Folk Park and all it has to offer. The full article can be found at - <https://www.tourismireland.com/international/news-releases/article/bunratty-at-600-ireland-s-storybook-castle-through-the-ages-of-shannon-heritage-to-clare-county-council>.

Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

Environmental Science students learn in the Geopark

Geopark Geologist Dr. Eamon Doyle lead a fieldtrip for 27 Environmental Science students from University of Galway to key locations including the Cliffs of Moher, Fanore Beach and Black Head to discuss the geological history and the environmental significance of the Burren landscape, with Dr. Gesche Kindermann.

Geopark book presented to Dr. Mary McAleese



Tim Madden presenting Mary McAleese with a copy of our book, *Stone, Water & Ice* at the Michael Cusack Centre.

A copy of our Geopark book, *Stone, Water & Ice* was presented to Dr. Mary McAleese on the occasion of her being nominated as an honorary trustee of the Michael Cusack Centre.

Burren School links with Scottish schools in Gaelic placenames project

The Burren Geopark has collaborated with NorthWest Highlands UNESCO Global Geopark in Scotland on a gaelic placenames project called 'Seanchas na gCloch', which connected Kilfenora National School and two primary schools in Scotland in a local gaelic placenames project. Dr. Liam Ó' hAisibéal from University of Galway introduced the students to understanding the meanings behind placenames in our Burren landscape. We are grateful for the cooperation and assistance of principal Thomas Coyne.

Visiting Geopark team from New Zealand learning from the best.



Representatives of Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark New Zealand visiting the Burren Centre as part of their Geopark learning visit.

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher was chosen as one of the site visits for representatives from Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark, New Zealand on their recent visit to Europe as part of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Mentorship and Knowledge Exchange Programme. The programme aims to provide new Geoparks with access to the best examples of UNESCO Geoparks. We were happy to showcase the best of the Burren to Lynley and Shelly and to share our knowledge and experience with them.

Galway Geological Association visit the Burren limestone to learn

The Geopark geologist guided a fieldtrip in the Burren National Park organized by the Galway Geological Association, which included members of the Cork Geological Association.

Visit Clare Marketing and Promotion

Hop Aboard the Free Burren and Cliffs Explorer Bus

Free Hop-On, Hop-Off Shuttle Bus Now Running Across North and West Clare

Looking for a simple, flexible—and completely free—way to get around Clare this summer? The Burren and Cliffs Explorer Bus runs daily until the end of August, with a possible extension into September. Seven hop-on, hop-off routes connect towns, villages, scenic spots, and visitor attractions across North and West Clare.

The service gives you the freedom to travel between places at your own pace—without needing the car. Several routes stop at or connect to the Cliffs of Moher Experience, making it easier than ever to include it in your trip out.

THE 7 ROUTES AT A GLANCE

- **Kilfenora - Liscannore - Cliffs of Moher Experience - Return:** Runs regularly throughout the day, with stops along the route including the Cliffs of Moher Experience.
- **Kilfenora - Liscannore - Cliffs of Moher Experience - Return:** A route linking Burren villages to the Cliffs.
- **Doolee - Cliffs of Moher Experience - Return:** Frequent service ideal for combining a visit to Doolee and the Cliffs of Moher Experience.
- **Liscannore - Cliffs of Moher - Return:** A short, scenic route running roughly every 30 minutes between Liscannore and the Cliffs.
- **Ballyvaughan - Allihave Burren Experience - Poodobro - Caherconell Stone Fort & Sheepdog Demonstrations - Kilfenora - Return:** This route also visits some of the Burren's most popular heritage and nature spots.
- **Carraun - Michael Cusack Centre - Carran - Slieve Carran - Kilfenora - Return:** A scenic inland route rich in history and walking options. Connects to Kilfenora to reach the Cliffs.
- **Carraun - Burren National Park (Kenny's Ennis Trailhead) - Return:** A dedicated shuttle into the heart of the park—ideal for walkers heading out on the Burren's marked trails.

HOW IT WORKS

- The service is free, but you'll need to book your ticket online.
- There are seven different routes, each with its own timetable.
- Not every route goes directly to the Cliffs of Moher Experience—some involve a change of bus.
- Admission to the Cliffs of Moher Experience is free when you use the shuttle bus, however other attractions you choose to visit incur additional charges.
- Don't wait for the last shuttle of the day—if it's full, you may need to make other arrangements.
- You can view route details, download timetables, and book by scanning the QR code opposite.

PLAN YOUR DAY AND BOOK YOUR FREE SEAT

Scan the QR code to view route details, download timetables, and book your free seat!

SCAN ME

www.cliffsofmoher.ie

Visit Clare is producing a new Destination Attractions and Activities Guide for special trade and consumer promotions, showcasing Clare's top experiences. It is being prepared for the international market ahead of the Visit Clare delegation travelling to Milwaukee in August.

Visit Clare Social Media: Weekly spotlight posts continue across the Visit Clare social media platforms to promote local tourism business, be they, Accommodation, Activities, Dining or Events providers, including, a welcome to new businesses to the website as well as continuing to highlight our local natural attractions.

Flying Alpaca Visit at Loop Head Lighthouse

The 2025 season has started off very positively with visitor numbers up on previous years and bookings for the accommodation particularly strong in our second season with occupancy rates of over 75% already confirmed for June, July and August.

We are continuing to support the local community with regular visits from the Alpacas of the Flying Alpaca Farm, visits from the

Dolphin Watch in Carrigaholt who are particularly interested in the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group exhibition in the Crow's Nest, a planned tasting session for the Loop Head Distillery and continuing our support for local artists and authors in our shop.



KILRUSH LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA, WEST CLARE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Johnny Mac's Cross, Tullaroe:

As part of a low-cost safety scheme, we encountered an abandoned house whose wall construction is of mud & stone. This is one of the last remaining mud (or cob) houses in Clare. It is currently being archaeologically surveyed & recorded by conservation archaeologist Mr. Dave Pollock.



An evening of reminiscing about the house took place in Kilkee on Thursday 8th May at 8pm at Myles Creek, O'Curry Street, Kilkee, County Clare. The evening was organised by our Heritage Officer, Ms. Congella McGuire in conjunction with the Kilkee & West Clare Heritage Group and the Kilrush & District Historical Society.



Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025

In the last month the West Clare MD commenced Surface Dressing as part of the 2025 Schedule of MD works.



Surface Dressing – Doonaha.



Surface Dressing – Danganella West.



Surface Dressing – Tiermaclane.



Surface Dressing – R-473.

Miscellaneous works

West Clare MD recently resurfaced the widened section of Pella Road, this followed on from the construction of a new section of footpath between Pella Road (Kilrush) & a new housing development purchased by Clare County Council for social housing. The new footpath had the beneficial consequence of widening the (previously very narrow) section of the public road leading to the new housing development.



Surface Dressing – new LA houses – Pella Road.

Outdoor Flexible Structure / Community Space

Clare County Council was awarded funding under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme to develop a series of outdoor structures for use as key public spaces and during outdoor events. The flexible structures create an outdoor covered space to accommodate a multitude of activities in outdoor settings. West Clare MD erected the outdoor structure in Market Square, Kilrush, it complements the weekly Farmers Market and is being used for gatherings and as a meeting place.



Outdoor Flexible Space

Recruitment Competitions May

Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- I.S. Cyber Security Analyst (Grade VI)
- Senior Library Assistant

Interviews

- Clerk of Works
- Assistant Facilities Manager
- Retained Driver Mechanic - Fire Service
- Climate Action Officer
- Machinery Yard Forman
- Beach Operative Panel

The following competitions were advertised:

- Housing Department Out of Hours on Call Service - Expressions of Interest (Confined)
- Beach Operative Panel - Ballycuggeran, Killaloe, Kilkee, West Clare MD - North
- Apprentice Civil Engineering Technician - 2 Year Apprenticeship Programme (Level 6)
- Retained Fire-Fighter Panel - Shannon, Killaloe, Kilrush & Kilkee
- Executive Planner
- Assistant Planner
- Assistant Scientist
- Canteen Attendant Sporadic Cover
- Health & Safety Officer

TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS

MAY

- How to be Financially Well Webinar
- MS Excel Intermediate Online
- OIC Webinar for FOI Decision Makers Modules 2 to 6
- Securing Your Financial Future Webinar
- Continuing Education Scheme launched for 2025.

Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Health & Safety Induction
- Slips, Trips & Falls

Health & Safety:

- 2-Day First Aid Refresher Course
- 3-Day First Aid New Starter Course
- Chainsaw Course Experienced Operators
- Chainsaw Refresher Course
- CSCS Health & Safety & Roadworks
- Evac Chair Training
- Manual Handling
- Project Supervisor Design Process
- Safe Pass
- Safety Representative Training



Clare County Council was re-accredited by Engineers Ireland.

