



COMHAIRLE | CLARE
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL ÓN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNACH

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Bealtaine / May
2025



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RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



CLÁR 2025 Funding Scheme – Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities

Clare County Council is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from eligible organisations for projects under Measure 1 of the CLÁR 2025 Programme, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCDD). The Closing Date for the receipt of Expressions of Interest is **4pm, Friday 23rd May 2025.**

Measure 1 of the CLAR Programme is designed to support the development and enhancement of community facilities and amenities in designated CLÁR areas.

The type of eligible projects include:

- Renovations/upgrades to community centres, youth hubs, sports clubhouses
- Outdoor recreational amenities (playgrounds, MUGAs, walking tracks, gyms)
- Accessibility upgrades, parking, sensory/community gardens, biodiversity planting
- Community cinemas, enhanced changing/toilet facilities, solar bins

Clare County Council can submit:

- a max of 13 applications for funding up to €65k
- 2 larger applications for funding up to €100k

Further details, including an Expression of Interest form, are available on the Council's website at www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/clar/.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2025

Clare County Council is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from eligible applicants for projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) 2025. This funding scheme supports projects that promote the economic and social regeneration of rural areas by enhancing town centres, address vacancy and dereliction, and create sustainable employment opportunities.

Funding is available under the following 3 categories:

1. Main Scheme

Clare County Council can submit up to 4 applications for funding under the Main Scheme. One application can be for a grant of €500,000 while the remaining 3 applications can seek funding of up to €300,000.

The Closing Date for the receipt of Expressions of Interest under the Main Scheme is **4pm, Friday 30th May 2025.**

2. Project Development Measure (PDM)

The PDM provides funding up to €50,000 for planning strategic projects that can progress to construction quickly when funding becomes available. It covers costs such as design, procurement, and planning. Clare County Council can submit a maximum of 2 applications.

The Closing Date for the receipt of Expressions of Interest under the

Project Development Measure is **4pm, Friday 30th May 2025.**

3. Building or Land Acquisition Measure (B/LAM)

B/LAM allows LAs to purchase vacant/derelict buildings or land for town regeneration. Properties must serve as multi-purpose community spaces or assets.

- Local authorities may purchase up to a combined total of 3 vacant or derelict buildings and/or pieces of land **where the drawdown of funds can be completed in 2025.**
- Total Fund available under this measure: €500,000 per LA.
- 100% of purchase costs funded (excluding transactional costs).

Applications under this measure must be submitted **to the DRCDD by the 2nd May 2025.**

The Town & Village Renewal Scheme Outline and the relevant Expression of Interest form can be downloaded from the Council's website at:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/townandvillagerenewal/>

1. Michael Cusacks GAA Club, Gleann Ciosog, Bellharbour

Funding Received: €50,000

In partnership with the North Burren Community Group, Michael Cusacks GAA developed a fully surfaced and edged walking track around the perimeter of their GAA fields. The track is now open to the public, providing a safe, accessible space for walking and recreation. Key benefits include improved community health, enhanced social inclusion, and added value to local amenities.



2. Killanena GAA Club

Funding Received: €49,500

Killanena GAA upgraded its spectator stand to improve accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges, particularly wheelchair users. Located in a remote area, the club plays a central role in community life, hosting events for schools, sports, and local groups. This upgrade has significantly enhanced inclusivity and engagement, allowing all members of the community to participate in club activities.



3. Feakle GAA / Community Field

Funding Received: €23,239

Feakle GAA addressed critical safety concerns by increasing the height of netting behind the goals near the local national school to prevent damage and hazards from stray sliotars. The project also included the repair of a deteriorating boundary wall. These improvements have ensured the continued safe use of the field by the school and surrounding clubs and safeguarded public spaces and infrastructure.



4. Clondegad GAA Club

Funding Received: €34,590

Clondegad GAA focused on improving accessibility, safety, and sustainability at its facility. The project involved installing solar-powered lighting around the walkway and car park and upgrading the gravel surface to tarmac. These enhancements have made the area safer and more functional while promoting energy efficiency and long-term cost savings.



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

New East/West Burial Ground/Playground Crews:

The Rural Directorate welcomes the addition of an East and West based Burial Ground/Playground Crew to support reactionary maintenance of this community-based infrastructure.

These crews, which consist of two staff, are assigned to the West Clare and Killaloe MD Crews to carry out weekly inspections of Community Playgrounds to meet IPB Insurance requirements under the Community Playground Insurance Scheme and will also support the Burial Grounds Unit to address reactionary maintenance works in Burial Grounds across the County. This new approach

seeks to enhance the Burial Grounds Unit support for the ongoing, invaluable maintenance work which will continue to be provided by existing Burial Ground Caretakers and local Community Groups across the County, working together to improve this essential service area. In addition, the crew will undertake inspections of Community Playgrounds insured through IPB and identify any maintenance issues for notification and rectification by Community Groups to ensure that community playgrounds continue to operate as safe, recreational spaces for the benefit of the health and well-being of communities.

The East Clare crew will support Community Playground/Burial Ground facilities in the Killaloe, Shannon and Ennis MD area with the West Clare crew covering West Clare and North Clare in terms of geographical spread.

The Rural Directorate would like to acknowledge the invaluable support of all Municipal Districts who heretofore have been available to respond to issues pertaining to Burial Grounds and Community Playgrounds in their respective MD's.



Maintenance to pathways in the Calvary Section of the County Burial Ground at Drumcliff recently completed by Ennis MD

New Tidy Towns Insurance Scheme:

The Rural Directorate has been notified by IPB Insurance of the launch of the new Local Authority Tidy Towns Insurance scheme which was rolled out nationally on 1st April 2025.

This scheme will provide insurance for standard Tidy Towns activities where Tidy Towns Committees are registered to the Public Participation Network (PPN).

Eligible Tidy Towns will automatically be included and have been notified by the Council:

1. **whose primary activity and purpose is to improve and enhance the appearance of the public realm of a town, village or district**
2. **is within the catchment area of the Local Authority**
3. **is a registered member of the Public Participation Network (PPN Group)**

To be eligible for the scheme Tidy Towns Committees must be registered with the PPN. Clare PPN are fully supportive of the scheme and advised that the terms on which a group can be a member of Clare PPN can be found on Clare PPN's website at the following link: [Who Can Join? | Clare PPN](#)

ALL QUERIES RELATING TO THE SCHEME ARE BEING DEALT WITH DIRECTLY BY IPB who have provided a dedicated email and phone number for Tidy Towns Committees as follows: email tidytown@ipb.ie and phone number 01 6395511.



Members of the Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) attended a workshop in Tullamore on the 31/03/2025 which was hosted in Tullamore Library by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The purpose of the workshop which is currently at “discovery phase” was to inform the development of a National Communications Strategy for LCDC’s to enhance the awareness and understanding of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

On the day, the workshop focused on the Effectiveness of Communication, and how well LCDCs communicate their role and activities to stakeholders and the wider community. Discussions also included the importance of Stakeholder Engagement and the accessibility and responsiveness of LCDCs, and how engagement can be improved through Collaborative Opportunities by looking at ways in which LCDCs and stakeholders can work together to strengthen awareness and advocacy for LCDCs.



LCDC Reps from Clare, Galway, Laois, Longford, Offaly, Meath LCDC ‘s.

- 6 projects were awarded funding through Creative Ireland Funding that has been made available to Healthy Clare for projects that will support Health and Wellbeing using creative expression.

Programmes that will be delivered under these actions include.

- Zumba Classes for People with Disability
- Rock Painting for Older People
- Art and Play Therapy for Children and Families affected by FASD.
- Qi Gong Classes for Disadvantaged Communities
- Clay Therapy for Older People
- Guided Walks for Community Employment Scheme
- Nutrition and Physical Activity for General Population/Rural Community
- Tia Chi Classes and promotion of Meals on Wheels for Older People/Disadvantaged Community
- Chair Yoga for Older People/Disadvantaged Community
- Pétanque for Older Adults
- Fitness Programme for Members of the Travelling Community
- Creative Workshops for LGBTQI+ Community
- Motivational Speakers for General Population
- Play Therapy/Counselling for Young People/Disadvantaged Community
- Writing for Wellbeing for People with Mental Health Experiences
- Social Farming or People with Disabilities
- Kids Yoga, Mindfulness for Children and Adults/Disadvantage Communities

Health and Wellbeing Page Clare Echo



In April the Health and Wellbeing page featured:

- **Peri-Natal Mental Health Association Mid-West:** A specialist mental health support service for women in the first 12 months from pregnancy onwards.
- **Mid-West Aries:** The HSE Recovery Education programme for people who have experienced mental ill health.
- **Bowel Cancer Screening,** as part of Bowel Cancer Awareness month.
- **Clare Older Peoples Council, Volunteer of the Year Awards.**

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

HEALTHY CLARE

Healthy Clare Micro Fund 2025

Healthy Clare launched the 2025 Healthy Clare Micro Fund on the 13th of February 2025 and closed for applications on 14th March 2025. A total of 66 applications were received under the 4 Healthy Clare funding strands.

In early April, members of the Local Community Development Committee, met to consider the recommendations of both the Micro Fund appraisal committee and the members of the Healthy Clare Working Group. A total of 31 applications have been approved for Healthy Clare funding to support Healthy and Wellbeing Initiative across all the Municipal Districts, totalling €30,000.

- 8 projects were awarded through under Healthy Weight and Healthy Eating Initiatives.
- 17 projects were awarded through under Positive Mental Health initiatives.

Healthy Clare Promotion and Collaboration: Not Around Us Campaign



“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 denormalise 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.

In April, Banner GAA, Clare Local Development Company, Clare Youth Reach and Clooney Quin GAA signed up to become members of the campaign.

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

Clare Garden Festival 2025



Clare Garden Festival wants to inspire everyone to grow their own food all year around by extending the season of growing vegetables in our garden. The festival returned for the 11th year to Ennis Showgrounds on the Sunday 27th of April. The festival, which was launched on the 29th of March with an annual Seed Share, hosted 75 Garden, Plant, Craft & Food stalls. The day was filled with activity for all the family, showcasing garden spaces and workshops from expert speakers. The Healthy Clare theme and much of the workshop content focused on providing opportunities for gardeners at all levels to ‘Extend the Growing Season’ beyond the traditional months. 52 individuals completed a Healthy Clare Survey with positive feedback received and an indication that those who came to the festival to learn and be inspired will now start growing their own produce.

CORPORATE SERVICES

Freedom of Information & Data Protection:

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

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Freedom of Information Requests	152	176	119	156	135	49
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	3
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	9

Communications

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

- 18 media releases were issued during April 2025, including:
- Clare County Council Approve Appointment of New Chief Executive
- Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk Management Plan Published
- West Clare Farm Peatland Rewetting Project Provides Biodiversity Boost for Nature Restoration.

Social Media

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

In the period 1-25 April 2025, the Communications Office:

Posted 33 times on Facebook, with total followers now 22,401.

Posted 27 times on X (formerly Twitter), with total followers over 8.8K.

33 Posts on Instagram followers are now 4,550.

(Statistics accurate as of 25/4/2025)

CULTURAL SERVICES - LIBRARY, ARTS, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES MANAGEMENT

Ministerial Visit

John Cummins, Minister of State for Local Government & Planning visited Clare Co Council on 4th April last where he was welcomed by Cathaoirleach Alan O'Callaghan & Deputy Chief Executive, Alan Farrell. He met with Management Team where a no of topics were discussed and updates provided to the Minister on Ennis Public Realm, One Shannon Hub, Social & Affordable Housing, Derelict Sites & Planning. Re One Shannon Hub (OSH) it was indicated to the Minister that the proposed library would be an integral part of the Hub and that the cost of same would not be eligible for funding under URDF & the question was asked if the URDF grant scheme could be amended to consider projects such as this or if the library could be considered for funding by some other Dept. The Minister agreed that a library would greatly enhance the Hub. The Minister then proceeded to visit the Ennis Public Realm & a Social Housing development under construction on the Gort Rd where he was visibly impressed by the standard of the works.

Clare Libraries



Celebration of Learning with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board - Approximately 100 adult learners received their certificates in Shannon Library.

There was a range of activities and events in libraries throughout the county this month. Highlights included Comic Fest in De Valera Library and the LCETB adult learner event in Shannon Library.

Library Activities in Figures

Total number of in branch events	322
Total audiences at in branch events	4,963
Total number of outreach events	11
Total audiences at outreach events	220
Total number of deliveries	12
Total number of class novels issued	8

IT classes and services

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

Other IT services

	March
Surfbox	4
General Printing	5
Accessing Wi-Fi	1
Helping with users' own devices	21
Helping users with OPAC	2
Clare Libraries App	1
Borrowbox	19
Epress	1
Sensory Room/Magic Table	148
Total	202



Online Resources usage

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



Marketing & Social media

Website

Library information was updated on Clare County Council Website.



The social stories for De Valera, Killaloe, Shannon & Miltown Malbay libraries were all updated.

A news article of De Valera library featuring in Architecture today was created.

Printed material

A brochure for De Valera Library was designed & printed. Branch specific brochures were also designed and printed.

Library Social Media activity

	Total Followers	New Followers	Post Reach/ Impressions	Post Likes
	8,511	129	104,000	980
	2,657	55	8,996	318



Children from Forever Friends pre-school in Miltown Malbay enjoying Spring into Storytime with library staff on a beautiful Spring morning.