Clare County Council has become the longest continuously accredited local authority in the country after securing re-accreditation for a further three years with Engineers Ireland's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accredited Employer Standard. President of Engineers Ireland Laura Burke today Áras Contae an Chláir to present the award, which Clare County Council first received in 2003 for its high-quality CPD systems and practices that support the growth and expertise of its engineering and technical staff.

Clare County Council achieved the 'Transformational' Standard in three of the seven accreditation criteria - an advanced level reserved for organisations that demonstrate exceptional CPD practices with strategic impact.

May Wellbeing Focus

Physical Activity

How Being Active Helps Your Health

How To Increase Your Activity Levels

Physical & Mental Benefits Of The Outdoors

Get Ireland Walking - Walking Groups

Employee Wellbeing

The Focus of the Staff Wellbeing Hub for May was Mental Health. This coincided with a free Swim & Gym at Active Ennis and a lunchtime walk marking Workplace Wellbeing Day.

A bespoke Financial Wellbeing Programme for council staff was launched in May. There are webinars scheduled for May and June with further sessions planned for the Autumn. Staff also have the opportunity to book a free one to one clinic with the programme.

Safe Talk Training Session (Suicide Awareness) took place on 15th May 2025. All staff including new employees were encouraged to take the opportunity to attend this short course. Skills learned from this training empowers from every perspective, work/personal/community, in helping to prevent Suicide.

May 15th was also "Hello How are you Day", a day to connect with each other. The campaign was promoted by Mental Health Ireland & Clare Co. Council registered with Mental Health Ireland to join in and connect with the event by way of our Coffee Break, which was complimentary.

Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

FINANCE

This council submitted its quarter 1 2025 financial returns as set out below. Some of the highlights in this first quarter are:

- Government Debtors have increased by circa €4.7m to €38m. This is becoming an increasing challenge for Clare County Council and one which requires focus as we progress through the year.
- Severe weather conditions have over the years become more common. January 2025 was no different and the County once again suffered as a result of Storm Eowyn and snow. The resulting cost of both these incidents is estimated at €1.3m of which €900k has been incurred to date. It is not yet known what level of funding if any will be made available to Local Authorities to cover this expenditure.
- Activity at Clare Tourism East sites is recording adverse variances to budget in the first quarter of the year. There will be close monitoring of this business area as the year progresses.
- In 2025 a full review was completed on the Schedule of Municipal District Works with both grant and own resources allocated differently across the Municipal Districts. The financial and staffing implications of this are under constant review with no significant variances to these budget in the first quarter.

Capital Account summary - 31st March 2025

Div	Division	Opening Balance at 1 Jan 2025	Expenditure to end March 2025	Income to end March 2025	Closing Balance at 31 March 2025
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
A	Housing and Building	6,229	9,729	9,793	6,293
B	Road Transport & Safety	9,943	4,048	3,323	9,217
C	Water Services	2,050	23	23	2,050
D	Development Management	21,701	3,125	2,788	21,364
E	Environmental Services	2,672	1,057	1,035	2,650
F	Recreation and Amenity	1,391	287	326	1,430
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	0	0	0	0
H	Miscellaneous Services	4,658	152	273	4,778
	Total	48,643	18,422	17,562	47,782

Revenue Account Summary - 31st March 2025

Div		Actual Expenditure March 2025	Budget Expenditure 2025	% Spent	Actual Income March 2025	Budget Income 2025	% Rec'd
		€'000	€'000	%	€'000	€'000	%
A	Housing and Building	11,008	40,539	27%	10,300	36,321	28%
B	Road Transport & Safety	8,491	43,840	19%	3,684	29,776	12%
C	Water Services	1,930	13,411	14%	1,718	12,217	14%
D	Development Management	8,664	43,912	20%	4,715	32,515	15%
E	Environmental Services	5,088	21,369	24%	1,061	4,608	23%
F	Recreation and Amenity	3,242	14,341	23%	425	1,576	27%
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	91	558	16%	27	132	20%
H	Miscellaneous Services	3,382	13,957	24%	4,205	16,776	25%
LG	LPT Allocation				2,918	11,674	25%
RA	Rates				11,582	46,331	25%
	Total of All Divisions	41,895	191,928	22%	40,635	191,928	21%

PROCUREMENT

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 25th April to 22nd May inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
2023-1046 Bellevue House Refurbishment	5695256	16/06/2025 13:00:00	Open
Request for Tender Contract (Open Procedure) Operation and Maintenance of the Cliffs of Moher Wastewater Treatment Plant	5617286	13/06/2025 13:00:00	Open

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Town Centre First

Kilrush Town Centre First Plan

The Town Centre First Department is working together with the Kilrush Town Team and the West Clare Municipal District to advance the Town Centre First plan for Kilrush. Architects, funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development and commissioned by the Council, are leading extensive background data collection.

Several engagement workshops and sessions have been held to shape the plan. On May 8th, at Town Hall in Kilrush, the consultants presented the collected data and facilitated feedback from the Kilrush Town Team (see photo 1 below).



Kilrush Town Team engaging with preparation of a Town Centre First Plan L-R Brian Comerford, Rachel Brennan, Sean Lally, Paul Edson, Hillary Gleeson, Barry O'Brien, Chris Koble, Charlie Glynn.



Engagement workshop with Kilrush Community College



Kilrush Town Team discussing issues for consideration in the Town Centre First Plan

On May 19th, a schools' engagement workshop took place at Kilrush Community College, involving 1st Year and 5th Year students. This workshop was facilitated by the Town Centre First Department and consultants.

Additionally, further engagement stands were set up in busy locations around Kilrush to gather people's views. The feedback gathered from these sessions will help shape the overall Town Centre First Plan for Kilrush.

THRIVE Ennis - Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme

In March 2025, elected members approved a Part VIII Planning application to repurpose and adaptively reuse the Cloister building in Ennis as a multi-use arts and community hub. Clare County Council submitted a funding application under the THRIVE Strand 2 Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme to the Southern Regional Assembly in April 2025. If successful, this funding will allow the project to move to the detailed planning stage. On May 16th, the Town Centre First Department hosted the first of several site visits from specialists representing the Southern Regional Assembly to review the proposals. Additional site visits are anticipated in the coming months. A decision on the funding application is expected to be announced by the Southern Regional Assembly in

Quarter 4 of 2025.



Citizen and Stakeholder Engagement on Thrive Ennis proposals and the Integrated Urban Strategy (Heritage-led) at Áras Contae an Chláir.



THRIVE is funded by the government under the ERDF Regional Programmes through the Southern Regional Assembly.

two-year period, including the delivery of commercial development and the progress made towards the achievement of Core Strategy targets, in terms of both the completion of residential units and the granting of planning permission for residential units, in settlements and in the countryside. The report also provided updates on the projects and programmes that are given policy support in the County Development Plan. The Elected Members formally noted the report at the May Council meeting.



Marine Planning

In early May, Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy Darragh O'Brien announced the commencement of work on the preparation of a National Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP). As previously outlined, the South Coast ORE DMAP was approved by both Houses of the Oireachtas last October and the work on a National DMAP will further this work.

Minister O'Brien stated that *"An integrated, national approach will ensure that strategic forward planning for skills, enterprise and the industry-wide supply chain development can take place. Ports will have the ability to forward plan for the necessary large-scale offshore infrastructure build-outs required to support ORE development, while forward planning for grid and interconnection can occur within the framework of a long-term holistic view. By focussing on a single DMAP, we will be able to maximise our resources, in terms of financial, human and time."*

The National DMAP will be delivered by a Project Team in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, supported by a Steering Group comprised of sectoral experts from across relevant government departments. Preparatory work is well underway, and work can commence immediately on the statutory process. The identification of suitable areas for offshore renewable energy will be determined following a process of rigorous analysis of maritime and environmental data using Geographic Information System (GIS) software.

Technical feasibility will be a key factor in determining the outer boundary for the DMAP. The department will work with the State's maritime experts, such as the Marine Institute, to ensure that the approach will be evidence-based using robust and best available data. Progress on key milestones, including public engagement milestones, will be reported on in a dedicated National DMAP workstream under the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce and through the Project Ireland Marine 2040 Group. It is expected that this DMAP will be completed by the end of 2027.