Children's Services

Spring into Storytime took place in all libraries during April as part of the Right to Read programme. Children of pre-school age, and Early Learning Centres were invited to visit their nearest library to attend a special Spring themed storytime.

De Valera library hosted its first Comic Festival, supported by Creative Ireland from 17-26 April. Events included mask making, comic drawing, stop motion animation, table top gaming, anime movies, costume competitions and badge making.

Healthy Ireland



A range of Healthy Ireland events took place in libraries in April. They included

- Chair yoga classes took place in Killaloe, Kilrush & Scariff libraries and an outreach class was also delivered to residents of Kilkee Housing Association. A total of 41 participants took part in the sessions.
- An active Storytime with yoga session took place in Kilkee Library, where 26 fourth class children from the local primary school enjoyed a very fun-filled, active morning.
- Deirdre Doyle from the Cool Food School, visited both De Valera & Shannon libraries and delivered 4 workshops on sensory cooking and creating healthy snacks for children. A total of 57 children took part and feedback was very positive.
- Tutors from Mid-West Aries facilitated a Journaling for Wellbeing workshop in Ennistymon Library, where 6 people attended.



Creative Ireland

Work has been progressing on updating the Creative Ireland portal with over twenty events for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025, in preparation of the upcoming national launch in early May, along with designing the programme of events and a social media campaign.

There were a number of funded projects.

PUCKED Youth Theatre Workshop is a fast paced, theatrical, one-man show. The team workshoped with Clare Youth Theatre, on the themes of the play, working professionally in Irish Theatre and what a path to drama school looked like. Members of Clare youth theatre also saw the play after the workshop, giving them a greater understanding of the piece.

A number of recovery Social Evenings at Bushy Park Treatment Centre took place. The project provides a place for people in recovery from all addictions to come together with others in recovery to share, socialise and explore their creativity in an alcohol and drug free setting. Participants are offered the chance to engage in music making, singing, story recounting, sharing a poem or participating by listening. This safe, non-judgemental space provides support for each person to share their creative expression in whatever way they prefer.

The Music for Lissycasey series of traditional music, song and dance at the Pastoral Centre, Lissycasey, began and will run for 6 weeks, where young and older musicians will come together to play tunes, to learn from each other thus keeping alive the regional music style of the area. Local singers also attend and perform lesser know songs from the local area and from West Clare, along with a guest musician each night with all musicians, singers and dancers are invited to attend.

Clare Arts Office

There were eight support and strategic meetings with artists and arts organisations as well as a regional meeting of thirty artists from Clare, Limerick and Tipperary. A group of twenty artists attended a site visit for

the Iniscealtra Visitor Centre Per Cent for Art Commission.

There were thirteen applications for street art murals assessed and four artists commissioned.

Arts office staff assessed eighty-four applications through the Creative Bursaries Award.

Arts office staff assisted with film enquiries regarding shooting in Mooghaun and Tuamgraney as well as the major feature The Wayfinders, currently shooting in Troy Studios.

There were two films and a craft fair in Culturlann Sweeney, Kilkee.

The Arts officer participated in two Arts in Clare slots on Clare FM.

The Arts in the Community programme continued in St. Joseph's Hospital, Ennis and in Raheen Hospital. The annual review meeting with the HSE also took place.

The three groups of Clare Youth Theatre continued to meet weekly in preparation for upcoming performances.

The final Arts Plan public consultation took place in Ennistymon. Through public consultations, submissions and the online survey one hundred and ninety people and organisations have participated in consultations.

The two Embrace (Arts & Disability) residencies commenced with the Brothers of Charity and one started with North Clare Mental Health Group. A schools residency began in Kildysart National School.

There were three exhibitions in Clare Museum, Scariff Gallery and Culturlann Sweeney. In Tandem, an exhibition by three local artists, opened in Súil which had four hundred and ten visitors in April.

The Arts Officer launched the Consairtín Festival in Ennis and the Riches of Clare concert series began at the Kilfenora Traditional Music Festival.

Social Media

Facebook 19/02/25-16/4/25					
	Views	Post reach	Page Likes	New Page followers	Total followers
Clare Arts Office	23,227	6,290		10	3,506
Cultúrlann Sweeney	8,954	3,345		6	2,123
CYT - Clare Youth Theatre	274	30		1	590
Riches of Clare	2,946	1071		0	2,842
Clare Culture Night	278	165		1	1,310
Arts In Clare Group					3,577
Clare Trad Group					2,753
Instagram 23/12/24-20/1/25					
Account	Views	Followers	Reach		
Clare Arts Office	2,961	1,005	1,105		
Culture Night	1	3	0		
Súil	4,251	196	1,277		

Clare Museum



Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam gave a talk on 'Morals, manners, and customs: observations from the pre-Famine era in County Clare' as part of the Museum's monthly Lecture Series in April. Over thirty people attended.

ARTiculation Competition All-Ireland Final

The Museum's Education Officer accompanied TY students, and their teacher, from Rice College to attend the 2025 ARTiculation competition All-Ireland Final in the Hunt Museum in Limerick. Two students from Rice College were among nine students from across the country that competed for the title. Over 60 people attended the event.

This is the first time that County Clare has participated in the nationwide ARTiculation competition, following an invite to do so from the organising Museum, Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. Participation in the competition will be rolled out to other secondary schools in the county for the 2025/2026 competition.

Museum Visitors

Over 45 older people visited the museum as part of a Dublin-based Active Retirement group visit to County Clare.

The Ennis-based Atlas Language School brought 319 students over the month, mainly from Italy and Spain.

The local Youthreach group visited the Museum while launching their exhibition of artwork in the foyer.

Polish Arts & Crafts Workshops

In the run up to Clare Museum's Festival of Polish Culture next month, 4 workshops were held in the Museum, facilitated by Lilianna Bozena Lacka. A number of participants created paintings on glass that will be displayed in the Museum for the duration of the festival.

Website Updates

Photographs and information on 132 items in the museum collection were uploaded from the museum database to the website. Another blog entry was researched, written and published in April.

Local Studies



Clare Local Studies Centre has received a collection of books and pamphlets from Larry Gavin. This collection includes many rare publications relating to Irish Music.

The Local Studies librarian presented talks

- Probus Group on the Ordnance Survey
- Shannon Archaeological and Historical Society on milling in Clare
- Launch of Dr Peter Daly's biography of Bryan O'Looney, on the O'Looney papers held in the Clare Archives

Mick O' Loughlen has sent on a revised version of the 1821 census transcriptions for nine parishes. This is a much-enhanced version which has now been put up on the website.

Clare Archives

The digitisation of music material donated to Clare Archives from private individuals dating back to early 19th century continued. There were the usual number of archival queries and requests.

KILLALOE MD

Outdoor crews have been working on Restoration Improvement works, preparatory works for Restoration Maintenance roads and ongoing maintenance works.



Sealing Clause 806 on the R-352 at Derrainy, Whitegate, Co.Clare



L-81182 Annaghneal



Road Prep for Surface Dressing on the L-8104 at Balloughtra, Tulla, Co. Clare



CCC crews carrying out Restoration Improvement works on the L-3002 at Liscullaun, O'Callaghans Mills, Co. Clare



R-469 Quin Village - Bollard Damage



R-469 Quin Village - Bollard Replacements

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

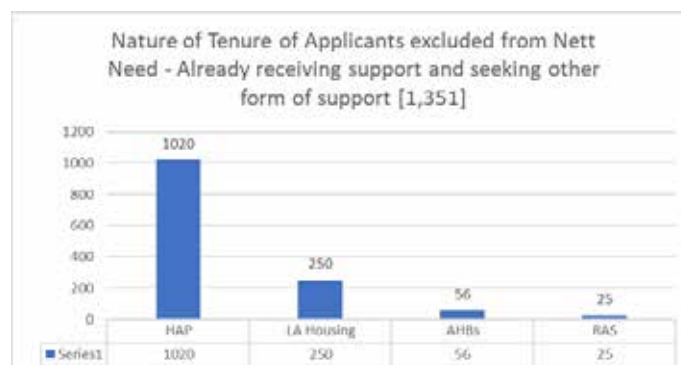
The Council has launched a new online portal for our Housing Adaptation Grant for Older People and Disabled People. The availability of the grant application online portal will greatly reduce paperwork, improve the speed of grant processing and allow applicants to see the progress of their grant throughout our approval process.

Social Housing Demand

The highest demand throughout the county remains for 1 and 2-bedroomed properties. There are 2,183 applicant households (78%) who have a requirement for this property type.

Current Housing need as of 25/04/2025

Total Households on List	2,796	
Transfer Applicants (see below)		1,351
Net Need	1,445	



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	979	180	68	1227
SHANNON	171	35	13	219
CLARECASTLE	152	26	7	185
INAGH/ENNISTYMON/LAHINCH	120	23	7	150
KILRUSH	92	25	8	125
FEAKLE/SCARIFF/WHITEGATE	79	23	3	105
MEELICK/PARTEEN/WESTBURY	66	24	11	101
MILTOWN MALBAY/MULLAGH/QUILTY	69	10	1	80
COROFIN/RUAN	67	15	1	83
KILKEE/CROSS/CARRIGAHOLT	57	16	2	75
NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS	53	12	2	67
KILLALOE	47	15	2	64
LISDOONVARNA/BALLYVAUGHAN	42	10	3	55
SIXMILEBRIDGE	35	13	4	52
COORACLARE/DOONBEG	34	10	5	49
TULLA/KILKISHEN/BROADFORD	30	7	1	38
CLONLARA	30	8	1	39
KILDYSART/BALLYNACALLY	22	5	3	30
QUIN	15	4	2	21
KILMIHIL	9	4	2	15
KILMALEY	10	1		11
KILFENORA	4	1		5
Grand Total	2,183	467	146	2,796

Newly Qualified Applicants



The new social housing development comprising 10 units at Cnoc an Chlair Clarehill, Clarecastle was recently advertised on the Choice Based Letting (CBL) website. This development comprises 10 units made up 7 no 3 bedroomed houses, 2 no 2 bedroomed bungalows and 1 no 4 bedroomed house. Letters of offer of accommodation have issued to all ten households and these families will be moving to their new homes over the coming weeks.

The new social housing development located at Garran na Cathaigh Pella Road, Kilrush was recently advertised on the CBL website. There are 8 no 2 storey 3 bedroomed houses and 6 no 2 bedroomed bungalows in this development and almost 200 expressions of interest were received. The Assessment process in relation to this development is currently ongoing and will be completed over the coming weeks.



Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme

There remains significant interest in the LA Tenant Purchase Incremental Scheme. We currently have 25 open cases at various stages of the process. The sale of seven properties under the tenant purchase scheme completed in 2024. Two

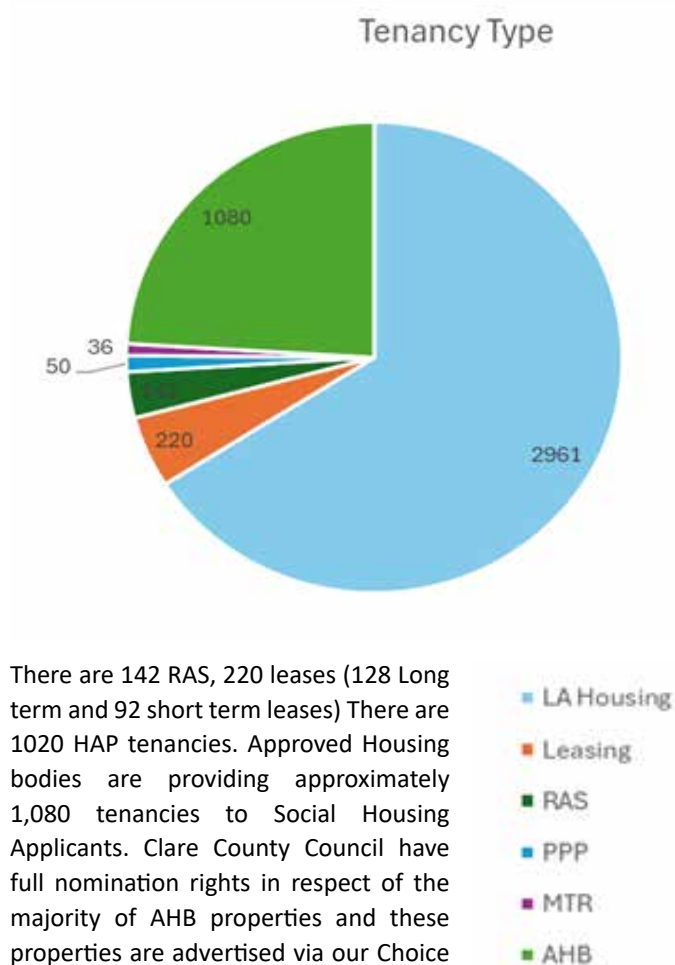
properties have been sold in February 2025. It is expected that more sales will complete in May 2025.

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):

25th April, 2025			
MD	Allocated	Occupied	Total
Ennis MD	1	1,283	1,284
Killaloe MD	1	370	371
Shannon MD	2	746	748
West Clare MD	2	956	958
Grand Total	6	3,355	3,361



There are 142 RAS, 220 leases (128 Long term and 92 short term leases) There are 1020 HAP tenancies. Approved Housing bodies are providing approximately 1,080 tenancies to Social Housing Applicants. Clare County Council have full nomination rights in respect of the majority of AHB properties and these properties are advertised via our Choice Based Letting System. Nominations are prepared in accordance with a new National Process agreed by LAs and the AHB sector and commenced in July 2022.

Vacancies:

Vacant Stock	Ennis MD	West Clare MD	Shannon MD	Killaloe MD	Total
Traveller Accom.	3	6	1	0	10
Derelict Properties	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	6	5	1	2	14
Casual Vacancies	32	19	12	11	74
TOTAL	41	30	14	13	98

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	196
Referrals to TSS (including Tulsa)	10
Tenancy Notifications/Warnings issued	18
Abandonment Notices issued	3
Keys collected from Casual Vacancies	22
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:

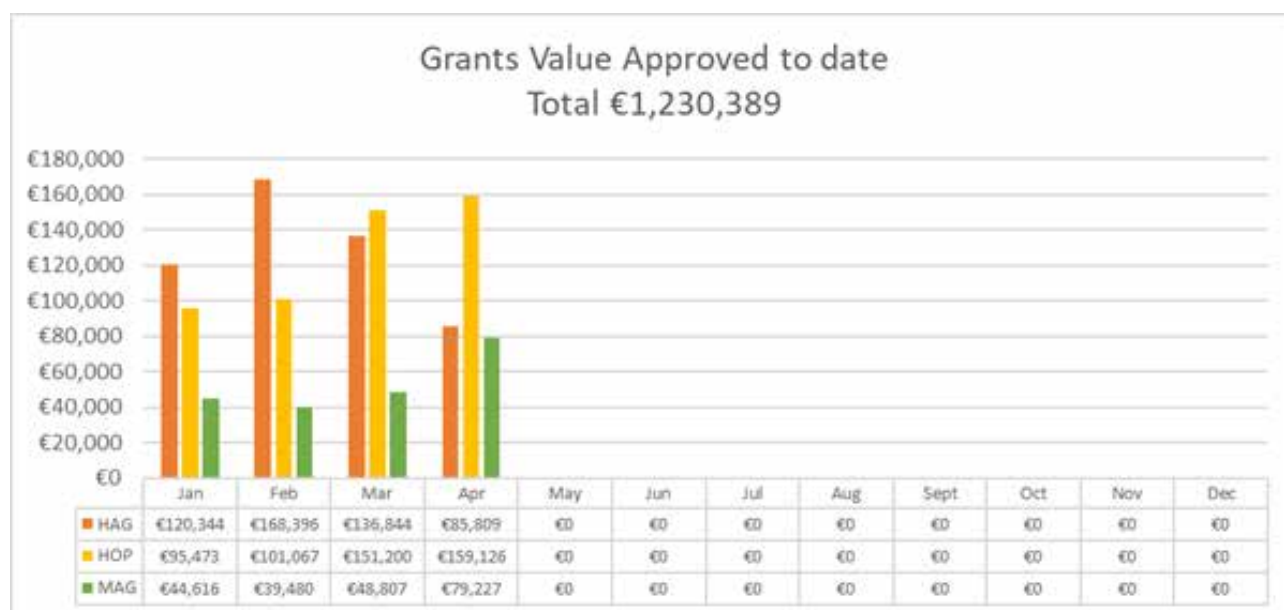
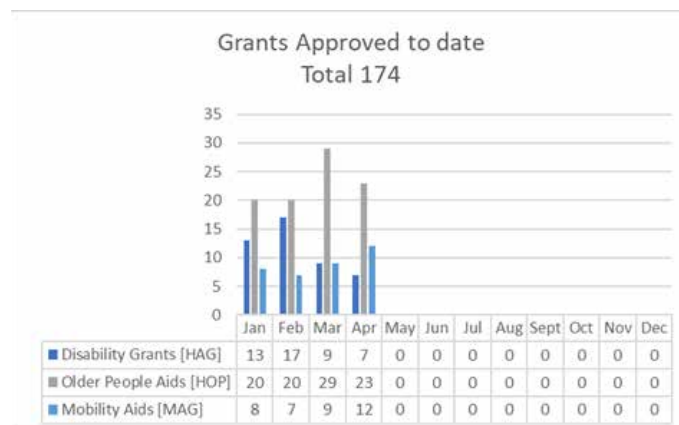
Inspections have commenced for 2025. These inspections are carried out on HAP, Private Rented, RAS and Leased properties, as well as in response to complaints that are received. The team continue to follow up where properties do not meet the minimum rented standards and have inspected 306 properties 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:

8 Application
received to date
in 2025

40 Applications
received in 2024

72 Local Authority
Loans Approved

5 Local Authority Loans
Drawn Down in 2022,
12 Drawn Down in 2023
and 12 Drawn Down in
2024 & 3 in 2025

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

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

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 04th of April, 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 08/03/2025 to 04/04/2025 the following exited from homelessness:

Moved to A.H.B Housing	2
Moved to Temp. Accommodation	2
Admitted to hospital	1
Excluded	6
Residential Treatment	0
Tenancy LA	0
Returned to family/friends	3
Prevention Tenancies	5
Other	1

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)

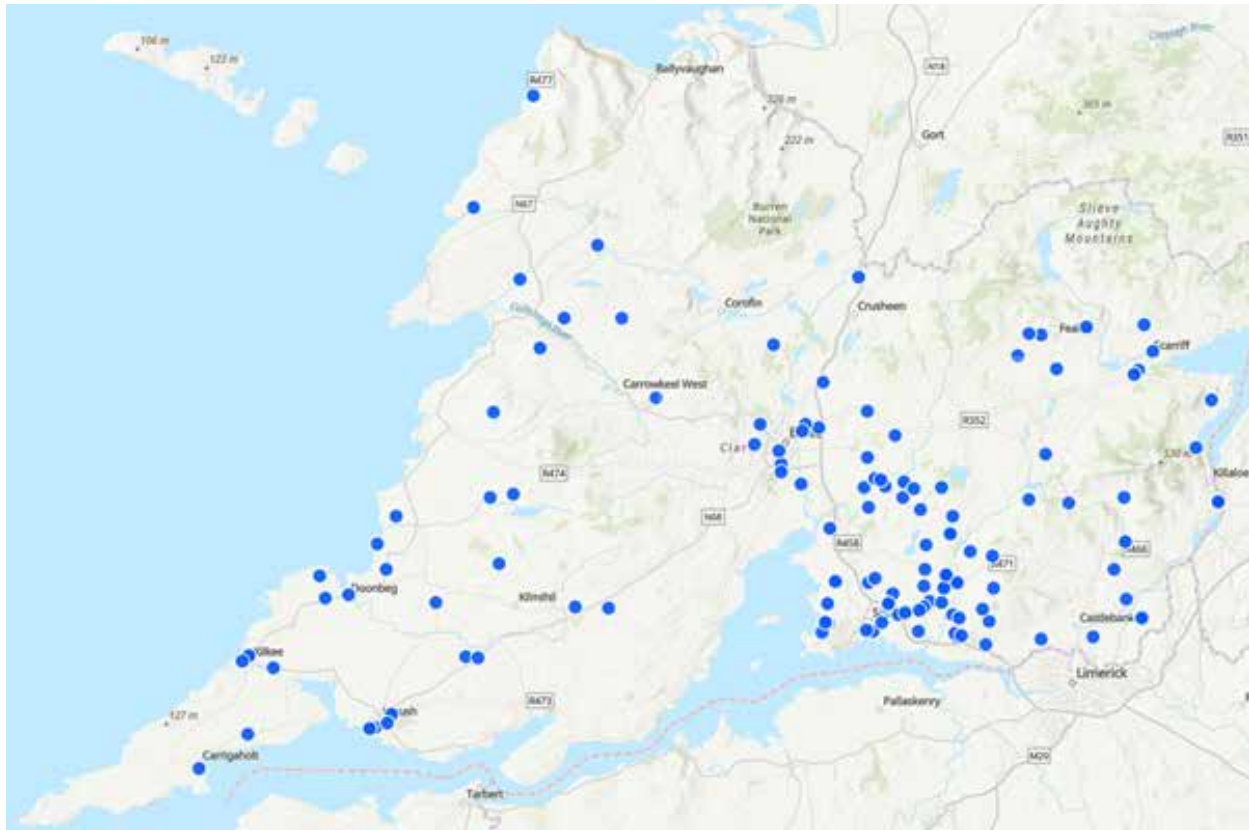
The online applications portal for the homes in Lahinch Road, Ennis closed on Monday 31st March 2025, and eight successful applicants have been selected using the Council's Affordable Housing Scheme of Priorities. These clients are now engaged with the developer and their agents to finalise sales. CCC 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

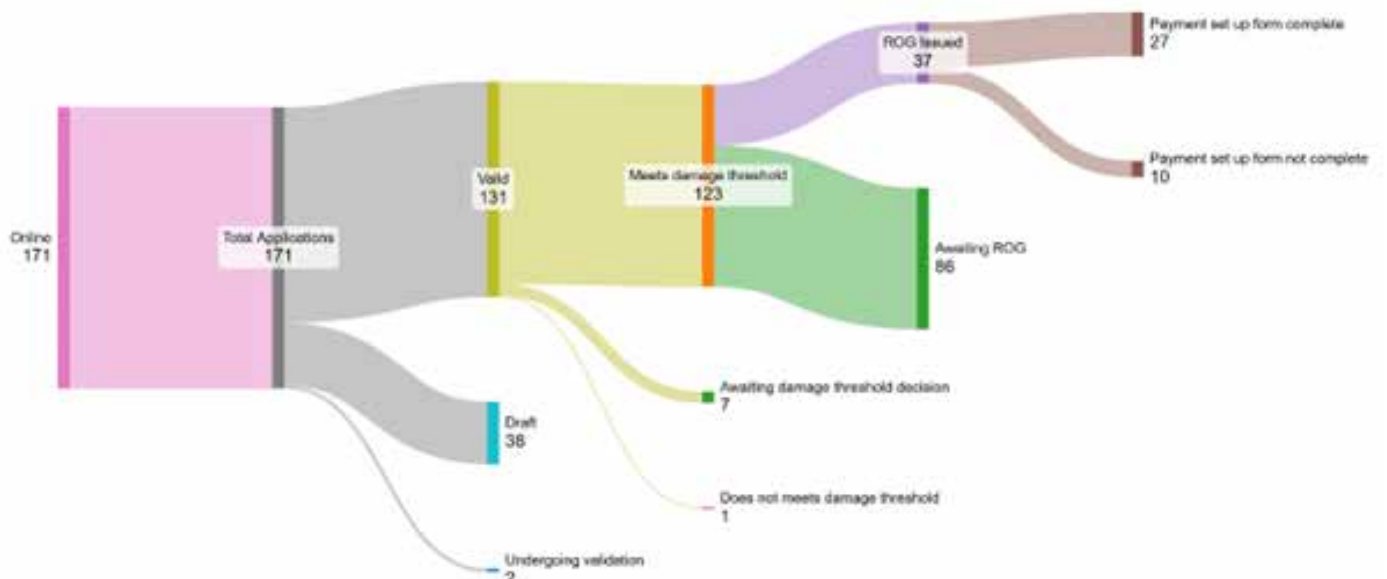


Applications to the scheme can be submitted on-line through CCC's website. The website includes supporting information to further assist homeowners regarding the application process. Clare County Council DCB Team have also included a video on our website called "how to make on application" to further 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 46 Remedial Option Grants, with the total value of €13.92m awarded and are awaiting input from the Housing Agency to further process 91 applications with grant amounts to follow.

DCB Application Flow Chart



CCC carried out an information evening on 31st March last in the Oakwood Hotel, Shannon. The main focus of the evening was orientated towards applicants who have received their grant option. The event was 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.

Update on capital programme:

Reflecting the strong commitment to addressing housing needs in the county, the Back Road project in Kilrush, the Doonbeg project, the Gort Road project and the Shallee/Cloughleigh project are under construction. These projects are all progressing well. Other housing capital schemes are at varying stages of design and construction across the the county.



Progress on Back Road, Kilrush housing development



Progress on Gort Road, Ennis housing development



Progress on Doonbeg housing development



Progress on Shallee/Cloughleigh housing development



Completed 13 units at Cappahard, Tulla Road, Ennis by Co-Operative Housing Ireland, April 2025

Approved Housing Bodies

The Approved Housing Bodies are progressing with a number of projects for completion in 2025. 13 no. Units at Cappahard, Tulla Road, Ennis were delivered during the month of April. This development consists of 4 no. 3-bed semi-detached houses 8 no. 2-bed semi-detached houses and 1 no. 2-bed detached property. Four of these units have been designed specifically for people with disabilities and the Council has worked closely with Co-Operative Housing Ireland, the HSE and the families themselves to provide accommodation suited to their individual needs. We continue to support All AHBs through regular meetings with individual bodies and through quarterly meetings of the AHB Forum.