FORWARD PLANNING

Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 - Chief Executive's Two-Year Progress Report 2023 - 2025

The Elected Members were issued with a Two-Year Progress Report on the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029, to demonstrate the progress that has been made towards achieving the objectives of the Plan in its first two years of operation. The provision of the Two-Year Progress Report to the Elected Members is a statutory requirement under Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. A presentation was given to the Elected Members on the findings of the report providing the opportunity to give their considered feedback. The report includes an extensive and detailed analysis of planning applications and decisions in the

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

A total of 24 submissions were received regarding the final Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) map for 2025. A rezoning request acknowledgment letter, which includes details of the recent planning history of the applicable land, has been issued to the respective landowners. This letter can be used to support a claim for exemption from the tax for 2025. The council will notify landowners of its decision on whether to proceed with a rezoning request, based on their submission, through a variation to the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 by 30 June 2025. Decisions on rezoning requests cannot be appealed to An Bord Pleanála. Additionally, 16 submissions were received concerning the annual draft map for 2026. Land-owners will be informed of decisions

regarding requests to exclude lands from the annual draft map by 1 July 2025, with the option to appeal these decisions to An Bord Pleanála by 1 August 2025.

All submissions have been published on the council's website.

RZLT Liability

The Residential Zoned Land Tax came into effect on 1 February 2025. The final RZLT map for 2025, published on 31 January 2025, indicates the lands subject to the tax. The deadline for payment of the RZLT to the Revenue Commissioners has been extended to 30 May 2025.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

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	May 2025 up to & including 23/05/2025	Total (Valid)
Year to date 2025		
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	1	13

HERITAGE

McNamara Mud house at Jonnie Mac's Cross in Tullaroe, Querrin.

On Thursday 8th May at Myles Creek in Kilkee, Clare County Council in association with the Kilrush and District Historical Society and the Kilkee and West Clare Heritage Group organised an evening of presentations on the mud house and reminiscing about the people who lived at McNamara Mud house .



Barry O'Reilly specialist in vernacular buildings from the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Alex Pollock, Architect, Sean McInerney and Paddy Keating, Clare County Council Roads staff, Robert Brown local resident and volunteer and member of the Kilkee & West Clare Heritage Group, Dave Pollock, archaeologist and surveyor and Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer visiting the site in Tullaroe.

2025 Community Heritage Grant Scheme

The Heritage Council funded the following 5 Heritage Projects under the 2025 Community Heritage Grant Scheme as follows: -

- Butterfly Conservation Ireland - €2,881 (running across multiple counties)
- Irish Aviation Foundation clg - €19,731
- Miltown Malbay Community Enhancement Group - €22,000
- Broadford Development Association CLG - €10,455

- Drumcliffe Union with Kilnasoolagh, Church of Ireland Parish - €6,050

The funding awarded to Butterfly Conservation Ireland will support it in its moth mapping, monitoring, and training initiative. This project will document moth populations in Clare and provide training to local volunteers.

The funding awarded to Drumcliffe Union will support the second

phase of the “Conserving Kilfenora Cathedral Graveyard Together” project. This phase involves mapping, documenting, analysing, and assessing the graveyard, alongside a biodiversity study of the site. Kilfenora Cathedral, a national monument with over 830 years of history.

Clare Community Archaeologist

Tenders have been received for the Clare Community Archaeological Scheme and an Archaeologist will be appointed shortly for 2025. Under this scheme Clare County Council in partnership with The Heritage Council seek to promote awareness, knowledge and understanding of our archaeological heritage amongst groups and individuals in the county.

Heritage Stewardship of the Archaeology in Loop Head

Tenders have been received for the provision of services for the analysis of archaeological data collected by remote sensing at the Loop Head peninsula. This project will contribute essential data for informed conservation planning and long-term heritage stewardship in Loop Head. To date the project has collected 360 ha of Photogrammetry (on land), 253 ha of LiDAR data (on land) and therma (thermal) data of six holy wells.

The Heritage Council, Adopt a Monument Scheme

Adopt a Monument Scheme run by the Heritage Council provides expertise, mentoring, support and networking to help to preserve and protect monuments for future generations.

Inch Tidy Village and Inch National School have been shortlisted in their application for Adopt a Monument Scheme to make the ringfort in Inch, Monument no: CL033 106 accessible, so that it can

become a feature in the community and a learning opportunity for the local school and to conserve the ringfort for future generations.



Roisin Burke from Abarta Heritage, Adopt a Monument Scheme assessor on behalf of the Heritage Council, Kier McNamara, Inch Community and Conor McKenna, Principal Inch National School.

Clare Community Archival Network, Clare iCAN

The iCAN National Gathering took place in Claregalway Castle on Friday 23 May 2025. Over 100 community members from across the country and County Clare gathered for a day of networking, site visits and heritage learning.

Congratulations to Linda Hogan, Mary O'Halloran and Leonard McDonagh on the soft launch of the Ruan & Dysart heritage website which is now live on ClareHeritage iCAN archive.

You can access their website via <https://ruan-dysart.clareheritage.org/>

BIODIVERSITY

National Biodiversity Week 2025

National Biodiversity Week ran from the 16th to the 25th of May 2025 and is organised on an annual basis by the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), with support from the Biodiversity Officer Network and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Clare County Council coordinated 12 events to celebrate and promote biodiversity in County Clare. Events aimed to engage the public about measures they could do to record and help biodiversity in their local area. The events were;

- Ennis Bat Safari with Bat Conservation Ireland (Karen Healy)
- Planting A Traditional Orchard with Irish Seed Savers (Quin) (Irish Seed Savers)
- The Clare Church Biodiversity Project: Buildings and Swifts Online Webinar (Tara Adcock Birdwatch Ireland)
- Planting A Traditional Orchard with Irish Seed Savers (Doonbeg) (Irish Seed Savers)
- Barn Owls and Nest Box Habitat Selection Online Webinar

(John Lusby, Birdwatch Ireland)

- Talk on Swifts (Jamie Durrant in association with Clare Libraries)
- Barn Owls and Nest Box Habitat Selection Online Webinar (John Lusby, Birdwatch Ireland)
- Puffin Rock and Puffin Craft Activity (Clare Libraries)
- Biodiversity Mini-Bug Story Time and Craft Session (Clare Libraries)
- Wildflower Identification Workshop (Botanist Phoebe O'Brien)
- Identification of Damselflies and Dragonflies (Geoff Hunt and National Biodiversity Data Centre)
- Shanakyle Rewetted Bog Walk and Talk (Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer and Shanakyle Bog Restoration Group)

Clare County Council's Biodiversity Training Day

On the 9th of May 2025, Clare County Council through the Biodiversity Officer organised a training day in Clare County Council's Council Chamber focused on the theme of 'Integrating Biodiversity into Our Work Practices' with Council staff. There was a high caliber of expert speakers in their field to deliver presentations on how the Council can adopt measures to protect and enhance biodiversity through our activities and operations.



Michael Garry (Arborcare), Sheila Downes Environmental Assessment Officer (Clare County Council), Sean Lenihan (Clare County Council), Dr Patrick Crushell (Wetland Surveys Ireland), Eimear Fox Senior Landscape Architect (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) and Barry O'Loughlin Biodiversity Officer (Clare County Council).



Guest speakers and attendees at the Clare County Council's Biodiversity Training Day 'Integrating Biodiversity into Our Work Practices'.



A biodiversity talk was given by the Biodiversity Officer at Shanakyle Rewetted Bog. Irish Seed Savers hosted a traditional orchard apple workshop at Quin.



A Wildflower Identification Workshop was delivered by Botanist Phoebe O'Brien in Inagh. Irish Seed Savers delivered a workshop on traditional apple orchards at Doonbeg while Geoff Hunt delivered a workshop on Dragonflies and Damselflies.



Abat talk was delivered by Karen Healy of Bat Conservation Ireland in Ballybeg Woods, Ennis. A barn owl and swift webinar was delivered by Birdwatch Ireland while Inis Artists presented their art display on the Lesser Horseshoe Bat at Ennis De Valera Library.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of May. Seventy one percent of planning applications received in May were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	May (to 23/5/25)	2025 to date
No. of planning applications received	91	464
No. of Planning Decisions made	74	371
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	20
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	13	92
No. of Section 5 applications	9	42
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	4	12
Submissions received regarding Compliance	20	128

businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in March, LEO Clare have processed applications for 16 Digital for Business, 13 Green for Business and 3 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 6 Energy Efficiency Grants and 7 Grow Digital Vouchers.

Women in Business Networking event:

Local Enterprise Office Clare hosted a Women in Business networking event at the Inn at Dromoland on 7th May. The keynote speaker was Shirley Walsh, who is the CEO of Shannon Coiled Springs. SCS is a Limerick based company employing almost 50 people and exporting across the globe. Shirley shared her journey of advancing through the ranks of three multinational corporations over the course of four decades, highlighting her commitment to supporting other women in their pursuit of professional success. The event welcomed over 50 local female entrepreneurs and was widely regarded as a resounding success.