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	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Main Street Clarecastle	7	Turnkey – Complete	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 3 approval sought. Gone to tender	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)	Under construction Sale closed on 10/03/2025	Q1 2024	Q1 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	Under construction: Phase 1 - 18 units Phase 2 12	Q2 2024 Q3 2024	Q2 2025 Q3 2025
Market Street, Ennis (Co-Operative Hsg. Ireland) CALF Turnkey	14	Under construction	Q3 2023	Q2 2025
63 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
71 Shannon Heights, Kilrush (Sophia Hsg. Assoc.) CAS Renewal Const.)	1	At procurement stage	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Cappahard, Ennis (Co-Operative Housing Ireland) CALF Turnkey	13 (Phase 2)	Completed Sale closed 15/4/2025	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
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 11th April, CSO figures show there were 474 Temporary Protections granted nationally in the past month with an average of 17 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 1,224 people accommodated in 25 multi-occupancy facilities located throughout the County - this reflects a decrease of 40 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 492 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;
 - **The property must be registered with the RTB (contact the RTB for advice on the specific arrangement).**
 - 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. RPRIO 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.
 - 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

NORTH CLARE LEA

Community Engagement and Collaboration

During this reporting period, senior management from the Ennistymon LEA actively engaged with local community groups, the Spanish Point Community Group and the Ennistymon Town Team. These meetings facilitated valuable discussions on the groups' priority goals and fostered critical collaboration.

Such engagement is pivotal for the effective prioritisation of actions and the management of expectations. It enables the team to make realistic commitments within our scope while providing tailored advice and solutions or guiding groups towards appropriate channels when tasks lie beyond the team's remit.



Members of the Ennistymon Town Team pictured with Senior Staff from West Clare MD North.

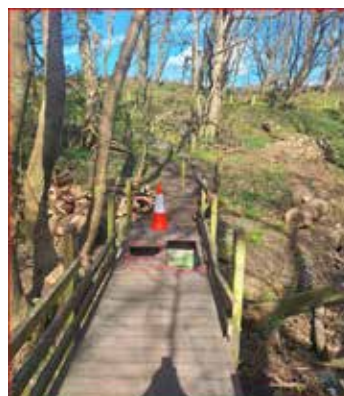
Storm Recovery: Roof Repairs at Fanore Beach Public Toilets

Pictured below are the roof repairs undertaken on the public toilet facility at Fanore Beach following damage caused by Storm Eowyn. These repairs demonstrate the swift and effective response to restore the facility and ensure its continued usability for the community and visitors alike.



Completion of Restoration Works on Ennistymon Riverwalk

The Ennistymon Riverwalk is now fully reopened to the public, marking a significant milestone in post-Storm Eowyn recovery efforts. Last month's report highlighted the extensive tree removal operations that laid the groundwork for restoration. During the intervening reporting period, critical repairs to fencing and bridges have been successfully completed, ensuring a safe, accessible, and scenic walking experience for the community. Before and After Images of some of the extensive fence and bridge repairs.



Road Safety Enhancements: Line Marking Across the MD

Throughout the reporting period, line marking was conducted at multiple locations across the MD. These measures included road safety enhancements, such as the painting of a 'SLOW' sign line at Coogyulla Cross in Doolin and the lining of roads and pedestrian crossings in Spanish Point. These improvements aim to bolster road safety and ensure clear guidance for drivers.



Coogyulla Cross



Spanish Point Pedestrian Crossing

Installation of New Waste Bins in Lahinch:

In response to the increasing activity in Lahinch, driven by its bustling village atmosphere and popularity as a seaside destination, two new waste bins have been installed on the main street in an effort to enhance waste management and maintain cleanliness. Two new bins on Main Street, Lahinch.



Clearance Efforts at Doolin Port Car Park:

To accommodate the growing demand during the busy ferry season, significant works have been underway at the Doolin Port Car Park. These efforts include clearing large boulders from the car park surface, a task necessitated by high tides and the impact of the stormy winter months. The progress reflects a commitment to ensuring sufficient space and improving accessibility for visitors and ferry operators.



Works ongoing to Doolin Port car park

Advancements in the Ongoing Roads Programme The Roads Programme continues to drive essential infrastructure improvements across multiple areas. Recent developments include:

- **Road Repair Works:** Extensive repairs conducted in Ballyea and Inagh to improve road safety and usability.



- **Road Recycling Works:** Sustainable road recycling efforts carried out in Clouna, Ennistymon, enhancing durability and functionality.



- **Drainage Works:** Critical drainage enhancements in Moher and Liscannor to mitigate water-related challenges and maintain road integrity.



- **Signage Replacement:** Upgraded signage in Liscannor to ensure clear navigation and improve overall transport efficiency.



These developments highlight ongoing progress in maintaining and enhancing local infrastructure to meet the community's needs.

Blakes Corner is currently undergoing an aesthetic enhancement in line with the Section 57 Declaration guidelines. The ongoing works include debris removal, localized repairs, gutter and stormwater clearance, as well as thorough cleaning and painting efforts.



Completion Milestone: Boundary Walls at Monastery Lane Car Park Finalised

The construction of the boundary walls at Monastery Lane Car Park are now complete. The focus has shifted to the installation of services and ducting, followed by the final layout design. Once these stages are completed, the car park will be surfaced, with the removal of external walls marking the project's final phase.



Lahinch Lifeguard Hut

Restoration works are in progress at the Lifeguard Hut in Lahinch. Initial cleaning and washing preparations have been successfully completed, paving the way for painting. These efforts aim to ensure the facility is fully ready to accommodate the high activity of the upcoming busy season.



SPORTS & RECREATION



Active Ennis Leisure Complex

Monthly Footfall Analysis: Active Ennis Leisure Complex & Lee's Road

The footfall at the Active Ennis Leisure Complex during March 2025 was noticeably lower compared to the previous March. This decline may be attributed to the unseasonably warm weather experienced in March 2025, which likely influenced visitor behaviour.

Conversely, Lee's Road experienced a busy period because of the same weather conditions. The facility saw an increase in vehicles entering compared to the previous March, indicating heightened activity and engagement.

	Total March 2025	Previous year (March 2024)	Average per day March 2025	Average per day March 2025
Active Ennis	14,631	22,161(↓34%)	472	715 (↓34%)
Lees road	24554	20532(↑17%)	792	662(↑17%)

Community Games

On Friday, April 4th, the Active Ennis Leisure Complex proudly hosted the Community Games. The event brought together 22 parishes, with an impressive participation of 298 young athletes competing in various sports.

The winners from this spirited competition will now advance to represent Clare in the National Finals, continuing their journey of achievement and showcasing the region's talented youth.



Healthy Clare Blog

We issued two Blog posts to the Healthy Clare Newsletter for March, "Benefits of HIIT Training" and "Tips to increase Fiber intake".

Gym Enhancements: New Vinyl Signage

In April, the gym underwent a visual upgrade with the installation of new vinyl signage. These designs were crafted not only to enhance the overall aesthetic appeal of the facility but also to encourage and promote proper gym etiquette among its users.



Body Blast: Engaging Fitness for All

The Body Blast class continues to thrive as the year progresses, consistently attracting full participation with up to 20 attendees per session. Our dedicated trainers work hard to ensure these classes are enjoyable, challenging, and accessible, catering to the diverse needs of all participants and fostering a dynamic fitness community.



www.activeennis.ie www.activekilrush.ie

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



General update

- The Lisdoonvarna pilot project, initiated in partnership with Weightlifting Ireland to support Ukrainian refugees, has successfully expanded its scope. A new iteration has been launched, welcoming a group of cancer survivors who, with assistance from Clare Sports Partnership, have formed a 'Dragon Boat Club'. This initiative now boasts 18 active participants, showcasing the inclusivity and growth of the program.
- Clare Sports Partnership was approached by the GAA to facilitate an Easter Cul Camp for children of International Protection Applicants (IPA), sponsored by Kelloggs. Lisdoonvarna has been selected as the exclusive national camp site for this trial initiative. Registration was managed through the Clare CSP website. Kelloggs has committed to funding free summer camp places for all IPA and Ukrainian children. Discussions about the camp details were held with Hartnell Wilson, representing Social Impact Communications for GAA/Kelloggs.



- 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. 12 clients have been referred and met so far. This will be expanded to include the Links Worker client base and internally referred.

Sports Inclusion/Older Adults

- Inclusive gymnastics continues with Ennis Gymnastics Club on Monday / Tuesday evenings. 80 children attend these sessions
- In conjunction with Cumann Na mBunscol Clare, we are running a primary school inclusion day for 150 children

with additional needs on May 22nd in Cusack Park.

- In conjunction with Munster Cricket, we have completed a 4-week schools programme with St Anne's Special school in Ennis with 70 children taking part in the programme.
- We have completed a 6-week PALS (Physical Activity Leader Course) for people that work with older adults. We have 18 participants on the course.
- On May 9th in conjunction with other Munster Local Sports Partnership's we are running a regional 'Go for Life' games.

Active Communities

- Bike Week 2025: Events for Bike Week 2025 are well underway, with over 23 events already confirmed. The preparations are progressing, and the final details are being worked out to ensure the successful implementation of this initiative.
- A 5-week post-natal exercise programme began on Wednesday, 26th of March. In partnership with the HSE, this programme supports new mothers in regaining their physical fitness after childbirth. The sessions emphasise muscular strength, fitness, and conditioning.

Schools

- Our annual Sportshall Athletics County Finals took place in Corofin GAA hall on March 12th and 13th. 349 children from 7 different primary schools took part in the event
- Our 6-week 'Get Going Get Rowing' programme in conjunction with Rowing Ireland in St. Joseph's Secondary School in Spanish Point has concluded

Club Development

- Safeguarding 1 courses were ran very successfully during the month of March with all courses being at full capacity. There was also a safeguarding 2 course ran which 11 different clubs were able to avail of.
- There were 2 Sports First Aid courses ran throughout the month of March which were open to all clubs in the area to attend.

Draft Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan

- The Draft Clare Outdoor Recreation Plan was available to view and open to submissions from the public from the 14th of March to the 11th of April.



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Clare becomes First Countywide Certified Sustainable Tourism Destination in Ireland



County Clare was announced as Ireland's first certified sustainable tourism destination in April 2025. By achieving Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) certification, we are committed to continuing to develop our county as a destination that supports local communities and businesses, gives visitors great experiences, and manages our social, cultural, economic, and environmental future.

Successfully securing certification sees Clare join dozens of dedicated destinations worldwide that have received the designation, including The Azores (Portugal), Nuuk (Greenland), Järvsö (Sweden), Rottneest Island (Australia), Breckenridge & Vail, Colorado (USA), Tarvisio (Italy), and Ejder 3200 (Turkey). Clare's pursuit of certification and the development of a sustainable tourism policy for County Clare has been led by the County Clare GSTC Destination Green Team, which was established in 2023 by the Tourism Department of Clare County Council and the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum.

The Team comprises a cross-section of local authority employees, tourism agencies and businesses, conservation agencies, community leaders and organisations, the UN Tourism International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO), and the sustainable tourism expertise of Atlantic Technical University (ATU) Sligo.

While the county is just now receiving global recognition as a sustainable destination, sustainability has long been part of Clare's ethos. The Geopark and businesses in North Clare have long worked towards sustainable tourism, setting an example for the rest of the county and playing a key role in securing international recognition for Clare's destination management efforts.

This is just the beginning of a proud and ongoing journey towards a more sustainable future for Clare. Third-party verification

brings transparency to the process, and this certification is a key milestone on the path of the Clare Tourism Strategy 2030 vision in making Clare a globally recognised, sustainable and vibrant destination.

The Clare Collection

Burren & Cliffs Explorer Public Information Evening



To ensure the success of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Explorer, Clare County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark held public engagement sessions on Monday, April 7th at the Community Centre in Miltown Malbay and Tuesday, April 8th at the Burren Centre, Kilfenora. Members of the public were encouraged to attend and share their views to help shape the future of this initiative.

The Clare Collection attend Meitheal, Ireland's largest Travel Trade Event



Meitheal, Ireland's largest tourism trade event took place in Killarney on the 1st and 2nd of April. Representatives from The Clare Collection attended the event to showcase our seven unique visitor attractions and experiences, connecting with travel agents, tour operators and buyers worldwide. Our Sales and Marketing Teams conducted a series of one to one meetings across the two days with both new and existing trade partners and customers.

The Clare Collection join Tourism Ireland in the US for Best of Ireland Sales Mission



From April 14th to 18th, The Clare Collection joined Tourism Ireland in the US as part of their prestigious "Best of Ireland Sales Mission." This strategic roadshow took in several key North American gateway cities including Detroit, Indianapolis, Nashville, and Charlotte – all now offering direct flights to Ireland. Throughout the week, representatives from The Clare Collection showcased our diverse portfolio of captivating visitor attractions. Through a combination of over 200 personalised one-on-one meetings and engaging interactive presentations, we connected with influential travel advisors and proactive tour operators, fostering new partnerships and inspiring them to craft unforgettable Irish experiences for their clients.

FAM Trips & Site Inspections



Throughout the month of April, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park has welcomed numerous tour operators and agents from across the world have on familiarisation trips and site inspections. The various buyers are met on arrival by a member of the Sales and Marketing team who then gives a guided tour showcasing all the site has to offer. These trips are key to buyers experiencing the offering first hand which enables them to sell to their clients more effectively. This month we have welcomed groups from Failte Ireland, Abbey Tours, Odyssey International, Tenon Tours, Activities Ireland and more as well as the wide range of buyers pictured above who visited us on a pre-Meitheal FAM trip.

Easter Celebrations at Bunratty and Craggaunowen

From the 18th to the 20th of April, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park hosted a programme of family friendly activities and entertainment. Visitors had the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny, witness juggling, circus skills and stilt walking, while children under the age of 12 were invited to showcase their creativity by using recycled



materials in the Easter Bonnet Competition. Easter celebrations continued on Easter Monday in Craggaunowen with Tony Baloney entertaining with his puppet show and The Wobbly Circus captivating visitors with fire juggling, unicycle and circus tricks.

Easter at the Cliffs of Moher Experience



From the 18th to the 20th of April, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park hosted a programme of family friendly activities and entertainment. Visitors had the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny, witness juggling, circus skills and stilt walking, while children under the age of 12 were invited to showcase their creativity by using recycled materials in the Easter Bonnet Competition. Easter celebrations continued on Easter Monday in Craggaunowen with Tony Baloney entertaining with his puppet show and The Wobbly Circus captivating visitors with fire juggling, unicycle and circus tricks.

A Visit to the West



On Thursday, April 17th, the Sales and Marketing team from Clare Tourism Development East embarked on an insightful familiarisation trip to the Clare Tourism West and North West attractions.. At the majestic Cliffs of Moher, we were treated to a comprehensive tour, gaining a deeper appreciation for the natural wonder and visitor experience. The team then explored the tranquil beauty of Vandeleur Walled Garden, including its newly refurbished stable block, café and retail store. Finally, we journeyed to the iconic Loop Head Lighthouse, where they learned about its maritime history and enjoyed breathtaking panoramic coastal views. This excursion provided the team with invaluable first-hand knowledge of the unique offerings and exciting new developments at each site. The warm hospitality extended to them will be reciprocated in early May when the Sales and Marketing team from the West will visit Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, the Craggaunowen, and the Knappogue Castle, fostering continued collaboration and mutual understanding across The Clare Collection Portfolio.

Loop Head Lighthouse



Loop Head Lighthouse is moving to a seven day a week operation from the May Bank Holiday until at least the end of September. So far visitor numbers have been above expectations this year with busy St. Patrick's and Easter

weekends. Bookings in the Lighthouse Attendant's Cottage have also been robust with occupancy rates of around 70% for April, May, June, July and August already.

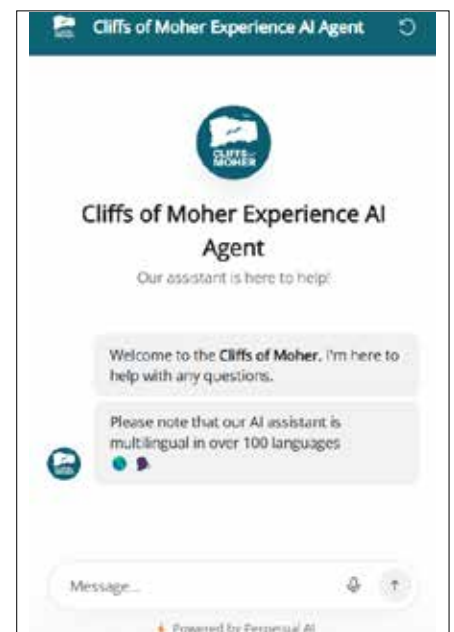
The start of the season is always busy with setting up and stocking the gift shop, training staff and carrying out repairs and renovations after the winter. We were lucky that the damage from the winter storms was relatively minor this year and we received great support from Joe Linnane and his crew as usual. We are fortunate that we have many staff returning for the season but we are also welcoming two new starters in Ina Krieger and Marie Morris who we know will make great additions to the team.

So far this year the weather has been good and the outlook is set fair!

Perpetual AI

The Cliffs of Moher Experience are delighted to announce their exciting partnership with Perpetual AI.

As one of Ireland's most iconic natural attractions, welcoming visitors from all around the globe, accessibility and ease of information are key to delivering a world-class experience — even before our visitors arrive. Our new multilingual AI assistant, now live on the Cliffs of Moher website, supports over 100 languages and helps users in their booking journey. This is another step forward in making the Cliffs of Moher Experience even more inclusive, intuitive, and visitor-focused.



Burren & Cliffs Explorer Shuttle Service



The Burren & Cliffs Explorer Shuttle Service is scheduled to launch on Thursday, 01st of May for the period of May – August. The free hop-on, hop-off service allows you to discover the charm of County Clare through its vibrant towns - Miltown Malbay, Liscannor, Doolin, Kilfenora, Ballyvaughan and Corofin.

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. This is a joint project between the MD and our Heritage Officer. It is hoped to dismantle the walls (to provide visibility sightlines for road users) & perhaps reconstruct elements of the original house & provide an information plaque nearby. The photograph (1) shows the amount of vegetation re-moved from the walls. An evening of reminiscing about the house is organised for Thursday 8th May at 8pm at Myles Creek, O'Curry Street, Kilkee, County Clare.



Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025:

In the last month the West Clare MD has continued to carry out drainage works, hedgecutting and road surface preparation works prior to the commencement of the 2025 Schedule of MD works.



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Miscellaneous Other Works:

West Clare MD cleaned up a section of public road after a car went on fire. When carrying out works in the area, West Clare MD was contacted by Ballyea GAA to clear an extra section of road verge outside their club grounds. This will facilitate parking at matches. West Clare MD were delighted to be able to assist the home club of the 2024 All-Ireland winning captain.



Recruitment Competitions April

Eligibility Exercises & Desktop Shortlisting

- Executive Architect
- Machinery Yard Foreman

Interviews

- Executive Architect
- Caretaker – Traveller Accommodation
- Acting Senior Executive Health & Safety Officer
- Retained Firefighters
- Executive Architect
- Co-Op Education Initiative 2025
- Canteen Chef/ Manager
- Clerk of Works

The following competitions were advertised:

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

The Beach Lifeguard Induction Day was held on Saturday 26th April at Áras Contae an Chláir. 50 lifeguards completed a full day of training and induction.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES / WEBINARS / CONFERENCES/ INFORMATION SESSIONS

APRIL

- Community Readers Event CBS 9th April



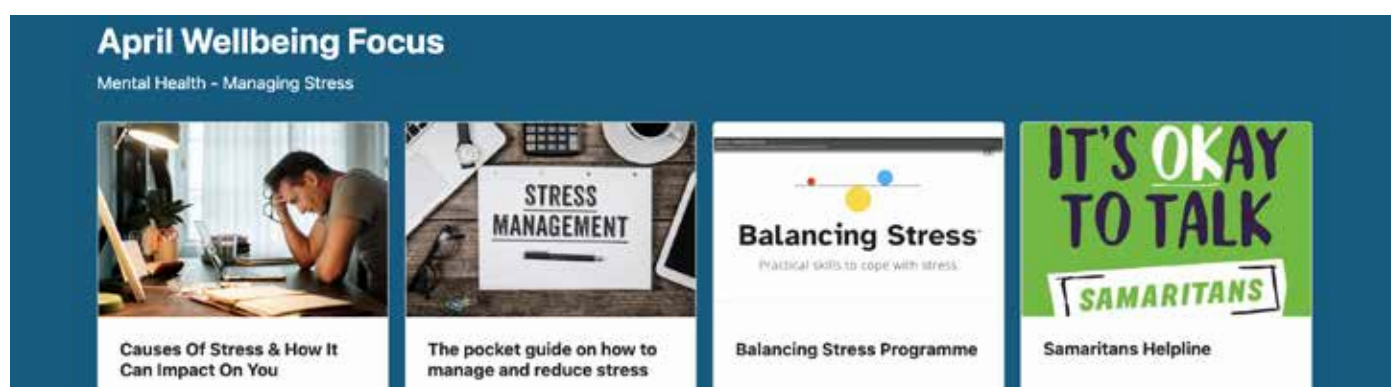
- OIC Webinar Series for FOI Decision Makers - Module 1
- Basic Word Online Course
- Intermediate Word Online Course
- Intermediate Excel Online Course
- Advanced Excel Online Course
- PSDP (Project Supervisor Design Process) 2-Day Course

Essential Skillz on-line Courses:

- Health & Safety Induction
- Slips, Trips & Falls

Health & Safety:

- HIAB Training
- Chainsaw Experienced Operators



Employee Wellbeing

The Focus of the Staff Wellbeing Hub for April was Mental Health and Managing Stress.

Unions

The Human Resources Department engages with Unions on various matters.

PROCUREMENT

The following Clare County Council tender competitions were published on eTenders in the period from 26th March to 25th April inclusive:

Tender Name	RFT ID	Response deadline	Procedure
Ennistymon Hub Office Development	5547326	30/05/2025 13:00	Open
Clare County Regional and Local Road Pavement Overlay Scheme 2025	5477827	12/05/2025 12:00	Open
Single Supplier Framework for the provision of Archaeological Services with an initial call-off contract for the delivery of the Clare Community Archaeology Scheme 2025	5454062	09/05/2025 00:00	Open
Establishment of Multi-Party Framework Agreements for General Design Consultancy Services incl Affordable and Social Housing Projects for Clare County Council (Projects Less Than €5m Value)	4751832	13/05/2025 16:00	Restricted
Affordable Housing - Clare County Council Is Seeking Expressions Of Interest For The Provision Of Turnkey Housing Developments For Delivery Of Affordable Housing Across County Clare	5388260	30/06/2025 16:00	Preliminary Market Consultation
Request for Tenders for the supply of three (3) Access Control and Payment Mechanism (Contactless) Systems, with associated Maintenance Contracts, at three (3) PFG2 Water Sports Facility locations	5374176	05/05/2025 16:00	Open
Holy Family National School Safe Routes to School Scheme - Phase 2	5366660	16/04/2025 00:00	Open

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Utility Safety App testing started in Shannon MD

Developed by our in-house ICT team as part of Clare County Council's innovation strategy, the app utilises GIS technologies to assist outdoor crews in locating underground electricity, water, and gas networks. This helps prevent accidental cuts into these services during road maintenance, which can lead to outages and potential injuries from gas explosions or electrical shocks.

Replacing a paper-based process. The app simplifies the location of services and provides additional benefits by enabling crews to digitally capture site information, including inspections, maintenance records, and asset details. Furthermore, it offers real-time updates and alerts, integrating with existing GIS systems for enhanced accuracy and collaboration with other sections.

The data is instantly transmitted to a centralised dashboard, giving supervisors up-to-date insights into progress of work. The app enhances workflow management, reduces reporting delays, and significantly reduces the need for crews to travel back to the office to print maps before going on-site, leading to notable productivity gains and environmental benefits.

The Utility Safety App is currently being tested by the Shannon crews before being rolled out to all the MDs.

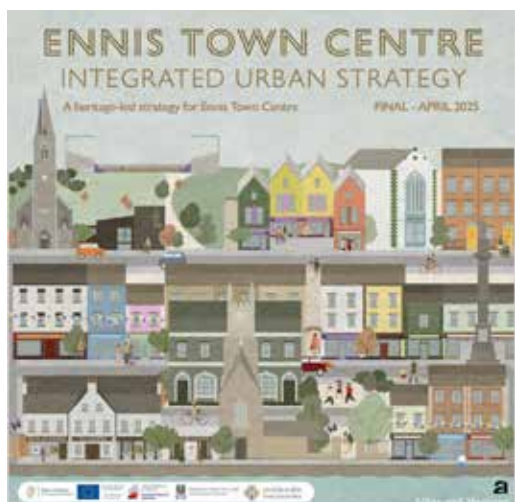
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TOWN CENTRE FIRST

Thrive Ennis Project

THRIVE, which stands for Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme, is a transformative grant programme for local authorities under Ireland's ERDF Regional Programmes, targeting key towns, strategic growth centres, and cities. THRIVE empowers communities to reimagine town centres by revitalizing publicly-owned vacant or derelict heritage buildings through renovation, renewal, and adaptive reuse. A Strand 2 Funding Application was submitted by Clare County Council on 15th April 2025 to the Southern Regional Assembly for a transformative initiative that will repurpose and adaptively reuse the Cloister building at 49 Abbey Street, Ennis, should we be successful in our application. The proposal includes improvements to the surrounding public realm and repurposes the Cloister Building, formerly known as The Monks Society Bar and restaurant, into a multi-use community space called "Teach An Phobail", creating a vibrant space that responds to community needs by providing workspaces for community, arts and creative sectors; whilst improving connectivity within the area. The Cloister, a historic building with significant cultural and architectural value, will be adapted for community use while preserving its heritage. The preparation of the Integrated Urban Strategy and selection of a preferred building for THRIVE were progressed in parallel through citizen and stakeholder-led engagement sessions. Ennis town Centre experiences a number of key challenges which our THRIVE bid will help to address such as Vibrancy and Dereliction, Lack of Community Facilities, Unemployment and Talent Attraction, Tourism and Sustainable Transport. A decision from the Southern Regional Assembly will be made in late Autumn 2025 and we will keep Members informed of developments.



Kilrush Town Centre Masterplan progress

Kilrush Town Centre Masterplan: Next Steps

Following public consultation, Hassett Ducatez Architects presented the public's feedback on the Kilrush Town Centre's future development to the Kilrush Town Team on April 10th 2025. Based on this feedback, the Kilrush Town Team is now promoting a survey through their networks to gather additional community input.

To broaden participation, Clare County Council will support the survey by promoting it on the "Have Your Say" Platform.



FORWARD PLANNING

Marine Planning

Shannon Chamber jointly with Engineers Ireland Thomond Region held a briefing on the 9th of April on ***Harnessing the wind energy potential of Ireland's west coast – Opportunities and Challenges***. Clare County Councils Economic Directorate played a central role in the event.