National Student Enterprise Awards 2025:

Students from Clare have taken Best Sales and Marketing prizes in both Junior & Senior categories at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals. The Finals of the Local Enterprise Office initiative took place on Thursday 9th May in Mullingar. Supported by Local Enterprise Office Clare, the students from Colaiste Muire, Ennis won Best Sales and Marketing award in the Senior category & students from St. Josephs Spanish Point won Best Sales and Marketing award in the Junior category. The winning enterprise in the Senior category was called ARA Haircare which produced organic and natural rosemary hair oils and coconut hair masks.

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

May 2025 (22nd April to 19th May inclusive)	2025 to date	
New complaints received	23	93
New files opened	16	54
Files closed	11	28
Warning Letters issued	9	89
Enforcement Notice issued	3	40
Legal	6	17

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Mentoring:** In May, LEO Clare successfully conducted three "One-to-One Mentoring Clinics," accommodating up to 22 businesses. The mentoring sessions covered areas such as Finance and Business Start-Up, Marketing and Sales, Social Media, Website, & Digital. Furthermore, to date, over 150 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 20 of those assigned during the month of May.
- **Training:** LEO Clare provided an extensive array of training courses and programmes during the month of May, covering areas such as Starting Your Own Business, Tax & VAT, Email Marketing, Social Media and Artificial Intelligence. Approximately 55 individuals availed of these training supports throughout the month.
- **Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all



Future Ennis: Working Together Towards a Thriving Town

The “Future Ennis - Working Together Towards a Thriving Town” breakfast seminar, held on Friday, 16th May at the Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, brought together 70 of Ennis’s business owners, community leaders & local stakeholders to reflect on the opportunities & challenges facing Ennis in the years ahead. Hosted by LEO Clare, in collaboration with Ennis Chamber, Clare County Council & Ennis 2040 DAC, the event featured keynote speaker Dr. Lollie Mancey, a renowned anthropologist, AI ethicist & innovation expert. Her talk struck a chord with the audience, challenging them to think critically and creatively about how Ennis can prepare for the future.



(L-R) Gerard Mahon, Better Ennis, Jean McCabe, CEO Retail Excellence, Claire Colleran Molloy, Mayor of Ennis, Dr. Lollie Mancey, Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise, Aoibhin Garrihy, BEO Wellness & MC, & Diarmuid McMahon, Ennis Chamber.

Grazing Agreement for Lands	3	28	22
Deed of Transfer signed	2	9	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed		0	0
Deed of Right of Way / Wayleave signed	0	1	6
Deed of Rectification / Variation signed	0	0	4
Allotment Agreements signed	0	36	40

DERELICT SITES

The Derelict sites team are currently dealing with 282 properties as at 23rd May 2025 that are considered derelict. We continue to have high levels of activity and engagement with owners and their representatives. Initial engagement with owners or their representatives is key to resolution of the issues of dereliction and to gain an understanding of the various reasons why the properties are in a derelict state. Where derelict properties are sold by the owner, we commence engagement with the new owners of those properties to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

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

The table below provides a snapshot of the activity in May 2025 and the year 2025 to date with comparative figures for the full year 2024. There are currently 94 properties included in the Derelict Sites Register as at 23rd May 2025.

Derelict Sites	May 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	4	19	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	3	14	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	4	10	43
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	1	2

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 23rd May 2025 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 and assessing the various properties we own for correct title.

Transaction type	May 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	0	2	6
Licence to use property / building	0	4	14

No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	2	10	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	0	5	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	3	3	5

Compulsory Acquisition of Derelict Sites (CPO)

The Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government is promoting a CPO activation programme for local authorities, with targets for the number of CPOs to be done by each local authority. 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.

Year	No of CPOs commenced	Current Status
2022	6	3 - CPOs completed and property transferred to Housing for refurbishment works. Two of these are now completed and the other one commenced in February 2025.
		1 - was paused and is being re-commenced in 2025
		1 - CPO completed and sale closed in August 2024- New owner has commenced works
		1 - works have commenced and CPO parked for now
2023	10	2- At Vesting Stage and lodged in Tailte Éireann
		1 - CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024 - Planning application received for re-development
		5 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. One is on the market currently and the others are being prepared for sale / refurbishment.
		1 - Objection received and is being re-commenced in 2025
		1 - Works are being commenced
2024	7	4 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - Title received from Tailte Éireann. One is being prepared for sale / refurbishment.
		2 - CPO commenced but was rejected by An Bord Pleanála

2025	6	1 - CPO process commenced in last Month
		4 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		1 - Objection received and process paused for now

In addition, the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund will provide funding for CPOs on a rolling basis in the town of Ennis with the objective being that these properties would then be sold on the open market. A particular emphasis will be on properties that have potential for residential use. Two such CPOs are with the PRA for registration. Actions taken on properties in the town of Ennis has resulted in a number of properties coming to market or making plans for site development.

Derelict Site Levy

Determination of valuations on sites which are on the Derelict Sites Register commenced in 2023 and notices of valuation have issued to properties as detailed in the table below. Four owners have appealed the valuation to the Valuation Tribunal and while decisions are awaited on two appeals, one appeal by an owner was rejected. The levy is an annual levy while the property remains on the Derelict Sites Register and amounts to 7% of the value of the property, on an annual basis. Assessment of valuations and billing of the levy will be further progressed during 2025 and it is intended that all properties on the Derelict Sites Register will be valued for the purposes of billing the levy. This levy will go towards the cost of billing and collection of the levy and resourcing of derelict sites function, up to and including CPO of properties.

The Table below shows the levels of activity on the Derelict sites levy as of 23rd May 2025. All other properties on the Derelict sites register are being valued for the purposes of the Derelict sites levy on a regular basis.

Derelict Sites Levy	May 2025	Full Year 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy has been billed	2	22	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	€21,000	€284,410	€124,110
Amount collected	0	26,000	14,300
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	5	22	26
Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	6	13	18
Number of properties where the notice of valuation was appealed by the owner	0	0	4

VACANT PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT GRANT- FOR DERELICT AND VACANT PROPERTIES

To date the value of grants approved under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant by Clare County Council has exceeded €23 million as at mid May 2025 (382 grant applications approved or 66% of all applications), with further approvals due to issue. 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 on all elements of the scheme and is available to meet with individuals to take them through the process.

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.

A recent article in the Clare Champion newspaper has stimulated more enquiries into the scheme and we are currently seeing an increase in the number of applications. Any applicant can meet with the Vacant Homes Team in Áras Contae an Chláir by appointment or can discuss their application over the phone with any team member.

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 Ar- ea	No of applications approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	135	€8.3 million	36%
Ennistymon LEA	75	€4.6 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	72	€4.3 million	19%
Ennis LEA	58	€3.3 million	14%
Shannon LEA	42	€2.47 million	11%
Grand Total	382	€22.62 million	100%

We continue to have high levels of enquiries and applications for the Grants and the total applications since the scheme was introduced in July 2022 is now 577, with 80 of them being received this year to date. We are in the top eight 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 €6.6 million to 113 property owners in County Clare who have completed works – that means that 30% of all grants approved have been paid out to date and many others are in the process of submitting their claims for payment. The final site inspections are organised and the administration of 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 - 56% of applications are for rural areas of the county and 44% for properties in towns and villages.
2. To date, 70% of applications are for properties to be used as principal private residence (376 properties) and the balance of 30% are for rent. This has remained consistent in recent months.
3. Approximately 30 property owners have applied to have the period to complete the works extended. Such requests are considered on a case by case basis, depending on the level of work carried out to date and the timeframe needed to complete the works.

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.

ENNIS MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

The Summer Season is very much upon us with a huge amount of work taking place across the month of May in the Town and surrounding areas. In addition, we continue to work closely with our colleagues in the PMO and GDO, in Ennis 2040 and indeed across the Directorates on various works of common interest and benefit.

Some of the main items of works carried out include the following:
Unveiling of the 'Mike Mc Tigue' plaque on the renamed bridge on Cusack Road

The renaming of Victoria Bridge on Cusack Road to the Mike McTigue Bridge came about in honour of the former World Champion boxer. In accordance with Section 196 of the Local Government Act 2001, a public consultation process was held from 24th March to 7th April 2023.

The unveiling of the plaque on Tuesday May 13th 2025 was led by Mayor of Ennis MD, Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy with Mike McTigue's grand-nephews, Nicholas Rynne from Kilnamona and Kevin Rynne from the Cusack Road in attendance along with other relatives of Mike McTigue. The Elected Members of Ennis MD along with Staff and a number of interested public witnessed this historical event.



Kayaking on the River Fergus from Cloughleigh School

Great work has been done by Kayak Le Cheile (setup by Scoil Chríost Rí in association with Clare Sports Partnership at the school in Cloughleigh) and it highlights the huge potential of the River Fergus for recreational tourism. It was decided that the Ennis MD Councillors and the Ennis MD staff would go and experience kayaking on the Fergus.