Minister of State Timmy Dooley with Sean Lenihan, Chair of Engineers Ireland Thomond Region and Acting Director of Services for Economic Development along with Helen Downes, CEO, Shannon Chamber and speakers at the offshore wind energy seminar held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick (from left): Barry O'Sullivan, Úna Brosnan, Alice Whittaker, Barry Gavin, Chair of Shannon Chamber's Mid-West Sustainability Network, and Sheila Downes Environmental Assessment Officer Clare County Council.

Leading experts and practitioners from Ireland and the UK assembled at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Limerick to provide insights and strategies on harnessing the power of offshore wind, focusing on the crucial intersection of energy policy, economic development, and technological advancement.

Delivering the keynote address, Timmy Dooley TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications said that, despite the quantum of money and the scale of activity needed to deploy the development of the offshore wind sector, the dial needs to be moved on the work currently underway.

Emphasising that floating offshore wind is vital, not only for meeting our energy targets but for providing a reliable, clean and abundant source of power, he said that the benefits go well beyond the environmental benefits through bringing substantial economic opportunities to local coastal communities, creating jobs, boosting local industry, and revitalising ports and infrastructure.

Stating that the best way to deploy offshore wind is via a planned approach that allows for evidence, engagement and good governance to lead the way within a well-managed maritime area, he said that a memo, setting out the next phase approach for Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs), is being presented to Government with proposals setting out the scope for the next phase of DMAPs to follow. "We do need to move quickly and give certainty to the industry and potential investors. In presenting a plan, we will

be giving a signal to the market that we will be moving quickly. We will be showing the kind of ambition that is there to benefit not just the Mid-West region but the entire country.

The panel of speakers at the seminar included Úna Brosnan, founder and director of Innovative Climate Solutions, a UK-based specialised climate consultancy with development experience dedicated to accelerating the growth of offshore wind markets. With twenty-three years of industry experience, fifteen of which have been dedicated to pioneering offshore wind, both fixed and floating wind projects, at supply chain, policy and stakeholder engagement levels, her insights on the day were impactful. Her key message on the day was that partnership between Government and industry is essential and that, with competition in many countries, particularly Korea and Japan, Ireland needs to get investor interest back for the sector to be successfully deployed.

Chairman of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce and an exponent of floating offshore wind as a game changer for Ireland's future, Barry O'Sullivan was vociferous in his call for Government action to capitalise on the advantage floating offshore wind can offer the nation.

Environment and climate group lead at Philip Lee LLP, Alice Whittaker shared her specialist insights on the judicial aspects of planning, environmental, and renewable energy plans and projects and the criticality of developers being aware of legislative requirements.

"All plans have to be judicially reviewed; this can be complex and take time," she stated.

Clare County Council's Environmental Assessment Officer, Sheila Downes, who is keenly interested in the development of the offshore renewable energy sector and the transition and reform which is currently underway in Ireland with respect to maritime area planning, emphasised the benefits of using the knowledge gained from terrestrial planning in marine planning for moving forward. "Data is key, and we need to utilise all of the Shannon Estuary to realise the potential of offshore wind," she stated.

While Shannon Chamber and Engineers Ireland Thomond Region set out to present a global insight on offshore wind internationally, the key transformational opportunities realised to date, and the critical role of engineering skills and cutting-edge technology in the successful deployment of offshore wind farms, the outcome from the day was more significant, according to Sean Lenihan, Chair of Engineers Ireland Thomond Region.

"This was evident from the fact the Minister Dooley stayed for the entire seminar, over and above his time commitment allocation, and was joined by key officials from his departments.



Sean Lenihan, Acting Director of Services for Economic Development and Chair of Engineers Ireland Thomond Region and with Sheila Downes Environmental Assessment Officer Clare County Council.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

The deadline for submissions on the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) final map for 2025 and the annual draft map for 2026 was 1st April 2025. Total of 24 submissions were made on the Final Map and 17 on the annual draft map and all submissions received have been published on the Council website.

Landowners will be notified of decisions regarding requests to exclude lands from the annual draft map not later than 1st July 2025 and will have an option to appeal this decision to An Bord Pleanála by 1st August 2025.

A rezoning request acknowledgement letter has been issued, containing any details of recent planning history of the land where it applies, has been issued to the landowner. The rezoning request acknowledgement letter can be used to support a claim for an exemption from the tax for 2025. The council will notify landowners of its decision on whether it intends to progress a rezoning request, on foot of their submission, through a variation to the Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029 by 30th June 2025. Decisions on rezoning requests cannot be appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

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 shows lands subject to the tax. Payment of the RZLT to the Revenue Commissioners is due on 23 May 2025.

CONSERVATION AND BUILT HERITAGE

Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2025

On the 16th April 2025 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced the list of projects approved funding under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) 2025. The core aims of the fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and presentation of archaeological monuments. The fund supports a range of initiatives to conserve, maintain, protect and promote local monuments and historic sites. This investment safeguards monuments for the benefit of communities and the public.

Under the scheme, two projects in Clare have been approved for grant funding in 2025 as follows:

Local Authority Area	Site Monument/ Project	Award
Clare	St Fachtnan's Cathedral, Kilfenora	€110,242.00
Clare	Inch Ringfort	€1,680.00

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	April 2025 up to & including 28/04/2025	Total (Valid) Year to date 2025
No. of Section 57 Declaration Requests received	1	12

HERITAGE

One of the last remaining mud houses in County Clare, Johnnie McNamara's home in Tullaroe, near Querrin

One of the last remaining partial mud (and stone) houses in County Clare is at present being surveyed by archaeologist Dave Pollock, prior to its deconstruction for road safety purposes. The late Johnnie McNamara's home in Tullaroe, near Querrin, is a three-roomed, single-storey, mud, stone and concrete built house, which was thatched and has fallen into ruin since Johnnie's death in 1981, a bachelor farmer aged 95. This is a vernacular house which was built by the residents at the time using local materials and traditional techniques, reflecting the specific cultural and environmental context of the area. This project is being funded by Clare County Council and the Heritage Council.

Querrin Community Development Group and the Kilkee Heritage and History Group are organising an evening of reminiscing on Thursday 8th May at 8pm at Myles Creek, O'Curry Street, Kilkee, County Clare. Where Paddy Waldron will give an overview of the family history of the people who lived in the house. The survey of the mud and stone house and its deconstruction and proposed reconstruction will be explained, followed by a general discussion about the neighbourhood, traditions and customs of the time. All are welcome, but anyone with memories of the McNamara family is especially encouraged to attend.

Clare Community Archaeologist Scheme

Tenders are being sought to employ a Community Archaeologist. The Council's Community Archaeology Scheme aims to support communities to become actively involved in the conservation and interpretation of local archaeological and cultural heritage sites.

For owners and communities to maintain their archaeological heritage they require access to appropriate technical advice, financial support and traditional building skills. Landowners, including farmers, developers, public bodies and the public, are the custodians of this heritage resource.

The Clare Community Archaeology Scheme is funded by The Heritage Council in partnership with Clare County Council and delivered as an action of the County Clare Heritage Plan. The scheme seeks to provide archaeological support to Clare County


Council and local communities in caring for and promoting the archaeological heritage of the county. It highlights the demand and potential in Clare for greater community involvement with the county's archaeology, by experiencing the sites and monuments directly, or by developing heritage trails, exhibitions or events.

Join the Kilkee & West Clare Heritage Group for an evening of reminiscing about the mud and stone house at Johnnie Mack's Cross in Tullaroe, Querrin, Co. Clare.

Time and Date: Thursday 8th May 2025 at 8pm
Venue: Myles Creek, O'Curry Street, Kilkee, County Clare.

Agenda:

1. Historian Paddy Waldron will give an overview of the family history of the people who lived in the house.
2. A talk about the recent survey of the mud and stone house and its proposed deconstruction and reconstruction.
3. General discussion about the neighbourhood, traditions and customs of the time.



Photographs from the Clare County Library Collection.

Photo of North wall c. 2000, Silvia Schormann Collection, Clare County Library.

Coimisiún na nOidhreacht
An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council

Oidhreacht an Chloir
Clare Heritage

project. A public appeal is being made to farmers, landowners and members of the public at this early stage for any records of nest sites or breeding activity along this stretch of coastline and up to 1km inland from the coast. Chough can nest on coastal cliffs in caves or in cattle sheds, haybarns or derelict cottages. The project was highlighted in the Irish Independent, Clare Echo and Clare Herald.

Irish Independent News Opinion Business Sport Life Style Ent

Clare

Clare County Council team up with Birdwatch Ireland to undertake survey on nesting Choughs



Chough - coastal sea bird. Photograph: Richard Mills

Molly Cantwell
 Today at 11:23

Press coverage of the Clare Chough Coastal Bird Survey as featured in the Irish Independent.

BIODIVERSITY

Clare Chough Coastal Bird Survey

Clare County Council's Biodiversity Office and Birdwatch Ireland are partnering to undertake a coastal survey for nesting Chough along a 30km stretch of coastline from Kilkee to Loop Head in West Clare. The project is funded by Clare County Council's Biodiversity Office and the Council's Tourism Development Department. Chough is listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. Their historic decline is linked to persecution, land-use change through intensification or abandonment which leads to a loss of foraging habitat. Disturbance is another pressure that is impacting on the life cycle of the species. The 2021 census survey focused on Special Protection Areas (SPA) where the species is a Special Conservation Interest and found that declines in the breeding population are most apparent in some areas of the north of the country and in the west (County Clare). The Cliffs of Moher SPA has seen a decline in the breeding population since the 2002/2003 census survey. The field surveys will be carried out by Birdwatch Ireland between April and June of this year. Clare County Council's Biodiversity Officer Barry O'Loughlin is working with Birdwatch Ireland's Project Manager Kathryn Finney on the

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The table below shows the number of planning applications processed during the month of April. Sixty two percent of planning applications received in April were received by electronic means.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS	April (to April 28th 2025)	2025 to date
No. of planning applications received	99	352
No. of Planning Decisions made	77	287
No. of decisions notified by An Bord Pleanála	1	19
No. of pre-planning enquiries received	13	78
No. of Section 5 applications	10	33
No. of Section 97 Exemption Cert applications (in respect of Part V of the Planning & Dev Act 2000)	1	8
Submissions received regarding Compliance	31	105

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

	April 2025 (25th March to 21st April inclusive)	2025 to date
New Complaints Received	21	70
New Files Opened	11	38
Files Closed	6	17
Warning Letters Issued	20	80
Enforcement Notices Issued	5	37
Legal Proceedings	0	11

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- **Mentoring:** LEO Clare has had a substantial demand for one-to-one mentoring support. To date, 125 clients have been assigned expert mentors to assist them in enhancing their businesses, 30 of those assigned during the month of April.
- **Training:** In April, LEO Clare provided an extensive array of training courses and programmes covering areas such as Starting Your Own Business, Tax and VAT, Social Media, Branding and Artificial Intelligence. Approximately 55 individuals availed of these training supports throughout the month.
- **Productivity Supports:** With rising prices affecting all businesses, LEO Clare has various productivity supports

to assist businesses offset higher input costs. To date in March, LEO Clare have processed applications for 15 Digital for Business, 10 Green for Business and 3 Lean for Business consultancies, along with 6 Energy Efficiency Grants and 7 Grow Digital Vouchers.

April Evaluation Committee Meeting:

The Local Enterprise Office Evaluation and Approvals Committee (EVAC) held their second evaluation meeting of 2025 in April. One Business Expansion grant & one Priming grant were approved by the Committee, with a total of €80k funding being allocated.

National Enterprise Awards 2025 Adjudication

Indigo took part in the final adjudication for the National Enterprise Awards in Dunraven Arms Hotel in April. Claire and Shane Bannon hope to take home a prize when representing Local Enterprise Office Clare at the National Final at the Round Room, Mansion House in Dublin on the 22nd May 2025. Indigo specialise in design, supply & installation of creative branding & data visuals to commercial industries in Ireland, and around the world & are celebrating 25 years in business this year.



Overall Winners Shane & Claire Bannon, Indigo with Cathaoirleach, Cllr Alan O'Callaghan & Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Property Transactions and Conveyancing

The Table below shows the number of property transactions completed by Property Management Unit up to 28th April 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	April 2025	Year to date 2025	Full year 2024
Lease / Sub Lease of Property / Building	1	2	6
Licence to use property / building	1	4	14
Grazing Agreement for Lands	3	25	22
Deed of Transfer signed	4	7	9
Contract for Sale / acquisition signed	0	0	1
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 281 properties 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 April 2025 and the year 2025 to date with comparative figures for the full year 2024.

Derelict Sites	April 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of new files opened	2	15	35
No. of Section 8(2) Notices issued - Intention to enter site on Derelict Sites Register	3	11	36
No. of Section 8(7) Notices issued - Entry of site onto Derelict Sites Register	1	6	43
No. of Section 11 Notices issued - Measures required to render the site non-derelict	0	1	2
No. of files closed / property removed from Derelict Sites Register	2	8	26
No. of Notices served to Compulsorily Purchase derelict sites (CPO) (see note below)	1	5	7
No of Vesting Orders signed	1	1	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	3- At Vesting Stage and lodged in Taillte Éireann
		1 – CPO completed and property was sold in December 2024

		4 - 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	5 - At Vesting Stage and lodged in PRA
		2 - CPO commenced but was rejected by An Bord Pleanála
2025	5	3 – CPO process commenced to date in 2025.
		1 - 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 30th April 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	April 2025	Year to date 2025	Full Year 2024
No. of properties on which the levy has been billed	2	20	9
Amount billed in respect of Derelict sites Levy	€33,600	€263,410	€124,110
Number of properties on which valuations have been requested	3	17	26
Number of properties on which notices of Valuation have been issued to owners	5	10	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

In the month of April, we held a very successful visit by the officials of the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government, where we outlined to them our progress on the Vacant Property refurbishment Grant and the work on Derelict sites. The visit included a tour of refurbished properties in Ennis and in Ennistymon, which showcased the work that is ongoing in Clare and gave us an opportunity to discuss changes or improvements being sought or considered to the Grants Scheme.