It was worth the wait as river conditions on the morning of May 20th were very favourable for those novice kayakers among the group. Staff and students at the school, as well as the Burren Outdoor Education and Training Centre facilitated this fantastic experience while briefing Members of the opportunities that exist at the Cloughleigh site. The Principal of the school also thanked Ennis Municipal District Staff for installing the new access steps at

the river wall which has resulted in making the river much more accessible for everyone.

Ennis Local Transport Plan

The Public Consultation Phase of the Ennis Local Transport Plan (LTP) commenced on Friday May 16th and will continue until Friday June 27th with all Members and interested parties encouraged to participate in the process and feedback their comments and suggestions for consideration. The Ennis Local Transport Plan (LTP) is funded under the National Transport Authority's (NTA) Active Travel Investment Programme. It will guide funding for future transportation projects across Ennis and surrounding areas, including road, cycle, bridges and pedestrian infrastructure. The Ennis LTP is being delivered by the Ennis Municipal District office of Clare County Council and Systra Ltd. The team from Systra includes consultants with significant experience in the delivery of sustainable infrastructure and transport planning.

Details of the Ennis LTP Public Consultation is on the Clare County Council Website "Have Your Say" [Ennis Local Transport Plan | Clare County Council Community Engagement](#).

Public participation in this consultation is important, and we value any feedback you think should be reviewed by the project team to help inform the development of the Ennis LTP.

Ennis Town Bus Service

The Ennis Town Bus Service operation contract proceeded to tender stage in late February 2025, and the National Transport Authority (NTA) Town Bus Team expect that this process should be completed by late October of this year.

Ennis MD Office and Clare County Council Road Design and Active Travel Sections are working with the NTA Town Bus Team and their designers to complete the designs of bus stop locations so that the NTA can proceed to procuring the construction works and proceed to installation of the Bus Stops.

It is expected that work on the bus stops should commence in August. The Ennis Town Bus Service is expected to start by the end of 2025 or very early in 2026. The start date will be dependent on the completion of the bus stop construction and will be a very welcome initiative with many benefits as a result.

Ballybeg Footpaths

In May, Ennis MD roads crews, completed the final phase of the Ballybeg footpath scheme. This final phase of the scheme links the previously completed footpaths with the Kilydsart road junction and provides a safe access over the river at Ballybeg/Kildysart road cross. This will provide a safer and easier pedestrian access to the village of Clarecastle and further into Ennis and is also the final link in a circular walking route which is very popular with the residents of the area.

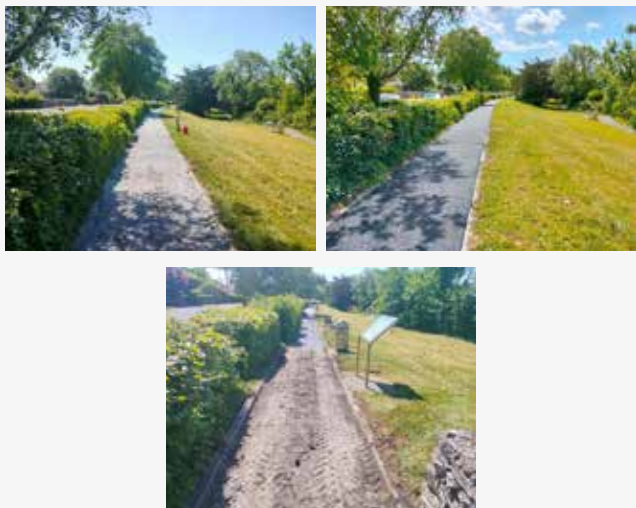
The complete scheme involved, new footpaths, a yield system for traffic over the bridge, raised uncontrolled crossings, junction tightening and traffic calming works and new signage and street lighting.

The works were designed and constructed by the Ennis MD Staff and the delivery of the completed scheme has been achieved through positive representation and engagement from the public and the Elected Members over the last number of years.



Ballyallia Lake Footpaths

Ennis MD staff have commenced works on resurfacing some of the public footpaths within the amenity area of Ballyallia Lake. It is planned to resurface 350 metres of footpath over the coming weeks which will be a significant enhancement of the wonderful facilities there, which are enjoyed not just in Summertime but throughout the entire year.



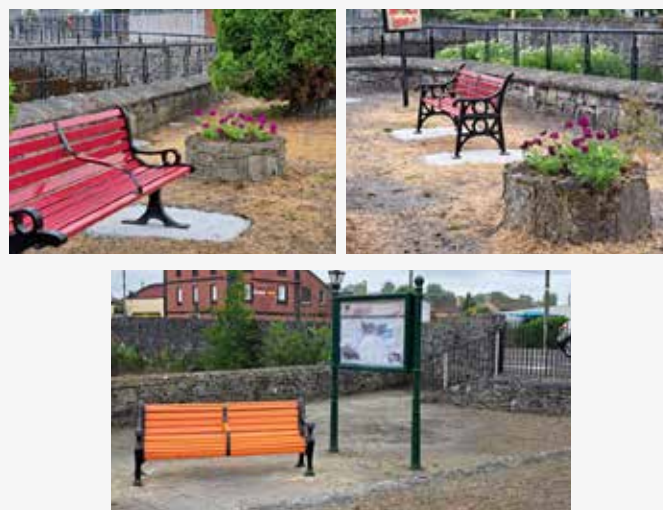
Gort Road Business Park Car-Parking project

Ennis MD delivered the construction of 62 new additional car parking spaces to the front section of the Gort Road Business Park. It is envisaged the new car parking scheme will help alleviate the parking issues experienced in recent years by the businesses within the estate. Further work and perhaps additional management measures of the spaces there is planned to ensure fair and equitable use of the areas available. The works were completed by Rathcabin Tarmac Ltd.



Mill Wheel Amenity Area

In the past month, Ennis MD staff in conjunction with Ennis Mens Shed and Ennis Tidy Towns refurbished and installed 3 no. old benches in the Mill Wheel Amenity Area. These are already being much used and enjoyed by all.



Powerwashing of Street Bins & Laneways

Ennis MD crews undertook a deep clean of the existing laneways and litter bins in and around the town of Ennis during the past month. Engagement also took place with the Designer and Contractor of the Public Realm works, who also carried out a deep clean of areas that are substantially complete and in use by the public at this stage. Any additional future measures that need to be included in our Street Cleaning regime will be considered.



Paving Repair Works to 1916 Memorial & Maid of Eireann Fountain

Following complaints of defective paving at both the Maid of Eireann Fountain and the 1916 Memorial adjacent to Club Bridge, Ennis MD crews undertook repair works to both areas which are both widely used by members of the public.



Illegal Dumping & Community Clean-ups

Ennis MD crews assisted with a community cleanup with the newly formed Station Court Residents group this month. Works included overgrowth and litter removal and the cleaning of 38 drainage gullies in the estate. Ennis MD also co-ordinated a clean-up in conjunction with Clarecastle Tidy Towns at Clareabbey in Clarecastle.



Munster GAA Championship Action

While the result was not what we wanted, it did not stop the Ennis MD street cleaning crew in their efforts in cleaning the town after Clare's Munster Championship game against Tipperary in Cusack Park. The crew mobilised at 5:30am following the Saturday evening fixture and had the town back to its pristine state by 9am the same morning.



De Valera Library Footway Works

With a view of improving accessibility and permeability routes in the town centre, in conjunction with Property Management Department, Ennis MD undertook repair works to this area at the Old De Valera Library site on Harmony Row that connects up to Bindon Street, Ennis, hence making the area safer and more accessible for all to use.



Maid of Eireann Planting

Ennis MD Staff in co-ordination with Ennis Men's Shed, Clare County Council Gardening Section and Ennis Tidy Towns installed new planters on the Maid of Eireann Roundabout in recent weeks. Preparatory works are now complete with planters in place and bedding soil now installed. New flowers will be planted in this area in the coming weeks.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Annual Roadworks Programme) has been agreed by the Municipal Districts. The Roadworks Programme has now commenced in all 4 Municipal Districts.

Strategic Transportation

Active Travel

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

Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme:

The tender pack will be finalised by the end of May. This will go to tender once approval is granted to proceed by the NTA.

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

Following a request from the NTA to examine options to reduce costs on the construction of this scheme, a value engineering presentation was made to the NTA on the 8TH May. This presentation outlined potential measures that may reduce the overall construction cost of this scheme. Following this presentation meeting, the preliminary design that had been previously completed will be costed based on the new proposals.

Ardnacrusha to Athlunkard Bridge:

Clare County Council awaits feedback from the NTA on the appropriate preliminary design option to proceed with for this scheme.

Safe Routes To School program:

Gaelscoil Ennis:

Tenders for Consultancy Services for the bridge work element were received and are being assessed.