Visit of Department officials to Clare County Council.

To date the value of grants approved under the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant by Clare County Council has exceeded €22.5 million as at 28th April 2025 (375 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 interview by the Senior Executive Officer with 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 (incl those with grant funding paid out)			
Local Electoral Area	No of applications approved	Total amount approved (€)	% of total number of Grants Approved
Kilrush LEA	132	€8.12 million	36%
Ennistymon LEA	73	€4.52 million	20%
Killaloe LEA	71	€4.24 million	19%
Ennis LEA	57	€3.26 million	14%
Shannon LEA	42	€2.47 million	11%
Grand Total	375	€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 569, with 72 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.

As of 29th April, 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. Changes to the grant were announced in late 2024 to be in line with the *Energy Performance of Buildings Directive* (EU/2024/1275). In order to meet the timeline in Article 17(15), the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant will no longer fund the installation of stand-alone boilers powered by fossil fuels, for new applications from 1st December 2024.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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

Munster GAA Championship Action

Ennis MD in co-ordination with An Garda Síochána, Clare Fire Service, Clare Civil Defence and Clare GAA liaised with Munster GAA on the operations associated with the Munster Championship games held in Cusack Park over the Easter Weekend. Ennis MD's role included regrading and repair of the Cloister carpark, waste management and assisting with traffic management on the day including the supply of signage, barriers, parking and temporary traffic light configurations. Our street cleaning team were also busy in maintaining a clean and safe environment in the town throughout the weekend as a result of the capacity crowds.

Community Clean Ups

Ennis MD assisted with some community clean ups this month. A corporate initiative was carried out in collaboration with students and staff of the Shannon College of Hotel Management at the Mill Wheel, Hurlers Park and River Walk areas of Ennis. This involved our street cleaning team assisting and helping out the staff and students in cleaning the areas and also answering any questions they had on the roles and duties of their day to day operations in maintaining the town.

Ennis MD were also contacted by the Estate and Community Liaison Team about assisting with a community clean up in the Bridge View residential estate, Ennis. Also, in co-ordination with the Clare Civil Defence and Ennis Sub Aqua club, Ennis MD assisted with a clean-up of the River Fergus on 2 evenings over this month. Large items including mattresses, shopping trolleys and even washing machines were removed by the group over the 2 evenings.



DeValera Library - Maintenance Work

On a request from the Property Management Department, Ennis MD crews undertook a clean-up of the former DeValera library site on Harmony Row. Works included overgrowth and litter removal, decorative stone resurfacing and light planting in and around the former Library site.



Hermitage Grotto

The Grotto in Hermitage received a structural re-lift over the last number of months which was finished recently following the installation of a new mosaic tile on the surface of the grotto platform. The overall works included removal and installation of a new concrete slab, new mosaic tiling and decorative stone put in place. This reflects the work locals have been contributing to the grotto in the Hermitage area over the years which includes general maintenance, gardening and planting of flowers.



Accessibility improvements - Woodquay Carpark

Works were carried out to disability spaces in the Woodquay area of Ennis this month. Works included dished kerbing and re-configuring of levels to the existing footway in order to facilitate disability spaces in this location. This work helps contribute to improved accessibility to those in need of using these spaces.

Ballybeg Footpath Scheme

In April Ennis MD Roads Crews have been progressing the completion of Phase 3 of the Ballybeg footpath scheme. The works are well progressed with kerbing, ducting works and the street lighting installations almost complete.

The complete scheme involves the installation of the following.

- new footpaths,
- raised uncontrolled crossings,
- junction tightening and traffic calming works
- new signage and street lighting.
-

The works are at an advanced stage with project completion expected in early May. This project has come to fruition through strong representation from the public and elected members.



PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

TRANSPORTATION

Roadworks Programme and Operations

The 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works (Annual Roadworks Programme) has been finalised and is currently being brought to each Municipal District for consideration.

Strategic Transportation

Active Travel	<p>The following is a brief overview of the activities within the Active Travel office:</p> <p>Tulla Road Active Travel Scheme: Statutory Approval granted. Consultant appointed for construction stage services. Prior to going to tender the design is being reviewed and it is planned to go to tender for construction at the end of May subject to the NTAs approval.</p> <p>Limerick Road (incl. St. Flannans Drive) Cycle Scheme: At the request of the NTA a value engineering exercise is currently being undertaken on the Preliminary Design. When agreement has been reached and approval issued for this phase the scheme will move to public consultation and statutory process. It is anticipated that agreement will be reached with the NTA on the appropriate Preliminary Design Option by the end of May.</p> <p>Ardnacrusa to Athlunkard Bridge: A further option has been developed and costed by the Consultant Engineers. This was presented to the NTA & Clare County Council now await feedback on this final option from the NTA. The finalised option selection report will be submitted to the NTA in June.</p> <p>Ennis Town Enhancement, Co-Creating: Design work progressing on junction tightening works around Ennis.</p> <p><u>Safe Routes To School program:</u></p> <p>Gaelscoil Ennis: The Consultancy Services tender for the bridge work element was due in mid-April, a request for an additional two weeks was received and granted, returns now expected by the end of April.</p> <p>Holy Family National School Phase 2: A contractor has been appointed for this scheme with anticipated start date of late May or early June. The works will involve footpath widening and a raised controlled Pedestrian Crossing along Station Road.</p>
Public Lighting	<p>Clare County Council, through their maintenance contractor Electric Skyline continue to address repair works to public lighting throughout the county. All works on public lighting networks are required to meet the ESNB's 'Minimum Requirements for Works on Public Lighting'. Where restorative cabling works, additional civils works or necessary upgrade works are required all works are required to the the ESNB's Minimum Requirements and may necessitate the attendance of the ESNB and subsequently shall result in extended repair times. Clare County Council continues to liaise with ESNB and Electric Skyline to expedite all repairs.</p> <p>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 shall commence in West Clare MD in the coming weeks. 1,534 Luminaires have been retrofitted to date to the 20th April representing 49% of the overall no of units to be retrofitted in Clare as part of the PLEEP Project. Clare County Council are working with the PLEEP Team and Electric Skyline to maximise output of both work crews.</p>

Road Design Office

Project	Progress Update
Bridge Rehabilitation Programme	The 2025 Bridge Rehabilitation grant application has been approved, the funding for this year Totals: €689,500. The AA Screening contract has been awarded to an environmental consultant.
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> 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 is progressing through the Section 38 process and will be on the next MD agenda.</p>
Default Speed Limits	<p>Default Speed Limit Update:</p> <p>Workshops organised by DoT with the new guidelines regarding the introduction of the 30kph urban default speed limits were attended by the relevant staff.</p>
Speed Limit Byelaws	<p>The Council adopted a set of proposed speed limit byelaws at the April Council meeting. These byelaws include amendments required on foot of Speed Limit Appeal decisions and introduce 50kph periodic speed limits at a number of schools.</p> <p>All schools in the county will now be located in a 60kph, 50kph speed limit or 50kph periodic speed limit.</p>

TII Safety Improvement

HD17	<p>HD17 N85 Clareabbey Roundabout</p> <p>Draft preliminary designs for the crossing arrangement have been prepared and the preliminary design is being modified based on feedback received from TII in April.</p> <p>N85 Shanaway Road Junction</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment has been completed and it is planned to advertise for statutory consent the first week in May.</p> <p>N68 Cranny Junction</p> <p>A Vehicle Activated Warning Sign has been installed in advance of the L2138 on the N68.</p>
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Cycling Infrastructure / Smarter Travel

Project	Progress Update
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 are currently being reviewed by Road Design.
EuroVelo	Further to inspection by Sport Ireland 60% 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

Project	Progress Update
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	<p>The MD is 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. This follows on from consultation with stakeholders and Local Elected members in 2024 to review local needs and identify key priorities.</p>
Ennis Public Realm Regeneration (Project B)	<p>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 the section on upper O'Connell Street (in front of the cathedral) in coming weeks, and restoring through-traffic from Station Road after 3 months of construction. This is indeed 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.</p> <p>The works are now progressing through Barrack Square, thereby progressing a new phase of the project works.</p> <p>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 installed on the reservoir structure.</p> <p>Completion crews have also been dedicated to works on High Street, and for snagging on uncompleted sections of O'Connell Street.</p> <p>In late April, the contractor will be deploying dedicated works crew to the O'Connell Street/Market Street junction, for which works will be largely scheduled for evenings to minimise impact on traders. In such areas of narrow street width, activity will be completed out of hours to facilitate pedestrian movement through these street sections.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Ennistymon Inner Relief Road and Bridge Crossing (Blake's Corner)	<p>The Judicial Review process is ongoing.</p>
Killaloe Bridge, Bypass & R494 Upgrade	<p>The Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Upgrade Project Sections are nearing substantial completion.</p> 

	<p><u>Killaloe Bypass Section</u> Opened to traffic and the public on 18th Dec. 2024. Accom. works to Ballyvalley House entrance nearing completion.</p>
	<p><u>Shannon Bridge Crossing Link</u> Shantraud to Clarisford Junction: Open to vehicles and pedestrians. Clarisford to West Embankment: Practically complete. The Green (Road behind St. Anne's School): Practically complete.</p>
	<p><u>Shannon Bridge</u> Bridge structure: Practically complete. East Embankment: Practically complete. Snagging in progress.</p>
	<p><u>R494 Upgrade</u> Road and Shared Facility: Practically complete. Road Safety Auditor recommendations being implemented. Landscaping works to public and private areas nearing completion. Public foul sewer connections complete. Pumping Station handover to Tipp Co Co/U.E. scheduled for W/C 22nd April. Tipp Co Co Picnic Park: Nearing completion. Pavement re-surfacing to L94942-1 scheduled to be complete by w/e 18th April. Eir permanent connections to residences and businesses complete. Snagging in progress.</p>
	<p><u>Kilmastulla Bridge</u> Practically complete.</p>
	<p><u>Rail Bridge</u> Practically complete.</p>
	<p><u>RW03</u> Accom. works to Shannonside Business Park practically 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>
Kilkee Flood Relief Scheme	<p>Two tenders for the Geophysical Survey were returned and are currently under review. Liaison with property owners is ongoing. The scheme consultant has issued the first set of land acquisition drawings for the steering group's review. 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>
Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)	<p>Approval to issue letters of intent & regret have now been authorised by Senior Management. Following lapse of the statutory standstill period a recommendation to award will 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. Discussions continue 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. Work has commenced on a revised Grant Agreement between the Council and Department of Housing / LIHAF Management Committee which will enable us to move forward with the Infrastructure & Housing delivery in 2025.</p>

N19 Shannon Airport Access Road	<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 mid-2025.</p> <p>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>
Remediation of sites containing ACM	<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>.</p>
Shannon Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme	<p>Later this month, the Project Team will present the main findings of the Options Report to OPW senior management as part of the Public Spending Code Approval Process.</p> <p>The MAC (Marine Area Consent) application is still under review by MARA (Maritime Area Regulatory Authority).</p> <p>The Arborist survey is scheduled to be completed this month.</p> <p>Comments and observations on the Options Report have been returned to the consultant.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 1: Kilrush to Kilkee)	<p>Consultations are ongoing between the Project Agronomist, Project Liaison Officers, and affected landowners. Based on the discussions and feedback received, the Greenway alignment drawings will be further refined. Additional meetings with landowners are also planned and all feedback received during these meetings will be taken on board. The valuation of land along section 1 has commenced and progressing well. Clare Co. Co. and the land valuer will meet to review valuations in coming weeks</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Section 2: Ennis to Ennistymon)	<p>Work is ongoing on the development of the third and final public consultation, which will present Emerging Preferred Route Corridor, subject to peer review and approval by TII. The preparation of the Option Selection Report is also progressing.</p>
West Clare Railway Greenway (Sections 3 & 4: Ennistymon to Miltown Malbay to Moyasta)	<p>Clare County Council is currently reviewing the Constraints Study Report in preparation for its submission to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Work is also underway for the second Public Consultation: Route Option.</p>
Other Greenway Proposals	<p>No update this month.</p>

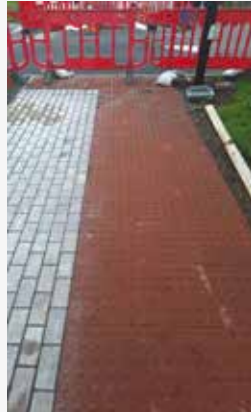
General Design Office

Ennistymon Hub Derelict Building Refurbishment, Monastery Lane	<p>The General Design Office have submitted an Invitation to Tender (on eTenders) for a Building Contractor to carry out the redevelopment works on a former retail storage building. The development, when completed, will provide a new 2-storey office building, with construction to commence in September 2025</p> 
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PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Mountshannon Mobility Plan

Works continue as part of the Public Realm & Mobility Plan for Mountshannon. The speed ramp on the approach to the village and the controlled crossing at Aistear Park are near completion. Works have commenced at the bus stop and at Derrycon Road junction.