Holy Family National School Phase 2:

Construction work commenced on the 15th May and is programmed to last 6 weeks. The works will involve footpath widening and a raised controlled Pedestrian Crossing along Station Road.

The Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:

The NTA has established a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme for Local Authorities which will provides an allocation of €500,000 to each Local Authority to facilitate the enhancement / upgrade of existing bus stops to the 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.

Feedback is awaited on the Grant Application Form & Programme of Works submitted to the NTA for their review at the beginning of May.

Public Lighting	<p>Clare County Council continues to work on the repair and maintenance of the public lighting network in Clare through its public lighting Maintenance Contractor, Electric Skyline. 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 are required such as cabling works, additional civils works to bring a light or lights back into service, in order 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. For the benefit of Councillors, public lighting faults can be reported via Local Authority Identification (https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/roads-and-transport/road-maintenance-issues/report-a-broken-streetlight).</p> <p>The retrofitting of lights under the PLEEP Project (Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project) continues in Clare with works currently ongoing in the Shannon, Killaloe and Ennis MD's. Works under the project are scheduled to commence in West Clare MD in June. 1,662 Luminaires have been retrofitted to date to the 20th May representing 53% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project.</p> <p>Clare County Council are working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.</p>
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Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	<p>The 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation grant application has been approved, the funding for this year Totals: €689,500.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AA Screening contract has been awarded to an environmental consultant. A bridge tender issued containing 4 no. Bridges in East Clare closes at the end of May.
Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads	<p>Low Cost Safety Schemes in 2025:</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 L-3300, L-3301& L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon R352 Bodyke Tuamgraney L-4174 & L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon L-3110 Phayers Rd, Meelick L-4158 Barefield Village L-1041 East of Bealaclugga R485 North of M18 Junction 9 @ Cullen R-463-125 Ardcloney Bridge, Killaloe, R473 Kiladysart National School</p> <p><u>Statutory Consent</u></p> <p>L-4158 Barefield Village is currently progressing through the Part 8 process. L-3300, L-3301& L-3306 Cronan Junction Shannon is progressing through the Section 38 process and will be put on the next MD agenda. L-4174 & L4172 Claremount, Clarecastle - Lissane Junction is progressing through the Section 38 process. L5192 Ardnaculla Ennistymon has progressed through the Section 38 process and is with the MD for completion.</p> <p><u>Specific Improvement Ogonolloe</u></p> <p>Detailed design has commenced for Phase 2 of the safety improvement works.</p>

TII Safety Improvement

HD17	<p>HD17 N85 Clareabbey Roundabout</p> <p>A Preliminary Design Report is being prepared based on a modified Preliminary Design requested by TII</p>
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N85/N68 Rocky Road Roundabout An updated Feasibility & Options Report for a safety improvement scheme at the Rocky Road Roundabout in Ennis which includes an uncontrolled crossing and tightening of the entry and exit points on the N68 arm of the roundabout has been submitted to TII for review.

N67 Lahinch Pedestrian Crossings

A Pedestrian count survey has been carried out in the vicinity of the Liscannor Road junction in Lahinch as part of a proposed safety improvement scheme on the N67 in Lahinch which includes two raised pedestrian crossings and the upgrade of the existing uncontrolled crossing on main street.

N85 Shanaway Road

This project is with Ennis MD for implementation.

N85 Loughville, Lahinch Road

An outline design has been prepared for pedestrian facilities and junction improvements for discussion with TII.

N67 Doonbeg

Due to scope changes (extending down the Killard Road) requested by TII an updated Road Safety Audit is required and is scheduled for Q2 along with an updated feasibility & options report.

Cycling Infrastructure / Smarter Travel

Doolin Cycle Hub

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.

EuroVelo

Further to 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.

Noise Action Plan


Round 5 NAP

Preparation of DF1_Extents report to EPA by end of May 2025 in order to identify roads to be included in noise modelling.

Health and Safety

- The Health and Safety team are continuing to carry out their work programme including the annual revision and updating of ancillary safety statements, risk assessments, schedule of safety inspections, briefings with staff etc,
- The HS-POL-01 Occupational health and safety policy and the HS-FM-02 Occupational Health and Safety Management system manual/parent safety statement were revised and approved by the Safety Management Committee. Copies of the documents have been uploaded on to the Council intranet under Health and Safety.
- The ISO 45001 Certificate is to be issued shortly by the NSAI for the Physical development directorate which includes Transportation.


CAPITAL DELIVERY / PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Doolin Pier	PMO are liaising with the department at present to agree next steps, following review of local needs. In this regard, Cross-directorate group are currently reviewing key priorities in the area, so as to inform any future submissions to the department in respect of strategic development of facilities at Doolin pier. The MD are progressing construction of footpaths between Fisher Street and Doolin Pier, the programme of works which is due for completion in coming months. This will ensure that pedestrian connectivity is in place along this well-trafficked route.
Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)	The works have now moved into Barrack Square, where significant excavation has now been completed throughout the area. Concrete slabs have been laid, followed by laying of granite paving setts. It is expected that the works will be well progressed over coming months, facilitating summer opening, and the launch of this new Café quarter area. The area in front of the Cathedral is now very well progressed, and in combination with works previously completed along O'Connell Street, there is now a continuous stretch of Shared Space Public Realm Streetscape in place. We look forward to the opening up of this section on upper O'Connell Street (in front of the cathedral) in coming weeks, and restoring through-traffic from Station road to Carmody street. This is in itself a milestone for the project, as a large section of shared surface public realm space will be opened to the public for the first time. The O'Connell Square works are ongoing. The street fountain installation is well progressed. The interconnecting mechanical and electrical services have been advanced, and the roof has been backfilled over the reservoir structure. Evening works have commenced in May at the O'Connell Street/Market Street junction. In such areas of narrow street width, activity is been completed Out of Hours to facilitate pedestrian movement through these street sections and minimise impact on traders. Consultation with impacted traders and stakeholders is ongoing, and the contractor has appointed a Public Liaison Officer in this regard, in line with Works Requirements. Focused Stakeholder Consultation events were held on 9th December 2024 and on 19th March 2025 to review upcoming works phases. The contractor is also issuing weekly newsletters to inform of upcoming works. (Subscribe to ennispublicrealm@shareridge.ie). The contractor, project team, and Clare County Council Resident Engineering staff are available to help traders and the public with any concerns and to mitigate impacts from the works wherever possible. It continues to be necessary to close streets to allow these works to be completed safely, and the project team and contractor, together with Ennis MD are working hard to coordinate activities to keep traffic impacts to a minimum and ensure that Ennis is kept open for business throughout the remaining months of this project.
Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)	The Judicial Review process is ongoing.
Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade	<p>Substantial Completion Certificate for the New Shannon Bridge Crossing and the R494 Upgrade has been issued.</p>  <p>The New Shannon Bridge Crossing (Brian Boru Bridge) was formally opened by the Minister for Transport Darragh O'Brien T.D. on Thursday 22nd May. The bridge was opened to the public and for vehicular use immediately thereafter. Project snagging continues.</p>

<p>Killaloe Bypass Section</p>	<p>Killaloe Bypass Section Opened to traffic and the public on 18th Dec. 2024. Accom. Works to Ballyvalley House entrance nearing completion.</p> <p>Shannon Bridge Crossing Link <u>Shantraud to Clarisford Junction</u>: Open to vehicles and pedestrians. <u>Clarisford to West Embankment</u>: Was opened to the public and vehicular use May 22nd. <u>The Green (Road behind St. Anne’s School)</u>: Substantially complete.</p> <p>Shannon Bridge Bridge structure: Was opened to the public May 22nd.</p> <p>R494 Upgrade Road substantially complete. Minor landscaping works to public and private areas nearing completion. Pumping Station taken in charge by Tipp Water Services/U.E. Tipp Co Co Picnic Park: Substantially complete.</p> <p>Kilmastulla Bridge Substantially complete.</p> <p>Rail Bridge Substantially complete.</p> <p>RW03/Shannonside Business Park Substantially complete. Additional project specific information including monthly drone footage, traffic management plans etc. is available on: https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/capital-projects/roads-and-bridges/killaloe-bypass-shannon-bridge-crossing/</p>
<p>Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme</p>	<p>The Geophysical Survey contractor has been appointed. They have completed and submitted the licence application to the National Monuments Service which is required to carry out the survey. A full draft set of land acquisition drawings has been reviewed. The scheme consultant is currently making the necessary amendments. An Application for Approval to carry out a Flood Relief Scheme is currently being assessed by An Bord Pleanála. The Application was submitted in October 2024.</p>
<p>Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)</p>	<p>Letters of Intent & Regret have been issued and the requested documentation submitted by the preferred contractor has now been assessed. A recommendation to award will now be made to the Department of Housing / LIHAF Management Committee. Following Department approval, the letter of acceptance will be issued and the works will commence on site shortly after. Further discussions & engagement with the OPW took place recently with regard the one outstanding land parcel and we are hopeful of reaching terms by agreement very shortly. All other land parcels required for the road have been acquired/agreed terms including the parcel of lands where the first approx. 225 housing units will be delivered.</p>
<p>N19 Shannon Airport Access Road</p>	<p>Further engagement with the main project stakeholders occurred during the period and the design team continue to work towards the finalisation of the Statutory Documentation required as part of the proposed planning application for submission to An Bord Pleanála in 2025. To that regard the completed EIAR will be issued for legal review and observation in the coming weeks. Positive discussions continue regarding the necessary Land Transfer Agreements between The Minister for Transport, The Shannon Group and Clare County Council and as always, further information and associated literature on the project can be accessed via the scheme website www.shannonaccess.ie</p>
<p>Remediation of sites containing ACM</p>	<p>A Planning Application in respect of the remediation of the subject sites is in preparation. The sites continue to be routinely monitored and maintained as required by Council staff in accordance with approach as agreed with the EPA.</p>
<p>Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme</p>	<p>The Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) has been issued for review. The Options Report was presented to OPW senior management as part of the Public Spending Code Approval Process. A further associated workshop has been scheduled. A request for additional information has been issued by MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority) in relation to the MAC (Marine Area Consent) application. Preparation works to complete the Arborist survey are nearing completion.</p>

West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	The final 'Options Selection Report' and 'Options Appraisal Report' have been submitted to TII for approval. Consultations between the Project Agronomist, Project Liaison Officers and affected landowners are ongoing. Based on these discussions and the feedback received, the alignment drawings for the Greenway will be further refined, and additional landowner meetings are planned to follow. The Land Valuer has commenced the valuation process.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	TII have approved the Option Selection methodology for Section 2. Full Landowner information is to be provided by the design team in the coming weeks to CCC. Consultations between Project Liaison Officers and affected landowners to commence in Q3 2025. Phase 2 Specialist surveys will commence shortly. With Public Consultation (PC3) to follow the emerging preferred route corridor.
West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	Section 3&4 is currently on hold due to funding being pulled by TII. Before works were postponed the proposed route corridors were identified within the Study Area. Public Consultation (PC2) was due to place in May 2025. This will be progressed when funding has been committed.
Other Greenway Proposals	No update this month.

General Design Office

Mountshannon Mobility Plan	<p>Works will be substantially completed this week in Mountshannon. All paving and footpath works up to, and including both sides of the road to Keane's Bar & The River Run will be completed. The Speed Table at Mountshannon Court will also be completed. The remaining works at the junction will be completed after the Festival.</p> <div data-bbox="572 1028 1292 1467">  </div>
Wood River Walk, Kilrush	Preliminary design investigations ongoing, topographical survey complete, Environmental Consultant procured. Property owner negotiations ongoing.
Sixmilebridge Courthouse	Preliminary design proposal for upgrade works and funding application.
Lahinch Playground	Tender documents are being prepared for the redevelopment of the playground.
Lees Road	Tender process has commenced for the track and astro lighting upgrade at Lees Road.
Footpath Upgrade, Station Road, Lahinch	Preliminary design in progress.
Craggaunowen Carpark Refurbishment Works	Topographical survey complete, preliminary design investigations ongoing.
Beechpark Machinery Yard	Part VIII planning application submitted and fire safety certificate submitted to Building Control.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during May including Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFRA) Initial Training on 12th May and Instructor Refresher Simon Snorkel on 20th & 21st May. Both completed in Shannon Fire Station. 18 recruit firefighters from across the country, including 2 from Clare County Fire & Rescue Service attended a QQI accredited Firefighter Skills Course at Ennis Fire Station Training Centre from 12th to 30th May 2025. The two firefighters from Clare will be based in Shannon Fire Station.

Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2025

The Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2025 was hosted at Hotel Woodstock, Ennis. Assistant Chief Fire Officers Ger Fallon and Andrew Young represented Clare County Fire & Rescue Service at the event, promoting the current Home Fire Safety Check Initiative. This initiative encourages older people and those living alone to avail of a free, pre-arranged home visit to provide fire safety advice and also the installation of free smoke detectors in the home if required.



ACFO Andrew Young

Notice of High Fire Risk - Condition Orange

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine issued its 7th Notice of High Fire Risk (Condition Orange) of 2025 on the 15th May. The Notice was for all areas where hazardous fuels such as gorse, heather, dried grasses and other vegetation exist. An interview with Colum Frawley, Acting Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer was aired on Clare FM. The interview highlighted the need for landowners and members of the public to exercise caution and take all necessary measures to prevent the occurrence of wildfires and not engage in any activities that could cause wildfires. The public were urged to be vigilant and to report any uncontrolled or unattended fires immediately to the fire service. Despite the notices, Clare County Fire & Rescue Service have attended 10 wildland fires since the 1st May 2025.

Interviews for Driver Mechanics

As part of the WRC Agreement for the Retained Fire Service, it was agreed that there would be a minimum crew of 12 personnel in each fire station and that the role of Driver Mechanic would remain. There would be 4 no. Retained Officers (Station, Sub Station, Driver Mechanic) in each Fire Station. In April 2024, it was agreed with SIPTU locally that the complement of officers in each station would include an additional Driver Mechanic position (regrading a firefighter position effectively). Interviews have taken place and the successful applicants have been informed.

Fire & Building Control Section			
Main Activities	April 2025	May 2025 (Up to 22.05.25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	103	59	566
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	12	4	43
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	11	5	51
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	6	3	29
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	5	9	41
Number of Commencement Notices Received	24	22	127
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	1	3

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

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following events in May including Clare Vs Tipperary Munster Senior Hurling Championship (Cusack Park); Clare Vs Cork Munster Under 20s Hurling (Sixmilebridge); West Clare Charity Cycle (Kilrush); Darkness into Light (Newmarket On Fergus) and FAI Clare Soccer Cup Final (Frank Healy Park).

Members Training & Professional Development

- Members participated in weekly training set out by Civil Defence Instructors in line with the minimum training standards (MTS).
- The Civil Defence Officer and Assistant Civil Defence Officer attended training in Naas, County Kildare as part of the Continuous Personal Development training arranged by the CD Branch of the Department of Defence.

Assistance at Large Gorse Fires

Members of the Clare Civil Defence Drone Team assisted Clare County Fire & Rescue Service with a number of large gorse fires in the County. On each occasion, the team provided the Incident Commander with an aerial view of the fire ground which enabled a more effective use of resources in dealing with the incidents.

Recruits Basic Training - RBT 2024/2025

15 student volunteers have completed their final training day of the 2024/2025 recruits basic training programme. The day consisted of a visit to Ennis Fire Station where they were given a demonstration on the use of hydraulic cutting gear, breathing apparatus sets and the aerial platform. The students then participated in an exercise where they were able to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they acquired during their training. The students then received a very insightful and extremely interesting presentation from the Clare County Coroner Ms. Isabel O'Dea. The day finished with a fun team building exercise.



Recruits Basic Training Course



RBT Instructor First Officer Aaron Fenton ensuring there is no cheating during the team building exercise!

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

An Taisce Green Schools

At the An Taisce Green Schools award ceremony 17 Clare schools received a green flag at the Clayton Hotel, Galway this month green actions undertaken as part of a 7-step programme across the themes litter, waste, energy, water, biodiversity, and travel.

The following schools were awarded flags:

Bodyke N.S.	Clohanes N.S.	Connolly N.S.	Doonaha N.S.
Holy Family Senior School, Ennis	Kilmihil N.S.	Kilnamona N.S.	Kilrush Community School

Mary Immaculate Secondary School, Lisdoonvarna	Scariff N.S.	Scoil Mhuire	Scoil na Mainistreach
St. Anne's School, Ennis	St. Flannan's College	St. Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla	St. McCreehy's N.S., Liscannor
St. Mochulla's N.S., Tulla - Primary Climate Ambassador School			



Relove Fashion

Colaiste Muire, Ennis, were announced winners of Best Tailoring for the Southern Waste Region at the national Relove Fashion competition, held at the Rediscovery Centre in Dublin this month. This initiative was sponsored by Clare County Council with 13 Clare registrations to participate in this initiative. The Relove Fashion competition empowers secondary school students across Ireland to design wearable outfits from repurposed materials promoting and supporting sustainable fashion and circular thinking.

Awareness Campaigns

The following were promoted on social media (@Greener-Clare/@ClareCoCo) and/or print media during May 2025 - protection of our sand dunes, green school awards, Invasive Alien Species, Bin It or Bring it Home, Oil Tank Safe Check.