Killuran Graveyard, O'Callaghan's Mills

51 meters of wall reconstructed with railings to be installed..



Craggaunowen Carpark Refurbishment Works

Preliminary design investigations ongoing.

FIRE & BUILDING CONTROL SECTION

Training Courses

Clare County Fire & Rescue Service personnel underwent a number of training courses during April including Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFRA) Initial & Refresher Training Courses

held in Ennistymon, Kilkee and Scarriff Fire Stations. Two employees attended Breathing Apparatus Quaestor training in Castlebar, County Mayo.

Fire & Building Control Section			
Main Activities	March 2025	April 2025 (Up to 24.04.25)	Year to Date 2025
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	94	65	469
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Received	8	3	30
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	11	5	40
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Invalidated	0	0	1
Number of Disability Access Certificates Received	8	4	24
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	8	5	32
Number of Commencement Notices Received	34	20	101
Number of Dangerous Structures/Places Complaints	0	0	2

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

CLARE CIVIL DEFENCE

Operational Duties:

- Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following events in April including Clare Vs Cork Munster Senior Hurling Championship (Cusack Park); Clare Vs Tipperary Munster Under 20s Hurling (Sixmilebridge); Clare Vs Cork Munster Camogie Championship (Cusack Park); Clare Vs Tipperary Munster Senior Football Championship (Cusack Park); Ennis Track 10K Run (Lees Road); Cliffs of Moher Challenge and Run Clare 10K (Kilkishen).



Members Training & Professional Development

- Members participated in weekly training set out by Civil Defence Instructors. On average 55 volunteers attend training each week.
- 13 new recruits completed the Safe Working Near Water Course on the River Fergus.



Clare Civil Defence Magazine

Clare Civil Defence released their first ever magazine which was designed and edited by volunteers within the CD Social Team. This magazine outlines the important role the CD volunteers play within their community and also highlights their accomplishments in Clare and beyond throughout 2024. The magazine is a great memento for volunteers and their families as it showcases the volunteer's unwavering commitment to attending weekly training and public events.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Awareness

National Spring Clean 2025

This year, to date, 132 groups have registered for the National Spring Clean in Clare. Groups have been advised that they can avail of free passes to our Waste Transfer facilities. Since January 2025, 48 free passes have been issued to community groups and 27 groups have been supported with Greener Clare clean up packs.

Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme 2025

In support of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy we are now accepting applications for the Building a Circular Community Grant Scheme 2025. This initiative supports local action on sustainability, encouraging communities to play an active role in reducing waste and promoting circular practices.

The scheme aims to fund projects that focus on reducing reliance on single-use food /drink ware, promote food waste separation from general and recycling waste streams, and raising awareness of fast fashion and the benefits of reuse.

Eligible applicants include Tidy Towns groups, Community Development Associations, Green Schools, Youth Groups, Green Clubs, and other community and voluntary organisations.

Funding of up to €1,500 per group is available from a total fund of €18,000. The deadline for submission is 5pm on 2nd May 2025

A dedicated Your Say page, <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/circular-community-2025>, has been set up and promoted on social media as well as direct outreach to community groups, festivals, green schools, green clubs.

Clare Garden Festival

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



Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) Requests

Our Environmental Awareness Officer is the designated Information Officer (AIE Officer) under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations for Clare County Council. In total 9 AIE requests have been received up to the

end April 2025 with one of these AIE Requests currently being appealed to the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Information (OCEI). The AIE Nominees list has been updated by all directorates. All nominated AIE Decision Makers and AIE Decision Maker back ups will be offered training during 2025.

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	April 2025	Total to date 2025
Bathing Water Monitoring	Monitoring season begins in mid-May	0
Domestic Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections (NIP Plan)	3	19
Public queries processed regarding DWWTS grants	5	15
Monitoring Inspections of Section 4 licenced premises	5	40
Planning applications (Agriculture)	2	10
Planning applications (Domestic)	48	109
Planning applications (Large Developments)	2	9
Planning applications (Forestry)	0	0
Pollution complaints received	10	34
Private Commercial Drinking Water Supplies	6	51
Private/Public Group Water Scheme supplies	32	132
Rivers	10	74
Farm Inspections (NAIP) (Routine Planned & Unplanned)	15	35

Waste Enforcement

Multi-Agency Meeting

Clare County Council hosted the Q2 2025 meeting of the Regional Multi-Agency Forum on April 10th. In attendance were members of An Garda Síochána, Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Revenue, Inland Fisheries Ireland and other local authorities. A review of Q1 activities were carried out and a plan for Q2 activities was agreed. The Senior Executive Engineer from Kerry County Council gave a presentation on the functions/work activities of their Environment Section.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

River Fergus Cleanup

A cleanup of the River Fergus took place in Ennis on April 15th 2025. The river level was low, after a prolonged dry spell. The cleanup was a collaborative effort between Ennis Sub Aqua Club, Clare Civil Defence, Ennis Tidy Towns and Clare County Council. A considerable amount of rubbish including a washing machine, children's toys and a double mattress were removed from the water.

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 April to monitor compliance with their permits, to achieve positive environmental outcomes for the receiving environments. A further 2 sites were inspected because of Planning referrals, and 2 sites were inspected on foot of complaints received.

Fines issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, As Amended

A total of 20 litter fines were issued in April, under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, 5 of which were issued for the placement of unauthorised advertising signage, 6 were issued for shopping trollies left in residential areas in Shannon. Appropriate time will be provided for payment, thereafter reminder letters are issued.

Enforcement Notices and Warning Letters under the Waste Management Act 1996

In April 4 warning letters were issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. These sites are being monitored for compliance. Additionally, 2 notices under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended were also issued in April.

Abandoned Vehicles

We received 8 abandoned vehicles reports in April and are currently investigating these in line with Clare County Council's policy.

Environmental Monitoring (Illegal Dumping/Litter)

The Waste Enforcement Team continued to respond to waste and litter-related complaints in April. A total of 99 complaints relating to litter (19) and waste (80) were received in April. 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 April 2025, in response to complaints:

Waste Enforcement Complaints	April 2025
Litter	19
Dog Fouling	4
Waste Presentation (waste)	1
Dumping (waste)	68
Green Waste complaints (waste)	7
Waste & litter (Total)	99

Waste management

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

Civic Amenity Site Waste Streams (KG)	
Item	March 2025 (latest Data)
Bulky items	43,240
Cardboard	19,340
Dry Recyclable	340
Paper	11,460
Green Waste	51,120
Mattresses	4,140
Municipal Waste	129,178
Plastic Packaging	1,000
Timber	131,920

CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Action Plan

As part of our implementation of the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Action Steering Committee convened at the end of March. This forum represents an opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities in relation to CAP implementation. Presentations on the Ennis Local Transport Plan development and on the development of the Digital Hub facilities were heard and how they align with our objectives within the Climate Action Plan. Regional liaison meetings with CARO Atlantic Seaboard South were also held in April discussing the implementation phase across the region.

CARO Conference:

The second annual Local Authority Climate Teams Conference took place in Wexford in April. This event offers the chance for networking and peer to peer learning across local authorities and CAROs nationwide.

A fieldtrip element on the first day examined areas such as coastal erosion, solar farms, stormwater management and community allotments. Day 2 of the conference focused on our climate context, community and climate change & how local authorities are supporting communities. The final session focused on what local authorities have achieved and the challenges they face. Clare County Council's Climate Action Co-ordinator presented in this session and took part in the panel discussion.



Community Climate Action Programme



Projects which are funded under the Community Climate Action Programme are in the implementation phase and groups have eighteen months to complete projects. Projects are across a number of thematic areas including Home/Energy, Travel, Food and Waste, Shopping / Recycling & Local Climate and Environment Action. Some of the actions undertaken this month include;

- Mike McTigue Community Centre has installed a suspended ceiling with insulation placed above it in their kitchen. They have also installed LED lighting. This will make the centre more energy efficient and result in lower ongoing thermal costs.
- Cratloe Community Council have planted a native hedgerow and installed a bike repair stand this month. This local action aligns with efforts to increase biodiversity across our county as well as the promotion of different modes of fossil free transport.
- Inagh Development have installed Solar PV on their community centre and the GAA clubhouse. They have also carried out native planting in their community. This project will reduce the dependence on fossil fuels driven power and increase biodiversity and awareness of biodiversity in our communities.

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



OPW Trial

The Climate team together with the PMO have engaged with the OPW regarding the trialing of a new platform on historic coastal erosion. The platform is intended to allow an easy and efficient means of capturing key information on past coastal erosion events that occur in Ireland. It will be used to help build an understanding of coastal erosion risk at both county and country level. Clare County Council has engaged in this along with Cork and Wexford Councils. The platform will be launched in the coming months.

Energy

The inaugural meeting of the Mid West Energy Unit was held in Limerick on April 7th. The Mid West Energy Unit is a project implementation unit in which Clare County Council will be the lead authority for Clare, Limerick and Kerry County Councils. The objectives of the unit are to partner with the SEAI to enable retrofitting across our significant energy users and to ensure funding is leveraged towards meeting our 2030 mandated targets.





Awareness

The over 60's Climate Course continued this month. The sessions are delivered by Jacinta Barrins a former UN Diplomat. The Climate and Age Friendly team have linked with Ennis Tidy Towns and the Irish Countrywomen's Association to promote this free six step climate course for the over 60's. The first session focused on Climate Change – knowledge and action. The second session on behavioral change and the third session examines the participants carbon footprint. This course will continue in May, with the next session looking at energy.



The Climate Team at Clare County Council in collaboration with Ennis Tidy Towns hosted the final Tidy Towns Networking event on March 31st in the Civic Room of the Buttermarket Building. This was the third event of this series aimed at networking and building capacity for Tidy Towns groups around the county. Over 45 people attended a talk delivered by Tidy Towns adjudicator, Cormac McCarthy, which focussed on Tidy Towns applications and the Sustainable Development Goals. This series of events was very successful with over 110 people in total attending the three events from 25 different Tidy Towns groups and will enable communities to be better placed to access funding into the future.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

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

The Department has decided to take a phased approach to approval of funding with a focus on water quality issues for the first phase, namely Measures A1, A2, A3, A6 and A7. Funding applications for the Taken in Charge of Public Group Water Schemes under Measure A6 are not part of this first phase of funding. In addition, the Expert Panel is continuing its evaluation of applications received under Measure A4, A5 and A9. We have informed all successful Group Water Schemes.

Group Water Scheme Taking in Charge applications continue to be progressed by the Clare Rural Water Team. The Rural

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

Applications for Group Water Scheme annual subsidy, which is available to fund operational costs of group water schemes providing water for domestic use, continues to be processed by this office. All applications under the 'Grant for Improvement Works to a Private Water Supply' under the Rural Water Programme continue to be processed by the Rural Water Team. Post works final inspections for works within the last 12 months are ongoing.

SHANNON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Presentation to the Assistant Secretary General, Dept of Justice.



Limerick City and County Council invited Suzie Clifford, Senior Executive Officer to present an economic business case to the Assistant Secretary General, (Mr John O'Callaghan) of the Department of Justice. The business case was written by Repucon in collaboration with Suzie and Andrew O'Byrne, Principal & Manager of the School Equine Programme in Limerick. The business case was commissioned by a multi-agency steering group (LC & CC, University of Limerick, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Justice, Limerick Clare Education and Training Board, RACE). This steering group is chaired by Pat Keogh, former Chief Executive of the Curragh Racecourse. The business case seeks capital and operational funding for an employment, education and therapeutic equine facility for the Midwest Region.

Meeting with Board Members at Shannon Community Centre.

A meeting was held between Shannon Municipal District staff and the Board of Shannon Community Centre. Multiple community groups have requested community space from the Shannon Municipal District. The basis of the meeting,

therefore, is to work in partnership to build the service capacity of the Shannon Community Centre. Shannon Municipal District is also working closely with Shannon Community Partnership to survey the needs of the elderly within Shannon Town.



Works Underway

- Ongoing road maintenance throughout the Municipal District.
- Responding to complaints from the public, community groups and local representatives.
- Works commenced on a Local Improvement Scheme in Drumline Shannon.
- Assisted Shannon Tidy Towns, Parteen and Meelick Community in the collection of a large amount of litter in their areas.
- Drainage works to roads in the Clonlara, Meelick, Shannon and Sixmilebridge areas.
- Preparation of roads for the 2025 restoration maintenance roadworks program.
- Installation works begin in later April of reconditioned Storm Water Pump 1 in Storm Water Pump House 3 Drumgeely Shannon. This storm water pump was first installed in 1963.
- Removal of damaged trees in Shannon, Clonlara, Meelick, and Westbury, these trees were damaged during Storm Eowyn.
- The grass maintenance contract for the Shannon Municipal District ongoing.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

New upgraded road signage at Bothair Mór & Bóthar na Luachra Junction, Shannon.



Drainage works at Tradaree, Shannon.



New upgraded road signage at Bóthair an Aerfoirt & R472 Roundabout Shannon.



Footpath cleaning at Tullyvarraga, Shannon.



Tree removal Tullyvarraga, Shannon.



Stormwater drainage works Chill Chais, Shannon.



New age friendly bench installed in Boyne Park, Shannon.



Clean up after trees were removed at Tullyvarraga, Shannon.



Installation works of reconditioned storm water pump 1 at Pump House 3, Drumgeely, Shannon.