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	May 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	16	16
Domestic Wastewater		
Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	13 (Lab Team) 8 (Water Team)	40
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	16	31
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	0	40
Planning applications (Agriculture)	5	15
Planning applications (Domestic)	45	154
Planning applications (Large Developments)	2	11
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	26	60
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	0	51

Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	2	134
Rivers	50	124
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	18	53

Waste Enforcement

Multi-Agency Checkpoints

Multi-Agency checkpoints were carried out on Tuesday 27th May for two locations on the N85. In attendance were members of An Garda Síochána, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA), National Transfrontier Shipment Office (NTFSO), Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), Revenue, and the Department of Social Protection. (DSP). The Waste Enforcement team check that vehicles transporting waste comply with S.I. No. 821/2007 - Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2007.



Inspections of Permitted and Unpermitted Sites

Inspections of 2 Waste Facility Permitted sites and 4 Certificate of Registration sites were carried out by the Waste Enforcement team in May to monitor compliance with their permits, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments. A further 2 sites were inspected because of Plan-

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

ning referrals, and 2 sites were inspected on foot of complaints received.

Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, As Amended

A total of 7 litter fines were issued in May, under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. Appropriate time will be allowed for payment, thereafter reminder letters are issued.

Enforcement Notices and Warning Letters under the Waste Management Act 1996

In May, 4 warning letters were issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. These sites are being monitored for compliance.

Abandoned Vehicles

We received 5 abandoned vehicles reports in May and are currently investigating these in line with Clare County Council's policy we continue to be assisted by the Municipal Districts.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter-related complaints in May. A total of 50 complaints relating to litter (7) and waste (43) were received in May. All of these are currently being investigated, followed up and appropriate enforcement action will be taken.

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

Waste Enforcement Complaints	May 2025
Litter	7
Dog Fouling (waste)	1
Waste Presentation (waste)	1
Dumping (waste)	37
Green Waste complaints (waste)	4
Waste & litter (Total)	50

Anti-Dumping Initiative

Clare County Council secured €93,000 under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2025. This is to be spent on a variety of projects, including Mattress Amnesty days, Clean-ups, and Education and Awareness Campaigns.

Kilkee Green Hub

Call-back visits were made to Kilkee businesses to reinforce the message of best practice in waste management. 11 businesses were visited and encouraged to participate in the initiative. Each participating business must demonstrate their actions taken to reduce waste; and to segregate waste produced. Clare County Council will promote them as "Green Businesses" in return for their buy-in.

Waste management

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

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	May 2025 (latest Data)
Bulky items	60,140
Cardboard	20,900
Dry Recyclable	410
Paper	11,240
Green Waste	40,460
Mattresses	5,740
Municipal Waste	137,874
Plastic Packaging	2,220
Timber	139,100

CLIMATE ACTION



Projects which are funded under the Community Climate Action Programme are in the implementation phase. Groups have eighteen months to complete their project. Some of the actions undertaken this month include;

- **West Coast Surf Club** has installed two water refill stations with the help of the West Clare MD. These are located in Spanish Point and Lahinch. This implements action N3.6 of our Climate Action Plan - 'Support the Development of smart water stations across the county to reduce plastic bottle waste'. Added value benefit to this project are public

health and hydration, reducing plastic waste lowering carbon footprint as well as economic benefits for individuals in reducing the need for purchased bottled water.

- **Doonbeg Tidy Towns** have purchased an e-cargo trike for use by tidy towns volunteers.
- **Inagh Development** They have also carried out native planting in their community. Added value benefit to this project is the sequestering of carbon, cross generational community awareness around biodiversity, increasing ecosystems resilience and enhancing the natural beauty of the village.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Carrigaholt Development Association** Installed an accessible walkway as part of their project this month.



Surf Club



Carrigaholt



Inagh

Education and Awareness

The over 60's Climate Course continued this month. One session was focused on home energy use where Lorraine Power from CLDC spoke about the SEAI sustainable energy communities programme, grants that are available for energy retrofits and steps that we could take to reduce our energy use. The housing team in Clare County Council also presented to the attendees

about the housing grants that Clare County Council administers.



Junior Achievement: The Climate Team and Learning and Development organised a Junior Achievement event this month in the council chamber. Students from the Holy Family Senior School visited the Áras for a workshop facilitated by staff from across Clare County Council. Cllr Antoinette Baker Bashua (Deputy Mayor of Ennis) welcomed the students on the day and explained the role of Clare County Council to them. Staff from the Climate, Environment, Housing and Integration Team delivered the Energise workshop to the students. Each staff member explained about what their role was within Clare County Council and what their section does. The workshop focussed on energy, well-being and safety.



TY Film Project: The awards for the Rubbish Film Festival took place this month. The Rubbish Film Festival is a digital arts education programme that aims to inspire students' creativity and environmental consciousness. Designed for Transition Year Students, it provided students in County Clare with a chance to share their artistic abilities, raise awareness of environmental issues like climate action, and pick up some new digital storytelling techniques. Colaiste Muire won the award for the best film in the Clare awards and also received second place nation-

ally in the competition. St. Joseph's Secondary School, Spanish point film received the runner-up award in Clare, with Scariff Community College receiving first place for their poster in the Clare Awards. The climate section with support from the Creative Communities fund promoted The Rubbish Film Festival in five secondary schools in Clare this year.



Clare County Council took part in Marchathon in March this year. Marchathon is a fun team Step Challenge that takes place in March each year. It is open to staff and students of workplaces and third level campuses that are partners of the Smarter Travel programme. Clare County Council came 16th overall nationally and were the second highest - ranked Local Authority to take part. The winning team in Clare County Council 'The Winners' from Ennis MD averaged an impressive 446,160 average steps for their team. Well done to Julie, Lily (Missing from Photo), Marie, Michelle, Niamh and Ryan on their amazing efforts during the month.



Clare County Council is a Sustainable Development Goals Ambassador this year. As an SDG Ambassador we advocate and promote the SDGs and sustainable development. We also integrate the SDGs into our activities. As part of this commitment, we have procured access to the SDG Accelerating Action tool. The Accelerating Action tool enables Clare County Council to apply and report the Sustainable Development Goals effectively. The Climate Team organized a training session on how to use this software, with thirteen members of staff taking part in the training in April.



The Climate Team were invited to attend the fourth Annual Shared Island Forum. This event is part of the Government's Shared Island Initiative to engage with all communities and political traditions on a shared future on the island, underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement. The keynote address was delivered by Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD. One of the panel sessions focussed on Shared Island Investment. Talks by Dr. Derek McLoughlin from the LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature project and Prof Mark Emmerson, Co-Director of the Co-Centre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water.



Please contact the Community Climate Action Officer Dara Dever on ddever@clarecoco.ie / communityclimate@clarecoco.ie for further information.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Shannon Chamber's Networking Loop Walk

On the 30th of April, the Shannon Chamber hosted a lunchtime walk along the Loop in Shannon. Cllr Tony Mulcahy was in attendance. The walk gave participants the opportunity to network and build connections as they explored the stunning views and experienced the natural beauty of the hidden Shannon. The Loop Walk is a huge asset to Clare, and it has a lot to offer such as breathtaking views, tranquil surroundings, and a place to unwind amidst nature.



Business Innovation - Bringing Information Technology to our Municipal District Crews

The Shannon Municipal District in coordination with Clare County Council's IT Department, has developed an ArcGIS digital system. The system digitally displays the location of water and gas networks via staff tablets. This project has been nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award.



Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- Surface dressing works commenced in late April. Due to the fine weather, surface dressing works were completed in Sixmilebridge and Clonlara.
- Shannon MD gave assistance to the Shannon Tidy Towns and the Newmarket on Fergus Annual Show.
- The reconditioned Storm Water Pump 1 in Pump House 3, Drumgeely, Shannon was put into operation. This storm water pump was first installed in 1963.
- New footpath works commenced in Hurlers Cross Shannon, Ardnacrusha and Parteen.

- New footpath trail works commenced in the Tullyglass Hill area of Shannon.
- New public lights were installed on sections of Bothar Mor (R-471) in Ballycasey, Shannon.
- Installation of a new height restriction barrier to the new carpark in Sixmilebridge.
- The grass maintenance contract for the Shannon Municipal District is ongoing.

Road maintenance works in Shannon Municipal District.



Installation of a new height restriction barrier at Sixmilebridge.



Surface dressing at a local road in Clonlara.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Installation of new public lights in Ballycasey, Shannon.



Construction of a new footpath trail in Tullyglass Hill, Shannon.



Installation of a new footpath in Ardnacrusha.



Sculpture to a damaged tree in Shannon Town Park.



Maintenance work to Pump House 6, Shannon.



Construction of a new footpath in Hurlers Cross, Shannon.

